

# Popular Religion and Ritual

## in prehistoric and ancient Greece and the eastern Mediterranean

This volume features a group of select peer-reviewed papers by an international group of authors, both younger and senior academics and researchers. It has its origins in a conference held at the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, which aimed to bring up the frequently neglected popular cult and other ritual practices in prehistoric and ancient Greece and the east Mediterranean. The topics covered by the chapters of the volume include the interplay between elite and popular ritual at cemeteries and peak sanctuaries just before and right after the establishment of the first palaces in Minoan Crete; the use of conical cups in Minoan ritual; the wide sharing of religious and other metaphysical beliefs as expressed on the wall-paintings of Akrotiri on the island of Thera; the significance of open air sanctuaries, figurines and other informal cult and ritual paraphernalia in the Aegean, Cyprus and the Levant from the late bronze age to the archaic period; the role of figurines and caves in popular cult in the classical period; the practice of cursing in ancient Athens; and the popular element of sports games in ancient Greece.

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edited by

Giorgos Vavouranakis, Konstantinos Kopanias  
and Chrysanthos Kanellopoulos

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