



UNIVERSITY OF CRETE  
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOLOGY  
DIVISION OF CLASSICS

International Graduate Conference  
**Ritual Acts in Archaic and Classical Greek Poetry**

March 27-29, 2026

Xenia Student Cultural Center, Rethymnon, Crete  
and Online

**Program**

**Friday, March 27**

15.00-15.45: Registration

15.45-16.00: Conference opening—Welcome addresses by:

Prof. Melina Tamiolaki, Vice Rector of Development, International Affairs and Outlook of the University of Crete

Prof. Dimos Spatharas, Director of the Division of Classical Studies, University of Crete

Profs. Lucia Athanassaki and Athena Kavoulaki, University of Crete

**First Afternoon Session**

Session Chair: Vassilis Karandinakis, PhD (c), University of Crete

16.00-16.30: William Colman, University of Exeter  
(online)

Summoning the Shades; Necromantic ritual scenes in  
Homer's *Odyssey* and Aeschylus' *Persians*

16.30-17.00: Alice Alcaras, Université Paris Nanterre  
(online)

*Παρ' ἐμὸν πρόθυρον*: Rituals at Pindar's Threshold in  
the *Third Pythian*

17.00-17.30: Aikaterini (Katia) Markaki, University of  
Illinois (online)

Re-enacting Origins: Ritual Archetypes and Athletic  
Victory in Pindar's *Olympians 1* and *3*

17.30-18.00: Coffee Break

**Second Afternoon Session**

Session Chair: Prof. Karin Schlapbach, University of Fribourg

18.00-18.30: Christina Filippaki, University of  
Chicago (online)

Reconsidering ritual agency in the Iphigenia plays

18.30-19.00: Evangelos Katsarelis, Center for Hellenic  
Studies (Greece), Harvard University (online)

Poetic Dramaturgy of Eros: Religious Language and  
Ritual Practices in Selected Works of Euripides and  
Plato



19.00-19.20: Refreshments

19.20-20.00: Prof. Andromache Karanika, UC Irvine  
(Keynote Speaker)

Reception (light buffet dinner) at Xenia Student Cultural Center

Listing the Nereids as Mourning: Collective lamentation and the Making of Ritual Acts from Homer to Late Antiquity

## Saturday, March 28

### First Morning Session

Session Chair: Ioannis Karakirisidis, PhD (c), University of Crete

10.00-10.30: Chuan Johan Yue, Columbia University

The binding of Styx in Hesiod's *Theogony*

10.30-11.00: Filippo Lepori, Uppsala University

Ritual Deviation, Formulaic Variation: The Language of the Sacrifice on Thrinakia (*Odyssey* 12)

11.00-11.30: Beatrice Veidenberg, University of Tartu

Ritual language of Aeschylus's *The Suppliants*: the case of ring composition

11.30-12.00: Coffee Break

### Second Morning Session

Session Chair: Dr. Panagiotis Androulakis, University of Crete

12.00-12.30: Vassilis Karandinakis, University of Crete

Ritual acts before and after Aristomenes' victory in Pindar's *Pythian* 8

12.30-13.00: Aikaterini (Katerina) Doulgeraki, University of Crete

Marriage and Colonization: the ritualized union of Helios and Rhodes in Pindar's *Olympian* 7

13.00-13.30: Ioannis Karakirisidis, University of Crete

*Thesmoi* as ritual strains: Pindar's *Sixth Paean*, Aeschylus' *Eumenides* and *Suppliants*, and Sophocles' *Antigone*

13.30-15.30: Lunch Break

### First Afternoon Session

Session Chair: Prof. Ewen Bowie, Corpus Christi College, Oxford

16.00-16.40: Jonas Tai, Stanford University

Live by the Knife, Die by the Knife: Ritual Violence and Ideological Repair in the Cults of Apollo and Asklepios

16.40-17.10: Prof. Renaud Gagné, Université de Genève (Keynote Speaker)

Sacrificing song in ancient Greece

17.10-17.40: Coffee Break



## Second Afternoon Session

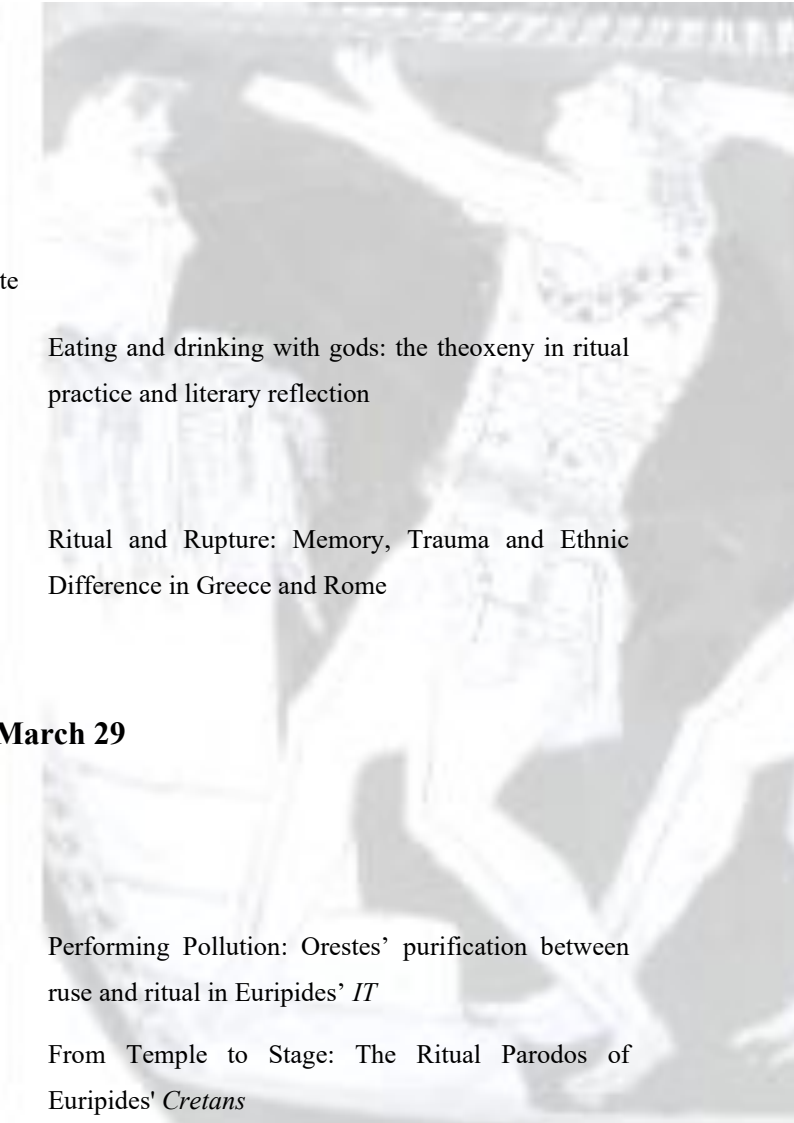
Session Chair: Prof. Stelios Panayotakis, University of Crete

17.40-18.20: Profs. Felix Budelmann and Saskia Peels,  
University of Groningen (Keynote Speakers)

18.20-18.40: Refreshments

18.40-19.20: Prof. Vassiliki Panoussi, William & Mary  
(Keynote Speaker)

Conference dinner at local restaurant



Eating and drinking with gods: the theoxeny in ritual practice and literary reflection

Ritual and Rupture: Memory, Trauma and Ethnic Difference in Greece and Rome

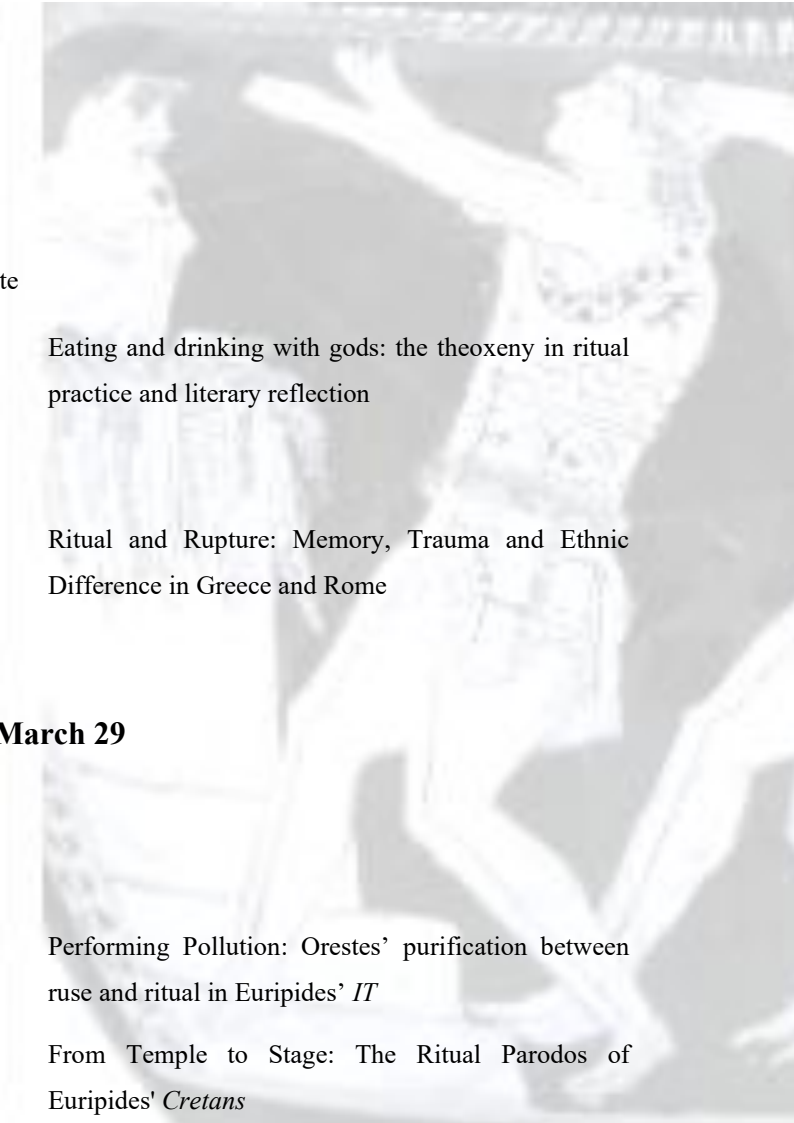
## Sunday, March 29

### First Morning Session

Session Chair: Prof. Georgia Tsouni, University of Crete

10.00-10.30: Cecilia Burattin, University of Bristol

10.30-11.00: Maggie Tighe, University of Oxford



Performing Pollution: Orestes' purification between ruse and ritual in Euripides' *IT*

From Temple to Stage: The Ritual Parodos of Euripides' *Cretans*

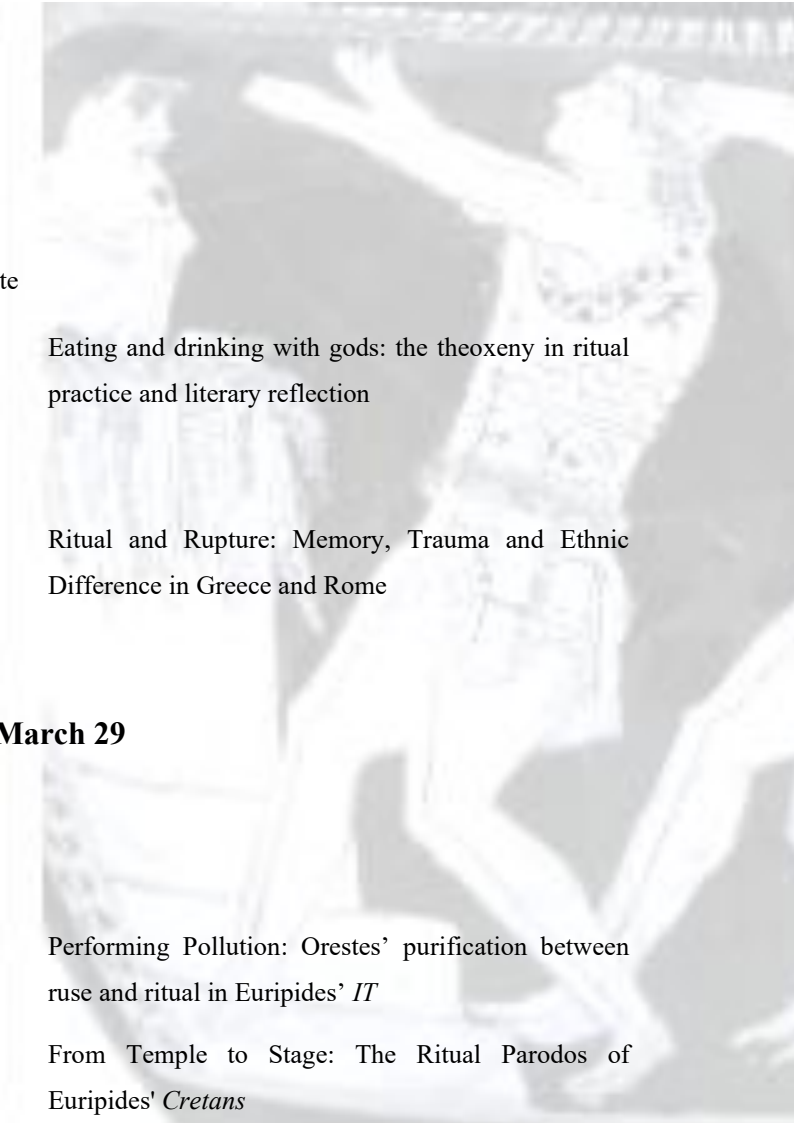
11.00-11.30: Coffee Break

### Second Morning Session

Session Chair: Dr. Georgia Choustoulaki, University of Crete

11.30-12.00: Cosimo Pastore, Università degli Studi di Foggia

12.00-12.30: Evgenia Kompocholi, University of Crete



Liminal Thresholds and Ritual Transitions: Hermeneutic Insights on Euripides' *Alcestis*

Worshipping Ploutos: Ritual-Comic References and Social Reversal in Aristophanes' *Wealth*

12.30-13.00: Closing remarks by Profs. Lucia Athanassaki and Athena Kavoulaki, University of Crete

### End of Conference

Organizing Committee: Prof. Lucia Athanassaki, Prof. Athena Kavoulaki, Aikaterini (Katerina) Doulgeraki, PhD cand., Ioannis Karakirisidis, PhD cand., Vassilis Karandinakis, PhD cand.

E-mail address: [ritualacts.conf@gmail.com](mailto:ritualacts.conf@gmail.com)

Images:

Wedding of Thetis and Peleus. Attic red-figured pyxis, ca. 470-460 BCE. Musée du Louvre. Photo CCO via Wikimedia Commons (adapted).

Dancing at altar. Attic red-figured krater, ca. 480 BCE. Courtesy of ©Antikenmuseum Basel und Sammlung Ludwig. Object BS 415 (adapted).

Women preparing oxen for sacrifice. Attic red-figured amphora, ca. 450 BCE. © The Trustees of the British Museum. Shared under a Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 4.0 International (CC BY-NC-SA 4.0) licence (adapted).

Grieving women lament for a dead youth. Attic Terracotta loutrophoros, late 6th century BCE. The Metropolitan Museum of Art, 27.228 (adapted).

