

An international meeting titled ‘Unlocking Sacred Landscapes: Digital Humanities and Ritual Space’ took place from October 19-21, 2018, with the support of the Society for the Promotion of Hellenic Studies; it was co-organised by Drs Giorgos Papantoniou (University of Bonn), Apostolos Sarris (Laboratory of Geophysical - Satellite Remote Sensing & Archaeo-environment, of FORTH in Crete, Greece), Christine E. Morris (Trinity College Dublin), and Athanasios K. Vionis (University of Cyprus), and took place at the facilities of the Institute for Mediterranean Studies in Crete in Rethymno, Crete.

This was the second international meeting of the ‘Unlocking Sacred Landscapes’ network, which is concerned with the inter-disciplinary and diachronic study of the temporality, spatiality and materiality of Mediterranean sacred landscapes in general (for more information see <http://www.ucy.ac.cy/unsala/>). The paper and poster presentations from 45 international speakers focused on digital approaches both to ritual space and to artefacts relating to ritual practice and cult. The terms ritual and cult were used broadly to include sanctuaries, temples, and churches, as well as the domestic and funerary spheres of life. The organisers welcomed papers with a strong methodological focus on computational developments, digitisation processes and spatial analysis. Although the main focus of the network is the Mediterranean region, relevant papers from colleagues working in other areas of the world were also included with a view to stimulating wider methodological dialogues and comparative approaches. The chronological range of the meeting was also open, ranging from prehistory to the recent past, and including cultural heritage management. The papers from the meeting will be published in a peer-reviewed open access journal.

On Sunday, 21 Sept 2018, the research group moved from talking and thinking about sacred landscapes to experiencing the Cretan sacred space with skilled guiding from Dr Christine Tsigonaki of the University of Crete and excavator of a part of the ancient city of Eleftherna.

The organisers are very grateful for funding and support from the Society for the Promotion of Hellenic Studies, which allow them to offer financial assistance and a number of bursaries to doctoral students and early career researchers working on Hellenic sacred landscapes diachronically.



UNLOCKING SACRED LANDSCAPES II

Digital Humanities and Ritual Space

Unlocking Sacred Landscapes Research Network

19-21 October 2018

GeoSat ReSearch Lab
Institute for Mediterranean Studies
Foundation for Research and Technology, Hellas (F.O.R.T.H.)
Rethymnon, Crete

CONVENORS:

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