

Ἐντεῦθεν ἐξελαύνει: How Modern Geospatial Analyses Reveal Authorial Intent in Ancient Texts

Xenophon's *Anabasis* is a military travelogue that recounts the journey of the so-called Ten Thousand, a Greek mercenary army hired by the Persian prince Cyrus the Younger in 401 BCE. The narrative follows the march towards the Battle of Cunaxa, where Cyrus was killed, and the retreat through hostile lands from Babylon to Pergamus. Much discourse has surrounded the inconsistencies of Xenophon's account, and many static maps have attempted to retrace his steps (e.g. Paradeisopoulos, 2023; Brennan and Thomas, 2021; Mitford, 2000). While much can be accomplished with static maps, the array of geographic information systems (GIS) technologies allows for more dynamic modeling at a finer granularity. Landscape-oriented methods have long since cemented their place in archaeology (e.g. Salaris, 2025; Turchetto, 2016), but many scholars have been reticent to frontline these methods in historical, classical, and literary studies (Barker et al., 2024), despite successive past efforts (Jasnow et al., 2018). With full awareness of limitations (Palladino and Colgan, 2025; Herzog, 2017), this study demonstrates how GIS can be used as an interpretive framework to deepen literary analysis and reveal new insights into authorial bias.

This poster will show an overall reconstruction of the reroute recounted in Xenophon's *Anabasis*, with insets examining particular passages in the text and their corresponding geographic areas where the geospatial analyses used (namely viewshed, distance, 3D modelling, and cost-surface analyses) have revealed some deeper insight into the text. A QR code to an interactive version accompanied by extensive documentation will also be included.

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