

MARIOS KAMENOU

PERSONAL DETAILS

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Family status: married, one child.

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Ancient history; Hellenistic Age; Hellenism; Greek and Roman religion; Religion, ideology and power; Greek epigraphy; Gender studies, Asia Minor, Cyprus.

RESEARCH PROFILE

My field of academic interest is ancient Greek and Roman religion, and I have published scholarly papers on various problems related to the socio-political dimensions of religious practices. My research incorporates culturally different areas, such as Greece, Italy, Cyprus and the Black Sea, and aims to shed light on common religious processes, which I study from a political, social and cultural perspective.

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

Oct. 2021- Feb. 2025 Dissertant, working on a PhD project in the international project “Resonant World Relations in Socio-Religious Practices in Antiquity and the Present” of the Universities of Erfurt and Graz.

EDUCATION

Oct. 2021- May 2025 PhD in Ancient History and Classical Studies, cotutelle between the Institute of Classics of the University of Graz, Austria, and the Max-Weber-Kolleg of the University of Erfurt, Germany.

Title of PhD project: “Resonant relationships and religious innovations: Interpreting ritual practices in the Hellenistic cult of the Mother of the Gods”.

Supervisors: Prof. Wolfgang Spickermann (Graz) and Dr. Georgia Petridou (Liverpool)

Viva on 15.05.2025 passed with distinction

Oct. 2010 MA in Archaeology and Cultures of the Ancient World, University of Bologna.

Mar. 2008 BA in Ancient History, University of Bologna.

PUBLICATIONS

- Expected
Nov 2025 Women and Performative Space in the Cults of the Mother of the Gods: Epigraphic Evidence from Asia Minor and the Black Sea, in Pedrucci G., Fulminante F., and Seifert M. (eds.), *Inside Out: Gender and Ageing Agency in Urban and Non-urban Religious Spaces in Antiquity*, Turnhout: Brepols. (peer-reviewed)
- forthcoming Seeking Resonance between the Gods: God-Inspired Practices and Views in the Graeco-Roman World, in Ezquerra J. A. (ed.), *Steps Ahead. New Trends in the Analysis of Roman Polytheism*, Brill: Leiden. (peer-reviewed)
- forthcoming The Mothers of Cyzicus: Situating Socio-Religious Practices in the Hellenistic Period, 14th Celtic Conference in Classics, Panel Interdisciplinary Approaches to Cybele and Her Followers, Coimbra, 11-14 July 2023.
- forthcoming The Appropriation of Meter in the “new” Ephesus: A Case of a Reciprocal Formation of City and Religion, in A. K. Rieger and V. Fugger (eds.), *Ephesus in Artemis in the Taberna. Religious Entanglement and Appropriation in Urban Spaces*, Austrian Archaeological Institute, 5-6 December 2022.
- 2024 (with S. Heidl) Innovative Religion: a comparative study of the “new” in Socio-religious practices, in Barroso Romero R. A., Begemann E., Friedrich E., Malagoli E., Rieger A. K., Rüpke J., Martinez R. S. and Vinzent M. (eds.), *Practising Interdisciplinarity. A Bottom-Up Approach*, 119-129. De Gruyter.
- 2021 From the tower of Kronos to the island of Achilles: Placing Leuke in the Greek conception of heroic apotheosis, in G. R. Tsetschladze, A. Avram and J. Hargrave (eds.), *The Greeks and Romans in the Black Sea and the Importance of the Pontic Region for the Graeco-Roman World (7th century BC-5th century AD)*, 137-141. Oxford: Archaeopress Archaeology.
- 2018 (with A. Dimitrova) Hephæstus Dabotopios and the divine patronage of metallurgy in Moesia Inferior, in P. Pavúk, V. Klontza-Jaklová, A. Harding (eds.), *EYΔΑΙΜΩΝ. Studies in honour of prof. Jan Bouzek (Opera Facultatis philosophicae Universitatis Carolinae Pragensis 18)*, 423-438, Prague: Faculty of Arts, Charles University.
- 2017 Zeus Homarios: the cult of the Achaean identity in the Mediterranean, *LaborEst 14-IS*, 9-15.
- 2016 Oracles and Divination in Cyprus, in Jane Chick, Richard Maguire (eds.), *Approaching Cyprus. Proceedings of the Post-Graduate Conference of Cypriot Archaeology (PoCA) held at the University of East Anglia, Norwich, 1st-3rd November 2013*, Newcastle upon Tyne, UK: Cambridge Scholars Publishing.

EDITORIAL ACTIVITIES

- 2023 Human mobility and cultural identities through history, eds. Mondini U., Kamenou M., and Dimitrova A.

The aim of this volume is to add a multidisciplinary perspective to the studies of migration's history by delineating the political, social, cultural and psychological effects of this phenomenon, but also to question how it was reflected in literature, art, history, and philosophy.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

SS 2022/3 A Look at the Ancient World. Combining Approaches from Archaeology, Ancient History, Philology and Religious Studies, a teaching module organised with E. Malagoli, C. Wurzinger, M. Scholler and V. Kolomaznik.

PARTICIPATION IN TALKS AND CONFERENCES

International events

- 24-26 Feb. 2025 W. Spickermann and M. Kamenou. The mediality of inscribed monuments; enhancing ritual performances through Text and Image, at the „Resonance and Mediality“, Annual Spring Conference of the International Graduate School "Resonant Self-World Relations" Munich.
- 6 Dec. 2023 Diffusion and Appropriation of the Mother of the Gods in Asia Minor during the Hellenistic Period, in the Work in Progress Seminar, University of Liverpool, Liverpool.
- 25-27 Oct. 2023 Seeking Resonance between the Gods: God-inspired Practices and Views in the Graeco-Roman World, in the International Conference “Steps Ahead: New Trends in the Analysis of Roman Polytheism”, Madrid
- 11-15 Sept. 2023 Disentangling urban networks: Reflections on the Role of the Pessinuntian Mother of the Gods in the Formation of the Religious and Political Identity of Pessinus, in the Summer School “Roman Rituals: Dynamics, Topography and Objects. Introduction to Roman Religion through the Prism of Its Materiality”. Rome
- 11-14 July 2023 The Mothers of Cyzicus: Situating Socio-Religious Practices in the Hellenistic Period, in Interdisciplinary Approaches to Cybele and Her Followers, 14th Celtic Conference in Classics, Coimbra.
- 5-6 Dec. 2022 The Appropriation of Meter in the “new” Ephesus: A Case of a Reciprocal Formation of City and Religion, International Workshop “Artemis in the Taberna. Religious Entanglement and Appropriation in urban spaces”, Vienna.
- 27 June-1 July 2022 Between Freedom and Regulation: Some Remarks on the Religious Activity of the Visitors of Leuke, in “Religions and States of Freedom”, 20th Annual Conference of the European Association for the Study of Religions (EASR), Cork.
- 6-8 July 2022 Innovative Religion: a comparative study of the “new” in Socio-religious practices” [with S.Heidl], in “Rituals and Resonances of Interdisciplinary Research”, Annual Spring Conference of the International Graduate School "Resonant Self-World Relations", Eisenach.

Talks at the University of Graz

- 12 Dec. 2024 The Versatility of Sacred Space: Enlargement and Containment of the Gods in the Epigraphic Evidence during the Hellenistic and Roman Periods, in Adventsgespräche “Sacred Space“, Graz.
- 24 Oct. 2023 Unveiling the Healing Competences of Meter: Thanksgiving Dedications from Rural Lydia, in Space, Ritual and Power - Interdependencies and Interrelations, Graz.
- 11-13 Oct. 2022 W. Spickermann and M. Kamenou. Epigraphy and Socio-Religious Practices: An Interdisciplinary Approach on “reading” votive monuments, in the IGS Autumn conference “Rituals and World Relations: Types, Qualities, and Relationships,” Graz.
- 11-12 July 2022 Resonant relationships and religious innovations: Interpreting ritual practices in the Hellenistic cult of the Mother of the Gods, in AKMe Conference, Graz
- 27-29 Oct. 2021 Mother of the gods in the Hellenistic world: Appropriation and diffusion of the goddess in the “Greek” Asia Minor from the Diadochoi to the Roman Province of Asia, in Text, Music and Image: Object as Counterparts in Resonant Relations, Annual Autumn Conference of the IGS "Resonant World Relations in Socio-Religious Practices in Antiquity and the Present", Graz

ORGANISED ACADEMIC EVENTS AND ADMINISTRATIVE EXPERIENCE

- 6-8 March 2024 Organised together with Dina Bjielic and Heinrich Hoffer the Spring Conference of the International Graduate School "Resonant Self-World Relations", “Mediality and Self-World Relations”. Erfurt
- 24 Oct. 2023 Organised together with Dr. Georgia Petridou the Panel “Healing Sanctuaries as Resonant Spaces”, in the IGS Autumn Conference “Space, Ritual and Power - Interdependencies and Interrelations”, 23-25 October 2023, Graz.
- 28 Sept. - 10. Oct. 2023 Contributed to the organisation of a group travel for students and academic staff of the University of Graz to the island of Cyprus.
- Sept.2022 - March 2023 Participated in the organisation of the multidisciplinary doctoral candidate workshop "Community, Ritual and the Power of Memory: Past, Present and Future", held on the 22-24.03.2023 at the Max-Weber-Kolleg.
- 11-13 Oct. 2022 Organised in collaboration with PhD supervisor, Univ.-Prof. Dr.habil. Wolfgang Spickermann, the conference panel “Epigraphy and Socio-Religious Practices: An Interdisciplinary Approach on “reading” votive monuments”, in the IGS Autumn conference “Rituals and World Relations: Types, Qualities, and Relationships”, Graz.
- 2017- Participating in the planning and organisation of the annual conferences of the International Centre for Studies of Arts and Humanities (ICSAH), administered by Prof. U. Mondini (www.icsah.eu). These events are aimed at gathering scholars from various fields of Humanities (history, literature, arts, etc.) in order to discuss topics of shared interest from different perspectives.

RESEARCH VISITS ABROAD

- Feb.2023 Short-term research stay at the University of Heidelberg funded by the University of Graz for the study of Greek inscriptions from Asia Minor related to my dissertation. The University hosts one of the best libraries on Greek and Latin Epigraphy.
- July 2022 Long-term research stay at the University of Granada funded by the ARGUS Alliance for the study of gender approaches in ancient history. The University is among the important centres of gender studies, and my visit was fundamental for my research on the priestesses of Meter and their relation to the civic space. My research stay produced an article.
- Sept. 2021 Long-term research stay at the Hardt Foundation, Geneva, funded by the Foundation, for preparing an article on the presence of Meter in Cyzicus.

AWARDS, FUNDING, AND SCHOLARSHIPS

- July 2022 ARQUS European University Alliance grant for a research stay at a chosen research institution among the members of the Alliance. ARQUS is a multilateral alliance of internationalised institutions that share academic, scientific and cultural objectives, a common vision of the role of higher education and research, and mutual fields of interest (research stay at the University of Granada)
- September 2021 Travel and accommodation grant from The Hardt Foundation, Geneva, for a long-term research visit.
- 2008-2009 ERASMUS grant for international mobility (academic year at the University of Seville, Spain and excavations at Palenque, Mexico)
- 2005-2010 ER.GO studentship of full tax exemption and accommodation funding for graduate studies, Bologna, Italy.

LANGUAGE SKILLS AND COMPETENCES

Greek: native

English, Italian, Spanish: fluent (speaking, reading, writing)

German, French: reading proficiency, basic speaking and writing

Ancient Greek and Latin: working proficiency

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS AND AFFILIATIONS

- Since 2015 Member of SISR (Società Italiana di Storia delle Religioni)

REFERENCES

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Univ. Prof. Dr. habil. Wolfgang Spickermann
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Prof. Dr. Jörg Rüpke
Max Weber Center for Advanced Cultural and Social Studies
joerg.ruepke@uni-erfurt.de