Gods, Slaves, Goats and Pirates in the Aegean Islands

Insular Life and Inter-island Connectivity in the Classical and Hellenistic Periods

A Virtual Lecture by
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Registration is required:
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The lecture will explore some little-known stories of island connectivity from the Classical and early Hellenistic Aegean. The presence of many islands is a dominant feature of the Aegean Sea. The geographical landscape of the Cyclades, in particular, created the necessary context for increased maritime traffic throughout classical antiquity. Contrary to literary sources, which normally reflect elite points of view, inscriptions often reveal everyday stories about the people living in the insular landscape of Aegean Greece. I shall look at specific inscriptions that display maritime mobility and inter-island traffic between neighbouring islands in the Cyclades. These inscriptions speak of gods, slaves, goats and pirates, all moving between islands.

Christy Constantakopoulou is Professor of Ancient History and Classics, in Birkbeck College, London. She is the author of The Dance of the Islands: Insularity, Networks, the Athenian Empire, and the Aegean World (OUP 2007), and Aegean Interactions: Delos and its Networks in the Third Century (OUP 2017). She studied in Greece and the UK.