

Aarhus Seminars in Classical Antiquity

KLASSISKE STUDIERS SEMINARRÆKKE F2023

Dimitris Plantzos, University of Athens

“We Have Always Been White: From Archaeo-Body to Kitsch-Nation”



In this talk, a number of case-studies from 20th and 21st c. Greece are used in order to describe what the speaker understands as “Greek Archaeopolitics”: that is, the *archaeologization* of the current political debate in order to dominate it. What this paper argues, is that some modern societies such as Greece (but not just Greece) are distinguished by a collective “love of things ancient”, a sort of communal archaeophilia, which, it would seem, hides a shared drive to live the present through constant archaeologies of the past. This has enabled a series of systematic deployments of politics over life – a *bios* that presents itself as an *anabiosis* more often than not (or than it should). Archaeopolitical discourse, it will be argued, redeploys the management of life and living as an archaeolatric ritual often taken to its extreme – even if this means a politics of social and political exclusion and ostracization, or – if it comes to that – death and dying.

Friday 3 February 15.01-16, Antikmuseet

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