



SWEDISH
INSTITUTE
at ATHENS

Aiming at the Gods:

A Different Angle on Greek Temple Orientation

Astronomical explanations for ancient temple orientations need not blunt our curiosity regarding possible social and political calculations underlying Greek temple construction. A “down to earth” look at axial orientation may enrich our understanding of the circumstances in which temples were vowed. One cluster of alignments may be connected to the role of Apollo and Artemis as plague gods. Other alignments hint at parallels with the Roman habit of vowing temples to local divinities before key battles.

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The Athens Greek Religion Seminar

6 February 2018
15:00

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Mitseon 9*

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