



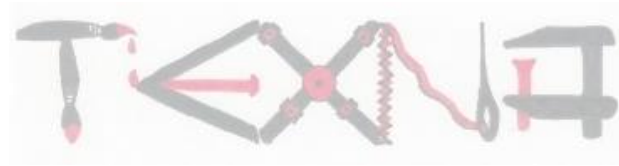
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University of Cyprus
Archaeological Research Unit

εφα
ÉCOLE FRANÇAISE D'ATHÈNES
ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΟΝ ΑΡΧΑΙΟΛΟΓΙΚΟΝ ΜΟΥΣΕΙΟΝ

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In the frame of the

TEXNH: Making, creating, and agency networks in the Ancient Mediterranean world

lecture series and discussion forum

we kindly invite you to a lecture by

Erica Angliker

British School at Athens

Adjunct lecturer at Centre of Philological Theory-IdEA-Unicamp

***The Soundscape of the Sanctuary of Apollo at Despotiko:
Music, Memory, and Dancing Floors***

31 May 2023, 18.00

at the Netherlands Institute at Athens

11, Makri str., 117 42 Athens





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ΓΡΑΜΜΕΙΟ ΣΧΟΛΗΣ ΑΘΗΝΩΝ

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Abstract

Music played a significant role in many of the religious activities at ancient Greek sanctuaries. As a prestigious offering to the gods, it was considered equivalent to costly dedications of sculpture. Though scholars have long studied ancient Greek music and choral performances, only recently has attention turned to the physical contexts for this form of religious expression.

The present paper draws on recent theoretical frameworks developed for the study of music and dance to reconstruct the soundscapes at a major sanctuary of Apollo on the Cycladic islet of Despotiko. I investigate some sacred physical structure of Despotiko to show how musicians and dancers may have used these spaces and interacted with their audiences during performances at the sanctuary. I am particularly interested in the contribution of sonic events and the ritualised movements performed in these settings to the complex relationship among sacred spaces, the environment, and social interactions. Accordingly, I devote significant time to interpreting a large circle recently discovered on the islet of Tsimitiri (which was connected to Despotiko in antiquity) that seems to have served as a dancing floor. Beyond the physical spaces for performances of music and dance, the analysis presented here also takes into account the evidence of distinctive votives that link the performance of dance and music to Cycladic (specifically, Delian) mythology in a manner that parallels the situation in Despotiko, thus adding detail to my reconstruction of the sonic experience of sanctuary.

Due to limited seat number please R.S.V.P. at nia@nia.gr or 210 9210760

The event will also be streamed live. For registration please visit:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/join/tZApcentpzwsE9a9UzYWHSRczsncBv4or7on>