

Στέλλα Χρυσουλάκη

**Burial customs in the necropolis of the Phaleron Delta, Attica:  
Norm and deviation**

Stella Chrysoulaki

Ephorate of Antiquities of Piraeus and the Islands

**Abstract**

The developments in Athens and Attica during the 7<sup>th</sup> century BC, a period of great turbulence and reclassification, form a constant source of debate in research. The evidence from the recent excavation of the extensive cemetery on the coast of the Phaleron Delta enriches the study of the complexity of Athenian society during the Archaic period. The new data from the Phaleron Delta reset the focus on the composition of Athenian society, as traced in the period's burial customs.

Set against the pattern of the other coastal cemeteries of the same period (8<sup>th</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> century BC), the Faliro cemetery presents an unprecedented particularity: among the adult and child burials, a relatively large number of burials that deviate from the Athenian burial customs was found (16.7% of the adult burials excavated in the Faliro Delta, and 17.7% of the total burials of the excavated part of the cemetery during the years 1911, 1915 and 2012-2020).

As indicated by the moral traditions of that time, this discovery is related to the "unburied dead", which reveals both violence against people and group executions. The most important example of the latter concerns the mass burial of seventy-nine convicts that was brought to light in 2016.