



## THE ATHENS GREEK RELIGION SEMINAR, Tuesday June 7, 2022

Björn Forsén, University of Helsinki

### *Cults and Identities in Arcadian Mainalia*

#### ABSTRACT

Mainalia was located to the west of Tegea and Mantinea in Arcadia. During the Classical period the Mainalians formed a “tribal state”, which included a number of communities referred to in literary and epigraphic sources as *poleis*. Due to lack of sources, we do not know exactly when the “tribal state” and the *poleis* were formed, although they both seem to go back at least to the sixth century BC. The “tribal state” of Mainalia was dissolved around the mid-fourth century BC, whereas some of its small *poleis* lived on as own political entities until the late Hellenistic period. Mainalia was finally also part of the Arcadian *symmachia* of the early fifth century, an alliance directed against Sparta, as well as of the Arcadian confederacy founded in 370 BC. People living in Mainalia thus had several identities. First of all, they were citizens of their own small *poleis*, that is, Aseatans, Pallantians, Oresthasians, Dipaians etc. Parallel to this they also had a Mainalian and an Arcadian identity. These differing identities influenced the local cults. Apart from the typical *polis* sanctuaries I will in my paper focus on the Mainalian tribal sanctuary on Agios Elias as well as on the sanctuary of Artemis Lykoatis, which during the Hellenistic period was connected to the Megalopolitan claims for hegemony over Arcadia.

The seminar takes place **Tuesday June 7, 2022, 17.00**

**(Athens time)** with live presence at the Swedish Institute at Athens, Mitseon 9, or via Zoom link.

To register for live presence, please contact [swedinst@sia.gr](mailto:swedinst@sia.gr).

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