



**‘Before, During and After Hellenism:
The Work of the British School at Athens, 1886-2007’**

James Whitley

School of History and Archaeology, Cardiff University

Dr Whitley was Director of the British School at Athens between October 2002 and September 2007

Wednesday 20 February 2008, 5 - 6.30 p.m.

The British School at Athens is the oldest British research institute in the Humanities and Social Sciences. It is one of a network of institutions supported in part by the British Academy, and, like many of them, it has an image problem: it is seen as an exclusively ‘archaeological school’, of a peculiarly old-fashioned kind. But this image significantly misrepresents both the current, interdisciplinary research culture of the School, and its long-term contribution to knowledge about things Hellenic (and pre-Hellenic) in ancient, medieval and modern times.

This lecture attempts to provide a sketch of what this research culture is, first by looking at that peculiarly creative period between 1900-1920, when one scholar could be, at the same time, an ancient historian, an archaeologist, a linguist and an anthropologist; and second by looking at the School as it is today (or rather was in August 2007), where the spirit of ‘ethnological antiquarianism’ still persists. The talk ends by considering what the British School at Athens might be able to do for you, whatever ‘discipline’ you belong to in the Humanities and Social Sciences.

Humanities Lecture Theatre 0.31, followed by drinks

R.S.V.P to HumanitiesResearch@cf.ac.uk