

ELENI FASSA

ACADEMIC STUDIES AND POSITIONS

2024-2028

Harvard Research Associate, Center for Hellenic Studies, Nafplion, Harvard University

2023-2024

Harvard Research Fellowship in Comparative Cultural Studies. Visiting Scholar in Comparative Cultural Studies; Center for Hellenic Studies, Nafplion, Harvard University

2017-2019

Post-Doctoral Research Fellowship, National Hellenic Research Foundation, Institute of Historical Research, Section of Greek and Roman Antiquity. Funded by the State Scholarship Foundation-National Strategic Reference Framework

Project Role: Leading Researcher

Research Title: The Egyptian Gods in Macedonia: Cultic Experience of diversity and acculturation strategies in Greco-Roman Macedonia

2006-2011

PhD (Hons) in Ancient History, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Greece

Thesis title: Constructing cult: the foundation and organization of the Sarapis cult in Alexandria during the early Ptolemaic period

2002-2003

MA in Ancient Drama (Hons), University of Exeter, UK

Dissertation title: Curses in the *Oresteia*

1996-2001

BA in Classical Philology, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Greece

RESEARCH POSITIONS AND GRANTS

2024-

Member of the *Bibliotheca Isiaca* advisory board

2024-2028

Harvard Research Associate, Center for Hellenic Studies, Nafplion, Harvard University [role: leading researcher]

2023-2024

Harvard Research Fellowship in Comparative Cultural Studies. Visiting Scholar in Comparative Cultural Studies; Center for Hellenic Studies, Nafplion, Harvard University [role: leading researcher]

2023-2028

Member of the advisory board in the ERC project: “City Life: A bioarchaeological study of 1.800 years of resilience and adaptation to urbanity”, Leading researcher: Chr. Papageorgopoulou, Department of History and Ethnology, Democritus University of Thrace

2017-2019

Post-Doctoral Research Fellowship, National Hellenic Research Foundation, Institute of Historical Research, Section of Greek and Roman Antiquity. Funded by the State Scholarship Foundation-National Strategic Reference Framework

Project Role: Leading Researcher

Research Title: The Egyptian Gods in Macedonia: Cultic Experience of diversity and acculturation strategies in Greco-Roman Macedonia

PUBLICATIONS

Books

1. *Bread and Games: Violence and Entertainment in the Greco-Roman world*. Heraklion: Crete University Press, 2023
2. *The birth of a cult: Sarapis and the Ptolemies in 3rd century Alexandria*. Athens: Hestia Publications, 2020 [reviews: E. Malliarou, One god for two civilizations, *Kathimerini* 2021; D. Kyrtatas, The birth and death of Sarapis”, *The Books’ Journal*, May 2021; P. Athanassiadi, The construction of a god in 300 BC, *Kathimerini*, June 2021]
3. *Julian the Syrian: Letters to Iamblichus, Translation with Introduction and Commentary*, Athens: Stigme Publications, 2016 [review: A. Lecerf, Bryn Mawr Classical Review: <http://bmcr.brynmawr.edu/2016/2016-12-04.html>]
4. *Ancient Greek History for Greek High School Students*. Co-authored with S. Aneziri, A. Bartzoka, K. Touloumis, I. Xydopoulos, *Ancient Greek History for the students of the 1st High-School Grade*. Athens: Pedio-Οργανισμός Εκδόσεων Διδακτικών Βιβλίων, Athens
5. *Late Antiquity and Polymnia Athanassiadi*. Editor, *Nea Estia Journal*, Athens

Contributions to periodicals and collective volumes

1. “On Syncretism”. In *Late Antiquity and Polymnia Athanassiadi*, *Nea Estia Journal*, Athens

2. "Polymnia Athanassiadi and the Late Antique World". In *Late Antiquity and Polymnia Athanassiadi*, *Nea Estia Journal*, Athens
3. "Introduction". In *Late Antiquity and Polymnia Athanassiadi*, *Nea Estia Journal*, Athens
4. "Gods on the move: divine mobility in Hellenistic and Roman Macedonia", *CHS Research Bulletin* 12 <https://research-bulletin.chs.harvard.edu/e-journal-archives/volume-12/>
5. "A Eumolpid in the Hellenistic *oikoumene*: The case of Timotheus, the Eleusinian *exegetes*". In *Unveiling the Hidden Face of Antiquity: Mysteries and Cryptic Cults*. M. Christopoulos, M. Meyer, A. Papachrysostomou (eds.), Wien: Phoibos Verlag, 2023, 51-63
6. «Άλλος οὗτος Ἡρακλῆς»: living and dying like Hercules in Roman imperial Thrace (in Greek). In *Roman Komotini*. Greek Ministry of Culture
7. "Epistolography in the educational context of the empire: the letters of Julian the Syrian to Iamblichus". In *Empire, Text and Community*, T. Geue, C.R. Jackson, F. Middleton (eds.), *Hermathena*
8. "The making of an omnipotent god: linguistic strategies for Sarapis' empowerment in the Greco-Roman world." In *Omnipotence. Manufacturing and Empowering Gods in Greco-Roman Antiquity. The power of the one and the many*, G. Benedetti, V. Gasparini, B. Paneda Murcia (eds.), Leiden, Brill
9. "Whose Mother? Exploring the many faces of the Mother of Gods in Macedonia". In *Shifting Identities: Interdisciplinary Approaches to the Worship of the Great Mother*. Th. Biggs, K. Wasdin (eds.), Leiden, Brill
10. "Experiencing the divine as an active agent: listening gods and their *aurēs* in Graeco-Roman Macedonia". *Journal of Epigraphic Studies* 2 (2019): 43-61
11. "Antiquarianism in late antiquity: Horapollo and his circle in 5th century Alexandria". *Post-Augustum* 3 (2019): 36-52
12. "Divine commands, hierarchy and cult: imperative dedications to the Egyptian Gods". *Opuscula Atheniensia Romana* 9 (2016): 59-70
13. "Sarapis, Isis and the Ptolemies in private dedications: the *Hyper*-style and the Double dedications". *Kernos* 28 (2015): 133-154 [review by P. Christodoulou, *Bibliotheca Isiaca* IV, 2019]
14. "Claims to autochthony and the divine: the Mother Goddess of Leukopetra in Roman Macedonia". *ZPE* 196 (2015): 116-122
15. "Pilgrimages to Sarapis in Ptolemaic and Roman Egypt". *Tekmeria* 12 (2013-2014): 179-202 [review by P. Christodoulou, *Bibliotheca Isiaca* IV, 2019]
16. "Shifting conceptions of the divine: Sarapis as part of Ptolemaic Egypt's social imaginaries". In *Shifting Social Imaginaries in the Hellenistic Period: Narrations, Practices, Images, Mnemosyne Supplements*, E. Stavrianopoulou (ed.), Brill 2013, 115-139

Course Material

- 1) Co-creation of an online course titled “Dialogues with antiquity”, open to all for free registration, in the Mathesis-CUP series
- 2) *An Introduction to Greek Epigraphy and Numismatics: A study-guide with Educational Activities*. Open University of Cyprus, Nicosia 2019
- 3) *Ancient Greek Religion: Myth and Ritual. A study-guide with Educational Activities*, Open University of Cyprus, Nicosia 2019
- 4) Translation in Greek of C. Ando, ‘Pagan apologetics and Christian intolerance in the ages of Themistius and Augustine’, *Selected Readings in Late Antiquity*, vol. 1-2, Nicosia 2016
- 5) *The Romans: A study-guide with self-assessment exercises*, Open University of Cyprus, Nicosia, 2013-2015
- 6) *Religion in the Graeco-Roman world: the cults of the Great Mother of the Gods, Sarapis and Isis, Mithras*, Open University of Cyprus, Nicosia 2012

Popular science

1. “...our prize is not just an olive wreath. We are fighting for our lives”: gladiators as performers. Cretan University Press Blog, November 1, 2024
<https://cup.gr/blog/to-diko-mas-vraveio-den-einai-aplos-ena-stefani-elias-emeis-agonizomaste-gia-ti-zoi-mas-oi-monomachoi-os-performers-lt-br-gt-tis-elenis-fassa/>
2. “Could naval battles really take place in the Colosseum? Spectacles in the Greco-Roman era”. Video series “Upon second reading” by the Cretan University Press
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Mwq_zEB26UU&t=8s
3. “Greek chic: the evil eye from antiquity to the present day”. Lifo Podcasts:
<https://www.lifo.gr/podcasts/greek-chic/greek-chic-matiasma-apo-tin-arhaiotita-os-simera>
4. Participation as an Ancient History Expert in the Documentary “Famous Assassinations in the Ancient World” by K. Legaki (Portolanos Films)
5. “Ancient Rome: chicken for the poor, oats for the women”, Lifo
https://www.lifo.gr/culture/arxaiologia/arhaia-romi-kotopoylo-gia-toys-ftohoy-bromi-gia-tis-gynaikes?fbclid=IwAR0qc8pvT9_Q4W-LruWrUPu_yu1bESBrveicmxyuCHAQ361Bt1SJbkh-qw8
6. “Colonia Laus Iulia Corinthiensis: foundation and architecture”. *Roman and Late Antique Worlds*, Open University of Cyprus: <https://late-antique-worlds.ouc.ac.cy/>
7. “Religion in Graeco-Roman Corinth”. *Roman and Late Antique Worlds*, Open University of Cyprus: <https://late-antique-worlds.ouc.ac.cy/>
8. “Apostle Paul in the Roman empire”. *Apostle Paul: from prosecutor to preacher of Christianity*, Eleftheros Typos Newspaper, Athens 2012, pp. 58-77,

9. "The Hellenistic oikoumene: cultural aspects of a brave new world". *The Successors of Alexander*, Eleftheros Typos Newspaper, Athens 2012, pp. 114-157
10. "The Ionian dialect: a paramount Greek dialect". *History of Asia Minor: Antiquity*, Eleftherotypia Journals, Athens 2011, pp. 35-59

CONFERENCE PAPERS AND GUEST LECTURES

1. "Irreverence, divine justice and the Mother of Gods: patterns of transgression, retribution and atonement": From Asebeia to Atheism. Exploring the spectrum of religiosity in the Greco-Roman World from the Archaic Period to Late Antiquity", Ioannina, September 25-27, 2025
2. "The Roman Republic: From *res publica constituta* to *res publica amissa*? A brief history of the definitions and key institutions of the Roman Republic. Lecture series: *From Res Publica to Democracy. Political subjects and institutions from antiquity to the modern era*. Co-organized by: The Historical and Paleographic Archive of the Cultural Foundation of the National Bank of Greece, the Laboratory of Byzantine and Post-Byzantine Studies (TIE, DUTh), and the Laboratory of Modern and Contemporary History (TIE, DUTh), January 28, 2025 (in Greek)
3. "Dwarfs in the Thessaloniki Sarapeion: Bes, familiarity and otherness in Graeco-Roman Macedonia". International Conference Egyptian Cults in the Balkans, 29-31 October 2024, École Française d'Athènes
4. "...ἐπειδὴ δι' αὐτὴν ζῶ καὶ τὰς ἀρετὰς αὐτῆς: aspects of the worship of the Syrian Goddess in Hellenistic and Roman Macedonia". 4th Annual Research Workshop, Center for Hellenic Studies, Nafplion, 6-8 September 2024
5. "Rising to omnipotence: Sarapis' quest for supreme power in the Greco-Roman Mediterranean". *Omnipotens. Manufacturing and Empowering gods in Greco-Roman Antiquity. International Conference*. Universidad Carlos III de Madrid, Campus Madrid – Puerta de Toledo, 15-17 November 2023
6. «Ἄλλος οὗτος Ἡρακλῆς»: living and dying like Hercules in Roman imperial Thrace. *Roman Komotini Conference. Sarcophagus, Milliarium*, 10-11 November 2023 (in Greek)
7. "The Mother Goddess in Greco-Roman Macedonia". *Interdisciplinary Approaches to Cybele and her Followers. 14th Celtic Conference in Classics*, 11-14 July, 2023, Coimbra, Portugal
8. "Gods on the move: divine mobility in Hellenistic and Roman Macedonia", Guest Lecture, Harvard Summer School in Thessaloniki and Nafplion, Greece, 5 July, 2023
9. "The Stoics and Negative Visualization", Handle with Care Workshop, Culture Action Europe, Eleusis European Capital of Culture, June 7 2023

10. "Spectacles in antiquity and modernity", in collaboration with R. Vasilaki, Crete University Press, Athens, 28 May 2023
11. "Philosophy as a cure: Hellenistic models for well-being". *Lecture series: Therapy: Health for the body and the mind in the ancient world*. 24 May 2023, Municipal Library of Komotini, Komotini
12. "Aspects of the cult of Isis in Roman Greece". Participation as specialist discussant, Athens Greek Religion Seminar in collaboration with the Roman Seminar, 29 March 2023, Athens
13. "Ears inclined to listen and epekoōi divinities from Greco-Roman Macedonia". Post-graduate Seminar in Ancient History, 13 January 2022, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Athens
14. "Internationalizing the Mysteries? The Eumolpid Timotheos between Athens and Alexandria". *Mysteries and Mysticism, Cults and Cultism in Antiquity*. International Conference organized by the Center for the Study of Myth and Religion in Greek and Roman Antiquity, Department of Philology, University of Patras, 30 June 2022, Patras
15. "Gods on Coins: Religious coin iconography in the Hellenistic age". Summer School on ancient Greek and Roman Numismatics, National Hellenic Research Foundation, 8 July 2019, Athens
16. "*Antiquitates Aegyptiacae et Antiquitates Romanae* in late antique Alexandria: pagan past and the politics of nostalgia". The World of Late Antiquity Lecture Series, Open University of Cyprus, 21 May 2019, Nicosia
17. "Fights and processions on the Acropolis: The invention of democracy in Athens". *College Year in Athens, CYA Lecture Series*, 12 April 2019, Athens
18. «Listening gods in Greco-Roman Macedonia». National Hellenic Research Foundation, 22 January 2019, Athens
19. "Isiac deities in Macedonia: introduction patterns, assimilation strategies and the politics of cultic incorporation". Swedish Institute at Athens, 13 December 2018, Athens
20. "Hellenistic Religion: Continuity and Change". National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Post-graduate Seminar in Ancient History, 2 June 2017, Athens
21. "Ἰσὶς ἐγὼ εἰμι ἢ τύραννος πάσης χώρας: aspects of Isiac cults in the Greek-speaking world". Educational Seminar in the Association of Licensed Tourist Guides, Athens War Museum, 21 February 2017, Athens
22. "A fragmented divine body: representations of divine ears, feet and footprints in Isiac cults". *Mutations of Hellenism: Spiritual Transformations from Alexander to Mohammed*, 23-25 September 2016, Apamea Cultural Association, Aigina
23. "Isiac cults in Attica". *Épigraphie de la vie religieuse en Attique*, École française d'Athènes, 14 June 2016, Athens
24. "The Egyptian Cults in Greece". Post-graduate seminar in Ancient History, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, 30 March 2016, Athens

25. "Claiming autochthony in Roman Macedonia: The Mother Goddess of Leukopetra". Swedish Institute at Athens, 13 October 2015, Athens
26. "An epistolic triangle: the correspondence between Iamblichus and Julian the Syrian". *Triangulationships: Between Authors, Readers and Texts in Imperial Literature*, Murray Edwards College, University of Cambridge, 21-23 July 2015, Cambridge
27. "Revisiting Greek mythology in the 4th century AD: the testimony of Saloustios". *Of Myths and Men. Greek Mythology Revisited. The Fourth International M.P. Nilsson Workshop on Greek Religion*, Swedish Institute at Athens, 14 December 2012, Athens
28. "Shifting conceptions of the divine: Sarapis as part of Ptolemaic Egypt's social imaginaries". *Shifting Social Imaginaries in the Hellenistic Period*, University of Heidelberg, 10-11 November 2011, Heidelberg
29. "Constructing ritual imperatives: foundation patterns of the Sarapis cult in Alexandria and the cities of eastern Mediterranean". *The Representation of the Divine in Myth*, University of Athens, 10-12 June 2011, Athens
30. "The Nikouria Decree and the organization of the cult of Ptolemy I in Alexandria". Doctoral seminar, University of Athens, 30 November 2008, Athens
31. "Numenius: Platonic or Pythagorean?" Doctoral seminar, Department of History and Archaeology, University of Athens, 25 February 2007, Athens
32. "Corpus Hermeticum 13". Doctoral Seminar, Department of History and Archaeology, University of Athens, 18 March 2004, Athens.

ORGANIZATION OF CONFERENCE-LECTURE SERIES

- ❖ "Teaching Antiquity". Member of the organizing committee in collaboration with the Panhellenic Union of Philologists and the University of Crete Press. November 2024
- ❖ "You are what you eat – you are with whom you eat: Health and Diet in the Ancient World". Municipal Library of Komotini-Democritus University of Thrace, Komotini, April-May 2024
- ❖ Colloquium of the Department of History and Ethnology, Democritus University of Thrace, Komotini, 2023-2024 (with V. Krava, P. Tzivara)
- ❖ "Therapy: Health for the body and the mind in the Ancient World". Municipal Library of Komotini-Democritus University of Thrace, Komotini, February-May 2023 (with A. Farrington)
- ❖ "Mutations of Hellenism from Alexander the Great to Mohammed. An international conference in honour of Professor Polymnia Athanassiadi", Aegina, Apamea Cultural Association, 23-25 September 2016 (with K. Macris, K. Panagopoulou)

