

**Honorable Head of the Department of Philology,
Dear organizers and members of the International Workshop**

Understanding Ovidian Violence

Thursday, September 19, 2024

The University of Ioannina and the Gender Equality and Anti-discrimination Committee, especially in the last three years, has shown significant interest in studying and researching the phenomena of gender discrimination, harassment, especially sexual harassment, but also all kinds of bullying behavior and authoritarian violence within the academic community.

The education provided in terms of the dimension of gender equality includes: a) courses at undergraduate and postgraduate level, b) the organization of lectures, conferences, c) the research and educational activity of the research and teaching staff of the university, workshops like yours.

It is estimated that further research and studies of this kind, as well as their publication, are necessary, in order to have a clear picture of the extent of the phenomena of discrimination or violence that may take place against members of the academic community.

With the aim of understanding the importance of the inclusion of issues related to genders and their equality, the acceptance of diversity and the treatment of various discriminations, the promotion of scientific knowledge and research, are sought: firstly, at the teaching level staff (organizing activities to inform and sensitize faculty members to introduce relevant courses in all three study levels). Secondly, at the institutional level (to include the gender parameter in the evaluation of the institution's study programs).

Dealing with phenomena of this kind will contribute to the necessary development of the policy for equality, as well as to the increasing awareness and alertness of the members of the university community towards phenomena of this kind.

For this reason, additional information and discussion initiatives need to be taken with speeches or seminars by expert scientists, who can convey in an appropriate way the value of effective resistance to incidents of gender discrimination. These actions will concern the education and cultivation of gender sensitivity, the treatment of gender prejudices and discriminations,

the institutionalization of working groups dedicated to specific issues, such as the object of understanding Ovidian violence.

Myths constitute an authentic and primary cultural expression, which Ovid appropriates in an aesthetic perspective of his poetry, through the art of allusion, polymorphism, polyphony, the violent mutation of the human body, the mental mechanisms of transformation.

Every transformation is final, irreversible and violent. The characteristics of rape are, on the one hand, the use of power, sanctified and legitimate, with the aim of perpetuating the hierarchy when it is exercised by gods or heroes. On the other hand, violent transformation imposes the silence and passivity of its victims, illustrated sometimes with humor and sometimes with disgust.

Perhaps this is why the modern feminist approach will hold Ovid accountable for the ambivalent endorsement of violence and savagery against women, crucial to interpretive tensions in modern literature.

Does Ovid treat rape as an aggressive manifestation of amorous passion, or is amorous satisfaction secondary to the rapist's desire to physically dominate, humiliate, and degrade the woman?

But that's why let's listen to the experts.