Excavations in Homer
Speculative Archaeologies in Alice Oswald’s and Barbara Köhler's Responses to the Iliad and the Odyssey

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The talk examines two recent responses to Homeric epic: British poet Alice Oswald’s *Memorial* (2011), which re-works material from the *Iliad*, and German poet Barbara Köhler’s poem-cycle *Niemands Frau* (2007) which responds to the Odyssey. What links these two very different revisitings of Homer’s work is a common purpose, what Professor Paul calls the poets’ ‘speculative archaeologies’. Both poets remove layers formed by habituated readings. They consider the Homeric poem’s roots in the oral tradition. They also contemplate afresh aspects of it which have become obscured under the tendentious gaze of thousands of years of male-oriented readings.

These lectures are a co-operation between the Centre for British Studies and TORCH (The Oxford Research Centre in the Humanities).

All are welcome.