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## Press Release

### 2nd Semantic Annotation for the Ancient World (SA4AW) 2026

#### International Conference

University of Crete | Rethymno, Greece | 7–8 May 2026

The 2nd *Semantic Annotation for the Ancient World (SA4AW) 2026* conference examined the role of semantic annotation in dialogue with hybrid AI approaches, large language models (LLMs), deep learning, and knowledge graphs in the study of the ancient world and cultural heritage.

Semantic annotation, whether manual, automated, or human-in-the-loop, enables the identification and linking of concepts, entities, and relationships, transforming raw textual and visual data into structured, interoperable knowledge. At a moment when LLMs can generate fluent interpretations but still require grounding in domain-specific context, semantic annotation and knowledge graphs provide essential transparency, precision, interpretability, and reusability.

The conference brought together scholars, researchers, technologists, and students from across Europe, North America, Australia, and the Mediterranean, and welcomed sixteen contributions showcasing methods, tools, case studies, theoretical reflections, and cross-disciplinary collaborations. In line with FAIR and Linked Open Data principles, SA4AW 2026 strongly encouraged open, collaborative, and accessible research practices.

Participants presented innovative work on ontology-driven annotation, multilingual corpora, Named Entity Recognition for Ancient Greek and Latin, Linked Open Data infrastructures, annotation platforms, computational philology, and human-in-the-loop AI workflows. Discussions throughout the conference highlighted the opportunities and the challenges of applying AI technologies to incomplete, multilingual, and historically

complex datasets, as well as the continuing importance of expert contribution and validation.

The conference featured keynote lectures by Annie K. Lamar (Santa Barbara, USA) and Terhi Nurmikko-Fuller (RMIT, Australia). Lamar's keynote, *Low-Resource Languages and Epistemic Justice*, explored how computational work on low-resource and ancient languages can contribute to more ethical and inclusive AI futures by foregrounding human expertise and linguistic diversity. Nurmikko-Fuller's lecture, *Oh LAWD, oh LAWD, oh LAWD: Reflections on Linked Ancient World Data Projects*, reflected on more than a decade of Linked Ancient World Data initiatives and questioned how digital systems designed for "complete" and modern datasets can responsibly engage with the ambiguity and fragmentation of ancient evidence.

The event also showcased the work of students from the MA in Classics and the Short Program/Diploma in Digital Humanities through a dedicated student poster session, highlighting emerging research in semantic technologies, annotation practices, and AI-assisted humanities scholarship.

SA4AW 2026 was organised by Maria Papadopoulou and Rachel Milio within the framework of the Horizon Europe ERA Chair project TALOS AI4SSH (Grant Agreement ID: 101087269), which aims to advance interdisciplinary research at the intersection of Artificial Intelligence and the Social Sciences and Humanities. The conference further strengthened international collaborations between institutions working on semantic technologies, digital philology, knowledge graphs, and AI-supported cultural heritage research.

The conference proceedings will appear in a forthcoming peer-reviewed open-access edited volume.

For more information about the conference and future editions of SA4AW, visit:

- [SA4AW 2026 Conference Website](#)
- [SA4AW Conferences Portal](#)
- [Conference Programme](#)
- [Book of Abstracts \(Zenodo\)](#)
- [Student Poster Session \(Zenodo\)](#)





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Semantic Annotation  
for the Ancient World

# Register here

Student and  
Cultural Center  
YENIA  
Mikrasia, Piraeus 16  
Athens, Greece

Before October 1 | Contact: [contact@seaweb.com](mailto:contact@seaweb.com)

The workshop is organized by the Hellenic Republic Government and the University of Athens. It is a part of the Hellenic Republic's contribution to the European Year of Cultural Heritage 2022.

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• See more photos [here](#) •




# Semantic Annotation for the Ancient World

Semantic  
Annotation

**MAY** for the  
**7 & 8** Ancient W  
**2026**



 Student and  
Cultural Center  
XENIA  
Nikolaou Psarrou 46  
Rethymno



**Online (Zoom) | Contact: [sa4aw.contact@gmail.com](mailto:sa4aw.contact@gmail.com)**

The conference is organised by the TALOS Centre in AI4SSH of the University of Crete (Horizon ERA Chair TALOS AI4SSH ID: 101087269) in collaboration with the Department of Philology, University of Crete.



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