

Η ρητορική του οικονομικού εγκλήματος στην κλασική Αθήνα

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Abstract

Financial crimes constitute a peculiar category of offences in classical Athens, with particularities regarding their recognition by Athenian law and their treatment as crimes. In prose, mainly in rhetoric but also in historiography, are often traced cases of economic corruption of citizens in relation to public or private life, with bribery and embezzlement being the main reported offences. In the field of rhetoric, a number of speeches are detected in which economic crime exists as a basic or complementary accusation. The possible grouping of these speeches under the cover of economic crime and further categorisation of them in relation to each identified financial crime, raises the interest in examining financial crime collectively through the oratorical corpus. The aim of the thesis to be carried out is to examine financial crime in a holistic way, that is in all the forms it has appeared in Athens of the classical period (5th – 4th century BC) and the relevant rhetoric that developed around it.

The research so far has focused mostly on each type of financial crime separately, whether in the context of a specific period, or not, in the spectrum of ancient Greek history or in relation to specific groups of individuals (e.g. ambassadors), with a focus on the legal information provided and on the correlation of each crime with ethical and historical issues. In this thesis, taking into account all the financial crimes identified in the oratorical speeches, it will be attempted through a process of categorisation with quantitative and qualitative criteria to prove the existence of a rhetoric of financial crime in the classical era, overall and by type of crime.

The main field of research will therefore be the oratorical speeches of the classical era, while other literary genres, such as historiography as well as inscriptions, will also be complementary to the provision of relevant information. The oratorical speeches that will form the core of the field of research are as follows:

- Demosthenes: *Κατὰ Τιμοκράτους, Περί τῆς παραπρεσβείας*
- Aeschines: *Περί τῆς παραπρεσβείας*
- Lysias: *Κατὰ τῶν σιτοπωλῶν, Κατὰ Ἐπικράτους, Κατὰ Ἐργοκλέους, Κατὰ Φιλοκράτους ἐπίλογος, Κατὰ Νικομάχου γραμματέως εὐθυνῶν κατηγορία, Ἄπολογία δωροδοκίας*

The case of Harpalus and the related speeches of Dinarchus (*Κατὰ Δημοσθένους, Κατὰ Ἀριστογείτονος, Κατὰ Φιλοκλέους*) and Hyperides (*Κατὰ Δημοσθένους*) will be excluded from the material to be researched. The rhetoric of financial crime, namely bribery on these grounds, was the subject of my Master dissertation, under the title "The Rhetoric of Bribery in the Harpalus Affair" in the context of the Dexippus Master Degree, in the academic year 2019-2020 (<https://pergamos.lib.uoa.gr/uoa/dl/frontend/el/browse/2924272>).

The material under investigation will be examined multilaterally with regard to the literary, legal and historical data that can be found about the different forms of financial crime. For this purpose, the work will be structured into three main parts: (a) at first level a cataloguing and categorisation of all traced financial crimes in the oratorical corpus will be attempted in relation to the identification (or not) of each type in Athenian law and its penalisation, (b) at the second level the arguments related to financial crime will be examined on the basis of the Aristotelian separation into *ἄτεχνοι* and *ἐντεχνοι πίστεις*, (c) at third level a cataloguing and

grouping of the vocabulary used to refer to financial crime and to support the argumentation will be attempted, based, firstly, on the crime reported and, secondly, on quantitative and qualitative parameters per orator and historical synchrony within the classical era.

The above elements regarding the structure, methodology to be followed and the content of the individual stages of work development are given with all reservations, as the possibility of changing them to a larger or lesser extent is not excluded. The element to be changed and the extent to which it may be deviated from the above statements will depend, over the time of the research, on the data that will result and the needs that may arise.