

Open invitation to the workshop

# GOING AGAINST THE FLOW

WELLS, CISTERNS AND WATER IN ANCIENT GREECE

AT THE SWEDISH INSTITUTE AT ATHENS, 28-29 SEPTEMBER 2017

The workshop *Going Against the Flow* focuses on the use of wells and cisterns, how these installations functioned and were used in ancient Greece, as well as how they can be better integrated into our understanding of the ancient water supply.

The workshop is divided into two parts. The first is centred on the water sources in their context, discussing use, function and terminology. The second is on contextualisation from other perspectives and disciplines.

The first part of the workshop will focus on the material from ancient Greece. This part will begin with a short session on terminology (e.g. terms from various installations, shapes and construction methods, as well as specific features such as plaster/mortar/cement/lining and other questions) and definitions (what do we mean by cistern, reservoir, manhole, draw-shaft, well, well-like installations etc.). This will be followed by presentations of material at sites explored by the participants. How did the water supply function if we take cisterns and wells as the starting point, not fountains and aqueducts?

The second part of the workshop will broaden the discussion through a contextualising session. This part of the workshop treat the water supply, with special reference to the use of wells and cisterns, and the conditions under which they functioned from perspectives other than the installations themselves. This part of the workshop includes perspectives such as the effects of climate change, land usage, 19th century use of cisterns and wells, as well as outside views from other areas in the Mediterranean world.

Note that the number of seats at the workshop is limited. Those interested in participating should contact the organiser Patrik Klingborg (Patrik.Klingborg@antiken.uu.se).

## **Topics to be discussed**

- Terminology: How do we differentiate various similar water sources from each other? How do we define various installations and can modern definitions be reconciled with ancient terminology? How can we work towards a more consistent modern terminology?
- How does the water supply in ancient Greek societies look if we take wells and cisterns as our starting point instead of fountains and aqueducts?
- How influential were external factors, e.g. climate change, political conditions and demographic shifts, for the development of the water supply system?
- What can we learn about the water supply in ancient Greece by widening our scope and incorporating other perspectives and disciplines?

## **Organiser**

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# GOING AGAINST THE FLOW

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A WORKSHOP ABOUT BASIC, BUT ABSOLUTELY ESSENTIAL,  
WATER SOURCES USED IN ANCIENT GREECE

THE SWEDISH INSTITUTE AT ATHENS, 28-29 SEPTEMBER 2017

FOR PARTICIPATION, CONTACT PATRIK KLINGBORG AT  
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SWEDISH  
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at ATHENS

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### THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

- 13.00 *Introduction* (Patrik Klingborg)
- 13.15 *Discussion terminology: what is what?* (lead by Patrik Klingborg)
- 14.15 Reinhard Senff: *Water supply in the sanctuary of Olympia during the 10th to 5th centuries B.C.*
- 15.15 Yannis Lolos: *Water provisioning in a marine terrace environment: the cases of Corinth and Sikyon in the northeastern Peloponnese*
- 16.15 Coffee
- 16.45 Patrik Klingborg: *Cisterns in two Greek cities. The cases of Athens and Olynthos*
- 17.45 Jutta Stroszek : *Athenian water: wells and cisterns in the Kerameikos*
- 19.30 Dinner for speakers

### FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 29

- 09.00 Pavlos Karvonis: *The water supply in the houses of Delos*
- 10.00 Ioannis Bitis: *Flat building roofs on the island of Thera in antiquity: the initial stage of rainwater collection in subterranean cisterns*
- 11.15 Coffee
- 11.45 Martin Finné: *Climate variability and water supply in ancient Greece*
- 12.45 Lunch for speakers
- 14.15 Dylan Rogers: *Haec utilitas, haec amoenitas: the role of fountains and springs in Greco-Roman society*
- 15.15 Angus Graham: *Water supply systems within and outside the Egyptian Nile Valley*
- 16.15 Coffee
- 16.30 Anton Bonnier: *Settlement systems, land use strategies and rainfall variability in Archaic, Classical and Hellenistic Greece*
- 17.30 Hamish Forbes: *Cisterns and loutsers in a traditional Peloponnesian village: aspects of function, use and monumentality*
- 18.30 *Final discussion: where do we go from here?*
- 19.30 Reception at the Swedish Institute at Athens

**Papers should be no longer than 30 min. Each paper will be followed by 30 min discussion.**