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a podcast and online community.

*reclaiming the voices of women, past and present
tackling contemporary misogyny with ancient myth*

A Modern Issue?

Ancient myth is rife with narratives of sexual violence, often excused or normalised within the framework of heroism or divine intervention. These myths mirror the harmful 'rape myths' that persist today. Just as modern digital spaces perpetuate myths that blame victims, dismiss consent or frame sexual violence as inevitable, so too do ancient myths reinforce these mindsets.

Applied Classics

As three young women, often frustrated with studying a subject so dominated by the narratives of men, and by the misogyny we have experienced in our own lives, we were instantly drawn to focusing our project on gender inequality. We settled on a few key problems we wanted to tackle; mainly the misuse of classical sources within misogynistic narratives, and the silencing of female voices and stories in classical history.

Storytelling is an important weapon for collective action regarding contemporary issues. Sharing myths equips us with knowledge that empowers us to turn these narratives to our advantage.

Our podcast aims to allow women to do just that: by taking the stories of women in myth and connecting them to the contemporary world, we create a space for women, past and present, to make their voices heard. The choice of a podcast is intentional, reflecting the long oral tradition of storytelling. By giving voice to women's stories, we empower them and we empower other women.

Why Podcasting

Podcasts are particularly well-suited to engaging with young people (our target age bracket) who are already comfortable with such digital platforms. However, the podcasting landscape has been heavily influenced by toxic masculinity, with many popular male-hosted podcasts promoting misogynistic ideologies.

Our podcast will provide a much-needed space for nuanced discussions about sexual violence in ancient myth and its modern implications. It will offer an alternative perspective, which is both historically informed and socially conscious, in a media genre which has made head-lines due to its connection with the 'manosphere'.

By making connections between past and present, we hope to empower listeners with knowledge, encourage critical thinking, and challenge the harmful ideologies which are attached to ancient myth and modern podcasting, shaping cultural attitudes towards gender. **This is more than an academic project, but a vital act of resistance against the misogynistic narratives that dominate both ancient myth and modern media.**



Methodology

For the podcast, we would like to post fortnightly episodes connecting a contemporary gender equality issue with an ancient myth.

By creating an online resource, we fully acknowledge that any material we create can be viewed by anybody, but we wish to engage most with young women, from around 16-25.

We have already created an Instagram and an X account for the podcast, and connected with a range of feminist charities, societies, classicists and historians to begin to build up a platform and connect with our desired audience.

Considerations

Of course, creating a podcast comes with its challenges. We're not tech experts, and the equipment and software needed to produce a high-quality show can be expensive. Many well-known classics podcasts offset these costs through sponsorships and ads. Fortunately, our group's background in marketing and media gives us the confidence that we can effectively connect with businesses and secure funding to cover any technological expenses.



Cassandra and #MeToo

Cassandra, who appears in Homer's works and the Greek plays, is a Trojan princess who receives the gift of prophecy from Apollo. After rejecting his sexual advances, Apollo curses her so that her words are never believed. Cassandra's story and her (unheeded) message about the fate of Troy serves as an illustration of the longstanding problem of invalidating women's stories, while also warning us about the dangers of ignoring women's voices.

The case of **Anita Hill**, a Black professor who testified before the Senate in 1991 that Supreme Court nominee Clarence Thomas had sexually harassed her, gained widespread media coverage. Like Cassandra, her character and her story were publicly disputed, and her assaulter did not face punishment.

More recently, the case of **Chanel Miller**, who was sexually assaulted while on Stanford's campus in 2015, illustrates a critical cultural shift regarding women's voices with the emerging #MeToo movement. Her (anonymous) victim impact statement went viral during the trial, and she released the memoir *Know My Name* in 2019 to speak out about her experience.

Both Chanel Miller and Anita Hill embody a long legacy that goes back to antiquity of women fighting to make their voices heard, and empowering other women in the process.

The Future of *MYTHOGYNY*

We would first love to connect with some local societies and charities such as Fife Women's Aid, St Andrew's Feminist Society, and GotConsent?, who all do a great job of raising awareness and money for gender-based violence in our area. Through these connections, as well as building a following on social media platforms like Instagram and Tiktok, we would hopefully create a community of women who enjoyed and benefited from our content. Perhaps we could turn this online community into a real life one, with talks and workshops.

Potential Speakers

Someone from Classics and someone from wider feminist activism.

Dr. Emily Wilson, the first woman to translate the Odyssey into English. Dr. Wilson describes how she gains a different perspective on the text due to her own experiences as a woman, viewing it more critically than her male predecessors. This shows how our own lives shape how we feel about ancient sources, and we cannot disconnect our experiences from how we analyse ancient texts. In terms of linking to Cassandra, when women who have experienced sexual violence hear her story, they often feel an emotional resonance with it and through this offer different perspectives.

In an ideal scenario we could have the **American activist Tarana Burke**, who started the #MeToo movement and was the 2017 Time Person of the Year, who works specifically on creating and leading campaigns to support women and girls of colour. She would offer invaluable background knowledge on the movement, and how it is still very much in process today, and we would love to explore her thoughts on the power of storytelling and the reclamation of female voices.





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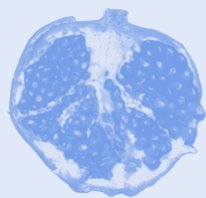
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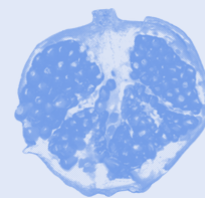
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