Classical Antiquity Research Seminar Spring 2014 Travel and Movement in the Ancient World

CARS Special Lecture

Ariadne Konstantinou (Tel Aviv University)
The Mobility of Goddesses in Greek Mythology

Increasing interest in women's studies and the allocation of self in social spheres has led, in recent decades, to a reconsideration of long-standing assumptions on gendered spaces and on women's mobility in ancient cultures, including ancient Greece. However, a subject not yet fully addressed by critics is the representation of female mobility in Greek myth. The lecture will focus on the goddesses of the Greek pantheon, looking into the representation of their movement as anthropomorphic figures in narrative contexts from Archaic and Classical literature. It will be argued that their mobility forms a spectrum that commences from the absolute stasis of Hestia as the hearth of the house, proceeds to the freedom of movement that the virgin goddesses Athena and Artemis share with the sexually active Aphrodite and the mourning Demeter, and concludes with the somewhat limited mobility of Hera in the Iliad.

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