

UNIVERSITY OF IOANNINA
INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE



SWEDISH
INSTITUTE
at ATHENS



RIKSBANKENS
JUBILEUMSFOND
THE SWEDISH FOUNDATION FOR
HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES



UNIVERSITY
of IOANNINA

FROM ASEBEIA TO ATHEISM.
EXPLORING THE FRINGES OF RELIGIOSITY
IN THE GRECO-ROMAN WORLD FROM
THE ARCHAIC PERIOD TO LATE ANTIQUITY.

SEPTEMBER
26-28, 2025

"DIMITRIS HATZIS"
CULTURAL CENTRE
(OLD SLAUGHTERHOUSE)



P R O G R A M

SEPTEMBER 26

9.30-9.45 Greetings

Anna Batistatou, President of the University of Ioannina

Ioannis Tzamtzis, Dean of the School of Philosophy, University of Ioannina

Jenny Wallensten, Director, Swedish Institute at Athens

9.45-10.00 Introduction

Elias Koulakiotis, University of Ioannina, Department of History and Archaeology

Athanassia Zografou, University of Ioannina, Department of Philology

10.00-11.30 Session 1, Provoking the Authorities: Impiety in Society

Chair: Jenny Wallensten, Swedish Institute at Athens

Vinciane Pirenne-Delforge, Collège de France: *Piety Before Eusebeia and Impiety Before Asebeia: A Range of Possible Names and Situations*

Francesco Massa, University of Torino: *Reshaping Asebeia in Fourth-Century Roman Empire: Religious Interaction and Rhetorical Struggle*

Thomas Harrison, British Museum: *Everyday Impiety*

11.30-12.00 Coffee

12.00-13.30 Session 2, The Materiality of Asebeia: From Impious Gifts to Vandalism

Chair: Andreas Vlachopoulos, University of Ioannina

Alexandra Alexandridou, University of Ioannina: *From Anathemata to Stonework. The Second Life of The Despotiko Kouroi and Issues of Religiosity*

Maria Zoumbouli, University of Ioannina: *Épiphanie et les images, haine et grâce*

Jenny Wallensten, Swedish Institute at Athens &

Maria Mili, University of Glasgow: *Is There Such a Thing as an Impious Offering?*

13.30-15.30 Lunch & Coffee

15.30-17.00 Session 3, A Place for Impiety? Asebeia and/in Space

Chair: Athanassia Zografou, University of Ioannina

James Chris Ford, University of Liverpool: ***Deviant Spaces and Irreverent Places: The Real and Imagined Locations of Atheism in Ancient Greece***

Nikolaos Papazarkadas, University of California at Berkeley/Hellenic Research Foundation: ***Defeated Cities, Dispossessed Gods? The Enduring Ambiguity of Contested Sacred Spaces***

Elias Koulakiotis, University of Ioannina: ***Asebeia and Interstate Relations: Revisiting the Causes of the Peloponnesian War***

17.00-17.30 Cocktail

17.30-18.00 Music for a while

Voice: John Rendoumis, Piano: Danae Souli

20.00 Dinner for Speakers

SEPTEMBER 27

10.00-11.30 Session 4, Is Atheism the Answer? Questioning the Gods

Chair: Alexandros Alexakis, University of Ioannina

Tim Whitmarsh, University of Cambridge: ***Godless Fictions***

Ramón Soneira-Martínez, Austrian Archaeological Institute: ***Rationalising the Gods Through Allegory and Atheism: Studying "Lived Unbelief" in Ancient Greek Religion***

Saskia Peels, University of Groningen &
Felix Budelmann, University of Groningen: ***On (Not) Trusting the Gods: Pistos and Apistos in Classical Greek Texts***

11.30-12.00 Coffee

12.00-13.30 Session 5, Transgressive Behaviour and its Consequences

Chair: Maria Patera, University of Thessaly

Jan Mattieu Carbon, Queen's University, Kingston: ***Why Did No One Confess to Asebeia (or Atheism) in the so-called "Confession Inscriptions"?***Eleni Fassa, Democritus University of Thrace: ***Irreverence, Justice and the Mother of the Gods: Patterns of Transgression, Retribution and Atonement***Athanassia Zografou, University of Ioannina: ***Ritual Uses of Asebeia in Curses and Incantations*****13.30-15.30 Lunch & Coffee****15.30-16.30 Session 5 continued, Transgressive Behaviour and its Consequences**

Chair: Elias Koulakiotis, University of Ioannina

Natalia Tsoumpra, FU Berlin: ***Divine Mockery and the Normalization of Irreverence in Aristophanic Comedy***Ariadne Gartziou, University of Ioannina: ***Dyssebeia – Goddess of Impiety?*****16.30-17.00 Discussion with postgraduate students at the University of Ioannina****17.00 Conclusions**

Maria Patera, University of Thessaly &

Stella Georgoudi, École Pratique des Hautes Études

20.00 Dinner for Speakers**SEPTEMBER 28****Visit to the Archeological Museum of Ioannina and Excursion to Dodona****Organizing Committee:**

Elias Koulakiotis, Jenny Wallensten, Athanassia Zografou

With special thanks to And with the sponsoring of

The Municipality of Ioannina

The team of volunteer postgraduate students,
E. Aggelopoulos, A. Oikonomou, A. BachourasELECTROMECH S.A. Engineering,
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