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Netherlands Institute at Athens

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## The Netherlands Institute at Athens

kindly invites you to a lecture by

**Prof. Rosalind Thomas**

Oxford University, UK

*“And may you, Phoibos, give a gracious return”: Writing and Piety in archaic Greece*

11 April 2024, 18.00

We are familiar with the fact that Greek religious practice was in general remarkably untouched by and independent of written texts, that its practices, rituals, and songs were overwhelmingly oral, especially in the archaic and early classical periods. What, then, did people think writing added? Why were certain elements entrusted to writing and not others? In a system in which the written word was thoroughly embedded in oral practices and often relied on them for full meaning, this paper examines two developments of the very earliest phases of experimentation with writing, dedicatory inscriptions and very early laws on stone (esp. Cretan). It asks what these imply about religious piety and conceptions of the written word within the context of archaic Greek society.

Due to limited seat number please R.S.V.P. at [nia@nia.gr](mailto:nia@nia.gr) or 210 9210760

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