

ABSTRACT FOR FIEC CONGRESS 2009 BERLIN

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Panel 6: **Turning Points in the Reception of Classical Antiquity**

My paper will be delivered in English.

Abstract

The *Oresteia* and the South African Truth and Reconciliation Commission

At the end of Aeschylus' trilogy, there is a civilised settlement of the murderous violence in the house of Atreus. This paper contrasts two South African adaptations that reflect the contemporary political climate: Fugard's *Orestes* in 1971, and Faber's *Molora* in the post-apartheid era more than thirty years later. The analysis considers the way in which *Molora* incorporates the working of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission set up to ensure that there would be an end to conflict in South Africa and that former foes would not take justice into their own hands to exact revenge.