

# Ascending and Descending the Acropolis

## Sacred Travel in Ancient Attica and its Borders



**Saturday 15th Nov 2014**

**Workshop at the Danish Institute at Athens**

Organized under the auspices of the collaborative research project *The Emergence of Sacred Travel: Experience, Economy, and Connectivity in Ancient Mediterranean Pilgrimage (EST)*, supported by the Sapere Aude career programme of the Danish Council for Independent Research

Focused on the sacred topography of the Athenian Acropolis, this workshop discusses different aspects of sacred travel or pilgrimage in Ancient Attica. The Acropolis and the nearby Agora were not only the religious and political centres of Athens, but also functioned as a starting and ending point for several regional processions and pilgrimages around Attica, like the *theoria* to Brauron, Eleusis and the panathenian festival. Several sanctuaries on its slopes were the goal of individual piety and pilgrimages, like the Asclepieion at the south slope. Last but not least in roman times the Acropolis itself became a centre of pilgrimage for philhellenic tourism.

The workshop will include discussions of the material footprint of different activities and movements undertaken by pilgrims in ancient Attica and the spatial organization of the sanctuaries of pilgrimage.

The workshop will take place in the auditorium of the Danish Institute at Athens  
Herefondos 14 - Platia Aghias Aikaterinis - Plaka - GR-105 58 Athen

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## Programme

9:00 Introduction (Wiebke Friese, Aarhus & Søren Handberg, Athens)

### **Session I. Ascending the Acropolis. Pilgrimage in Athens**

9:15 Julia Shear, Istanbul: *Pilgrimage and Participation in the Hellenistic Panathenaia*

10:00 Martina Seifert, Hamburg: *The duties of the Gods - the archaeological evidence of Athenian cults changing*

10:45 Coffee break

### **Session II. Descending the Acropolis. Pilgrimage in Attica and its Borders**

11:15 Maria Salta, Athens: *Under the care of daemons. From the Athenian Acropolis to Kallirhoe on Ilissos*

12:00. Konstantinos Kalogeropoulos, Athens: *Thoughts on the Practice of Religious Pilgrimage at the Acropolis of Brauron during the Late Helladic Period and the Early Iron Age*

12:45 Lunch

13:45 Soi Agelidis, Athens: *Aspects of private and polis cult: The procession to Eleusis*

14:30 Kevin Clinton, Ithaca, NY: *Pilgrimage to Eleusis*

15:15 Coffee break

### **Session III. Marvelling at the Acropolis. Athens as a philhellenic pilgrimage site**

15:45 Maria Pretzler, Swansea: *Athens as a place of philhellenic pilgrimage (or tourism) in roman and late-antique times*

16:30 Ralf Krumeich, Bonn: *Temples untouched by time and monuments of a great past. Looking at the image of the Athenian Acropolis from the Classical to the Roman and Late antique periods*

17:15 Final discussion and wrap-up (Wiebke Friese, Aarhus & Søren Handberg, Athens)