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**DEPARTMENT OF CLASSICS
RESEARCH COLLOQUIUM SERIES 2022-2023
INVITATION**

When: Tuesday 30 May 2023, at 11.00.

Where: At the School of Philosophy Library Auditorium

The Department of Classics, Faculty of Philology
invite you to a lecture by

Ioanna Karamanou
Professor of Ancient Greek
at the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki

entitled

“The Daphne Papyrus (430-425 BC) and its Cultural Context”

The lecture will be delivered in Greek.

Professor Vassilis Lentakis
Head of the Department of Classics

For further information please contact the colloquium series organizers:

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The Daphne papyrus (ca. 430-425 BC) and its Cultural Context

Ioanna Karamanou, Professor of Classics
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This paper derives from an interdisciplinary research project launched by Professor Emeritus Egert Pöhlmann (University of Erlangen) and late Professor Martin West (Oxford University), that aimed at providing a holistic study (philological, archaeological, musicological, anthropological) of the findings of two fifth-century BC tombs in Daphne, Attica (dated to 430/25 BC). These findings, kept at the Archaeological Museum of Piraeus, include a poorly preserved papyrus-roll and five writing tablets coming from a *polyptychon* – in fact, the earliest known Greek papyrus and tablets – further writing tools, musical instruments (fragments of a harp, of a lyre and of an aulos), an iron saw, and nine knucklebones.

The speaker was invited to participate in the project by deciphering and editing a collection of fragments from the Daphne roll. The reading of the roll, which is disintegrated due to humidity with most of its fragments consisting of multiple layers pasted together, was made possible only by means of multispectral imaging, which in conjunction with the high resolution and optical quality of the photomacrographs has enabled the detection of words and syllables on its surface and the lower layers, significantly improving its legibility and giving scope for a cautious interpretation of the textual remains.

In turn, the Daphne roll may be mapped onto the framework of papyrological research, as well as onto its cultural context. In papyrological terms, it is made possible to draw parallels (regarding the handwriting, discovery and conservation circumstances) with other early rolls, such as the Derveni and Timotheus papyrus, as well as the recently published *P.Callatis* 1. In literary terms, it is noteworthy that the legible fragments of the Daphne roll and the accompanying tablets display signs of poetic diction and mythological themes mostly represented in poetry until that period. This factor in conjunction with the notable collection of musical instruments unearthed in this tomb is suggestive of the close interplay between music and poetry in fifth-century Athens, which also emerges from the curriculum of the ‘old’ Athenian education.