

- Title: *Otium* as a Tool of Persuasion in Cicero's Oratory
- Language: English
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- Abstract:

The word *otium* has more than one meaning. On one hand, it means 'peace', 'relief after war', on the other, 'retired, politically inactive life'. Furthermore, it could be on a continuum of rather positive to fairly negative connotations, depends on which words are related to it. Cicero uses great symbolic power that the word *otium* can provide. He employs it in his orations as a tool of his 'peaceful' rhetoric aimed at defending his clients, protecting a conservative *status quo* in the Roman society, and acting in his own interests. I argue that the word *otium* serves as a slogan with a strong political and social dimension within Cicero's oratory.