

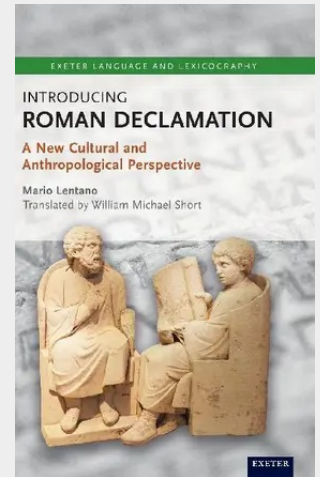
Lentano

Introducing Roman Declamation

A New Cultural and Anthropological Perspective

Introducing Roman Declamation provides an overview of school declamation, that is, the themes on which students of the Roman rhetorical schools cut their teeth and proved their talent. Beginning in the late Republican period and throughout the entire imperial age, the rhetorical schools were an obligatory step in the curriculum of elite education. Despite its huge importance and the sizeability of the preserved material, almost 300 themes, declamation has only in recent times received the scholarly attention it deserves, as the victim of a prejudice that was already widespread in antiquity, owing to the chasm between school themes and the real world. But in fact declamation provides a privileged lens through which to investigate the culture of the imperial age, the evolution of law, family and social relations, the relationship with literature and with contemporaneous politics. With an up-to-date bibliography, the book explores these and other aspects of Roman declamation, highlighting both long-standing conclusions of research, and points that remain debated by scholars or that still remain to be investigated. The book is particularly intended for undergraduates who wish to become familiar with this important aspect of Latin literature, as well as for scholars of the ancient world and of Roman history, and for specialists in Roman rhetoric, to whom it presents the state of the art.

A new overview of Roman declamation, one of the least studied but most important genres of ancient literature. Letano presents an original way of looking at aspects of major relevance to Roman culture of the imperial period.



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