

CALL FOR PAPERS



Transitions and transformations in Arkadia and beyond from the 3rd century BC to the 3rd century AD

20–22 May 2027

Arkadia is a land known for its harsh climate, steep mountains, old cities, archaic traditions, unusual gods and heroes, and hard-working people. Arkadia has also long been considered a bucolic idyll, a land removed from the world and detached from reality, a place of righteousness and virtue in a world of moral decline. It is a mountainous and relatively isolated region, but, at the same time, surprisingly well-connected; the ancient Arkadians were united by a strong ethnic identity, but also divided by constant hostilities between communities. These things and much more have been said and written about this mysterious region, yet many questions remain – particularly regarding the period of change and reorganisation that impacted all of Greece after its integration into the Roman Empire. In order to further explore these issues, an **international and interdisciplinary symposium** has been organised to investigate the approximately **600 years of change, continuity, and consolidation** between the battles of Epameinondas and the reign of Diocletian from a variety of perspectives.

We invite individual studies as well as integrated approaches from scholars in the fields of **archaeology, epigraphy, history, numismatics, and philology**, who are working on the history and culture of Arkadia and the Arkadians in the Hellenistic and Roman periods. Since Arkadia has never been isolated from the rest of the world, we are also interested in communities and regions that have been in contact with Arkadia and its people during this period.

The following questions may be addressed, but the symposium is also open to other topics.

- Were these centuries really a period of decline for Arkadia and its neighbours?
- Did the population become impoverished, suffer, or dwindle during this changed economic and political environment?
- What strategies for adaptation and survival can we glean from the evidence?
- Where do we observe continuity and transformation, instead of decline and disappearance?
- Do the wastelands and lost cities of Arkadia, described by Strabo, Pausanias and others, represent a reality?

ORGANISATIONAL INFORMATION

Date: 20–22 May 2027 (in-person only)

Host: University of Graz, Department of Classics,
Universitätsplatz 3, 8010 Graz, Austria

Venue: Meerscheinschlössl, Mozartgasse 3, 8010 Graz, Austria

Registration: If you wish to present a paper or a poster, please complete the attached form including your title and abstract of max. 250 words and send it to arkadien@uni-graz.at.



The registration deadline for posters and presentations is 30 November 2026.

The allotted speaking time for each paper is 20 minutes, followed by a 5-minute discussion slot. Posters can be discussed with the authors in a separate time slot.

Oral contributions are welcome in English, German, or Greek. Please use English only for any written contributions (abstracts, posters, handouts, text/captions on slides).

Notifications of acceptance will be issued by end of January 2027.

The results of our multi-disciplinary symposium will be published in a conference proceedings volume.

Visit our website: <https://arkadien.uni-graz.at/en/>

FRAMEWORK TO THE CONFERENCE

Welcome reception in the cast collection at the Department of Classics, University of Graz

Speakers' Dinner

Guided city tour of Graz

Excursion to the Archaeology Museum at Schloss Eggenberg with guided tour of the collection



Join us for an inspiring and diversified symposium on Arkadia.

The Conference Committee looks forward to welcoming you in Graz!

Elisabeth Trinkl – Mary E. Voyatzis – Regina Klöckl-Zorić