

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

MYSTERIES, MYSTICISM, CULTS AND CULTISM IN ANTIQUITY

<http://mysteriesandcults.upatras.gr/>

University of Patras, 27th June – 1st July 2022

organized by

the “Center for the Study of Myth and Religion in Greek and Roman Antiquity”,

Department of Philology



Please note that the use of mask / face-covering is compulsory in all interior places and wherever crowded outside

MONDAY 27th JUNE 2022

17.30-18.00: Registration & Coffee

18.00: Opening address and welcoming notes by the Rectorate of University of Patras and Professor Menelaos Christopoulos (Director of the Center for the Study of Myth & Religion in Greek & Roman Antiquity)

I. MYSTERIES AND RITUAL

18.30-20.00: 1st Session

18.30-18.50: **Peter Meineck** (New York University): “The Mystery of Catharsis: A Cognitive Approach”

18.50-19.10: **Giuseppe Zanetto** (University of Milan): “*Liturgical Eros*”: Sacred Space as a Space for Love

19.10-19.30: **Caitlin Yool** (University of Aberdeen): "The Greek Mysteries: Magic, Pharmaka and Ekstasis"

19.30-20.00: Discussion

20.00: Welcome cocktail party on campus ("Parc of Peace")

TUESDAY 28th JUNE 2022

10.00-11.20: 2nd Session

10.00-10.20: **Alessandra Giannuzzi** (Catholic University of Sacred Heart): "Μονοκρήπιδες: the symbol of the barefoot"

10.20-10.40: **Ariadne Gkartziou-Tatti** (University of Ioannina): "Oath-rituals and peace treaties on the Athenian dionysiac stage"

10.40-11.00: **Flora P. Manakidou** (Democritus University of Thrace): "Rätsel über Rätsel: Pandora, Kekropides and the "race of women" in Attic Mysteries"

11.00-11.20: Discussion

11.20-11.40: Coffee break

11.40-13.00: 3rd Session

11.40-12.00: **Olga Levaniouk** (University of Washington): "Mystery Cows"

12.00-12.20: **Elo-Mall Toomet** (University of Tartu): "The mysteries of arrival and absence in the cults of the Argive plain"

12.20-12.40: **Natasha Bershadsky** (Harvard University): "The mysteries of the Kabeiroi: following a thread between ritual and myth"

12.40-13.00: Discussion

18.30-19.50: 4th Session

18.30-18.50: **Bartłomiej Bednarek** (University of Warsaw): "Some overlooked Orphic grave monuments and gems"

18.50-19.10: **Efthymia Kafritsa** (University of Athens): "'Ερωσ as mystic initiation"

II. TEXTUAL EVIDENCE

19.10-19.30: **Richard Seaford** (University of Exeter): "Mystic initiation and the Parmenidean One"

19.30-19.50: Discussion

WEDNESDAY 29th JUNE 2022

10.00-11.20: 5th Session

10.00-10.20: **Jordi Redondo Sanchez** (University of València): "Literary evidence for gender crossing in the ancient Greek rituals"

10.20-10.40: **Smaro Nikolaidou Arambatzi** (Democritus University of Thrace): "*Paizein* in Hades: Blissful afterlife in Pindar's fr. 129 and the chorus' parodos in Aristophanes' *Frogs*"

10.40-11.00: **Athina Papachrysostomou** (University of Patras): "Comic Fragments and Mystery Cults"

11.00-11.20: Discussion

11.20-11.40: Coffee break

11.40-13.00: 6th Session

11.40-12.00: **Vasia Kousoulini** (University of Patras): "Dionysian *Choreia* as a Multisensory Experience in Ancient Greek Theater"

III. GODS AND RITUAL

12.00-12.20: **Andrea Sánchez i Bernet** (University of València): "Chthonic symbology of Ares in classical sources"

12.20-12.40: **Menelaos Christopoulos** (University of Patras): "Dionysus' Katabasis and the Mysteries of Lerna"

12.40-13.00: Discussion

18.30-19.50: 7th Session

18.30-18.50: **Ronald Blankenburg** (Radboud University): “‘How to become a god’: Menelaus’ previewed deification in the *Odyssey*”

18.50-19.10: **Katerina Ntotsika** (University of Patras): “Time as a God in Proclus’ *Elements of Theology*”

IV. ELEUSINIAN MYSTERIES

19.10-19.30: **Alice Clinch** (Cornell University): “Epiphanic Encounters at Eleusis”

19.30-19.50: Discussion

THURSDAY 30th JUNE 2022

10.00-11.20: 8th Session

10.00-10.20: **Claudia Luschetti** (Karl-Franzens University of Graz & University of Tübingen): “The Gods of Eleusis in Plato’s Noetic Mythology. On Phaidon 61b sequ. and 78b-81a”

10.20-10.40: **Mattia De Poli** (University of Turin): “Aeschylus and the Eleusinian mysteries: Further sources for a ‘famous’ accusation?”

10.40-11.00: **Eleni Fassa** (Democritus University of Thrace): “Internationalizing the Mysteries? The Eumolpid Timotheos between Athens and Alexandria”

11.00-11.20: Discussion

11.20-11.40: Coffee break

11.40-13.00: 9th Session

11.40-12.00: **Charles Smith** (University of Oxford): “‘Perfect Hosts’: *Xenia* at the Eleusinian Mysteries”

12.00-12.20: **Francesco Bué** (École Pratique des Hautes Études of Paris): “Comparing Eleusinian and Epinician Elements in the Pindaric Poetry”

V. ROME & LATE ANTIQUITY

12.20-12.40: **George W. M. Harrison** (Carleton University): “Rome’s Embrace of Herakles”

12.40-13.00: Discussion

18.00-19.40: 10th Session

18.00-18.20: **Katherine Perkins** (University of Cambridge): “Mystery cults in 1st Century A.D. Corinth and Paul’s *First Letter to the Corinthians*”

18.20-18.40: **Marios Koutsoukos** (University of Liverpool): “Visions of the ‘Mithras Liturgy’: The role of self-initiation in Graeco-Egyptian ceremonial magic and Neoplatonic theurgy”

18.40-19.00: **Chiara Di Serio** (University of Cyprus): “Julian and the Statue of the Mother of the Gods”

19.00-19.20: **Philip Bosman** (Stellenbosch University): “Julian the sacrificer”

19.20-20.00: Discussion - Closing remarks

20.30: Farewell cocktail party on campus (“Parc of Peace”)

FRIDAY 1st JULY 2022

Optional visit to Nafpaktos (departure from Patras at 10 am, return to Patras at 3 pm)

Departure

The Organizing Committee

Menelaos Christopoulos

Professor of Ancient Greek Literature, University of Patras, and Director of the Center for the Study of Myth & Religion in Greek & Roman Antiquity

Athina Papachrysostomou

Associate Professor of Ancient Greek Literature, University of Patras

Marion Meyer

Professor of Classical Archaeology, University of Vienna

Secretarial assistance

Yiorgos Charitatos (PhD candidate)
Fay Papadimitriou (BA, MA Classics)
Panagiota Taktikou (PhD candidate)

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