

Plato and the Art of Writing

Conference Schedule

October 22–24, 2026 | Danish Institute at Athens

Sponsored by Columbia University, the Stanley Cockey Lodge, and the Danish Institute at Athens

Thursday, October 22

9:00–9:30 AM

Opening Remarks

PANEL 1 — REPUBLIC — MIMESIS AND POETIC REPRESENTATION · Chair: Pierre Destrée

9:30–10:30 AM

Jonas Grethlein · Heidelberg University
Is Painting Silent Poetry? Plato's View of Verbal and Pictorial Representation

10:30–11:30 AM

Rasmus Sevelsted · Danish Institute at Athens
Immersion and Estrangement: Effects of the Mimetic Mode in Plato's Republic

PANEL 2 — DISPLACEMENTS, AND INTIMATIONS OF THE SELF · Chair: Ioannis Konstantakos (University of Athens)

11:50 AM–12:50 PM

Carlotta Capuccino · University of Bologna
'A Strange Dream', 'A Strange Image': The Philosophical Function of Atopia in the Platonic Corpus

12:50–1:50 PM

Marcus Folch · Columbia University
Plato's Autobiography

PANEL 3 — PARADOX AND IRONY · Chair: Spyros Rangos (University of Patras)

3:00–4:00 PM

Stephen Halliwell · University of St Andrews
The Paradoxes of Plato's Cave

4:00–5:00 PM

Pierre Destrée · Université Catholique de Louvain
Plato and the Power and Purpose of Socratic Irony

Friday, October 23

PANEL 4 — PHAEDRUS I: THINGS PUT TOGETHER · Chair: Katerina Ierodiakonou (University of Athens)

9:00–10:00 AM

Casper C. de Jonge · Leiden University
'Like a Living Being': Plato's Theory and Practice of Speech Writing

10:00–11:00 AM

Franco V. Trivigno · University of Oslo
The Poets of Plato's Phaedrus

PANEL 5 — THINGS FALL APART · Chair: Chloé Balla (University of Crete)

11:20 AM–12:20 PM

Francisco J. González · University of Ottawa
The Dissolution of Plato's Ideal Republic as Poetic Fable

12:20–1:20 PM

David LévyStone · Universidad Panamericana, Mexico
The Rhythm of the Night: Sentence Length and Dream Experience in Plato's Dialogues

PANEL 6 — PHAEDRUS II: STYLE · Chair: Eleni Keklamanou (University of Crete)

2:20–3:20 PM

Kathryn Morgan · UCLA
The Speech of Lysias in Plato's Phaedrus: Pastiche and the Perils of Writing

3:20–4:20 PM

André Rehbinder · Université Paris Nanterre
Stylistic Diversity in Plato's Phaedrus

KEYNOTE ADDRESS · Chair: André Rehbinder

5:00 PM

Nancy Worman · Barnard College, Columbia University
Socrates' Voices: Breath, Punctuation, and Ghost Presences

Julia Pfefferkorn · Universität Trier
Response

Saturday, October 24

PANEL 7 — CRITO AND TRAGIC DRAMA · Chair: Georgia Sermanoglou (University of Patras)

9:00–10:00 AM

Giovanni R. F. Ferrari · UC Berkeley
Critigone

10:00–11:00 AM

George A. Gazis · Durham University
Plato and Euripides against Incompetent Audiences

PANEL 8 — THEAETETUS AND THE ART OF DIALOGUE · Chair: Panagiotis Thanassas (University of Athens)

11:20 AM–12:20 PM

Maria Pavlou · Theological School of the Church of Cyprus
Between Deference and Provocation: Socrates, Theodorus and Serious Play in Plato's Theaetetus

12:20–1:20 PM

Andrea Capra · University of Milan
Why Did Plato Need Narrated Dialogues?

PANEL 9 — REPUBLIC AND BEYOND · Chair: Hariclia Brecolaki (National Hellenic Research Foundation) & Marcus Folch

2:20–3:20 PM

Patricia Maréchal · University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Sentimental Education: Plato's Emotional Portraiture

3:20–4:20 PM

Anastasia-Erasmia Peponi · Stanford University
Writing the Body of the Viewer

4:30–5:30 PM

Carol Attack · University of Cambridge
Platonic World-Building: The Imagining of Communities

**Following the final
presentation**

Conference Closing Remarks