



ΠΑΝΕΠΙΣΤΗΜΙΟ ΚΡΗΤΗΣ  
UNIVERSITY OF CRETE

UNIVERSITY OF CRETE  
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOLOGY  
DIVISION OF CLASSICS

International Conference

## Ritual Acts in Archaic and Classical Greek Poetry

March 27-29, 2026

Xenia Student Cultural Center, Rethymnon, Crete

### Program

Friday, March 27

15.00-15.45: Registration

15.45-16.00: Welcome – Conference Opening by Profs. Lucia Athanassaki and Athena Kavoulaki, University of Crete

#### First Afternoon Session

Session Chair: tba

16.00-16.30: William Colman, University of Exeter  
(online)

Summoning the Shades; Necromantic ritual scenes in  
Homer's *Odyssey* and Aeschylus' *Persians*

16.30-17.00: Alice Alcaras, Université Paris Nanterre  
(online)

*Παρ' ἐμὸν πρόθυρον*: Rituals at Pindar's Threshold in  
the *Third Pythian*

17.00-17.30: Aikaterini (Katia) Markaki, University of  
Illinois (online)

Re-enacting Origins: Ritual Archetypes and Athletic  
Victory in Pindar's *Olympians 1* and *3*

17.30-18.00: Coffee Break

#### Second Afternoon Session

Session Chair: tba

18.00-18.30: Christina Filippaki, University of  
Chicago (online)

Reconsidering ritual agency in the Iphigenia plays

18.30-19.00: Evangelos Katsarelis, Center for Hellenic  
Studies (Greece), Harvard University (online)

Poetic Dramaturgy of Eros: Religious Language and  
Ritual Practices in Selected Works of Euripides and  
Plato

19.00-19.20: Refreshments

19.20-20.00: Prof. Andromache Karanika, UC Irvine  
(Keynote Speaker)

Listing the Nereids as Mourning: Collective  
lamentation and the Making of Ritual Acts from  
Homer to Late Antiquity

## Saturday, March 28

### First Morning Session

Session Chair: tba

10.00-10.30: Chuan Johan Yue, Columbia University

Hesiod's *ekphrasis* of Styx and the great oath of the  
gods, *Theogony* 775-792

10.30-11.00: Filippo Lepori, Uppsala University

Ritual Deviation, Formulaic Variation: The Language  
of the Sacrifice on Thrinakia (*Odyssey* 12)

11.00-11.30: Beatrice Veidenberg, University of Tartu

Ritual language of Aeschylus's *The Suppliants*: the  
case of ring composition

11.30-12.00: Coffee Break

### Second Morning Session

Session Chair: tba

12.00-12.30: Vassilis Karandinakis, University of  
Crete

Ritual acts before and after Aristomenes' victory in  
Pindar's *Pythian* 8

12.30-13.00: Aikaterini (Katerina) Doulgeraki,  
University of Crete

Marriage and Colonization: the ritualized union of  
Helios and Rhodes in Pindar's *Olympian* 7

13.00-13.30: Ioannis Karakirisidis, University of Crete

*Thesmoi* as ritual strains: Pindar's *Sixth Paean*,  
Aeschylus' *Eumenides* and *Suppliants*, and Sophocles'  
*Antigone*

13.30-15.30: Lunch Break

### First Afternoon Session

Session Chair: tba

16.00-16.40: Jonas Tai, Stanford University

Live by the Knife, Die by the Knife: Ritual Violence  
and Ideological Repair in the Cults of Apollo and  
Asklepios

16.40-17.10: Prof. Renaud Gagné, Université de  
Genève (Keynote Speaker)

Sacrificing song in ancient Greece

17.10-17.40: Coffee Break

## Second Afternoon Session

Session Chair: tba

17.40-18.20: Profs. Felix Budelmann and Saskia Peels,  
University of Groningen (Keynote Speakers)

Eating and drinking with gods: the theoxeny in ritual  
practice and literary reflection

18.20-18.40: Refreshments

18.40-19.20: Prof. Vassiliki Panoussi, William & Mary  
(Keynote Speaker)

Ritual and Rupture: Memory, Trauma and Ethnic  
Difference in Greece and Rome

## Sunday, March 29

### First Morning Session

Session Chair: tba

10.00-10.30: Cecilia Burattin, University of Bristol

Performing Pollution: Orestes' purification between  
ruse and ritual in Euripides' *IT*

10.30-11.00: Maggie Tighe, University of Oxford

From Temple to Stage: The Ritual Parodos of  
Euripides' *Cretans*

11.00-11.30: Coffee Break

### Second Morning Session

Session Chair: tba

11.30-12.00: Cosimo Pastore, Università degli Studi  
di Foggia

Liminal Thresholds and Ritual Transitions:  
Hermeneutic Insights on Euripides' *Alcestis*

12.00-12.30: Evgenia Kompocholi, University of  
Crete

Worshipping Ploutos: Ritual-Comic References and  
Social Reversal in Aristophanes' *Wealth*

12.30-13.00: Closing remarks by Profs. Lucia Athanassaki and Athena Kavoulaki, University of Crete

## End of Conference

Organizing Committee: Prof. Lucia Athanassaki, Prof. Athena Kavoulaki, Aikaterini (Katerina) Doulgeraki, PhD cand.,  
Ioannis Karakirisidis, PhD cand., Vassilis Karandinakis, PhD cand.