

Dr. Agnieszka Kotlinska-Toma
Instytut Filologii Klasycznej i Kultury Antycznej
Uniwersytet Wrocławski
ul. Szewska 49
50-139 Wrocław
agnieszka.toma@gmail.com

Preferred Panel: Classical Antiquity and Mass Culture

Title of the paper: **Hellenistic Drama - the First Mass Media and an Instrument of Hellenization.**

Length of the paper: 20 minutes

Outline of the paper:

The aim of the paper is to show synthetic picture of changes in the Hellenistic tragedy, comedy and satyr play including the mass audience (dramatic festivals hold in the different parts of Hellenistic world could gather larger audience than any other theatrical events till the modern times), mutual influence of Greek and Eastern traditions and the changes inside the genres which made the drama an important instrument of cultural unification all over *oikumene*. Using examples of interesting fragments of *Agon* by Python, *Exagoge* by Ezekiel, some adespota (*Gyges*, *Ptocheia at Troy*, *Neoptolemos*) and preserved plays and particular fragments of New Comedy and mime I try to present drama as an important factor in process of Hellenization and at the same time as a result of this process itself, reflecting contemporary sentiments, literary and philosophical trends. I also attempt to shed some light on the process of professionalization of theatre and the influence of *thechnitai*-guilds on dramatic productions which helped the plays to reach every corner of the Hellenistic world.