



THE ATHENS GREEK RELIGION SEMINAR, Wednesday December 4, 2019
at 15h, Swedish Institute at Athens

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Chremata and Symbola. How to consider divine attributes on royal heads: A numismatic perspective

ABSTRACT

Abstract: The goal of this presentation is to examine the visual expression of the “divinization” of Hellenistic kings and queens by focusing on the numismatic evidence. Before addressing the question of the quantification of “divine types” and the methodological advantages such an analysis offers, some elements of importance for understanding Hellenistic royal religious practices, will be addressed: what is a divine attribute? What is the meaning of “divinization” of a king/queen? Is it possible to speak of “identification”, “association” or “assimilation” of a king/queen with the divine? The numismatic evidence will serve as the basis for addressing the issue of the ambiguous relationship between the royal and the divine in the Hellenistic period, the role of the kings and queens as opposed (or in connection) to the divine. Therefore, the question of the “royal cult” will be indirectly addressed.