

The Wolfe Institute

*The Ethyle R. Wolfe Institute for the Humanities,
in cooperation with the Department of Classics,
presents*

The 34th Annual Costas Memorial Lecture

Children in Wartime Ancient Athens and Modern Europe



This lecture considers the depiction of children in Athenian funerary art during the time of the Peloponnesian War - 431-404 BC. A close examination, particularly of grave reliefs and white-ground lekythoi, demonstrates how there was a sudden increase of interest in representing children at this time. This new interest, the speaker suggests, is due to the effects of the war, when the life of each child became more important for the continuation of the polis. Wars produced a similar situation in Europe during the late 19th and early 20th century and resulted in pro-child movements that were likewise reflected in art and literature.

John Oakley is Chancellor Professor and Forrest D. Murden Jr. Professor in the Department of Classical Studies, College of William and Mary. He received his degrees from Rutgers University, and his interests are in Greek art and archaeology, Greek vase-painting, and Roman sarcophagi. He has conducted fieldwork at Wroxeter and Kelvedon in England, the Via Gabina in Rome, and Corinth and Khania (Crete) in Greece. His main publications include "Coming of Age in Ancient Greece" (co-authored with J. Neils, 2003), and "Athenian Potters and Painters" (vol. 1 & 2, ed. with O. Palagia and W.D.E. Coulsen, 1997 and 2009). Professor Oakley is the AIA's 2009/2010 Joukowsky Lecturer.

**Thursday, May 6, 2010
12:30 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.**

**Jefferson-Williams Lounge, Brooklyn College Student Center
Campus Road and East 27th Street**

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