FROM BASILICAS TO MONASTERIES: THE MAKING AND REMAKING OF SACRED LANDSCAPES IN BYZANTINE THESSALY

This paper examines the making and remaking of sacred landscapes in Thessaly from Late Antiquity to the late Byzantine period. Drawing on archaeological evidence, written sources, and GIS-based spatial analysis, it explores how Christian institutions shaped the region's physical, social, and economic geography. Between the fourth and seventh centuries, monumental basilicas in centres such as Phthiotic Thebes, Demetrias, and Larissa embedded Christian institutions within existing networks of settlement, exchange, and mobility. From the tenth century onward, monasteries increasingly reshaped this sacred geography, creating new centres connected to settlements, estates, and routes of communication. These transformations reveal the changing ways in which architecture, ritual, mobility, and economic practice produced sacred landscapes over time.

Important Details:

- **Where:** The Catholic University of America
  - Caldwell 121
- **When:** November 18, 2026 at 5:00 PM EST



Speaker

Katerina Ragkou is a postdoctoral researcher and lecturer at the department of Christian Archaeology and Byzantine Art History at the University of Marburg and is spending the 2026–27 academic year at Dumbarton Oaks in Washington, D.C.



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