



Identity: Stereotypes and assumptions about “Ancient” peoples

Exploring the Humanities – HPHP4018

Stereotypes and identity

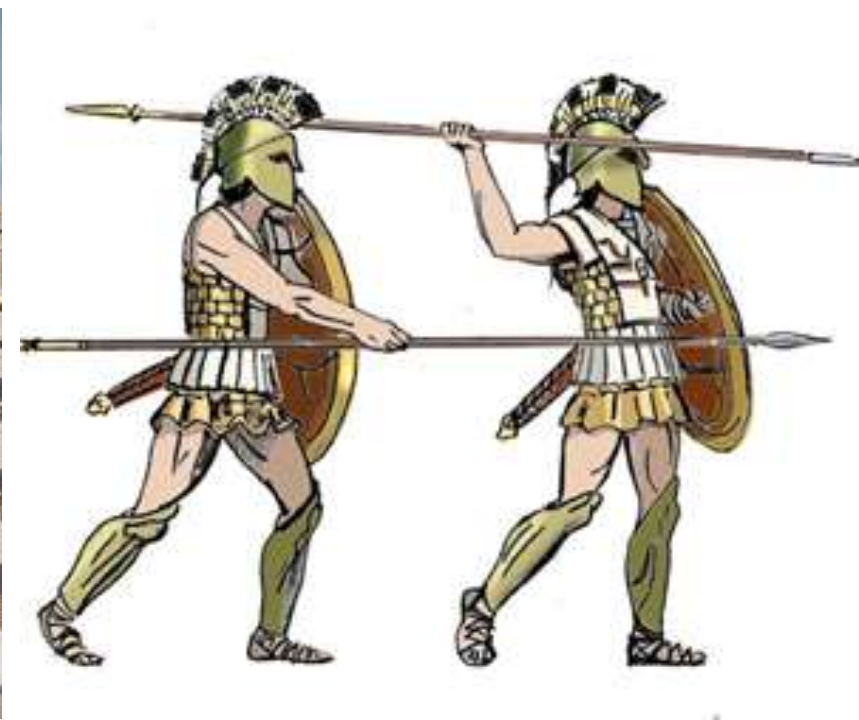
Who am I ?

- Stereotype – a generalized (often simplified) belief about a group of people.
- What makes up someone's identity?
 - Language and communication
 - Citizenship and origin
 - History and kinship (ethnicity)
 - Habits and beliefs (culture)
 - Sexual or gender identity
 - Different societies will use different metrics.



What ideas (or stereotypes) come to mind when you think about an ancient Greek, Roman or Egyptian?

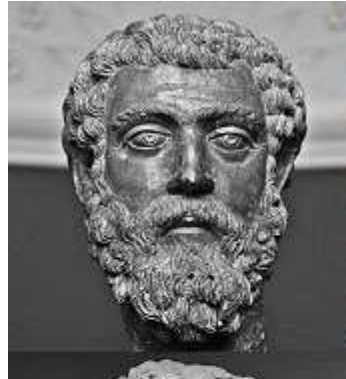
The when is also relevant (e.g., Rome as a city state in the early Republic vs. Roman as a multi-continent spanning Empire in second century AD).



Multi-layered identities (1)



Tempera painting on circular wood panel – found in Egypt



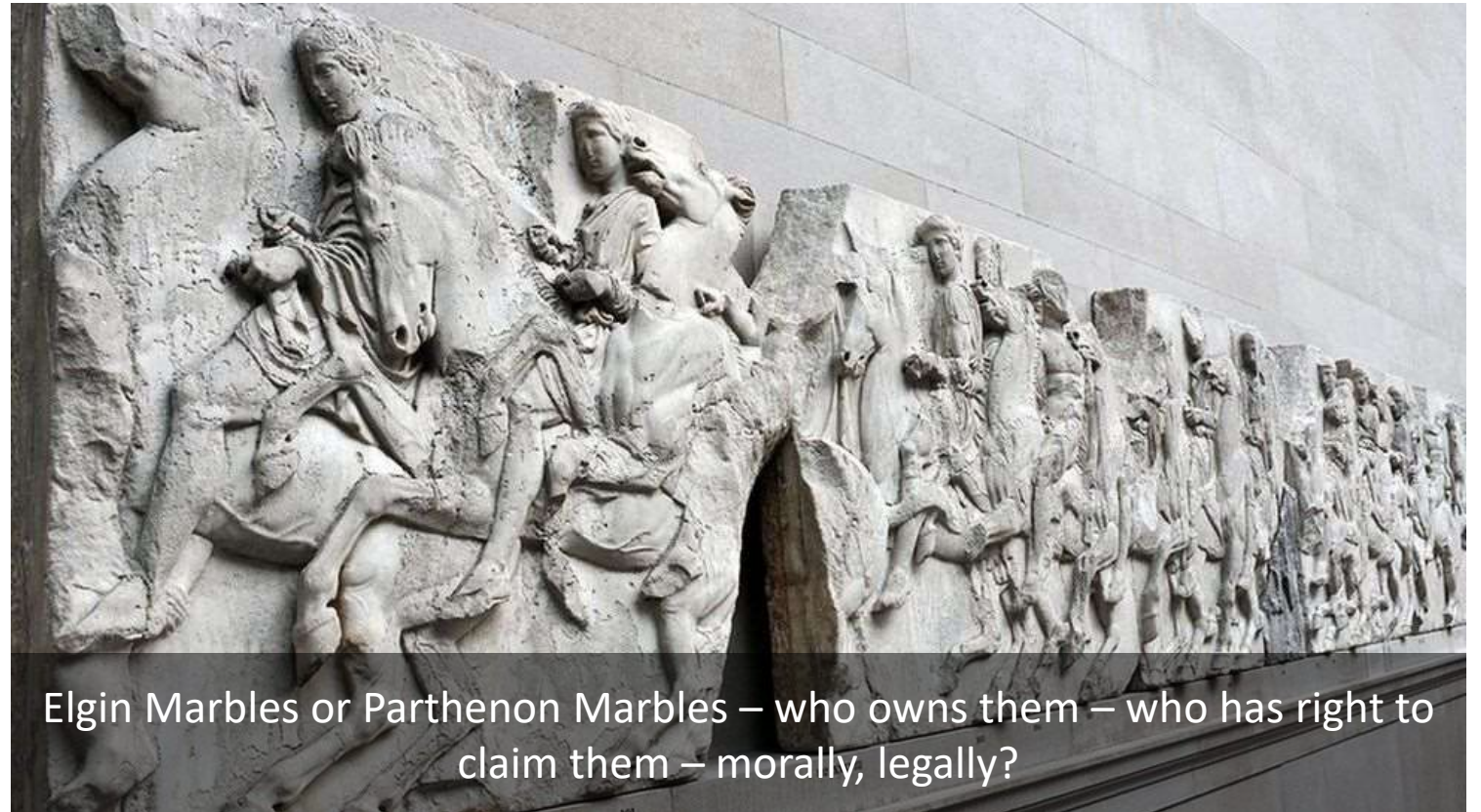
Septimius Severus, Roman emperor from AD 193 to 211. Born in Leptis Magna.

Speaking to different audiences



Who is this figures?

Image of Trajan on a wall of the temple of Dendera depicting Trajan, making an offering to the goddess Hathor and her son Ihy



Who claims the past and its legacy?

Elizabeth Taylor



Adele James



Does
anyone
“own” the
memory of
Cleopatra
(VII)

Ancient of Cleopatra



Diadem –
Hellenistic
symbol of
rulership

Cleopatra displaying
the same hooked
nose and prominent
chin as Antony

Tetradrachm – ca. 51-30 BC



Cleopatra VII consuming
poison: House of
Giuseppe II, Pompeii



Crown of Isis

Cleopatra and her son Caesarion
at temple of Dendera (Upper
Egypt). Caesarion as Pharaoh.