

**Petrified voices:**  
evolution of the Graeco-Roman  
epigraphic production  
in space and time

Petra Heřmánková



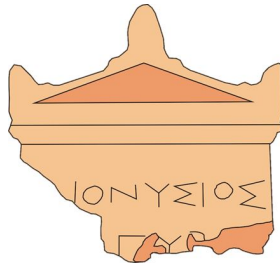
# Petrified voices

messages on a permanent medium  
(stone, Greek πέτρα petra)

ca. 600,000 Greek & Latin inscriptions  
around the Mediterranean

8th c. BC - 6th c. AD, produced unevenly in  
diverse communities

**WHY?**





# Case study: Greek epigraphic production in Thrace

- SE Balkans
- digitising & transforming printed material
- DIY approach\*

## E211. Ἀπότμημα τιμητικῆς (?) ἐπιγραφῆς τοῦ δήμου Σαμοθράκων

Ἀρχαιολογική Συλλογή Μακρονείας ΑΚΜ 387. Τὰ ἀκριβῆ στοιχεῖα προελεύσεως, τὸ σχῆμα καὶ οἱ διαστάσεις τοῦ μνημείου παραμένουν ἀγνωστά. Ὁ λίθος δὲν ἐντοπίσθηκε οὔτε Ἀρχαιολογική Συλλογή Μακρονείας οὔτε στὸ Μουσεῖο Κομοτηνῆς.

Φωτογραφία. Πίναξ 52.

Ἀδημοσίευτη. Πρβλ. ὁμως Δ. Τριαντάφυλλος, *Θρακική Επετηρίδα* 4 (1983) 425, σμ. 24 (BCH 111 [1987] 502, σμ. 7 καὶ Loukourouli, "Frontier" 108 σμ. 43).

1ος π.Χ. αἰ.

[Ὁ δῆ]μος  
[Σα]μο-  
θρά[κ]ων.

Ἡ ἐπιγραφή μνημονεύεται χωρὶς λεπτομερῆ στοιχεῖα σὲ δημοσίευση τοῦ Τριαντάφυλλου, ὁ ὅποιος τὴν συνδέει μὲ ἐπιγραφικὲς ἀναφορὰς "μετοίκων" ἀπὸ τὴν Ἀμφίπολη καὶ τὴν Αἶνο σὲ ἄλλες πόλεις τῆς Μακεδονίας καὶ τῆς Θράκης. Ἡ ἐρμηνεία ἀμφισβητήθηκε ἀπὸ τὸν Stern καὶ τὴν Loukourouli, οἱ ὅποιοι ὑποστήριξαν ἀνεξαρτήτως ὅτι καὶ οἱ τρεῖς περιπτώσεις πρόκειται γιὰ κάποια —τιμητικὴ πιθανῶς— ἐπιγραφή τοῦ ἀναγραφόμενου δήμου (στὴν συγκεκριμένη περίπτωση τὸν Σαμοθράκων), ποὺ εἶχε στηθεῖ, ἀγνωστο μὲ ποιὰν ἀφορμὴ, στὴν Μακρονεία.



1929

1929. Serdicae reperta, nunc in museo Serdicensi conservatur (inv. 422).

Pars superior tabellae marmoreae fastigatae cum anaglypho, in quo tres Nymphae exhibitae erant, a. 0.22, l. 0.35, cr. 0.27, litt. 0.01—0.013 m.

Edd. V. Dobruski Sb. 12, 1895, 326 n. 8 litteris maiusculis et minusculis, idem Sb. 13, 1896, 401 n. 6, idem AEM 18, 1895, 109 n. 11 litt. maiusculis et minusculis, idem Sb. 16—17, 1900, 68 n. 11 fig. 36, delineatio, G. Kacarov Sofia p. 45 et 80 n. 16, cuius in usum contulit B. Filov.

Super anaglypho:

Θεᾶς  
Νύμφας τρεῖς  
Ἀπολλων... ΔΡΗΣΙ - -  
[Κ]ρίνος Φλόρον (sic) χαρισ[τήριον].

3. ΚΕΔΡΕΣΙ et [Κε]δρε[ση]ρω? dubit. Dobr.<sup>1</sup>, non dubit. Dobr.<sup>2</sup>, «ΔΡΗΣΙ et [Ε]δρησ[η]ρω? dubit. Dobr.<sup>3</sup>, [Κε]δρε[ση]ρω? dubit. Dobr.<sup>4</sup>, [Κε]δρησ[η]ρω? „littera x non bene distinguitur, inter eandem et δ spatium duarum litterarum” Fil-Kac., inde G. Mateescu EDR 1, 1923, 240 nota 8, G. Kacarov RE 6A, 1937, 502 s. Thrake, Religion, D. Dečev Thr. Sprachreste 239 s. v., in lapide: post Ἀπολλων- spatium duarum litterarum, ubi nihil certum vidi, sed tamen ΘΞ distinguere mihi visum est, post quod potius Σ quam Ε mihi videtur, ΔΡΗ certa, post ea Σ (quod Ζ item esse potest) et hasta parte inferiore a sinistra paululum inclinata: primum Ἀπολλων[ος] Σέδρησ[η]ρω legere volui, cum autem Apollo in anaglypho exhibitus non esset et in vs. 2 καὶ non inscriptum esse censeam, Ἀπολλων[ος] Δρησ[η]ρω i. e. nomen patris καὶ supplendum mihi videtur.

# Case study: Greek epigraphic production in Thrace

- Team collaboration
- Documented my decisions & data model
- Commented scripts
- <https://osf.io/fjnw5/>

The screenshot displays the OSFHOME interface for a project titled "Hellenisation of Ancient Thrace". The top navigation bar includes links for "My Quick Files", "My Projects", "Search", "Support", "Donate", and a user profile for "Petra Heřmáková". The project page features a header with the project name and a sub-header "Hellenisation of Ancient Thrace". Below this, the "Contributors" section lists "Petra Heřmáková" and provides metadata: "Date created: 2017-11-23 03:41 AM | Last Updated: 2019-10-18 10:25 AM", "Identifiers: DOI 10.17605/OSF.IO/FJNW5 | ARK c7605/osf.io/fjnw5", "Category: Project", "Description: PhD project in ancient Greek epigraphy at Charles University, Prague", and "License: CC-BY Attribution 4.0 International". The "Wiki" section contains a title "The Hellenisation of Ancient Thrace project", an "Author:" field with "Petra Janouchova (ORCID: https://orcid.org/0000-0002-6349-0540)", and "Important links" including a GitHub repo with data, maps, and analyses, and a GitHub repo with the dissertation text. The "Files" section shows a list of files, including "Hellenisation of Ancient Thrace" and "OSF Storage (United States)". The "Citation" section is empty. The "Components" section lists three components: "Maps" (published as appendix to Chapters 6 and 7 of the dissertation), "Data" (published as appendix to Chapters 6 and 7 of the dissertation), and "Dissertation text (defended 14 Dec 2017)". The "Tags" section displays a list of tags: "ancient history", "archaeology", "epigraphy", "Greek epigraphy", "inscriptions", "Latin epigraphy", "socio-cultural change", "spatio-temporal analysis", "Thrace", and "Add a tag". The "Recent Activity" section is empty.

OSFHOME

My Quick Files My Projects Search Support Donate Petra Heřmáková

Hellenisation of Ancient Thrace Files Wiki Analytics Registrations Contributors Add-ons Settings

Hellenisation of Ancient Thrace

Contributors: Petra Heřmáková

Date created: 2017-11-23 03:41 AM | Last Updated: 2019-10-18 10:25 AM

Identifiers: DOI 10.17605/OSF.IO/FJNW5 | ARK c7605/osf.io/fjnw5

Category: Project

Description: PhD project in ancient Greek epigraphy at Charles University, Prague

License: CC-BY Attribution 4.0 International

Wiki

The Hellenisation of Ancient Thrace project

Author:

Petra Janouchova (ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-6349-0540>)

Important links

GitHub repo with data, maps, analyses: [https://github.com/petranouchova/hat\\_project](https://github.com/petranouchova/hat_project)

GitHub repo with the dissertation text: [https://github.com/petranouchova/dis\\_context](https://github.com/petranouchova/dis_context)

Read More

Files

Click on a storage provider or drag and drop to upload

Filter i

Name	Modified
Hellenisation of Ancient Thrace	
OSF Storage (United States)	
Posters	

Citation

Components

Add Component Link Projects

Maps

Heřmáková

Maps published as appendix to Chapters 6 and 7 of the dissertation. Language of publication and labels: Czech.

Data

Heřmáková

Dissertation text (defended 14 Dec 2017)

Heřmáková

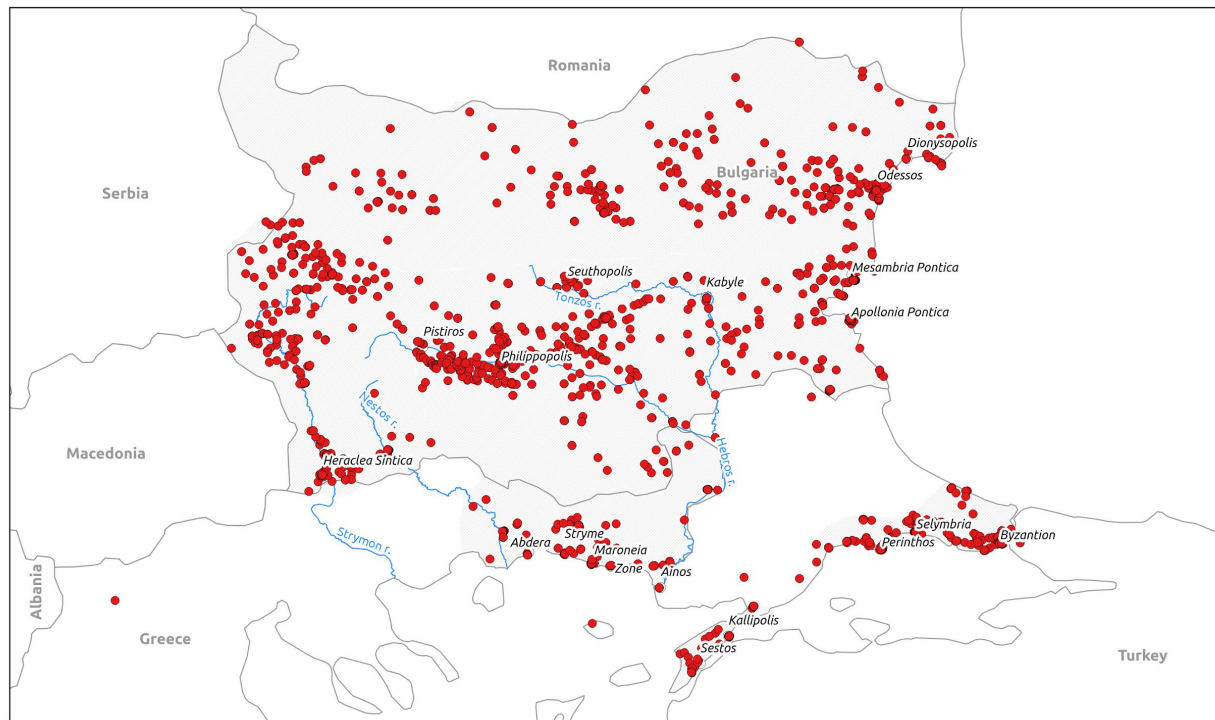
Tags

ancient history x archaeology x epigraphy x Greek epigraphy x inscriptions x Latin epigraphy x socio-cultural change x spatio-temporal analysis x Thrace x Add a tag

Recent Activity

# Case study: Greek epigraphic production in Thrace

- 6th c. BC - 5th c. AD
- over 4600 Greek inscriptions
- Thracians, Greeks, Romans...
- Clustered along major cities and roads
- Mountain sanctuaries accessible by roads



**HAT database: all inscriptions found in Thrace**

- Inscription findspot
- Ancient city
- Modern countries
- River
- Area covered by HAT database

0 100 200 km ↑  
Source: QGIS, Google Maps, JICA BG, HAT database, The Barrington Atlas of Greek and Roman World, TRAP  
Petra Janouchová 11/2016

## **Before Romans:**

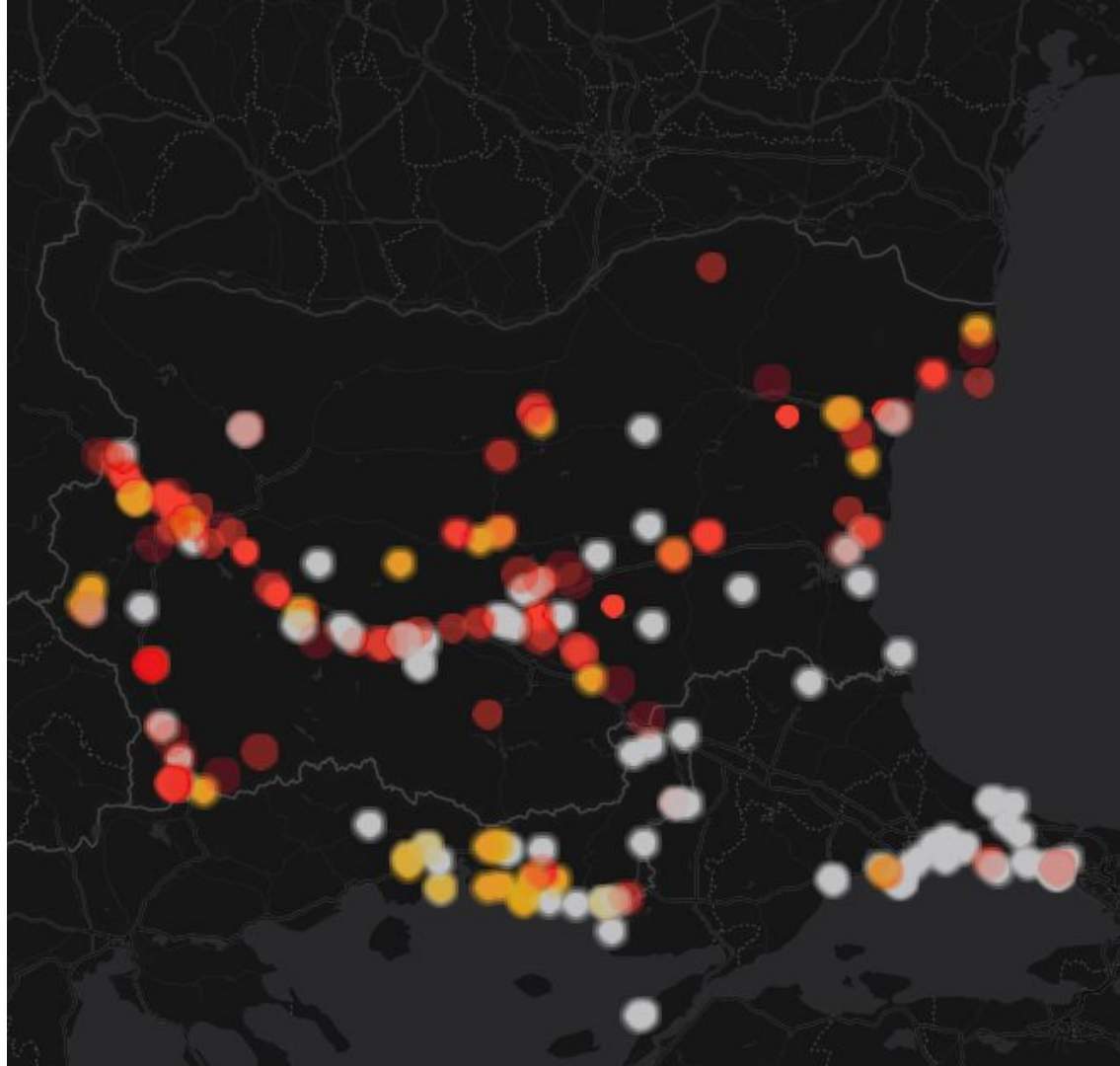
stark difference  
between Greek city  
states & Thracians

## **Under Romans:**

spread of epigraphic  
culture, integration,  
diversity,  
infrastructure

## **After Romans:**

decline,  
transformation



# Epigraphic production & social complexity

- A) The volume and character of epigraphic production reflect social complexity**
- B) The mass production of inscriptions is a by-product of complex society**
  - diversified social hierarchy (existing institutions, procedures in place...)
  - functioning labour division and specialisation (skills, literacy...)
  - socio-cultural background (social norms, cultural need...)





# Next steps

Get (!) & streamline digital epigraphic dataset(s) for **all Mediterranean**

Get comparative longitudinal datasets - urbanism, transport, connectivity, environment, timeline of known historical events ...

Analyze in space & time against set of criteria (methodology from the case study)

Tools: QGIS; OpenRefine; RegEx; R; Python



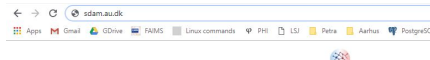


# Follow my progress:

[https://github.com/petrifiedvoices/DigitalApproaches2019\\_talk](https://github.com/petrifiedvoices/DigitalApproaches2019_talk)

Twitter: @pettulda

[www.sdham.au.dk](http://www.sdham.au.dk)



Recharging

Petra  
petrifiedvoices

★ PRO

Edit profile

Epigrapher, archaeologist and digital classicist. Interested in digital humanities. Coffee nerd, beer geek.  
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<https://orcid.org/0000-0002-6349-0540>

Organizations



Overview Repositories (29) Projects (0) Packages (0) Stars (0) Followers (5) Following (0)

Pinned

Customize your pins

dis\_context

Dissertation 'Hellenisation of Ancient Thrac' submitted at Charles University in Prague, Sept 2017

HTML ★ 1

Epigraphic\_Module

HAT - inscription recording module, module for capturing epigraphic data

CSS

hat\_project

Hellenisation of Ancient Thrac Project, the raw data presented here were collected in Herculaneum in 2013-2016

R ★ 1

history-scanner

Archival / library recording, adapted to the field of Ancient History, based on <https://github.com/FAIMS/faimo-scanner>

Shell

coffee\_simple

Coffee quality monitoring and mapping, using the FAIMS system, suitable for Android

Python

Friday\_Digital\_Drinks

Datasets for the Friday Digital Drinks at the Department of Ancient History, Macquarie University

154 contributions in the last year

Contribution settings



## Our goals:

This project aims to aggregate, parametrise, and synthesise primary datasets that inform the evolution of societies in the Ancient Mediterranean (i.e. examine the links between social connectivity and complexity manifest in material and textual evidence). In the process, the team will develop a suite of digital approaches and tools, inspired by large-scale ecological projects like Ocean Health Index (Lowndes et al. 2017). The two main outputs of this project will be

- a comparative study of proxies for evolution of social complexity in the Ancient Mediterranean
- digital tools, workflows and processes that scale and that historians and archaeologists can use in their own research.

In its digital aim, this project will deliver the next component of a digital ecosystem for 'small-data' domains like the humanities, namely research infrastructure for combining 'messy' and heterogeneous legacy data with 'clean' digitally born data, allowing for their streamlining and analysis in a collaborative environment.

In its empirical mission, this project will evaluate existing hypotheses of Ancient Mediterranean dynamics by aggregating and synthesising available digital datasets.

\*\*\*

The **Social Dynamics in the Ancient Mediterranean (SDAM)** research group is supported by the Aarhus University Research Foundation in 2019-2022.

## Upcoming workshop on Digital Approaches

Hello, dear digital enthusiasts! We are organising a one day workshop on Digital Approaches to research in Humanities and Social Sciences which you should not miss out! You will hear about the

# Criteria (in date and time)

Size of epigraphic production

Typology of epigraphic production (role in the society)

Proximity to a human settlement

- Size, type, social organisation and hierarchy of the settlement
- Socio-cultural background of inhabitants

Proximity to a communication network (road, river, sea)

Diversity of epigraphic production (identity, language, origin, soc. status)

# Assumptions (working version)

1. Inscriptions are located in **densely populated areas** with existing and stable institutions, and along the major **communication routes** where the demand is the highest
2. **Private** inscriptions are published predominantly in **affluent** and **stable** times, while at the time of crisis, are produced less or disappear completely
3. **Public** inscriptions are published in greater volume in the time of **crisis** reacting to the growing social pressure
4. Inscriptions are published by **high- to middle classes** of society that are invested in maintaining the current level of social order