

Zeren Deniz Ataçocuğu

### AMPAH proposal

Zeren Deniz Ataçocuğu, MA Classics and Ancient History at Newcastle University.

I studied for my undergraduate in Ancient History at Newcastle University, in which I achieved a first class degree classification, and I have now progressed onto the MA programme. I have a keen interest in Classical and Hellenistic history, particularly in the coinage and sculpture of those eras.

### Travelling Mythologies:

#### the Movement of the Divine Throughout the Mediterranean and Beyond

I aim to investigate the movement of divine figures and their mythologies throughout the Mediterranean during the Archaic period, and through to the Classical period. I will use both physical evidence such as coinage and architectural sculpture, as well as a range of ancient literary evidence to support my argument.

I will structure my investigation around three main case studies. I will focus first on the nymph Arethusa and the spring in Syracuse bearing her name; specifically, the myth of her movement from the Peloponnese across the sea to Sicily and the popularity of the nymph on the island, as well as on its coinage. I also wish to investigate the possible movement of the myth of Herakles, and look at his possible roots in Eastern Africa as mentioned in Herodotus. The final case study I wish to investigate revolves around Dionysus, his possible origins in the ancient East and how these origins influenced the divine role that he played within ancient Greek society.

Through my investigation of these case studies, I hope to analyse what role these shared mythologies, and affiliations with the divine figures they belonged to, may have played in

Zeren Deniz Ataçocuđu

the socio-political dynamics of the Mediterranean during this time period. I also hope to be able to understand, to some degree, how significant these mythologies may have been as a contribution to the shared Hellenic culture characteristic of the Greek speaking population of the ancient Mediterranean.