



**THE ATHENS GREEK RELIGION SEMINAR, Tuesday February 9, 2021 at 17h Athens time (via Zoom link).**

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### **A BROADER VIEW: UNDERSTANDING ACTIVITIES OUTSIDE THE TEMENOS OF RURAL SANCTUARIES**

Much research has been done on the Greek sanctuaries, most of it concentrated on remains and activities inside the temenos, such as temples, treasuries and cult. In this seminar I will discuss activities specifically outside of the temenos at rural sanctuaries, based on three case studies: Labraunda, Sinuri and Nemea. It will be argued that the close surroundings of the temenos were part of the sanctuary complex, and that the activities there, ranging from camping and cooking to metallurgy and pottery production, existed because of and for the needs of the sanctuary. The interactions between the temenos and the areas outside of it, labelled the extra-temenal areas, raise questions about the administrative structure of the sanctuary. Previous research on rural sanctuaries has emphasized aspects of social interaction and community building. These aspects are also central in an administrative structure known from the field of political economy, that of commons. Taking inspiration from research on shared resources, the possibility that sanctuaries functioned as commons is therefore investigated.