ATHENS GREEK RELIGION SEMINAR

SWEDISH INSTITUTE at ATHENS

THE ATHENS GREEK RELIGION SEMINAR, Tuesday, December 1, 2026

Gunnel Ekroth, Uppsala University

Dinner is served!
Human and divine food consumption in Greek sanctuaries

ABSTRACT

This presentation explores how gods and humans interacted within Greek sanctuaries in the contexts of food consumption. Of interest is where in the temenos such interactions took place, the permanent or ad hoc physical manifestation of such activities as well as the spatial imprint of gods and humans on these occasions. The presence and use of altars and tables, evidence for rituals such as trapezomata and theoxenia and installations for dining will be considered. Gods and humans clearly had different relationships to food in ancient Greek religion, related to their immortal and mortal status, respectively. The anthropomorphic conception of the divine provided the ancient Greeks with opportunities to elaborate and explore the differences and likenesses of gods and men, especially in a system where the gods were perceived as once having socialized and eaten with humans, and as still occasionally visiting and interacting with them disguised as mortals.

The seminar takes place Tuesday, December 1, 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=631#ParticipationForm