



THE ATHENS GREEK RELIGION SEMINAR, Tuesday April 19, 2022, at 17h Athens time (limited live presence and via Zoom link).

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***Ancient Greek Polytheism and Divine Epithets:
The Case of Zeus in Attica***

ABSTRACT

The abundance and variety of divine epithets are well known characteristics of Greek religion. For the Ancients, these epithets were a privileged way to communicate with the divine; consequently, they remain for modern scholars a relevant tool to investigate Greek polytheism. Indeed, their quantitative (not all gods are equally endowed) and qualitative distributions (they belong to very diverse semantic and functional fields) are testimonies of the structures and dynamics of polytheistic systems. Taking advantage of recent updates of Attic epigraphy and new perspectives drawn in divine onomastics, the present communication will assess the case of Zeus in Attica, on the *longue durée*, from the Archaic to the Roman imperial period. Being the richest god in cult epithets (in Athens as elsewhere), Zeus offers a good case-study to tackle some disputed issues, such as that of the « one vs many », or that of the relationships with other deities (especially Athena).

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