



HELLENIC LINK–MIDWEST
A SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL LINK WITH GREECE
ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΟΣ ΕΠΙΣΤΗΜΟΝΙΚΟΣ ΚΑΙ ΠΟΛΙΤΙΣΤΙΚΟΣ ΣΥΝΔΕΣΜΟΣ
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Thinking about Gender in the Greek Theater: From Medea to Lysistrata

On Sunday, October 21, 2018, Hellenic Link–Midwest presents Professor Angeliki Tzanetou in a lecture titled: “Thinking about Gender in the Greek Theater: From Medea to Lysistrata” The event will take place at 3:00 pm in Room 1610, at the Oakton Community College, 1600 E. Golf Road, Des Plaines, IL 60016. Admission will be free. The event is co-sponsored by the Greek Women's University Club.

Please park in the Faculty/Staff parking lot C and enter through door entrance #37. Please arrive between 2:30-3:00 pm so we can start the lecture promptly at 3:00 pm, as we have the room reserved until 5:00 pm only.

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Though Athenian women were not granted the privilege of citizenship, they served important roles in Athenian society, serving the city and the family in a variety of roles. Their standing was further limited by Athenian norms and ideology which assigned women a shadowy existence, relegating them to a life of silence and seclusion. Athenian tragedy and comedy, on the other hand, endowed female characters with a far greater degree of agency, freedom, and power than was allotted them in their everyday lives. This lecture aims to outline the distinctive roles female characters discharged onstage alongside their male counterparts and discuss the disjunction between the powerful, vindictive, and self-sacrificial portraits of female figures onstage, viewing them against the social, political, and religious realities of Athens in the fifth century B.C.E. The talk will explore select examples from tragedy, focusing on the powerful portraits of Aeschylus' Clytemnestra, Euripides' Medea, and Sophocles' Antigone as well as some of those of their comic counterparts in Aristophanes' plays, especially Lysistrata. Emphasis will also be placed on interpreting male-female antagonism, women's religious and social networks in the ancient city, and the relevance of gender for understanding politics in Athenian drama.

Angeliki Tzanetou is Associate Professor of Classics at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and the Editor of the academic journal, *Illinois Classical Studies*. She has served as Co-Director of the program in Modern Greek Studies and as Director of Graduate Studies in the Department of the Classics.

Angeliki Tzanetou is the author of *City of Suppliants: Tragedy and the Athenian Empire* and co-editor of *Finding Persephone: Women's Rituals in the Ancient Mediterranean*. She has edited two volume issues, one on ancient drama and performance for *Illinois Classical Studies* and a second one for *Classical World* in 2017, and co-edited *on Gender, East, and West*. Her primary areas of expertise lie in ancient drama and performance, politics, religion, and ancient gender studies. She is currently at work on a book, titled, *“Mothers' Toil: Motherhood and the Body Politic in Athenian Drama.”*