

Πρόσκληση σε διάλεξη

Το Τμήμα Κλασικών Σπουδών και Φιλοσοφίας του Πανεπιστημίου Κύπρου σας προσκαλεί στην πέμπτη συνάντηση του επιστημονικού colloquium του Τμήματος για το χειμερινό εξάμηνο 2016/2017, η οποία θα πραγματοποιηθεί την **Τρίτη 8 Νοεμβρίου, ώρα 19:30**, στην αίθουσα 012 κτήριο ΧΩΔ 02 (Πανεπιστημιούπολη) με θέμα:

Religious Paraphernalia in the worship of Dea Syria and Isis in Apuleius' *Metamorphoses*

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Περίληψη ανακοίνωσης

In Apuleius' *Metamorphoses*, the hero Lucius judges the people he encounters on their appearance, which is ironic, since he spends most of the novel transformed into a donkey by magic. He encounters several groups of priests, first the effete priests of the *Dea Syria*, whose dress conforms with the usual uniform of these priests, but the way they use their religious paraphernalia reveals that the priests are playing religious theatre, and their religious items, including the statue of their goddess, are mere props in their performance. The symbolism of these props is therefore unstable, liable to change with the situation they are placed in.

The same fluidity can be seen in Lucius' encounters with the priests of Isis throughout the novel, where even quite specific props described in the novel do not send clear messages. Isiac clothes, quite distinct in their appearance, are worn by non-initiates, initiates and priests alike, which matches the ambivalent portrait of Isis-followers as both charlatans acting out a performance and worthy priests. Neither their appearance nor their religious paraphernalia send any clear messages.

When Lucius himself joins their ranks after his re-transformation into a human being through the help of Isis, the ambivalence of his own religious paraphernalia continues throughout his initiations, until the very last one finally aligns his Isiac appearance and inner devotion to the goddess.