



THE ATHENS GREEK RELIGION SEMINAR, Tuesday, October 13, 2026

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Ritual, myth and humour. Animals' depictions at the altar

ABSTRACT

Sacrificial animals in ancient Greece are essential for the communication with the gods. Recent research, based mostly on epigraphical sources, has shed more light on the choices and uses of animals for sacrificial purposes and helped us understand new aspects of sacrificial practices. Images on the other, as representations of the society that created them, also provide a fertile terrain to question the relationships in between humans, animals and gods. In this paper I will explore the depictions of animals around the altar on Attic vases of the archaic and classical period in order to understand the meaning of their presence on these scenes. More precisely, I will study the choices of animals by the painters, question if all animals depicted around the altar should be considered as sacrificial and examine their role on these images.

The seminar takes place Tuesday, October 13, 2026, 17.00 (Athens) in a hybrid format with live presence at the Swedish Institute at Athens and online via Zoom.

To participate (in-person or via Zoom), please register at:

<https://www.sia.gr/en/events.php?eid=622#ParticipationForm>