Chasing Chimeras: Numismatic Iconography and the Boundaries of Imagined Community

Two main factors continuously challenge our understanding of community creation and societal structures in antiquity: the inherent complexity of the connections as evidenced by our data; and the ever-evolving interpretative framework. To further promote advance on these challenges, the present paper undertakes a fundamental analysis of the sense of belonging within the ancient Greek world and then explores how Numismatics can contribute to the discussion. Having taken into account the primary purposes of coinage, its use, and its limitations as a medium, the paper considers moreover some case studies that have the potential to illustrate the multitude of social connections and structures, expressed and instrumentalized through the use of numismatic iconography.

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