

**Religious Convergence in the Ancient Mediterranean**  
**Villa Whitaker, Palermo, Sicily, June 23–26, 2016**

Preliminary Program (posted May 2016)

**Thursday, June 23**

**10:00am**      **OPENING REMARKS: Sandra Blakeley**

**SESSION 1: LANDSCAPE. Chair: Barbara Kowalzig**

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|----------------------|-------------------|---|
| 10:10am              | Sandra Blakely    | Samothracian Networks: Economic Prospects and Ritual Promises in the Hellenistic Mediterranean                  |
| 10:35am              | Amelia Brown      | The Role of Mediterranean Seafarers in Cults and Sanctuaries of Aphrodite                                       |
| <b>11:00–11:10am</b> | <b>break</b>      |   |
| 11:10am              | Irene Polinskaya  | Password? Rituals for Trespassing on the Land of the Gods of Others   |
| 11:35am              | Pietro D'Agostino | Il culto di san Michele Arcangelo e i contesti naturali : un'ermeneutica del paesaggio sub specie hagiographica |

**12:00–1:30**      **LUNCH BREAK, FREE TIME**

**SESSION 2: WESTERN SICILY. Chair: David Scahill**

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|--------|-------------------------|---|
| 1:30pm | Rosella Giglio          | Lilibeo e i suoi culti: nuovi esempi di ritualità pubblica e privata dalla ricerca archeologica                             |
| 1:50pm | Birgit Öhlinger         | Ritual Consumption and Local Power Discourse on the Archaic Monte Iato in Western Sicily                                    |
| 2:15pm | Meritxell Ferrer Martin | Performing Local Responses through Architecture: Ritual, Power, and Community in Western Sicily (Eighth–Fifth Centuries BC) |

**2:40–3:00pm**      **break**

**SESSION 3: PHOENICIANS. Chair: Sarah Morris**

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|--------|--------------------|--|
| 3:00pm | Adriano Orsingher  | Across Traditions and beyond Boundaries: The Masks of Carthage |
| 3:25pm | José Miguel Puebla | Greek Coins, Punic People: Analysis of the                     |

|        |                  |   |
|--------|------------------|---|
|        | Morón            | Punic Coinage of Sicily from the Iconographical Aspect                                |
| 3:50pm | Nicola Chiarenza | I luoghi di culto nella Selinunte punica: tra tradizioni, nuovi apporti e interazioni |

**4:15–4:30pm break**

**SESSION 4: ROME 1. Chair: Jeffrey Brodd**

|        |             |  |
|--------|-------------|--|
| 4:30pm | Kevin Dicus | Using Your Head: Local Stylistic Adaptations in Foreign Ritual                   |
| 4:55pm | Eric Orlin  | Augustus and Italian Cult Practices  |
| 5:20pm | James Rives | Roman Empire and Roman Emperor: Animal Sacrifice as an Instrument of Convergence |

**6:00–8:00pm RECEPTION VILLA WHITAKER**  
(WELCOMING REMARKS)

**Friday, June 24**

**SESSION 5: ANATOLIA 1. Chair: Jared Miller**

|                     |                     |  |
|---------------------|---------------------|--|
| 9:00am              | Amir Gilan          | Religious Convergence in Hittite Anatolia: Further Thoughts on (some) Kizzuwatna Rituals |
| 9:25am              | Susanne Görke       | Mythological Parts in Hittite Rituals  |
| <b>9:50–10:00am</b> | <b>break</b>        |  |
| 10:00am             | Billie Jean Collins | The “Arzawa” Rituals and Religious Production in Hittite Anatolia                        |
| 10:25am             | Elisabeth Rieken    | Convergence and Divergence in Hittite Prayers  |

**10:50–11:10am coffee break**

**SESSION 6: MAGIC. Chair: Radcliffe Edmonds III**

|         |                     |  |
|---------|---------------------|--|
| 11:10pm | Christopher Faraone | The Convergence of Domestic and Civic Talismans in the Ancient Greek World: Top-Down or Bottom-up? |
| 11:35pm | Lech Trzcionkowski  | Graffiti from Olbia: Writing Practices and the Articulation of Ritual Boundaries                   |
| 12:00pm | Sarah G. Titus      | Genetrix et mater superstitionum: The Bulla as Apotropaic Device in Etruscan Art                   |

**12:25–2:00pm LUNCH VILLA WHITAKER**

**SESSION 7: CHRISTIANITY 1. Chair: Elif Alten**

- 2:00pm           \*\*Gaetano Colantuono    Unioni interreligiose nella tarda antichità (secoli II–V): interazioni, conflitti, rappresentazioni e realtà sociali
- 2:25pm           Daniel Price                Finding the Egyptian Desert in the Jura Hills: The Struggle for Monastic Self-Definition in the Vita patrum Iurensium
- 2:50pm           Cláudia Teixeira and André Carneiro    Religious Convergence in Lusitania: Geospatial and Literary Evidence in Constructing the Christian Rural Space between the Fifth and Seventh Centuries CE

**3:15–3:35pm        coffee break**

**SESSION 8: ROME 2. Chair: Kevin Dicus**

- 3:35pm           Megan Nutzman            Written in Stone: Jewish Identity in the Roman Epitaphs
- 4:00pm           Claudia Moser             Locating Gaul: Continuity and Change in the Architecture of Sacrificial Practices in Pre-Roman and Roman Gaul
- 4:25–4:35pm        break**
- 4:35pm           Marco Romeo Pitone       Rituals in Late Bronze Age Southern Etruria and Their Connection with Aegean Cultures

**5:00–5:15pm        break**

**SESSION 9: SICILY 1. Chair: Sebastiano Tusa**

- 5:15pm           Francesca Oliveri         Venere del mare: Testimonianze del culto nell'area del trapanese
- 5:40pm           Margaret Miles            The Greek Temple in the Elymian Sanctuary at Contrada Mango, Segesta
- 6:05pm           Giuseppina Mammina and M. Pamela Toti        Una donna di nome Mozia: Testimonianze archeologiche di Eracle/Melqart a Mozia

**6:30pm–            FREE EVENING**

**Saturday, June 25**

**SESSION 10: GREEKS OUTSIDE OF GREECE. Chair: Chris Faraone**

|                      |                           |   |
|----------------------|---------------------------|---|
| 9:00am               | Eka Avaliani              | Vani Necropolis: The Case for Religious Convergence and Cross-Regional Comparison   |
| 9:25am               | Aaron Beck-Schachter      | The Tonaia and Samian Autochthony   |
| <b>9:50–10:00am</b>  | <b>break</b>              |   |
| 10:00am              | Daniel Berman             | “Prefoundational” Myths and Preurban Ritual Space in Croton   |
| 10:25am              | Ömer Tatar & Savas Lenger | The Cult of Artemis Anaitis in Anatolia   |
| 10:50pm              | Louis A. Ruprecht Jr.     | Romantic Receptions: After Literature and Archaeology Come the Statues and Museums, or, The Aeginetan Sculptures’ Long Road to Munich |
| <b>11:15–11:35am</b> | <b>coffee break</b>       |   |

**SESSION 11: CHRISTIANITY 2. Chair: Louis A. Ruprecht Jr.**

|                      |                             |   |
|----------------------|-----------------------------|---|
| 11:35am              | Lindsay G. Driediger-Murphy | Unnatural Gods: Converging Theologies in the Third Century AD                       |
| <b>12:00–12:10pm</b> | <b>break</b>                |   |
| 12:10pm              | Adele Reinhartz             | Religious Convergence and Liturgical Performance                                    |
| 12:35                | Elif Alten                  | Worshipping Zeus/Theos Hypsistos in Asia Minor in the Light of Epigraphic Documents |
| <b>1:00–2:00pm</b>   | <b>LUNCH</b>                | <b>VILLA WHITAKER</b>   |

**SESSION 12: ANATOLIA 2. Chair: Elisabeth Rieken**

|                    |                    |  |
|--------------------|--------------------|--|
| 2:00pm             | Annick Payne       | Muwatalli's Reforms: A Case of Religious Convergence?  |
| 2:25pm             | Carlo Corti        | “The King Is Dead, Long Live the King!”: The Land of Zalpuwa and the Origin of Hittite Kingship  |
| <b>2:50–3:00pm</b> | <b>break</b>       |  |
| 3:00pm             | Jared Miller       | Convergence and Divergence in the Hittite Mantic Corpus  |
| 3:35pm             | Mary R. Bachvarova | From Hittite Mountain Man to Phrygian Mountain Mother: A Case Study in the Survival of “Popular” Religion across the End of the Bronze Age |

**4:00–4:15pm**      **coffee break**

**SESSION 13: SYRIA-PALESTINE. Chair: Billie Jean Collins**

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|--------------------|---------------------------|---|
| 4:15pm             | Tallay Ornan              | The Dynamics of Pictures in an Imperial Framework: Assyrianism and Its Reflection in the Early Israelite Religious Tradition through an Examination of Visual Records |
| 4:40pm             | Virginia Herrmann         | The Politics of Ritual Performance at Assyrian-Period Sam'al: The Katumuwa Mortuary Stele from Zincirli in Historical and Urban Context                               |
| 5:05pm             | Lukasz Niesiolowski-Spano | Philistine Influences on the Cult in Jerusalem?   |
| <b>5:30–5:40pm</b> | <b>break</b>              |   |
| 5:40pm             | Brian B. Schmidt          | On (Re)classifying Intermediary Beings in the Ancient Near East: The Case of the Biblical Shedim “Demons”   |
| 6:05pm             | Erin Darby                | Figurine Rituals and Religio-Economic Identity: Judean Pillar Figurines, Economic Status, and the Mediating Influence of Ritual Intervention                          |

**8:30pm**      **DINNER at CUCINA, Via Francesco Guardione, 88**

**Sunday, June 26**

**SESSION 14: SICILY 2 / PHOENICIANS 2. Chair: Sandra Blakely**

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|---------------------|---------------------|--|
| 9:00am              | Sebastiano Tusa     | Funerary Practices and Rituals in Sicily from the Neolithic to the Bronze Age (6th–2nd millennia BC)   |
| 9:25pm              | Sarah Morris        | Close Encounters in Sicily: Molech, Meilichios and Religious Convergence at Selinus  |
| <b>9:50–10:10am</b> | <b>coffee break</b> |  |
| 10:35am             | Lorenzo Nigro       | Astarte at Motye and Phoenician Religious and Cultural Interaction in the Mediterranean, 8th–5th Centuries BC  |
| 11:00am             | Federica Spagnoli   | Ritual Practices, Food Offerings and Animal Sacrifices. Considerations about Votive Deposits of the Temple of the Kothon (Motya) in Light of a Quantitative and Distributive Analysis of Finds |

## **FIELD TRIP TO MOZIA**

|                |                   |                                  |
|----------------|-------------------|----------------------------------|
| 12:30pm        | Depart for Mozia  | DEPARTING FROM CONFERENCE HOTELS |
| approx. 7:00pm | Return from Mozia | DROP OFF AT CONFERENCE HOTELS    |