

UNIVERSITY OF IOANNINA  
INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE



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

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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

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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

### 15.30-17.30 Session 3, A Place for Impiety? Asebeia and/in Space

Chair: Athanassia Zografou, University of Ioannina

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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

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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****15.30-17.00 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?*****17.00-17.30 Discussion with postgraduate students at the University of Ioannina****17.30 Conclusions**

Maria Patera, University of Thessaly &amp;

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,  
Design and Construction