

Claiming autochthony in Roman Macedonia: the Mother Goddess of Leukopetra

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The paper focuses on a rather underestimated aspect of the cult which flourished from the middle of the 2nd to the 4th century CE: the cult epithet which was attributed to the Mother Goddess of Leukopetra. It will be demonstrated that, beyond the primary meaning of ‘indigenous’, which is conventionally applied to ‘autochthon’, concomitant significations and allusions could be related to the epithet and might contribute to a historical interpretation of the cult in the framework of competition between cults and communities in the eastern Roman Empire.