

Jennifer Winter

'The Rhetoric of Leadership in Xenophon and Caesar'

Supervisor: Lene Rubinstein



The works of Xenophon and Caesar and the social and political contexts in which they were written have been continuously studied from many different angles. In the last ten years this interest has increased, yet there has been only little research on the use of speeches in these texts.

My thesis will address how leaders are represented, or represent themselves, as using speeches and rhetorical techniques to influence the actions and morale of their men in Xenophon's *Anabasis* and Caesar's *Civil War* and *Gallic Wars*. This will include an investigation into whether what we perceive as differences in the persuasive means used can be attributed to the fact that the authors and characters come from different cultures, with different social and political factors affecting how they are best able to influence their men.

This topic has wider implications for the development of historiography and biography as genres, as well as the conventions of didactic texts, battle narratives and war memoirs. One aim of this project is to establish whether Caesar had Xenophon's *Anabasis*, and possibly works by later authors who took Xenophon's *Anabasis* as a model, in mind when writing his *commentarii*. This will help to establish to what extent Caesar was influenced, constrained and inspired by the generic conventions of which Xenophon was an early proponent. Some of the insights which will come from analysing the strategies of communication used by officers and private soldiers may also be of interest to modern studies of man management and communication.