



## THE ATHENS GREEK RELIGION SEMINAR, Tuesday, March 31, 2026

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*Where was the cult of the Roman Emperor in Athens? New evidence for the Athenian Sebasteion on the Acropolis*

### ABSTRACT

The attribution of newly identified blocks to the well-known base of the largest family dedication of Pandaites and Pasikles on the Acropolis, dating to the third quarter of the fourth century BC and carrying bronze portrait sculptures by Leochares and Sthennis, has made possible a fresh reappraisal of the monument, both in terms of its Late Classical phase and its subsequent history of reuse in the Roman period. Particular significance attaches to two inscribed blocks belonging to the monument's second and third Roman phases, which significantly enhance our understanding of the erection by the Athenian demos of statues of Augustus, Tiberius, Drusus, and Germanicus and later of Tiberius. In this context, comparable imperial portraits from the Acropolis and the Roman Agora are likewise re-examined. Taken together, all the evidence permits the monument to be associated, first, with specific political and ideological strategies adopted by the city of Athens in relation to Rome and, secondly, with the possible performance of imperial cult in the temenos west of the Parthenon, a location that may also have housed the Sebasteion of Athens.

The seminar takes place Tuesday, March 31, 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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