This talk attempts to elicit how the term "barbarian" was understood in the Hellenic world. Greeks regularly referred to those who did not speak Greek as "barbaroi." Was this simply a matter of language and culture? Or did the term carry within it a sense of ethnic inferiority? Did that label signify uncivilized savages who were reckoned as contemptible and even subhuman? In short, did such characterization constitute racism?

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