2016 AAIA VISITING PROFESSOR

Professor Katja Sporn
German Archaeological Institute at Athens

Professor Sporn is the Director of the German Archaeological Institute at Athens and a professor at the University of Munich. Her fields of expertise range from Crete in the Classical and Hellenistic periods through to Greek funerary art and religion. She has directed archaeological field work at Kolonna, Aegina, and at the important sanctuary of Apollo at Kalapodi, thought by many to be ancient Abai, in Phokis. Her tour will take her to Sydney, Armidale, Perth, Adelaide, Hobart, Canberra, Brisbane, Newcastle and Melbourne.

SYDNEY SEMINAR

Communal Rituals and Religious Acts. Problems of Definition

In early Greece there was a sphere where communal rituals could merge with religious practices. This has led to instances where it has been disputed whether, for example, an excavated Early Iron Age site with remains of communal dining should be identified as a place of worship or, rather, as a meeting place of a specific, socially defined, group. This seminar will discuss general questions relating to the possibility of identifying early Greek cult places by using antithetical notions such as animal sacrifice (thusia)/slaughter, altar/eschara, votives/utilitarian objects). It will further include aspects of the setting of these places within or beyond settlements, their layout and spatial organisation. A separate discussion will focus on the close relationship of some of these sites with tombs, and thus the creation of group identity through communal acts undertaken at these locales.

Tuesday 9 August, 3:00pm

The Classical Archaeology Seminar Series
CCANESA Boardroom
Level 4 Madsen Building
University of Sydney