

# Play, Rite and Religion

Workshop ERC *Locus Ludi*

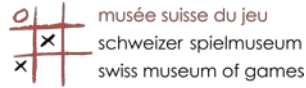
University of Fribourg, 13 march 2019  
Maison Kairos, Rue Guillaume-Techtermann 8a



Toupie, Paris, Musée du Louvre CA 446. Époque classique.  
De Thèbes, sanctuaire du Cabirion

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## Programme March 13, 2019

### Morning

Maison Kairos, Rue Guillaume-Techtermann 8a

### Votive Offerings of Toys and Games

9h00 Vicky Sabetai, Athens

*Toys from the Kabirion Sanctuary in Boeotia. Playthings and Coming of Age in a Greek Polis*

10h00 Marianna Castiglione, Calabria

*Children and playing activities in the cult place of Kharayeb (Lebanon): the example of the Hellenistic terracotta figurines*

11h00 Pause

11h30 Adi Erlich, Haifa

*Play and Pray: Children's Games in Cultic Activity in Hellenistic Galilee and South Phoenicia*

12h30 Hanna Ammar, Fribourg

*Activités enfantines en contexte festif sur les choés attiques*

### Afternoon

Maison Kairos, Rue Guillaume-Techtermann 8a

### Play and Divination

14h00 Ian Stern, Jerusalem, *Game Boards and Divination Material from Hellenistic Period Maresha*  
Discussion: Ulrich Schädler

Pause

15h30 Véronique Dasen, Fribourg

*Children's Games in Cult Places and Divination*

16h15 Thomas Daniaux, Fribourg

*Objets ludiques de Gaule romaine en contexte de sanctuaire*

### Public lecture. Miséricorde, rue de l' Europe 20, salle 2120

17h15 Attilio Mastrocinque, Verona

*Nouvelles fouilles à Tarquinia (cultes étrusques et romains)*

## How to find us

**09h00-17h00: Maison Kairos** (aumônerie de l'Université de Fribourg)  
Rue Guillaume-Techtermann 8a



Gare > avenue de Pérolles > rue Hans Fries



**17h15: University, Miséricorde, av. Europe 20**



Aile MIS 02, salle 2120

## Abstracts

Marianna Castiglione, University of Calabria

*Children and playing activities in the cult place of Kharayeb (Lebanon): the example of the Hellenistic terracotta figurines*

In the favissa of the cult place of Kharayeb (7<sup>th</sup>-1<sup>st</sup> centuries BCE), excavated by Maurice Chéhab between 1946 and 1970, about 11.600 fragments of terracotta figurines were discovered. A very high percentage of them, dated in the Hellenistic period, presents images of children, boys, girls and women. Considering these data, some scholars have supposed that a god linked to the childhood and the motherhood was worshipped in this rural sanctuary.

Whatever the deity was, the huge amount and the variety of iconographies of children playing with animals (birds and dogs), balls and other objects are really surprising. Among the terracottas, there are also many figurines representing pupils with tablet sets.

The paper will examine in depth all the data related to the figurines representing children and linked to their education and the playing activities, in order to shed a new light on the daily life at the sanctuary and, in a broader sense, on the characters of a rural Phoenician centre.

Véronique Dasen, Fribourg

*Children's Games in Cult Places and Divination*

A number of ancient sources, literary and iconographic, record the presence of children in sanctuaries. This contribution will review the evidence and analyse how and why their play could provide oracles.

Adi Erlich, University of Haifa

*Play and Pray: Children's Games in Cultic Activity in Hellenistic Galilee and South Phoenicia*

A Hellenistic hoard of special objects, including gaming pieces, was recovered at Tel Kedesh in Upper Galilee. This hoard seems to have belonged to a young woman who dedicated her toys along other personal belongings in a rite of passage from childhood to adulthood, in order to guarantee successful marriage. Gaming pieces were also found in Hellenistic temples from Phoenicia, where they can be related to children. I shall examine the evidence and address the role of games in cultic activity of children and in passage rites.

Attilio Mastrocinque, University of Verona

*Nouvelles fouilles à Tarquinia (cultes étrusques et romains)*

*Preliminary Report of the Cultic Activities near a Votive Pit at Tarquinia*

During the 2018 archaeological campaign on the Civita of Tarquinia a votive pit has been discovered. Restoration and studies are still ongoing but it is possible to sketch a simple preliminary description of many finds. Remains of a sacrifice can be recognized in the filling of the pit along with a series of symbolic bronze and terracotta votive offerings. Numerous astragali testify to prophetic activities. Close to the pit a dump for terracotta objects has been brought to light where many small objects similar to lids were lying. This archaeological category needs a specific study because the expected related vases were absent. Similar lids have been found in the favissae of the Capitol of Pompeii and therefore they were not lids, but objects related to a cult.

Vicky Sabetai, Academy of Athens

*Toys from the Kabirion Sanctuary in Boeotia. Playthings and Coming of Age in a Greek Polis.*

The presentation will discuss the various toys found at the Kabirion Sanctuary near Thebes, namely gaming pieces, spinning tops, knucklebones, bells etc and will comment on their various forms and materials. The existence of such toys at the Kabirion could be contextualized within the framework of adolescence as suggested by the sanctuary's coroplastic repertoire. It could be further associated with a particular derisive imagery prioritizing deformed bodies, comic versions of heroic myths and figures of fear. When seen in context, the particular function of toys as tokens of a childhood that is left behind on the brink to maturation is exemplified.

Ian Stern, Jerusalem, Archaeological Seminars Institute

*Game Boards and Divination Material from Hellenistic Period Maresha*

Six game boards were discovered in Maresha Subterranean Complex 169. While the specific games played on these game boards remains elusive their archaeological context strongly points to cultic use. The finds include astragals, pessoi, votive altars, kernos lamps along with Aramaic divination texts. This talk will focus on the cultic context within which the game boards were discovered and their possible connection to divination and the nearby temple.

*PhD Students*

Hanna Ammar, Fribourg

*Activités enfantines en contexte festif sur les choés attiques*

Sur les choés attiques, ou cruches miniatures, nombreuses sont les scènes où des enfants s'adonnent à des activités qui semblent s'inscrire dans un contexte festif. Ces jeunes filles et jeunes garçons y manipulent des objets caractéristiques des rites religieux athéniens. Régulièrement associées au deuxième jour de la fête des Anthestéries, les images décorant les choés peuvent-elles néanmoins faire référence à d'autres célébrations religieuses, où les activités ludiques des enfants se mêleraient à celles des fêtes communautaires des adultes ? Ces questionnements soulèvent alors les modalités de la participation des enfants à ces rites religieux.

Thomas Daniaux, Fribourg

*Objets ludiques de Gaule romaine en contexte de sanctuaire*

Following my researches on ludic material recovered in Roman towns of Avenches this work show the spreading of this material in the towns themselves and in sacred areas.