



The Athens
MA in Ancient
Philosophy

Under the patronage
of H.E. the President of the Hellenic Republic
Ms. Katerina Sakellaropoulou

Inaugural Conference:
Athens in Ancient Philosophy

October 5-6, 2023

University of Athens
Central Building
30 Panepistimiou Str.

Ancient philosophy was not born in Athens. It did not end in Athens either. Yet, it kept returning to Athens. While other prominent centres of intellectual activity, such as Ionia, Alexandria, or Rome, dominate specific periods and/or fields of ancient philosophy, Athens covers its entire span. Taking into account the relative conventionality of any modern classification, to what extent is a unitary account of ancient philosophy in Athens legitimate? Do Athenian thinkers, from Anaxagoras to Damascius, inaugurate novel ways of thinking about reality that, in different periods, could be thought of as distinctively Athenian? How do their views relate to philosophical developments outside Athens? To what degree does the Athenian perspective on the history of philosophy shape the way we read ancient philosophy today? Investigating these and other similar questions, we intend to shed new light on some aspects of Athens' place in ancient philosophical networks from the classical period to the end of Antiquity.

The Athens MA in Ancient Philosophy is a new intensive postgraduate program starting in October 2023. *The Athens MA* promotes the study of Ancient Greek Philosophy in its entire historical and thematic range. It is the only Program in Greece (and among a few worldwide) that focuses solely on Ancient Philosophy as a subject of systematic study and research. *The Athens MA* is the result of a collaboration between four major Greek universities:

- National and Kapodistrian University of Athens
- Aristotle University of Thessaloniki
- University of Patras
- University of Crete

Courses are taught in Athens. Upon completion of the program, students will be able to conduct independent and collaborative research and will be well prepared to undertake doctoral studies. The program admits up to 20 students per academic year.



Operational Programme
Human Resources Development,
Education and Lifelong Learning
Co-financed by Greece and the European Union





Thursday, October 5

09.45 Arrival of the participants

Session 1, Great Hall. Chair: Alexander Nehamas (Princeton & Academy of Athens)

10.00-10.40 Opening, Greetings:

- Prof. Sophia Papaioannou, Vice Rector for Academic Affairs, International Relations, and Extroversion
- Kyriakos Pierrakakis, Minister of Education, Religious Affairs and Sports
- Prof. Antonis Hatzimoysis, Chair of the Dept. of History and Philosophy of Science
- Prof. Katerina Ierodiakonou, Professor of Ancient Philosophy at NKUA & Université de Genève
- Prof. Panagiotis Thanassas, Director of *The Athens MA*

10.45-11.30 **Voula Tsouna (Santa Barbara):** Plato's Socrates on democracy and the rule of law
Coffee Break

Session 2, 'Argiriadis' Amphitheatre. Chair: Paul Kalligas (NKUA)

12.00-12.45 **Gabriele Cornelli (Brasilia):** 'The city of the rich and the city of the poor' (Pl. R. 422e): Plato on Athenians and their democratic challenges

12.45-13.30 **Angie Hobbs (Sheffield):** Plato the Athenian

Session 3, 'Argiriadis' Amphitheatre. Chair: Alexander P.D. Mourelatos (Texas at Austin)

17.30-18.15 **Carol Atack (Cambridge):** A place for Athens: myth, cult and philosophy in Plato's *Timaeus-Critias*

18.15-19.00 **Irini-Fotini Viltanioti (Crete):** Meeting in Athens: Some Ancient Readings of Plato's *Timaeus* 17a
Coffee Break

19.30-20.15 **Chloe Balla (Crete):** The longer and the shorter way: Athenian and Spartan overtones in Plato's law on marriage

Friday, October 6

Session 4, 'Argiriadis' Amphitheatre. Chair: Katerina Ierodiakonou

10.00-10.45 **Christof Rapp (Munich):** Philosophy in the City. Aristotle, the Constitution Of Athens And the Approval Of Democracy

10.45-11.30 **Aditi Chaturvedi (Azim Premji):** Harmony and not Isonomy: Contemporary lessons from Athenian democracy
Coffee Break

Session 5, 'Argiriadis' Amphitheatre. Chair: Panagiotis Thanassas

12.00-12.45 **Jan Opsomer (Leuven):** Scientific Polytheism in the Late Ancient School of Athens

12.45-13.30 **Pantelis Golitsis (Thessaloniki):** Pletho on what it is to be an Athenian philosopher

Session 6, Kostis Palamas Building.

19.00-20.00 **Meeting** of the speakers of the Conference with the students of *The Athens MA*.

The sessions schedule will be followed strictly.