The Annual Meeting of Postgraduates in Ancient History (AMPAH for short) took place in the Samuel Alexander building on Saturday 22nd March. We welcomed some ninety students and academics from across the UK to Manchester for a full day of student presentations on a wide range of ancient history topics, covering the full range of Greek, Hellenistic, Roman and Byzantine history.

The morning was divided into four simultaneous panels, with themes as diverse as ‘Oratory and Historiography’, ‘Ethnicity and Identity’, ‘Ancient Bodies’ and ‘The Apparatus of State’. The second panel featured a talk from Marijn Visscher from Durham University, who graciously agreed to take the baton and to host next year’s AMPAH. We hope to see a strong Manchester contingent there in 2015.

Papers lasted for twenty minutes, with a ten-minute window afterwards for questions (and quick dashes between rooms, for those who wished to panel-hop). Topics for the morning session included Alexander the Great, women’s medicine, censorship and slavery. Speakers included three Manchester postgraduates: Guy Williams, Sam Fernes and Rachel Plummer.

After this first session, a well-needed lunch was taken in the impressive surroundings of the Samuel Alexander north foyer. Over mini quiches and an array of sandwiches, delegates were able to socialize and forge new links. It was pleasing to hear from some MA students that this AMPAH provided such a welcoming environment, and such a stimulating introduction to the world of the academic conference. The informal nature of the buffet also allowed some star-struck PhD students to approach the various esteemed professors who attended from the UK’s leading universities.

At 2:15 there was a prompt return to the panels, manned with strict precision by a collection of graduate school volunteer chairs. The panels covered a range of themes: ‘Religion’; ‘Politics and Material Culture’; ‘Military History’; and ‘Space and Landscape’. The afternoon session featured a further two papers by Mancunians: Elizabeth Pearson and Aimee Schofield, both on aspects of ancient warfare.

After just three papers (compared to the morning sessions’ four), all delegates came together in the main lecture theatre for the plenary session. This took the form of a lively panel chaired by Manchester’s own Professor Tim Parkin and featuring current staff member Dr. Peter Liddel, former student (and MMU lecturer) Jason Crowley and Cambridge Professor Robin Osborne. The theme was ‘Impact and Public Engagement’ and each panelist talked on ways to take research beyond academia, and why this is important for graduate students to consider. After time for a few questions and interjections from the audience, the panel adjourned to the north foyer once again for a drinks reception.

The overall view was that the conference had been a big success. It was pleasing to hear of all the different methodologies which delegates brought from their respective universities, and
the creative and intelligent ways in which these methodologies were deployed throughout the
day bodes well for the future of ancient history as a subject.

As organisers, we would like to thank all those who travelled from across the UK to attend
and speak, Drs. Peter Liddel and Polly Low for all their hard work in helping put the
conference together, the division of Archaeology, Religions and Theology and Classics and
Ancient History for additional funding, and finally artsmethods@manchester for making the
whole thing possible through their grant.