

# The Athens Greek Religion Seminar, Tuesday November 29 2016

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**Matthew Haysom: *Modes of religion on Minoan Crete***

## Abstract

Over the course of its history as a discipline Minoan studies has applied a variety of interpretative oppositions, either explicitly or implicitly, to the evidence for ritual and religion. Discussion has made use of concepts such as domestic versus public, elite versus popular, urban versus rural, priestly versus non-professional. These oppositions have been drawn from wider paradigms in the study of ancient religions. In this paper I will explore how well these oppositions fit the evidence from Crete, where the large amount of data combining excavation, survey, and iconographic analysis allows for a uniquely holistic approach. I will argue that the technique of thinking in terms of oppositional categories is a useful interpretative tool, but that there are oppositions that arise more clearly from the evidence than those that have hitherto been imposed upon it.