



THE ATHENS GREEK RELIGION SEMINAR, Tuesday, February 11, 2025

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What's going on at the boundaries of the sanctuary? The role of 'subsidiary' buildings in Kolona on Aegina

ABSTRACT

Small-scale buildings of various layout are frequently found at the edge or within Greek sanctuaries. A clear determination of their function, or an unambiguous classification as sacred, public, or even domestic is, however, not always possible. The understanding of such structures is also closely connected to the question of how ritual space was perceived by the ancient Greeks, how space allotted to the gods was demarcated, and when activities were perceived as sacred or profane.

All these questions are also central to the interpretation of the 'subsidiary' buildings in Kolona on the Greek island of Aegina which are the topic of this lecture, in order to understand the dynamics behind their profane or sacral connotation and their position within the sacral landscape on the Kolona hill. Fortunately, one of these buildings has preserved a rich inventory and an informative stratigraphic sequence. This provides the opportunity to assess its function through the full archaeological evidence and a contextualised analysis, and to contribute to the aforementioned discussion from a material-based view on a specific site.

The seminar takes place Tuesday, February 11, 2025, at 17.00 (Athens) in a hybrid format with live presence at the Swedish Institute at Athens and online via Zoom

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