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IN COLLABORATION
WITH:



Universidad
Zaragoza



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SOCIAL, EMOTIONAL, AND
BODILY DIMENSIONS OF
WOMEN'S RELIGIOUS
EXPERIENCES IN ANTIQUITY
25-26 SEPTEMBER 2025

SEPTEMBER 25 THURSDAY

INAUGURATION: 9.00H

SESSION ONE: 09.30-11.00H

David Sierra Rodríguez (U. Granada, Spain)

La experiencia de las Arréforas de Atenas desde la perspectiva de la arqueología de los sentidos

Miriam Valdés Guía (U. Complutense, Spain)

Ritualidad y experiencias religiosas femeninas en la fiesta de Ártemis de las Taupolia

SESSION TWO: 11.30-13.00H

Amy C. Smith (U. Reading, UK)

The Emporion Painter and the Internationalism of Athenian Festival Ware

Giulia Pedrucci (Gerda Henkel Stiftung, Germany)

Votive Clay Figurines of Women with Children in Ancient Italy and Greece: A Comparative Study

SESSION THREE: 15.30-17.30H

Meghan DiLuzio (U. Baylor, USA):

Touched by the *Amiculum lunonis*. The Emotional and Sensory Dimensions of the Roman *Lupercalia*

Mercedes Oria Segura (U. Sevilla, Spain):

La representación del cuerpo como marca de alteridad religiosa: sacerdotisas vestidas frente a ménades desnudas en la iconografía romana

Rosa M^a Cid López (U. Oviedo, Spain):

The *Matronae* and the Cult of Bona Dea. Female Rituals in the *Domus*

SESSION FOUR: 18.00-19.30H

Beatriz Pañeda Murcia (U. Lund, Sweden):

The Mystic Female Body. A Cognitive and Gender Approach to the Religious Experience of Mystery Cults in the Roman Era

Lorena Pérez Yarza (U. Warsaw, Poland)

Restriction of Worship, Bias or Socioeconomic Reflection? The Epigraphic Invisibility of Women in Eastern Cults Associated with the Military

SEPTEMBER 26 FRIDAY

SESSION FIVE: 9:00-10.30H

Francisco Marco Simón (U. Zaragoza, Spain):

Women at Banquet

Gabriel Sopena Gencor (U. Zaragoza, Spain):

The *Ostentatio Mammarum* between the Celts: Several Typical Cases

SESSION SIX: 11:00-13.00H

Sofia Bianchi (U. Erfurt, Germany)

Female Forces: The Power and Agency of Women in the Sicilian Curse Tablets of the Archaic and Classical Periods

Lidia González Estrada (U. Zaragoza, Spain):

Women's Responses to Vulnerability: Experience, Emotion and Agency in Magical Practices

Véronique Dasen (U. Fribourg, Switzerland)

Amulets and Embodied Religious Experience

CLOSING: 13.00H

SOCIAL, EMOTIONAL, AND BODILY DIMENSIONS OF WOMEN'S RELIGIOUS EXPERIENCES IN ANTIQUITY

The material, emotional, and sensory dimensions of ancient religious practices offer new insights into how women engaged with the sacred. Sensory experiences —such as smell, touch, and sound— along with interactions with physical objects and ritual spaces, provide a deeper understanding of how these religious activities were lived and felt, offering a more embodied perspective on women's participation in spiritual life.

Women's bodies played a central role in these sacred experiences —not merely as biological entities but as social bodies embedded in complex networks of relationships and power dynamics that shaped their encounters with the divine. How did women's interactions with sacred material culture — such as votive offerings, amulets, or ritual spaces— reflect their social roles, bodily experiences, and emotional states? In what ways did sensory experiences shape their perceptions of and engagement with the divine? How did physical and emotional experiences tied to life events such as childbirth, aging, or illness influence their religious lives?

