

BEYOND MYSTERIES

The Hybrid History of Ancient Eleusis

September 30 to October 2, 2021 | Conference
 Center Stadthotel Münster and Zoom

THE HYBRID HISTORY OF ANCIENT ELEUSIS

Situated at the crossroads of ancient Greek history, Eleusis was subject to changing fortunes in the world. From an Athenian perspective, Eleusis marked the fringes of their territory. From everybody else’s point of view, it was either a destination or a gateway: to Athens, the Saronic region and Aegean, Central Greece, or the Peloponnese.

The conference explores this inherent status of in-betweenness. It invites approaches that appreciate the local horizon as a sphere where different vectors of culture touch, both complementarily and conflictually, to shape a hybrid history of place; for instance, an amalgamation of diverse natural environments and different political entities; of boundedness and entanglement; imaginaries of isolation and belonging; material and immaterial expressions in culture that were in themselves fused by local, regional, and universal practices.

CLUSTER OF EXCELLENCE “RELIGION AND POLITICS”

The Cluster of Excellence “Religion and Politics. Dynamics of Tradition and Innovation” has been investigating since 2007 the complex relationship between religion and politics across eras and cultures. In the funding phase from 2019 to 2025, the 140 researchers from 20 disciplines in the humanities and social sciences analyze in transepochal studies ranging from antiquity to the present day the factors that make religion the motor of political and social change. The research network is the largest of its kind in Germany; and, of the Clusters of Excellence, one of the oldest and the only one to deal with the issue of religion. It will receive funding of 31 million euros from 2019 to 2025.

CONTACT

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ORGANIZATION

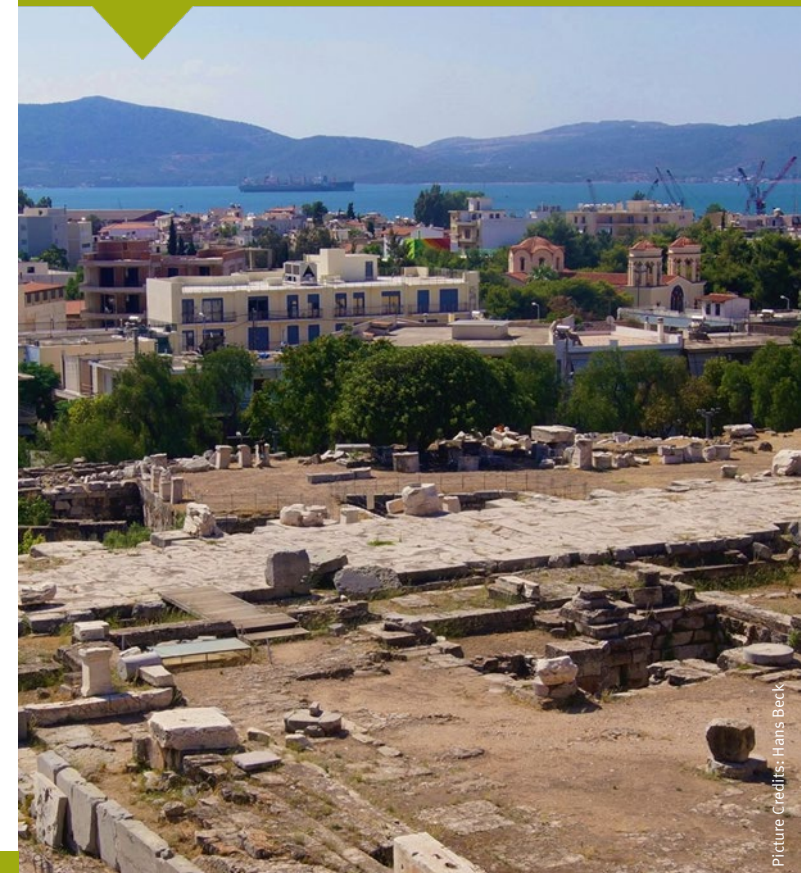
Project B3-40 of the Cluster of Excellence: “Localism and Religion“, in conjunction with the Department of Ancient History, WWU Münster

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LOCATION

Conference Center Stadthotel Münster and Zoom.
 Zoomcodes available from the organizers.



Picture Credits: Hans Beck

PROGRAM

Thursday, September 30, 2021

Introduction

11.30-12.00 | Hybrid Histories of Place: the Case of Eleusis
Hans Beck and Sebastian Scharff, Münster

Settings and Surroundings

12.00-12.30 | Eleusis and its Economic and Environmental Setting | **Anton Bonnier, Uppsala**

12.30-13.00 | Eleusis and the Western Borders of Attika
Sylvian Fachard, Lausanne

13.00-13.30 | A Journey along the Mystery Highway. Thebes and Eleusis | **Hans Beck, Münster**

13.30-14.00 | Coffee Break and Snacks

14.00-14.30 | Between Argos and Athens: Eleusis as a Contested Space | **Jeremy McInerney, Philadelphia**

Archaeologies: Spaces

14.30-15.00 | Votive Reliefs from Eleusis in a Local, Regional and Inter-regional Perspective | **Anja Klöckner, Frankfurt**

15.00-15.30 | The Diaspora of the Eleusinian Cult Vases in Attica (with a focus on Thorikos and Laureion)
Christina Mitsopoulou, Volos

15.30-16.00 | Exploring Eleusis through the Archaeology of its Hinterland | **Evan Levine, Brown and ASA**

16.00-16.30 | Coffee Break

Archaeologies: Monuments

16.30-17.00 | The Archaic Fortification Walls of Eleusis
Ioulia Kaoura, Berlin

17.00-17.30 | Eleusis and the Acropolis of Athens during the 6th century BCE. Parallel or Crossing Roads? | **Eleni-Anna Chlepa and Elisavet Sioumpara, Athens and Munich**

17.30-18.00 | Eleusis: New Discoveries and Rescue Excavations | **Kalliope Papangeli, Museum Eleusis**

Friday, October 1, 2021

Cults

9.00-9.30 | Hades in Eleusis: Constructions of a God in Greek Polytheism | **Soi Agelidis, Bochum**

9.30-10.00 | Poseidon in the Plain: Fertility and the Sea beyond the Walls of Eleusis | **Shannon Dunn, Bryn Mawr College**

10.00-10.30 | Healing Across the Gulf: Eleusis and the Cult of Asklepios | **Roy van Wijk, Utrecht and Münster**

10.30-11.00 | Coffee Break

Myth and History

11.00-11.30 | Eleusis and Athens at War: Myth, Conflict, and Identity | **Oliver Grote, Regensburg**

11.30-12.00 | Centrality Reconsidered: Eleusis, Athens, and Mythotopography | **Angela Ganter, Regensburg**

12.00-12.30 | Eleusis and the Seven against Thebes
Christoph Michels, Münster

12.30-13.00 | Profanation of the Mysteries in the Attic Orators: between Rhetorical Use and Historical Evidence
Priscilla Gontijo Leite, Paraíba

13.00-14.00 | Lunch Break

Civic Life

14.00-14.30 | The Public Enactments of the Deme Eleusis: Between Mysteries and Military | **Stephen Lambert, Cardiff and Heidelberg**

14.30-15.00 | Eleusis as a Place of Competition: the Eleusinian Games | **Sebastian Scharff, Münster**

15.00-15.30 | "For the Defense of Eleusis": Soldiers, Military Operations, and Strategic Priorities in the Polis and beyond
Graham Oliver, Brown

15.30-16.00 | Inventory and Liminality at Eleusis
Athena Kirk, Cornell

16.00-16.30 | Coffee Break

Saronic Dimensions

16.30-17.00 | The Sacred and the Mundane: Dynamics of Late Bronze and Early Iron Age Ritual Action in the Saronic Gulf
Sarah Murray, Toronto

17.00-17.30 | Eleusis in the Gulf of Distorting Mirrors: Demeter's Look-alikes and her Saronic Reflections
Irene Polinskaya, King's College London

17.30-18.00 | Mortuary Diversity in the Saronic Region: the Case of Eleusis | **Sophia Nomicos, Münster**

18.00-18.30 | Mapping the Saronic Gulf. A GIS-based Reconstruction of Religious Landscapes | **Marian Helm, Münster**

Saturday, October 2, 2021

Beyond the Saronic

10.00-10.30 | The Diffusion of Eleusinian Mysteries Cults in the Aegean in the Classical Period
Christy Constantakopoulou, Birkbeck College London

10.30-11.00 | Demeter Eleusinia in Ionia
Julietta Steinhauer, University College London

11.00-11.30 | Imagining Eleusis in the Bosporan Kingdom
Jane Rempel, Sheffield

11.30-12.00 | Coffee Break

Afterlives

12.00-12.30 | Ancient Eleusis as a Mediator between the Athenian Polis and the Roman Empire | **Margaryta Sardak, Cologne**

12.30-13.00 | Plutarch's Eleusis | **Chandra Giroux, Montreal and Ottawa**

13.00-13.30 | Eleusis at the Intersection of Antiquity and Modernity: Mystery, Initiation, and Secrecy in the 21st Century | **Michelle Zerba, Louisiana**