



The workshop “*Going Against the Flow – Wells, Cisterns and Water in Ancient Greece*” organized by Frontinus-Member Patrik Klingborg at the Swedish institute at Athens September 28–29, 2017 attracted an international audience of some 40 colleagues connected to water in antiquity. The 15 speakers from 6 countries gave a wide array of presentations focused on basic water supply, sources and their usage in ancient Greece, as well as on contextualizing material such as the effect of climate and landscape change on the water supply, and also included ethnographic studies on water usage in rural Greece.

After every presentation ample time allowed thorough discussions focussed on questions as:

- How do we differentiate various similar water sources from each other?
- How do we define various installations and can modern definitions be reconciled with ancient terminology?
- How can we work towards a more consistent modern terminology?
- How does the water supply in ancient Greek societies look if we take wells and cisterns as our starting point instead of fountains and aqueducts?
- How influential were external factors, e.g. climate change, political conditions and demographic shifts, for the development of the water supply system?
- What can we learn about the water supply in ancient Greece by widening our scope and incorporating other perspectives and disciplines?



The discussions highlighted the complexity of the ancient water supply systems and especially the important role of wells and cisterns in comparisons to aqueducts and fountains. It was generally agreed that cistern water in contrast to open basins was predominantly potable, a subject often disagreed upon in modern scholarship. Presentations on individual sites also provided a wealth of otherwise unavailable material, especially at Delos and Kerameikos. The exchange with researchers working in other fields also produced new insights into how wells and cisterns functioned in relation to the rest of the water supply system and their environment.

The event closed with a reception at the Swedish institute at Athens. The proceedings of the workshop will be published 2018 in "**Skrifter utgivna av Svenska Institutet i Athen 8**".

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