



From acceleration to temporization

Fabius Cunctator or the redefinition of prudence in times of crisis

Publication type: Journal article

Journal: [Éthique, politique, religions](#)
2020 - 2, n° 17. [La temporalité du politique. Crise et continuité](#)

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Abstract: The state of emergency is often conceived as a suspension of ordinary political time or as acceleration. However, temporization is another way of conceiving and creating political time in crisis. This is what Livy shows by describing the Roman general Fabius, whose nickname was *Cunctator* (the delayer). This seizure of time creates a moment dedicated to action, and the notion overturns both our own categories and Roman values, because delay is indeed a political virtue in times of crisis.

Pages: 59 to 73

Journal: [Ethics, Politics, Religions](#)

CLIL theme: 3133 -- SCIENCES HUMAINES ET SOCIALES, LETTRES -- Philosophie -- Philosophie contemporaine

EAN: 9782406110972

ISBN: 978-2-406-11097-2

ISSN: 2271-7234

DOI: 10.15122/isbn.978-2-406-11097-2.p.0059

Publisher: Classiques Garnier

Online publication: 02-01-2021

Periodicity: Biannual

Language: French

Keyword: Fabius Cunctator, Livy, delay, public virtue, crisis, Second Punic War

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