

ΕΘΝΙΚΟ ΚΑΙ ΚΑΠΟΔΙΣΤΡΙΑΚΟ
ΠΑΝΕΠΙΣΤΗΜΙΟ ΑΘΗΝΩΝ
ΦΙΛΟΣΟΦΙΚΗ ΣΧΟΛΗ
ΤΜΗΜΑ ΦΙΛΟΛΟΓΙΑΣ
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NATIONAL AND KAPODISTRIAN
UNIVERSITY OF ATHENS
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**INVITATION TO THE RESEARCH SEMINARS
OF THE DEPARTMENT OF CLASSICS**

When: Wednesday, 15 May 2013, 12.00 noon

Where: Library of Classical Literature, School of Philosophy Building, 7th floor,
Room 745, Panepistimioupoli, Zografou, ATHENS

The Department of Classics, Faculty of Philology, invites you to the lecture of
Stephanie Larson, Associate Professor, Bucknell University:

**“Excavations at the Ismenion, Theban Sphinxes,
and Pindar's Orchomenian Mythopoesis”**

Stiliani Hatzikosta

Head of the Department

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EXCAVATIONS AT THE ISMENION, THEBAN SPHINXES, AND PINDAR'S ORCHOMENIAN MYTHOPOESIS

Stephanie Larson

This presentation involves three separate but interrelated layers. In the first section I will briefly present three recent discoveries from the synergasia excavations at the Ismenion hill in Thebes (2011-12). These new features range from Bronze Age through Byzantine times and contribute greatly to our understanding of life in particular in medieval Thebes. This will be the first presentation of this material in Greece. In the central section of the paper I shall focus on a fourth discovery from the 2012 season, a late fifth-century red-figure askos, whose painter has made a fascinating substitution in a canonical scene well known throughout the ancient Greek world. The treatment of the scene on this object will serve to introduce the last section of the presentation in which I will consider Pindar's use of northern Boiotian mythology. I will suggest that Pindar's shifting of traditional mythology mirrors the manipulation of myth found on the askos. I discuss in particular the poet's treatment of Orchomenian traditions found in Isthmian 1, Pythian 4, Pythian 12, and various fragments from other genres, with special attention to the Charites.