

Abstract Evangelia Stefani, *The Mother of Gods at Leukopetra: Meter Phrygia or Autochthon?* The Athens Greek Religion Seminar, Feb 7, 2017

The Roman temple of the Mother of Gods Autochthon was discovered and excavated in the 60s by Fotios Petsas. The monument became known to the academic community due to the unique assemblage of inscriptions that came to light and were published in 2000. Recent excavations conducted between 2000 and 2003 have brought to light new, significant elements not only from the Roman temple but also from the nearby site of Kallipetra, where among others a late Classical-Hellenistic sanctuary of the Mother of Gods has been discovered. In response to these finds and combined with information from the ancient sources E. Stefani will try to detect the origins of the cult of the Mother of Gods in this region and to interpret the epithet Autochthon as an inseparable part of the sacred title of a deity. In order to complete the missing puzzle pieces of the history of the Goddess we shall “travel” back centuries before the Roman conquest of Macedonia, but also centuries before the founding of the late classical – early Hellenistic sanctuary of Kallipetra at the time of the formation of the Macedonian kingdom, a time when the founding myth of the royal dynasty engages with the early history of the kingdom.