



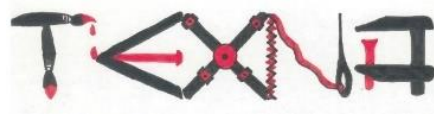
A&H



University of Cyprus
Archaeological Research Unit

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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 our first event

by

Dr. Helle Hochscheid

University College Roosevelt

Speaking of *techne*: craft effects in Athenian society



18 January 2023, 18.00

at the Netherlands Institute at Athens

11, Makri str., 117 42 Athens

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

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89506087546?pwd=Mkp3bm5uQXI2VEZHZjgwL3ZQdWtPQT09>

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



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Speaking of *techne*: craft effects in Athenian society

Abstract

'You will have to avoid your favorite subjects — the shoemakers and the carpenters and the smiths — topics which you have talked into tatters!'

Xen. *Mem.* 1.2.37, transl. Sobak

The importance of craft to ancient Greek societies like Athens has been increasingly appreciated in recent scholarship. A new – or reiterated – interest in the intricacies of power dynamics in archaic and classical *poleis*, and a broader economic outlook have put non-elite populations and their contributions firmly into the spotlight. This talk will retrace the process of 'gentrification' of Athenian craftspeople: their inclusion, at least in potential, into the elite. By the later fourth century BC, this process was by and large complete; but how far back can we find its beginnings? Depending on the answer to this question, what impact may craft and craftspeople have had on the development of the classical Athenian polis? Arguably, the influx of craft expertise to Athens and its role as a craft hub from the late sixth and early fifth centuries onwards, may have created an early form of knowledge economy. This in turn could have driven innovation and creativity in other domains. By casting the net wide, the rare key pieces of evidence for the impact of craft on this development of societal innovation will be collected to explore the value of *techne*.