



ATHENS GREEK RELIGION SEMINAR



THE ATHENS GREEK RELIGION SEMINAR, Tuesday, March 10, 2026

Iphigeneia Leventi, University of Thessaly,
Department of History, Archaeology and Social Anthropology

Divine Names versus Divine Identities on Classical Votive Reliefs

ABSTRACT

My talk will focus on two distinct axes which, in my view, converge in the study of classical votive reliefs, and especially, but not exclusively, of the Attic ones. The first axis consists of examining cases where identical iconographic types and symbols are employed for popular male deities with shared attributes that are often worshipped together in the same sanctuary during the second half of the 4th c. BC. In such instances, it is mainly the name of a god, if extant, that distinguishes each of them as a separate entity for the worshippers who dedicated these monuments. The presence of inscriptions naming these gods on the reliefs depicting them generally clarifies - though occasionally also complicates - the issue of their identification. The second axis focuses on the study of female deities with distinct names and character who share the same iconographic type and often also similar attributes in their depictions on votive reliefs of the 5th and 4th centuries BC, where accompanying inscriptions are generally absent. Ultimately, the two aforementioned axes refer to the two aspects - name and iconography - through which the gods of the Greek pantheon are revealed to us. These two elements are intertwined in the definition of their identity, although the name always remains their primary distinguishing characteristic.

The seminar takes place Tuesday, March 10, 2026, 17.00 (Athens) in a hybrid format with live presence at the Swedish Institute at Athens and online via Zoom.

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