

**HumanArts/AIA Fall 2017 AIA Kress Lecture**

**Date:** Tuesday, October 24, 2017

**Lecturer:** Dr. Lisa Nevett

**The AIA Kress Lecture Title:** Beyond Rhetoric: Tracing Women's Activities in the Cityscape of late Archaic and early Classical Athens

**Time:** 6:30 PM reception with lecture to follow at 7:00PM

**Location:** Kennedy 112 Assumption College Campus

**Lecture summary:** Much discussion concerning women's roles in the Classical Greek world has focused on the restrictions placed on women which are described or assumed in a range of (mainly Athenian) textual sources. In particular the wives of citizens are often thought to have been secluded within their homes. Nevertheless, there is also significant evidence for a range of roles such women were expected to play, which would have taken them out into the wider community. In this paper I explore some of the evidence for this kind of activity in the context of late Archaic to early Classical Athens, seeking to map the movements of women in relation to the space of the city. I suggest that the evidence points to the significance of duties of the wives of Athenian citizens outside their own houses and that the ideals articulated by the textual sources were rhetorical ones which were not always upheld in practice.

Short bibliography and/or website on lecture topic (for lay reader):

Blok, J. (2001). Virtual Voices: towards a choreography of women's speech in Classical Athens. In *Making Silence Speak: Women's Voices in Greek Literature and Society*, eds. A. Lardinois and L. McClure. Princeton, Princeton University Press: 95-116.

Kosso, C. and Lawton,, G. (2009). Women at the Fountain and Well: imagining experience. In *The Nature and Function of Water, Baths, Bathing, and Hygiene from Antiquity through the Renaissance*, eds. C. Kosso and A. Scott. Leiden, Brill: 87-108.

Nevett, L. C. (2011). Towards a Female Topography of the Ancient Greek City: case- studies from late Archaic and Early Classical Athens (c.520-400 BCE.). *Gender and History* **23**(3): 548-575.