



**THE ATHENS GREEK RELIGION SEMINAR, Tuesday February 14, 2023,**

**Oliver Pilz, German Archaeological Institute, Athens**

*A Cult Statue of Aphrodite from Gerasa (Jerash)*

**ABSTRACT**

In 2016 and 2017, several fragments of a Roman marble statue of Aphrodite were discovered in the East Baths of ancient Gerasa (modern-day Jerash in Jordan) by a Franco-German excavation team directed by Thomas Lepaon and Thomas Weber-Karyotakis. The over life-size statue was restored in 2018 by Franco Sciorilli and is today on display at the Visitor Center of the archaeological site. A Greek inscription on the plinth not only states that the statue was dedicated by the priest Demetrios together with a base, a niche, an altar and a hearth, but also provides a precise date for the dedication. In addition to examining the possibility that the statue was a cult image of Aphrodite, the talk will discuss the significance of the new find for the understanding of the cult of Aphrodite in the cities of the Syrian Decapolis.

The seminar takes place **Tuesday February 14, 2023, 17.00 (Athens time)** with live presence at the Swedish Institute and via zoom link.

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