

The Waterloo Institute for Hellenistic Studies

**To fully understand our modern world,
we must look at our ancient past.**

In ancient history, few stories are more compelling than those of the Hellenistic Age. Between the conquests of Alexander the Great and the death of Cleopatra, Greek ideals dominated a melting pot of cultures from the Mediterranean to India to Africa. The influences of this cultural fusion have stood the test of time and carried over into our modern world.

THE WATERLOO INSTITUTE FOR HELLENISTIC STUDIES

The Waterloo Institute for Hellenistic Studies (WIHS) at the University of Waterloo is the first and only research centre in North America dedicated to the interdisciplinary study of the Hellenistic era. The WIHS harnesses a wealth of research and teaching expertise from Waterloo's Department of Classical Studies, where faculty members approach the period from their individual disciplines of history, languages, sociology, literature, art, and archaeology.

The Institute is an important networking hub through which scholars from all over the world come together to explore and share ideas about the Hellenistic Age. At present, close to 100 research associates and 10 graduate students make up the Institute's membership.



ABOUT THE HELLENISTIC AGE

When Alexander the Great and his armies conquered much of the known world, an enormous empire was created, into which Greek ideals were spread, merging Mediterranean, European and Near Eastern cultures in a way the world had never before known.

With Alexander's death in 323 BC, a new era was born. The Hellenistic Age ushered in a period of monumental change as ambitious kings carved up Alexander's empire into three vast kingdoms, spawning political, social, and economic shifts that were felt across the ancient world.

It was also a time marked by significant advances in philosophy, art, music, literature, science, and architecture, and ultimately, Rome's rise to power. When Egypt, the last Hellenistic kingdom, fell to Rome in 31 BC, the Hellenistic Age came to an end.



ITS RELEVANCE TODAY

The influences of the Hellenistic Age have transcended more than 2,000 years, shaping the evolution of our modern societies. As an important forerunner of modern globalization, the study of the Hellenistic era helps us to contextualize what's happening in our world today so that we can reach a deeper understanding of our most pressing issues in religion, politics, international relations, and the global economy, to name just a few.

On an academic level, the study of ancient civilizations enables professional and scholarly advancement, and offers new knowledge and expertise to the public and private sectors.

HELP US BUILD ON OUR REPUTATION

In the three years since its founding, the Institute has achieved international renown for the quality of its research and the expertise of its faculty members. It is this reputation which continues to attract other world-class scholars to Waterloo, to share their knowledge with our faculty, students, research associates, and the interested public, deepening our understanding of this pivotal time in history and promoting Waterloo's leading role in a key area of the humanities.

With public and private philanthropic support, we can grow our community of research experts, and enhance our financial resources to provide even more opportunities to come together and share the stories of a pivotal time in the history of mankind. Let us tell you how.

THE ROLE OF WIHS

- » brings together experts in diverse areas of research
- » promotes and fosters international collaboration, research and learning
- » deepens our broader understanding of current inter-cultural relations from a historical perspective
- » supports the role of young scholars through the visiting fellows program
- » supports student learning by linking them with research associates around the world
- » advances the student experience through exchange and travel opportunities
- » provides scholarship support to graduate students undertaking Hellenistic research
- » strengthens Waterloo's reputation for globalization and innovation in research and learning



For more information or to learn how you can support WIHS, contact: Kim Bardwell
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