



## Πρόσκληση σε διάλεξη

Το Τμήμα Κλασικών Σπουδών και Φιλοσοφίας του Πανεπιστημίου Κύπρου σας προσκαλεί στην πρώτη συνάντηση του Επιστημονικού Colloquium του Τμήματος για το εαρινό εξάμηνο 2024/2025, η οποία θα πραγματοποιηθεί την **Τρίτη 4 Φεβρουαρίου 2025, ώρα 19:30**, στην αίθουσα 004, κτήριο ΧΩΔ 01 (Πανεπιστημιούπολη), με θέμα:

**“One soul, one heart”:**

### **Reimagining Collective Mind in Late Antiquity**

Ομιλήτρια:

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#### **Περίληψη διάλεξης:**

This paper explores the concept of ‘collective mind’ in Late Antiquity through a critical examination of selected homilies by St. John Chrysostom. By ‘collective mind’, I refer to a set of shared beliefs, goals and intentions, collective emotions, shared moral attitudes and a we-mode of thinking, which operate as a unifying force within a community or group. As a preacher in the Church of Antioch in the fourth century A.D., Chrysostom emphasised the importance of unity among the members of his congregation, motivated by his theological vision of the Church as the Body of Christ and the practical need for harmony in the face of internal and external challenges.

In this paper I argue that Chrysostom creatively reworks the traditional body metaphor and employs it as a conceptual framework to encapsulate his insights on group dynamics and the formation of a collective mind. In a uniquely original way, he combines his theological ideas with the philosophical concept of *sympatheia*, and creates a distinctive conceptualization of shared emotions (e.g., love, and compassion) as emergent group-level emotional states that could not be generated, unless through the perspective of oneness. As I suggest, the way Chrysostom reflects on collective mind phenomena prefigures modern cognitive and social views on socially distributed emotion. Thus, building on recent trends in Cognitive Science and Social Ontology, in this paper I adopt a comparative approach which offers a novel interpretative window that enriches our understanding of early Christian views of collective mind. At the same time, I present Chrysostom’s ideas as a valuable source of cultural information that can contribute to the history of human cognition and feed back into modern approaches to group minds.