

# GODSCAPES

## Ritual, Belief and the Natural World in the Ancient Mediterranean and Beyond

*Sponsored by the Society for Ancient Mediterranean Religions and the School of Classics, University of St Andrews*

University of St Andrews  
27-30 June, 2023 (all times BST)

### Tuesday, 27 June

#### **3:00-5:00 Registration Open**

Room S03, Swallowgate  
School of Classics

#### **5:00-7:00 Opening Reception**

Lower College Hall  
St Salvator's Quadrangle

### Wednesday, 28 June

#### **8:00-9:00 Registration Open**

Physics C, North Haugh  
School of Physics and Astronomy

#### **9:00-9:10 Welcome**

Physics C, North Haugh  
School of Physics and Astronomy (All sessions will be held in Physics C)

Daniel Schowalter, Carthage College and Society for Ancient Mediterranean Religions  
Andrea Brock, University of St Andrews and Centre for Ancient Environmental Studies

#### **9:10-10:00 Keynote Address**

Jason König, University of St Andrews - [Representing Mountain Religion in the Roman Empire: Bodies and Landscapes in Pausanias and Beyond](#)

*10:00-10:30 Tea/Coffee break  
Physics Foyer*

## **10:30-12:30 Topographies**

Chair, Barbette Spaeth, William & Mary

Leah Neiman, Brown University - [Reproductive Landscapes and Royal Ideology: Ontological Edges of Egyptian Cosmology](#) (VIRTUAL)

Constance Détroyat, University of Paris Nanterre - [What Can Plains Tell Us about Gods: A Sensorial and Poetic Landscape of the Divine Presence](#)

Tziona Grossmark, Tel Hai-College; Hagay Dvir, Tel-Hai Center for the Study of Religions; Jacob Ashkenazi, Kinneret Academic College - [Banias: Cultic Landscape/Arcadian Showcase in the Levant](#)

Mara Allison McNiff, The University of Texas at Austin - [Calling the Gods: The Role of the Tophet in Diasporic Religious Development](#)

*12:30-2:00 Break (there is a café located in North Haugh for on-site dining option)*

## **2:00-3:30 Mobility and the Divine**

Chair, Christine Thomas, University of California, Santa Barbara

Hana Navratilova, University of Oxford - [A Walk in the Desert: Mobility, Memory, Piety](#)

Hannah Lents, The University of Texas at Austin - [Emplacing the Kingdom of God along Well-Trodden Paths: A Landscape Analysis of Phoebe's Route to Rome](#)

Amelia R. Brown, The University of Queensland - [Panagia atop Aphrodite Euploia: Bays of Grammata and Archaeological Evidence for the Rituals, Beliefs and Networks of Ancient and Medieval Greek Mariners](#)

*3:30-4:00 Tea/Coffee break*

## **4:00-5:30 Displacement**

Chair, Jeffrey Brodd, California State University, Sacramento

Edward A. S. Ross, University of Reading - [This is Our Sacred Place: The Spiritual Transplantation of Sacred Landscapes in Hellenistic Central Asia](#)

Eric Foster-Whiddon, University of St Andrews - [Neither on this Mountain nor in Jerusalem: Travel and Religio-Philosophical Reform in Apollonius of Tyana and the Gospel of John](#)

Leonardo Cazzadori, University of Padova - [Elemental Godscapes: Porphyry on Sacred Caves](#) (VIRTUAL)

## **Thursday, 29 June**

**8:00-9:00 Registration Open (Physics C)**

**9:00-10:30 Rivers and Watery Landscapes, Part I**

Chair, Betsey Robinson, Vanderbilt University

Deanna Cunningham, Museum of London - [Rituals, Rivers and the Romans: Deconstructing the Significance of Sacred Rivers in the Creation of Roman Britain \(VIRTUAL\)](#)

Shannon M. Dunn, Bryn Mawr College - [A Religious Riverscape: Cult in the Borderlands of the River Neda in the Archaic and Classical Peloponnese](#)

Gretel Rodríguez, Brown University - [Sacred Rivers, Springs, and Fountains: The Religious Watery Landscape of Ancient Gaul \(VIRTUAL\)](#)

*10:30-11:00 Tea/Coffee break*

**11:00-12:30 Rivers and Watery Landscapes, Part I**

Chair, Betsey Robinson, Vanderbilt University

Rabun Taylor, The University of Texas at Austin - [Paths of Their Own Pasts: Greek River Gods in the Landscape](#)

Theodora Kopestonsky, The University of Tennessee, Knoxville - [Nymphscapes: Watery Sanctuaries and Human Interaction in the Greek World](#)

Sarah Parkhouse, The University of Manchester - [Nile Rites and Landscape Identity in Roman and Coptic Egypt](#)

*12:30-2:00 Break*

**2:00-3:30 Gods in the Land**

Chair, Ian Rutherford, University of Reading

Adam Brennan, The University of Bristol - [Narratives of Welcome: Initiating Gods into the Mysteries of Eleusis \(VIRTUAL\)](#)

Anna S. Papile, The University of Texas at Austin - [Chattering Doves and Dancing Bears: Two Cases of Ritual Transformation in Cultic Landscape](#)

Stella J. Fritzell, Bryn Mawr College - [In the Footsteps of Giants: Arkadian Myth, Monument, and Epichoric Identity](#)

*3:30-4:00 Tea/Coffee break*

## **4:00-5:30 Treescapes**

Chair, Ian Rutherford, University of Reading

Matthew Westermayer, Cornell University - [Carving Wood from Tree: the Transformative Conflict between Trees and People in Late Antiquity](#)

Collin Moat, University of California, Los Angeles - [Observing Sensuous Death: Nymphs and their Trees in the Hymn to Aphrodite](#)

Benjamin Gordon, University of Pittsburgh - [Woodland Judaism: Tree Veneration and the Sacred Grove in Ancient Jewish Practice](#)

## **7:00-9:00 Conference Dinner**

Tom Morris Bar & Grill  
St Andrews Links Clubhouse  
West Sands Rd, St Andrews

## **Friday, 30 June**

### **8:00-9:00 Registration Open (Physics C)**

### **9:00-10:30 This Panel Is a Disaster: The Destructive, the Scary and the Evolution of Eras, Part I**

Chair, Eric Orlin, University of Puget Sound

Erica Krause, University of Virginia - [Quidnam eo di portenderent prodigo: The Dark Ecology of the Alban Lake Prodigy](#)

Sabine Neumann, Philipps-Universitat Marburg; Tomáš Glomb, Masaryk University - [Mapping Seismic Gods in the Ancient Mediterranean](#)

Erica Angliker, The British School at Athens - [Cults at Dreadful Natural Environments: A Case Study of the Divinities Worshipped at the Quarries of Paros and Naxos](#) (VIRTUAL)

### **10:30-11:00 Tea/Coffee break**

### **11:00-12:30 This Panel Is a Disaster: The Destructive, the Scary and the Evolution of Eras, Part II**

Chair, Eric Orlin, University of Puget Sound

Manuel Álvarez-Martí-Aguilar, University of Malaga - [Transgression and Boundaries: Ocean Tides, Tsunamis and the Shaping of Beliefs and Rituals among Communities of the Gulf of Cadiz in Antiquity \(and Beyond\)](#)  
(VIRTUAL)

Jessica Tilley, Florida State University - [The Polluted Oasis: Death and Magic in Priapus' Garden](#)

Janelle Peters, Loyola Marymount University - [Sustainability, Agriculture, and Wildlife Management in Longus' \*Daphnis and Chloe\* and Yukio Mishima's \*Sound of Waves\*](#) (VIRTUAL)

*12:30-2:00 Break*

**2:00-3:30 Thinking the Natural World**

Chair, Jorunn Økland, University of Oslo

Rocio Suarez Vallejo, University of Malaga - [The Error of the \*stulti homines\*: Simplicity and Primitivism as an Intellectual Discourse Towards the Cult of Nature](#)

Crystal Addey, University College Cork - [Theurgy and the Gods of Place: Relational Philosophy and the Environment in Late Antique Platonism](#) (VIRTUAL)

Mathijs Clement, University of Cambridge - [The Natural Me. Presenting the Self and Negotiating Nature in Ausonius of Bordeaux and Gregory of Nazianzus](#)

*3:30-4:00 Tea/Coffee break*

**4:00-5:30 Thinking the Natural World**

Chair, Jorunn Økland, University of Oslo

Wendy Closterman, Bryn Athyn College - [Late Antique Vegetal Sarcophagi and the Landscape of Southwest Gaul](#)

Mary Danisi, Cornell University - [A Wooly Screen: The Matter of Consecration in Ancient Greek Cult](#)

Bronwen Wickkiser, Wabash College - [Lemnian Soil: Therapeutic Topographies of an Aegean Island](#)

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The sponsors greatly appreciate the contributions of everyone who has helped make our conference possible, most of all the presenters, the attendees, the student volunteers, and the excellent staff in the School of Classics. We thank you!