THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF CULT IN ARCHAIC THESSALY

Workshop with

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University of Oxford



View of the temple of Enodia and Zeus Thaulios
(© M. Stamatopoulou)

1st DECEMBER 2026
10:00-14:00
Room 004

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The archaeology of Thessaly is very rich but poorly known as the very extensive early 20th century excavations were not published and the material was until recently 'forgotten' and uninventoried. The re-discovery of the archaeology legacy data contain invaluable evidence for the archaeological investigation of Thessaly but also about modern Greek history and the history of archaeology as a discipline.

In this class we will focus on the evidence about the major sanctuaries of the region, those of Pherai, Phthiotic Thebes and Philia, with evidence for cult activity from the Iron Age to the end of the first millennium BC. We'll discuss how the new evidence sheds light on material culture in Thessaly, depositional patterns and votive practices in Thessaly, the history of temple building in archaic Greece, and the strong regional variability in the Greek world in the 7th to 5th centuries BC. The evidence from the large sanctuaries will be compared to that from smaller rural sites to try to understand religious life in Thessaly, especially in the Archaic period.

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