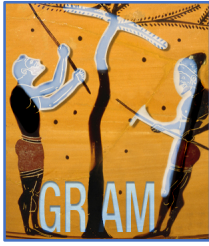


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International Conference on Etymological Theories and Practice in Ancient Greek

Villa Kérylos, Beaulieu/mer (France)

September 27-29, 2018



Organizers: Arnaud Zucker (Univ. Nice Sophia Antipolis, France), Richard Faure (Univ. Nice Sophia Antipolis, France), Vassiliki Mavroidakou-Castellana (Villa Kérylos).

This international conference, to be held in the Villa Kerylos in September 2018 aims to attract researchers, mainly philologists, linguists and philosophers interested in the ancient practice of etymologizing in Ancient Greek and Byzantine literature. It is promoted by the International Association ETYGRAM (<http://www.cepam.cnrs.fr/etygram/>) devoted to the study of “emic” ancient Greek etymologies and follows a first edition in 2016 (ETYGR-2016). The ancient Greek conception of etymology is fundamentally different from our modern one and has a much broader meaning. To start with, it allows a rather exceptional plasticity (see, e.g., Plato’s *Cratylus*) as far as semantic *paronomasia* is concerned. As ancient scholars understood it, etymology is chiefly a dynamic process aiming at suggesting semantic correlations between words based on phonetic similarities, with a momentous heuristic power. This intellectual game, a very serious one at that, deserves to be investigated since it is neither scientific in character (as modern linguists would describe it), nor labellable as “folk” etymology. It is rather a cultural construction, which is both an art of punning and an attempt to uncover deep semantic motivations. From Homeric *epos* onwards (see Porph. *ad Il. 9.1.160* : Ὀμηρικοῦ ὄντος τοῦ παρετυμολογεῖν), where it appears to be a major concern, a tendency to cluster together words from the same putative root or origin seems to become more and more widespread. Some of this spirit is still present in modern practice, although it receives undeserved discredit. The phonetic proximity of words in a language have an unquestionable effect on the unconscious representation of the world and interconnecting paronymic words has ever had intense attractiveness and heuristic and intellectual interest, either in linguistic theories or in puns or wordplay practices.

The organizers welcome proposals (in French, English, Greek, German, Spanish or Italian.) on ancient and medieval Greek texts. Conference papers will be 30 minutes, with 15 minutes for discussion. Interested scholars from all academic levels are invited to send an abstract of no more than 500 words to zucker@unice.fr and assoc.etygram@gmail.com by **October 30, 2017**. Participants will be notified in early December, 2017. Accepted papers will be presented on an equal footing with invited speakers. Accommodation and meals expenses will be covered by the organization.

Program Committee : Simone Beta (Univ. Siena-Italy), Michèle Biraud (Univ. Nice-France), Maria Chriti (Center for the Greek Language, Thessaloniki-Greece), Pierre Destrée (UCLouvain), Richard Faure (Univ. Nice, France), Claire Le Feuvre (Université Paris Sorbonne-France), Oliver Hellmann (Univ. Trier, Germany), Koen Vanhaegendoren (Univ. Liège-Belgium), Arnaud Zucker (Univ. Nice, France)