

THE COSMOS IN ANCIENT GREEK RELIGIOUS EXPERIENCE

In this book, Efrosyni Boutsikas shows that ancient Greek religious performances were intricately orchestrated displays comprising topography, architecture, space, cult, and myth. These various elements were unified in ways that integrated the body within cosmic space and made the sacred extraordinary. Boutsikas also explores how natural light or the night sky may have assisted in intensifying the experience of these rituals, and how they may have determined ancient perceptions of the cosmos. The author's digital and virtual reconstructions of ancient skylscapes and religious structures during such occurrences unveil a deeper understanding of the importance of time and place in religious experience. She illustrates how they shaped the emotions, cosmological beliefs, and ritual memory of the participants. Her study revolutionises our understanding of ancient emotionality and cognitive experience, demonstrating how Greek religious spaces were vibrant arenas of shared experiences of the cosmos.

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THE COSMOS IN ANCIENT
GREEK RELIGIOUS
EXPERIENCE

SACRED SPACE, MEMORY, AND
COGNITION

EFROSYNI BOUTSIKAS

University of Kent



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