

## International Workshop: The Lydians and their Neighbors: Recent Perspectives on Cultural, Ethnic and Linguistic Interactions in Western Anatolia

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### Between Lydia and Phrygia: the Case Study of Kelainai

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**Abstract:** Kelainai is explicitly defined a Phrygian city in Greek literature. However, because of its position at the frontier between Lydia and Phrygia, contacts between Lydians and Phrygians were commonplace. Even if the geographical definition is correct, the ethnic distinction needs to be nuanced. Keeping this in mind, I will review the Phrygian and Lydian archaeological materials found in the area. Then, I will recall the importance of Kelainai in connection with the Achaemenid empire, as highlighted by Greek sources. Finally, I will carry out a linguistic analysis of verses 140–61 of Timotehus of Miletus' *The Persians* (late fifth/early fourth century BCE) in which a soldier from Kelainai engaged in the Persian army is portrayed speaking in broken Greek. In this speech, possibly Lydian linguistic features (i.e. animate/inanimate distinction, present-future tense) and cultural references (i.e. Artemis Ephesia) are mixed with the stereotypical portrayal of Phrygians as slaves and despicable members of the lowest social classes.