



SEAC XXXIII Annual Meeting

Volos, 4-8 September 2026

Programme

SEAC xxxiii Annual Meeting is organised in Volos between 4 and 8 September 2026 by the University of Thessaly (the department of History, Archaeology, Social Anthropology and the department of Economics), with the collaboration of the Astronomy and Space Society of Volos.

Scientific committee

- Themis Dallas (University of Thessaly)
- Rita Gautschy (University of Basel)
- César González-García (INCIPIT-CSIS)
- Steven Gullberg (University of Oklahoma)
- Gail Higginbottom (Flinders University)
- Alicia Maravelia (Hellenic Institute of Egyptology)
- Xenophon Moussas (National and Kapodistrian University of Athens)
- Valerie Shrimplin (Gresham College)
- John Steele (Brown University)
- Loukas Zacheilas (University of Thessaly)

Organising committee

- Loukas Zacheilas (University of Thessaly)
- Rania Strati (Volos Society for Astronomy and Space)
- Maria Kontaxi (University of Thessaly)
- Themis Dallas (University of Thessaly)
- Ilaria Cristofaro (University of the Peloponnese)

FRIDAY, 4 SEPTEMBER 2026

14:30 Registration

15:30 Welcoming speeches

16:00 Session 1: **Centaurs** (chair: John Steele)

- S. Hoffmann: *Constellation Centaurus as case study*
- W. Horowitz: *Mixed Beings: From Centaurus to the Sumerian Pig-Fish*
- A. E. Kechagias: *Hercules and the Centaurs: Myth and astronomy between Ancient Greece and India*
- M. Georgiadou: *Ritual procession on Pelion at the heliacal rising of Sirius*
- D. Vickers: *Holding the Beast: The preservation of star lore in the Carolingian “De Ordine ac Positione Stellarum in Signis”*

Coffee Break

18:00 Session 2: **Near East and Egypt** (chair: Rita Gautschy)

- E. Zangger, A. Aşınmaz & N. Atila: *Staging the divine: Cosmology, epiphany and hydraulic display at Eflatunpınar*
- J. Steele: *Horoscopy in Babylonian society*
- B. P. Carpenter: *Using a least squares ΔT model to refine the chronology of the Amarna period*
- A. Maravelia: *An amazing solar epiphany (hēliasmos) in two Coptic churches of the Delta*
- A. Rodríguez-Antón & A. C. González-García: *Astronomy and religion in the Roman temples of Near East*

21:00 Conference dinner

SATURDAY, 5 SEPTEMBER 2026

09:30 Session 3: **European Prehistory I** (chair: Gail Higginbottom)

- T. G. Dallas, C. Apostolou & L. Zacheilas: *The orientation of the tholos tombs in Dimini*
- M. A. Rappenglück: *From embodied measurement to celestial order*
- S. D. Kiotsekoglou: *Solstices and Equinoxes: Monitoring the positions and movements of the Sun through the eyes of the Ancestors*
- M. Spasova, H. Valchanova, P. Maglova & A. Stoev: *Sky on Stone: evolution of the depiction of celestial objects on rock surfaces in Prehistory*
- A. Stoev, P. Maglova & O. Ognyanov: *Research on Eneolithic projective systems for determining solar culminations with drone technologies*

Coffee Break

11:30 Session 4: **European Prehistory II** (chair: Maitane Urrutia-Aparicio)

- F. Prendergast: *Facing west —a new archaeoastronomical analysis of wedge tombs*
- M. P. Zedda & M. A. Rappenglück: *Nuraghe Santu Antine (Sardinia) as a cosmologically structured place: Architecture, landscape, Crux and the Milky Way*
- G. Higginbottom: *Interpreting local cosmological schemes through dolmen construction*
- A. C. González-García: *Towards a comprehensive study of megalithic astronomy in Galicia (Spain)*
- G. Russo: *The Celestial Dog: A pre-registered Neolithic stellar alignment system in southeastern Sicily (5000–4300 BCE)*

16:00 Session 5: **Africa & Asia** (chair: Mark Thuillard)

- M. Urrutia-Aparicio, A. Rodríguez-Antón, M. A. Perera Betancor & A. C. González-García: *Prehistoric funerary landscapes of Western Sahara: further insights from cultural astronomy*
- B. S. Shylaja & S. M. Hoffmann: *The Vedic Nakshatras and the Babylonian zodiac*
- C. B. Ugranasimhaiah: *The Descent of Gaṅgā: Galactic axis interpretation of Indian cosmology*
- H. Attaolahi: *The concept of time in Ancient Persia*

- S. Sheiki, N. Andalib & A. C. González-García: *The Celestial Body: The intersection of astronomy, history and architectural symbolism in Nizami's "Haft Peykar"*

Coffee Break

18:00 Session 5: **America** (chair: Nicolas Balbi)

- S. Gullberg: *Cosmic worldview of the Inkas*
- S. Motta, S. Ayub, L. Epis & C. Paolo: *Tiwanaku (Bolivia), an archaeoastronomical study on the role of the stars in the dating of the site*
- R. Kanazawa: *Afterimage Archaeoastronomy: A physiological framework for ancient sky perception and monumental alignments*
- S. Iwaniszewski: *The origins and spread of Lunar Series in the Early Classic Period (ca. 250/357-600 CE), Maya Lowlands*
- M. C. H. Lourenço & S. Valentim: *Cultural astronomy in Candomblé and its potential for science education*

21:00 Film screening (Kordatos Amphitheatre)

- *Cielo* by Alison McAlpine
Cielo is a love poem for the night sky, set in the Atacama Desert, Chile. Planet Hunters in the Atacama's astronomical observatories and the desert dwellers who work the land and sea share their evocative visions of the stars and planets, their mythic stories and existential queries with remarkable openness and a contagious sense of wonder.
Language: Spanish / English / French
Subtitles: English

SUNDAY, 6 SEPTEMBER 2026

09:30 Session 7: **Methodology** (chair: César González-García)

- G. Zotti, S. M. Hoffmann & A. Wolf: *Stellarium Skycultures 2.0: A significant improvement*
- R. Gautschy: *Reproducible Archaeoastronomy: Structured workflows for astronomical chronology in the digital humanities*
- J. Mejuto & E. Rodas-Quito: *"Chan U'bih": An online archaeoastronomical research engine for horizon-based alignment studies*
- M. Frincu, M. Urrutia-Aparicio, A. Ancuta & H. Hochbauer: *New tools for standard and GIS based archaeoastronomical analysis*
- V. Lianou, M. Frincu & M. Urrutia-Aparicio: *Estimating orientation in Roman towns: An AI-based approach*

Coffee Break

11:30 Session 8: **Science & Myth** (chair: Alicia Maravelia)

- X. Moussas: *From Logos to Algorithm: The Antikythera Mechanism between nomos, physical law, and proto-artificial Intelligence*
- S. Draxler & M. E. Lippitsch: *Description and illustration of solar and lunar eclipses in Medieval and Renaissance times*
- J. N. Balbi: *The first stratospheric ascension project of the southern hemisphere (1938) and the scientists' questions*
- M. Thuillard: *The Raven, the Crow, and the Sun: A quantitative analysis of cultural transmission*
- N. Bekbassar: *The theory of celestial imbalance: On the question of the relationship between the Pleiades and the Big Dipper in the mythology of Eurasian steppe*

16:00 **Workshop** (Computer Room)

- Z. Kovačić: *Circular statistics in archaeoastronomy Using R*

20: 30 **Outreach lecture** in Greek (Kordatos Amphitheatre)

- X. Moussas: *Ο Μηχανισμός των Αντικυθήρων πρόδρομος της Τεχνητής Νοημοσύνης*
- Star gazing with the Volos Astronomical Society

MONDAY, 7 SEPTEMBER 2026

09:30 Session 9: **Greece** (chair: Xenophon Moussas)

- M. V. Garcia-Quintela & A. C. González-García: *Helios in Athens: from the city of Theseus to the city of Plato*
- M. A. Sutton: *From arithmogeometry to stellar alignments: Exploring a polyhedral model underlying the classical constellations*
- A. Paule: *Greeks, gnomonics, mathematics: Sundials and their inventors in Ancient Greek culture*
- I. Cristofaro: *Conceptual developments in skyscape archaeology in sacrificial festival contexts: the seasonality–test*
- D. Hamacher & J. Holbrook: *Indigenous astronomy in the space age: a report on the 2025 IAU Symposium 399 / Oxford XIII Meeting*

Coffee Break

11:30 Session 10: **Posters & Online** (chair: Themis Dallas)

- G. van Aarsen: *Gilgamesh and the Centaur*
- V. Lianou: *“Archaeosky”: A computational platform for archaeoastronomical analysis of the Roman world*
- G. Henriksson: *Caesar’s comet identified as comet Encke II, a part of comet Encke*
- K. N. Kokkolis: *Tiresias and the well-made oar: Cosmic orientation in Bronze Age sacred architecture*
- X. Moussas: *Astronomical orientation of orthogonal buildings in Neolithic Thessaly*
- M. Tsikritsis & X. Moussas: *The “Minoan Gate to the Sky” and the rhythms of nature*
- R. Perez-Enriquez, E. Rodas-Quito, X. Moussas: *Astro-architectural design principles in Greek and Roman theatres: Solar-gnomonic construction rules*
- M. Incerti & F. Rossi: *Light phenomena and archaeoastronomy at Ponte d’Ercole (Italy): a 3D survey and diachronic simulation approach*
- D. Marinho, A. C. González-García & A. M. S. Bettencourt: *Wheel-crosses in Southern Galicia: Archaeoastronomical patterns and interpretations*
- C. Maumené: *Beyond salt: a neolithic funerary vessel as a possible astronomical tool?*

- R. Pierini & P. Nava: *Celestial Gardens: Plant and constellation lore in the sky of Centaurus*
- A. Gangui & C. Rivera: *Archaeoastronomy in the Bolivian highlands: a preliminary analysis of the orientation of the funerary towers of Tama Chullpa, Culli Culli*
- J. D. Mooney: “*Catching the Equinox*”, *Santiago de Compostela*

Conference synopsis by Marc Frincu

Light lunch

14:00 SEAC General Assembly

- *Carlos Jaschek Award* ceremony

21:00 Concert inspired from Sky (Kordatos Amphitheatre)

Performed by *Synola* the University of Thessaly Music Ensembles

TUESDAY, 8 SEPTEMBER 2026

09:15 Conference excursion to Milies.

- Walk to the village to the train station and along the tracks to see the nature of Pelion. Visit the historical library to browse through old astronomy books and see the famous zodiac fresco in the village church. Lunch included. Estimated return time: 16:00.