

## Acknowledgements

Ancient epic and, in particular, structures of epic poetry have stood in the centre of Christiane Reitz' research for a long time. Due to this continued interest in the various structural elements of the epic genre more than 10 years ago in a working group with long-time collaborators the idea was born to bring experts and new voices in the field of epic poetry together in order to develop a comprehensive companion to the structures of ancient epic. With the generous support of the German Research Foundation (DFG) and the arrival of Simone Finkmann who joined Christiane Reitz from the University of Oxford to take on this truly 'epic' task with great enthusiasm and new ideas, this complex concept could finally be realised and developed into its current form, a four-volume compendium on the structural elements and narrative patterns of the literary tradition from Homer to Neo-Latin epic.

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Christiane Reitz  
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