



POURDAVOUD CENTER LECTURE SERIES



MAPPING ANCIENT CULTURAL ENCOUNTERS:
GREEKS IN IRAN CA. 550 BC - CA. AD 650
AIMS, PROSPECTS, AND CASE STUDIES

MAY 13, 2019 | 4:00 P.M. | 306 ROYCE HALL

ANTIGONI ZOURNATZI (NATIONAL HELLENIC RESEARCH FOUNDATION)

Greco-Iranian cultural interactions within the territory of the modern state of Iran are attested since the Achaemenid period, although they considerably intensify during the Alexandrine and Seleucid eras. A thorough investigation of these cultural exchanges necessitates our reliance on extant archaeological data – a corpus that is highly fragmentary and uneven, and which has yet to be systematically assembled and assessed. This lecture presents the workings of a collaborative research initiative, hosted by the National Hellenic Research Foundation, which seeks to capture in an exhaustive manner all relevant archaeological, epigraphic, and numismatic evidence from Iran, from the Achaemenids to the Sasanian empire. On the strength of selected Seleucid and Arsacid artifacts pertaining to religious practices, the lecture shall not only highlight the different facets of the dialogue between Greek and Iranian artistic traditions and worldviews, but also showcase the interpretative difficulties and ambiguities encountered in this process.

SPEAKER



Antigoni Zournatzi is Director of Research in the Section of Greek and Roman Antiquity, Institute of Historical Research, at the National Hellenic Research Foundation. Her main areas of research are the interconnections of the ancient Greek world with the Near East, cross-cultural phenomena in archaic and classical Cyprus, and the Achaemenid Empire. She is currently a Getty Scholar, where her ongoing project, Mapping Ancient Cultural Encounters: Greeks in Iran ca. 550 BC - ca. AD 650, seeks to promote an integration of varied insights into ancient Iranian-Greek interactions in Iran. Research for this project is presently also conducted within the frame of the program of Material Entanglements in the Ancient Mediterranean and Beyond, which is funded as part of the Connecting Art Histories Initiative of the Getty Foundation.

The mission of the Pourdavoud Center for the Study of the Iranian World is to engage in transformative research on all aspects of Iranian antiquity, including its reception in the medieval and modern periods, by expanding on the traditional domains of Old Iranian studies and promoting cross-cultural and inter-disciplinary scholarship.

Advanced registration is requested. For more information and to RSVP, please click [here](#).

Self-pay parking in Structure 4 is recommended.
Light refreshments will be served.