Translating the fragmentary (Martin Revermann)

Translation provides an excellent starting point for exploring issues of how to approach fragmentary evidence from Graeco-Roman antiquity. Drawing from a range of fragmentary texts and various modes of translation, I will (among other things) discuss notions of ‘translation stages’, ‘readability’, ‘(un)translatability’ and the role played by translation norms as they constitute various communities of translators and their target audiences. The paper therefore integrates philology, reception history and disciplinary hermeneutics. One key objective will be to show that while the notion of the fragmentary is usually quite straightforward, it may be the notion of completeness which can become increasingly problematic.

Focus item

Empedocles D73 Laks-Most in the translations by Laks-Most (2016, English) and Inwood (2001)