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Maria Spathi holds a BA from the University of Athens and a Ph.D. in Classical Archaeology from Bayerische Julius-Maximilians-Universität Würzburg. Her research interests include material culture of the wider Greek world, sanctuaries, cults, cult practices, pottery, metal votive objects and roman grave reliefs. She has extensive experience from numerous excavations and has worked in various departments of the Greek Ministry of Culture and the Archaeological Service. She also worked as Lecturer in Crete and as Assistant Professor at the University of Rostock. Since 2025 she has been Assistant Professor of Classical Archaeology at the University of Crete. She is the author of *Studien zur Koroplastik Aeginas*, Hamburg (2007) and *The sanctuary of Demeter on Mount Ithome in ancient Messene. Votive assemblages and ritual practices in the city during the Hellenistic and Roman periods* (Oxford Archaeopress forthcoming).