**Evangelos Skoupas**

Recontextualizing the importance of the Heraion of Perachora

This paper attempts to propose a reason behind the choice of Hera as the worshipped

deity at the promontory of Perachora during the Geometric and Archaic period. The

work addresses an overlooked aspect of the goddess, namely that of a sovereign deity

separate from her spouse. In addition, the paper sheds some light on Hera’s integral

role in the formation of a local identity during the same period. To do so, two methods

were used for the study of the sanctuary: the examination of the finds and the

contextualization of the site in direct connection with the city of Corinth. The

contextualization relies on examining the cult through the lens of locality and comparing

the site to the adjacent and contemporary Corinthian sanctuary of Poseidon. This takes

an interpretative approach focused on the local, rather than the panhellenic, paradigm

of religion. The article re-opens the discussion around the significance of the sanctuary

and highlights the advantages of the locality theory as a more effective way of studying

religion. It also addresses the predicaments of extant research, including the scarcity of

literary evidence and the history of damage to the site. This paper calls for the

acknowledgement of the local paradigm as the most appropriate for the study of the

ancient Greek religion due to its respect for the nuance of every community, and

highlights the value of the site such that its study might be reopened.