



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: Welcome – Conference Opening by Profs. Lucia Athanassaki and Athena Kavoulaki, University of Crete

First Afternoon Session

Session Chair: tba

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: tba

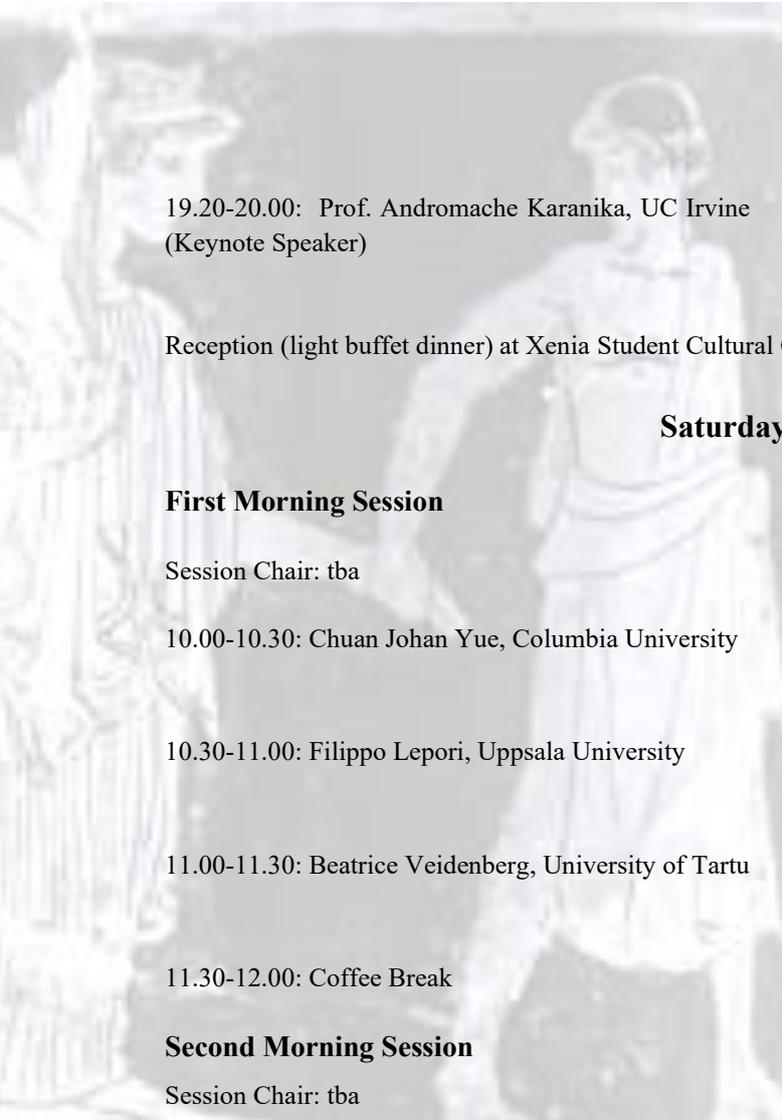
18.00-18.30: Christina Filippaki, University of
Chicago (online)

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

Saturday, March 28

First Morning Session

Session Chair: tba

10.00-10.30: Chuan Johan Yue, Columbia University

10.30-11.00: Filippo Lepori, Uppsala University

11.00-11.30: Beatrice Veidenberg, University of Tartu

11.30-12.00: Coffee Break

Second Morning Session

Session Chair: tba



12.00-12.30: Vassilis Karandinakis, University of Crete

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

13.00-13.30: Ioannis Karakirisidis, University of Crete

13.30-15.30: Lunch Break

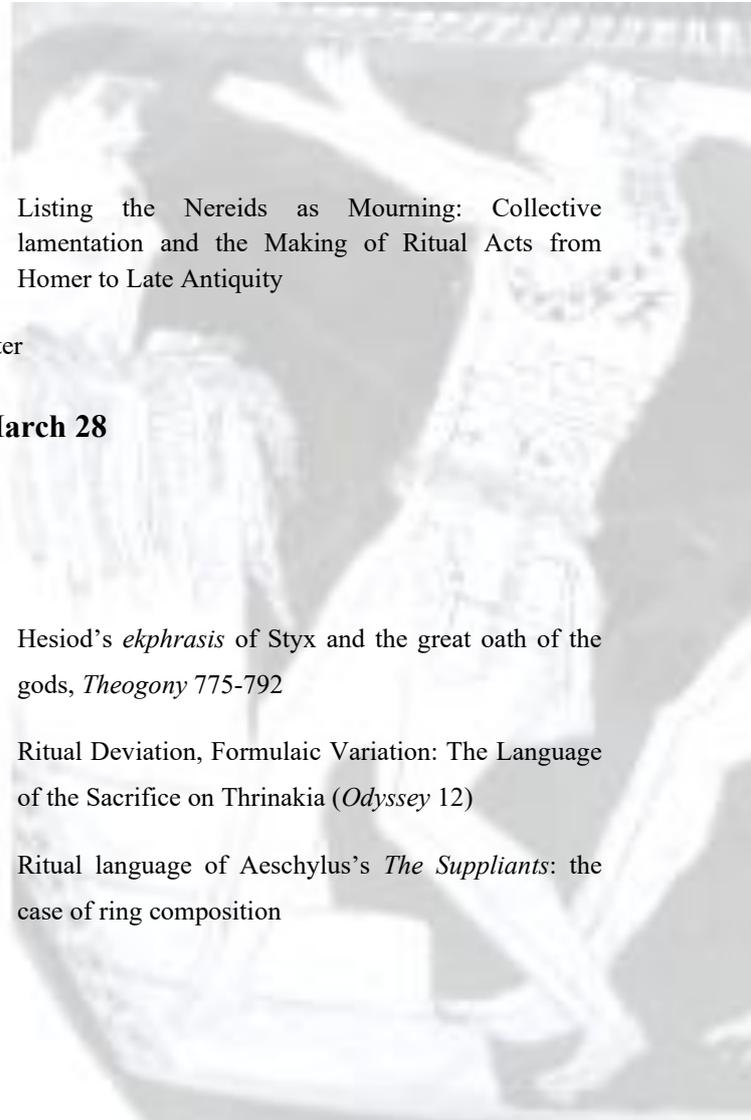
First Afternoon Session

Session Chair: tba

16.00-16.40: Jonas Tai, Stanford University

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

17.10-17.40: Coffee Break



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

Hesiod's *ekphrasis* of Styx and the great oath of the gods, *Theogony* 775-792

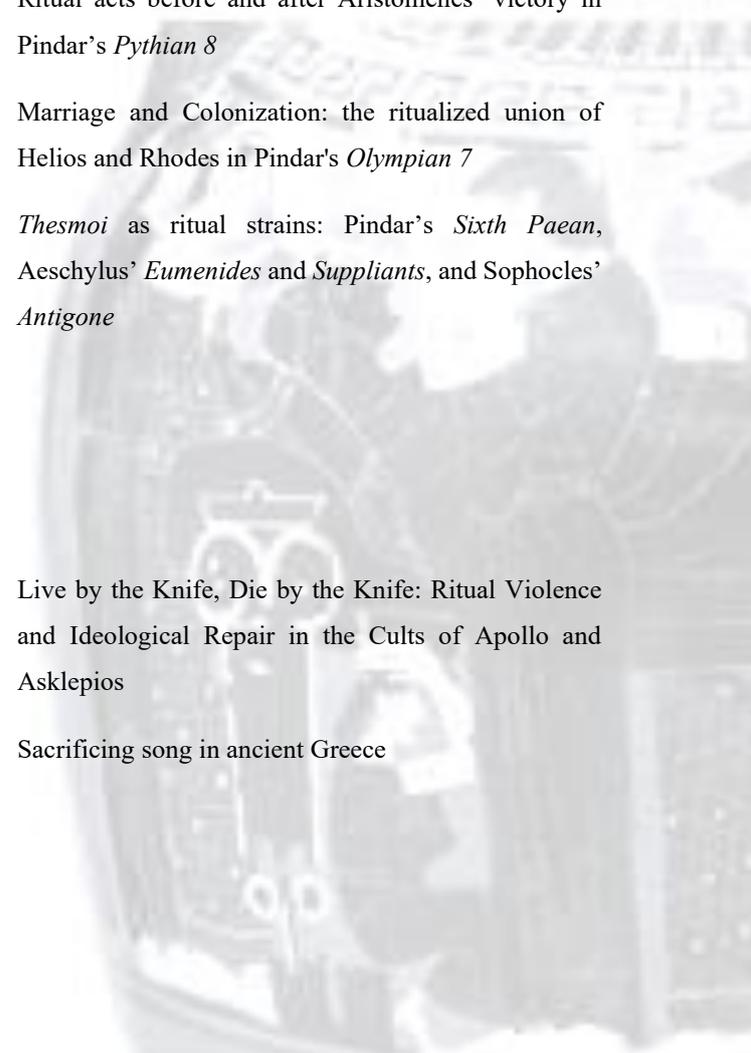
Ritual Deviation, Formulaic Variation: The Language of the Sacrifice on Thrinakia (*Odyssey* 12)

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

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

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

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



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

Sacrificing song in ancient Greece



Second Afternoon Session

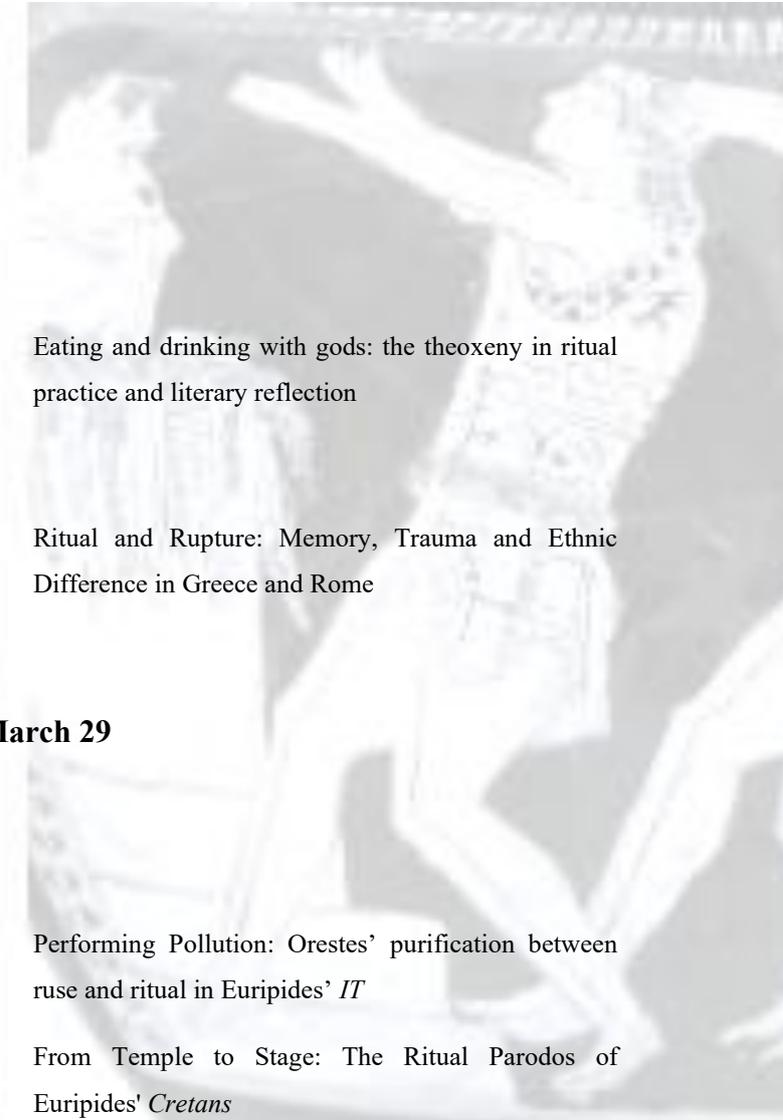
Session Chair: Prof. Stelios Panayotakis

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

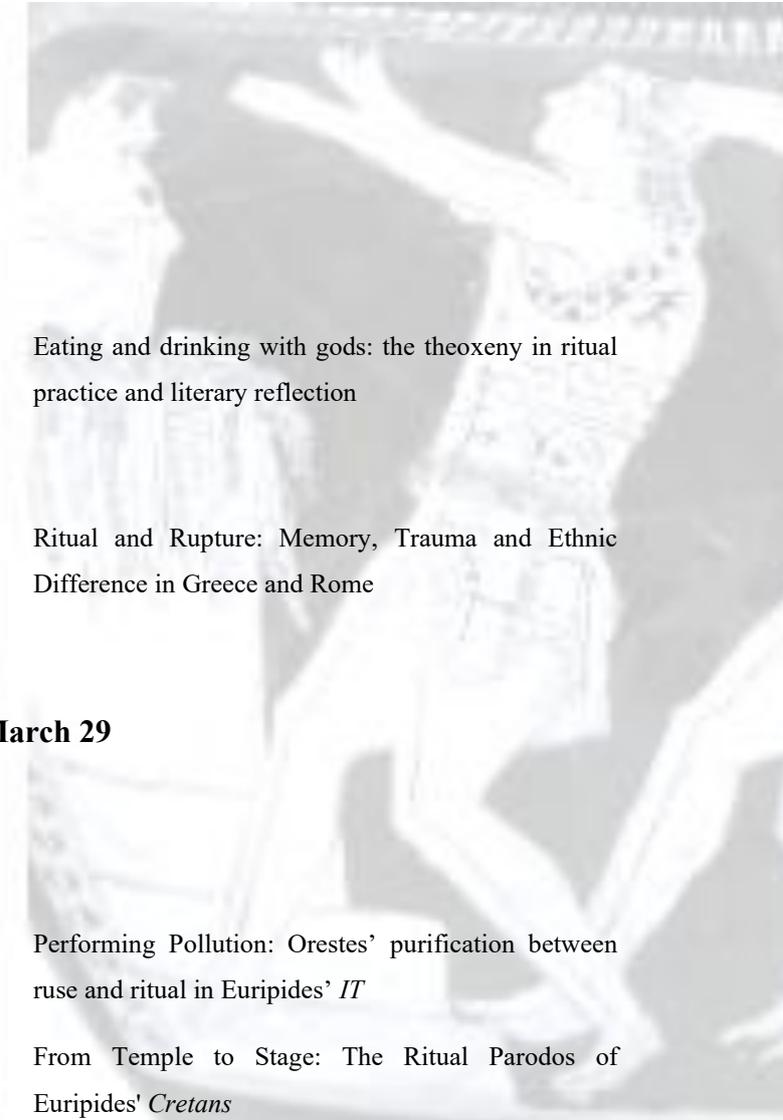
Sunday, March 29

First Morning Session

Session Chair: tba

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: tba



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

12.00-12.30: Evgenia Kompochoi, University of
Crete

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



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

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

End of Conference

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

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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).