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**The Newsletter
of the Hellenic Association for American Studies (HELAAS)
Spring-Summer 2020**

Contents:

Editorial (in lieu of)

Members' Corner

The Young Scholars' Report

HELAAS Academic Activities and Initiatives

Calls for Papers and Other Opportunities for Scholarly Fun

HELAAS Listserv

HELAAS Subscriptions

An Image, a Cadence...



EDITORIAL

Dear HELAAS Members and Friends,

We'd like to draw your attention to the call for special issue proposals and independent papers which you can find in our newsletter for Ex-centric Narratives: Journal of Anglophone Literature, Culture and Media (ExNa). Young scholars are particularly encouraged to consider this opportunity. Please find in the call the General Editors contact details for further inquiries. ExNa is an open-access and peer/blind review journal supported by Aristotle University Central Library.

Finally, we are proud to announce that, thanks to the meticulous efforts of our Board members, Dr. Tatiani Rapatzikou and Dr. Smatie Yemenetzi, HELAAS now has a contract with the Greek National Documentation Center **for electronic publishing services** coming out of HELAAS in Greek via their platform. The contract is for two years, renewable and free of charge. In a “publish or perish” era, this is a huge and most valuable step for the promotion of scholarship in our area of studies and the dissemination of the good work of our members.

of the HELAAS Board



MEMBERS' CORNER

Not even the COVID-19 pandemic could stop our HELAAS members from garnering kudos in various academically-related fields, so here's a sampler of laudable achievements we are collectively happy and proud to share with you:

Although she cannot take the credit for it, **Dr. Christina Dokou** (a.k.a. yours truly) is profoundly happy to announce that all six students in her M.A. course on “Minorities Myth-Understood” have had their papers accepted in the 6th International Myth Criticism Conference taking place at the Complutense University of Madrid, this year with the particular theme of “Myth and Sci-Fi” (<https://mythcriticism.com/en/>). Two, in fact, were accepted with scholarships, out of the total of 15 given for this event worldwide! Having offered notable—dare I say, epic?—performances at the podium in the past two conferences, our Greek students have built a name for our program better than any advertising would, and I am confident this year's group (shepherded/tortured into shipshape preparedness by yours truly, who will also be presenting) will once more make us proud! The Conference is organized by [Acis, Research Group of Myth Criticism](#); [Amaltea, Journal of Myth Criticism](#); [Asteria, International Association of Myth Criticism](#) and [Aglaya, Research Project](#), and is considered one of the most prestigious of its kind, so congratulations to **Eva Gkilntirim** (a member of HELAAS), **Sapfo Katopodi**, **Angela Roubani**, **Katerina Siapatori**, **Ceyda Temurok**, and **Alexandros Tsiachtanis**!

Just last month **dr. Kyriakos Kouveliotis** was appointed as the new Provost of the Berlin School of Business and Innovation in Germany (<https://berlinsbi.com>).

Ms. Theodora “Dori” Mantzari has just been accepted as a Ph.D. Candidate in the Department of English Literature and Culture of the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, with an intended thesis on the application of Thing Theory in the theatre of Sarah Ruhl.



The—apparently inexhaustible!—**Dr. Chrysavgi Papagianni** has received the annual award by Zayed University for exceeding expectations in research, teaching and service. She has also received a grant (Research Incentive Fund) for a project entitled “The Memory of Things in Contemporary American Film and Fiction”. Her abstract “Travelling Objects and African American Cultural Memory in Julie Dash’s *Daughters of the Dust*,” was accepted by the 31st American Literature Association (ALA) Conference, San Diego CA, May 21-24, 2020. She was also part of a roundtable, “Literature and Creative Writing Classes as Tools for Success for ESL/EFL Students” in the College of Education Conference at Zayed University in March 2020. Her latest article, *Cine-things and the Revival of the Emirati Past in Nojoom Alghanem’s Cinemascope*” is in press by Brill while her article, “Reorienting the Gaze. Emirati Women Behind the Camera,” has been accepted for publication in an edited volume entitled *Reorienting from the Gulf: Film and Visual Media beyond Area Studies* by Indiana UP.

Dr. Tatiani Rapatzikou (Associate Professor, School of English, ATh) won the Eccles Centre Visiting Fellowship awarded by the Eccles Centre for American Studies at the British Library, UK, for her research in experimental print fiction. She also co-edited with Ludmila Martanovschi (Ovidius University, Romania) for EAAS the essay collection with the title *Ethnicity and Gender Debates: Cross-Readings of American Literature and Culture in the New Millennium* (Peter Lang, 2020). She is currently the director of the Lab of Digital Humanities “Psifis” of Faculty of Philosophy, ATh.

Best wishes to **Ms. Virginia Tsikopoulou**, who has been accepted as a Ph.D. Candidate in the Department of American Literature and Culture of the School of English, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (ATh).

Dr. Eleftheria Tsirakoglou (Ph.D. in American Literature, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki) has had her article titled “Murder in Arcadia: Ecology and Mary Robert Rinehart’s Detective Fiction” included in the collection *Ecothinking Across the Disciplines: Transnational Interconnections of Nature Studies and the Environmental Humanities*, edited by Sophia Emmanouilidou and SezginToska (Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2020).

Congratulations to all!



THE YOUNG SCHOLARS' REPORT: SYMPOSIUM GOING DIGITAL!

2ND YOUNG SCHOLAR SYMPOSIUM: "CONFLICT AND NEGOTIATION IN AMERICAN CULTURE(S)"

Dear Conference Participants,

Although there are some signs that the health crisis due to the COVID-19 pandemic is now under better control than it was three months ago, we cannot be sure that it will have abated by September to allow us to enjoy a safe, live 2nd HELAAS YS Symposium in Thessaloniki. However, we would not miss the chance to meet, even in a technologically mediated way, and have the opportunity to present our ongoing research projects, exchange feedback, and build new bridges of communication and collaboration.

Therefore, after long considerations, the HELAAS Board and the Organizing Team of the symposium decided to **turn the symposium into a digital event** but preserve its initial character. The Symposium is going to use the Zoom digital platform, which is supported the IT mainframe of Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, to offer a digital symposium that will combine synchronous and asynchronous material. Some of that material (e.g., shots from the theatrical performance) will carry over from the interim event we held in Thessaloniki on March 7-8, 2020, right before quarantine measures were enforced.

All participants will be given the opportunity to upload their prerecorded talks/presentations on a special digital space created for that purpose using Zoom before the date of the symposium. Then, on **Saturday, September 19, 2020**, we will use the asynchronous material as the basis for a structured, synchronous discussion, again via Zoom.

More details about the program, technical specifics, and instructions will be provided shortly. Please consult our site at: <http://helaas.enl.auth.gr/yss2/>.

Warm regards,
The Organizing Team



HELAAS ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES AND INITIATIVES

CALL FOR INDEPENDENT PAPER SUBMISSIONS and SPECIAL ISSUE PROPOSALS

EX-CENTRIC NARRATIVES: JOURNAL OF ANGLOPHONE LITERATURE, CULTURE AND MEDIA

We look forward to receiving your independent paper submissions and special issue proposals for **Ex-Centric Narratives: Journal of Anglophone Literature, Culture and Media**.

The Hellenic Association for American Studies (HELAAS) in cooperation with the Department of American Literature and Culture of the School of English at the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (AUTH) and the Department of English Language and Literature at the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Greece, is coordinating the publication of the electronic multi/interdisciplinary, open access refereed, and peer/blind reviewed journal with the title *Ex-centric Narratives: Journal of Anglophone Literature, Culture and Media* (ExNa).

The journal addresses academics, scholars, and PhD candidates engaging in the interdisciplinary study of Anglophone literatures, cultures, and media and is published once a year with Part I being a guest-edited special themed issue and Part II hosting independent paper submission. All published papers in both parts bear a DOI number.

For information about the journal and former issues, please click here: <http://ejournals.lib.auth.gr/ExCentric/index>

For guidelines with regard to paper submissions, please click here:

<http://ejournals.lib.auth.gr/ExCentric/about/submissions#onlineSubmissions>

For inquiries regarding your special issue proposals, please email: trapatz@enl.auth.gr; tsimpouki@enl.uoa.gr; smatie.yemenedzi@gmail.com

DEADLINE FOR SPECIAL ISSUE PROPOSALS: August 23rd, 2020



PLEASE SUBMIT PROVISIONAL TITLE, EDITOR NAMES. ABSTRACT (350 words) to the GENERAL EDITORS

Dr. Tatiani Rapatzikou (trapatz@enl.auth.gr; Associate Professor, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki)

Dr. Theodora Tsimpouki (tsimpouki@enl.uoa.gr; Professor, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens)

Dr. Smatie Yemenedzi-Malathouni (smatie.yemenedzi@gmail.com; Associate Professor, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki)

The Department of English Language and Literature, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens in collaboration with the Hellenic Association of American Studies (HELAAS) invites you to participate in the international conference:

AFTER POSTMODERNISM: AMERICAN STUDIES IN THE 21ST CENTURY

December 17-19, 2020

There is a shared sense among a large majority of historians, philosophers, critics and artists that we are now living in a new global moment: our contemporary era may or may not have started with the fall of the Berlin Wall, in 1989; may or may not have established itself in the wake of the 9/11 attacks; but it is painfully clear that, in the new millennium, a new debate on the "post-postmodern" has opened up. If the Jamesonian taxonomy no longer has the same explanatory power, what is the new dominant cultural logic of post-postmodernism? If, to quote Jameson again, postmodernism was a "radical break or coupure" with modernism, which is post-postmodernism's cultural imaginary, its strategies and features? However early it may be to describe the nature of post-postmodernism, we can discern three loosely bounded interpenetrating strands: some scholars recognize a heightened degree of intensity and mutation of tendencies and techniques already present in postmodernism, others see a renewed engagement with history and a return to realism. Still, there are those thinkers who have observed a decisive break with the postmodern period and have struggled to mark its contours in the new socioeconomic order, a notable feature of which is the shift or questioning of the paradigm of the American global hegemony. Nevertheless, complicating the study of the cultural shifts that are underway in our current condition is the abundance of terms and tendencies that proclaim to be postmodernism's successors.



The conference “After post-modernism: American Studies in the 21st century” takes as a point of departure the words of Ben Lerner’s narrator, that “the world [is] rearranging itself” (10.04) and invites both panels and papers that address fresh and original questions relevant to studying the post-postmodern condition. It seeks to investigate questions about changing literary patterns, innovative/shifting cultural practices, and new trends that have risen in the first two decades of the twenty-first century or, to put it simply, what comes after postmodernism.

Conference Organizers:

Professor Dora Tsimpouki (tsimpouki@enl.uoa.gr), Department of English Language and Literature, The National and Kapodistrian University of Athens

Assistant Professor Kostas Blatanis (kblatanis@enl.uoa.gr), Department of English Language and Literature, NKUA

Adjunct Professor Angeliki Tseti (angeliki.tseti@gmail.com), Department of English Language and Literature, NKUA



CALLS FOR PAPERS AND OTHER OPPORTUNITIES FOR SCHOLARLY FUN

CALL FOR PAPERS: HEIDELBERG CENTER FOR AMERICAN STUDIES 18TH ANNUAL *SPRING ACADEMY CONFERENCE* Heidelberg, Germany, 22–26 March, 2021

The eighteenth **HCA Spring Academy on American Culture, Economics, Geography, History, Literature, Politics, and Religion** will be held from March 22-26, 2021. The Heidelberg Center for American Studies (HCA) invites applications for this annual one-week conference that provides twenty international Ph.D. students with the opportunity to present and discuss their Ph.D. projects.

The HCA Spring Academy invites participants to work closely with experts in their respective fields of study and offers workshops held by visiting scholars. We encourage applications that pursue an interdisciplinary approach and range broadly across the arts, humanities, and social sciences. Papers can be presented on any subject relating to the study of the United States of America. Possible topics include American identity, issues of ethnicity, gender, transatlantic relations, U.S. domestic and foreign policy, economics, as well as various aspects of American history, literature, religion, geography, law, musicology, and culture. Proposals should include a preliminary title and run to no more than 300 words. Participants are requested to prepare a 20-minute presentation of their research project, which will be followed by a 40-minute discussion. The presentations will be arranged into ten panel groups.

In addition to cross-disciplinary and international discussions during the panel sessions, the Spring Academy aims at creating a pleasant collegial atmosphere for further scholarly exchange and contact.

Accommodation will be provided by the Heidelberg Center for American Studies.

Thanks to a small travel fund, the Spring Academy is able to subsidize travel expenses for participants registered and residing in soft-currency countries. Scholarship applicants will need to document the necessity for financial aid and explain how they plan to cover any potentially remaining expenses. In addition, a letter of recommendation from their doctoral advisor is required.

START OF APPLICATION PROCESS: August 15, 2020



DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS: November 15, 2020

SELECTIONS WILL BE MADE BY: January 2021

PLEASE USE OUR ONLINE APPLICATION SYSTEM: www.hca-springacademy.de

MORE INFORMATION: www.hca.uni-heidelberg.de

FOR FURTHER QUESTIONS: contact Dr. Ida Bahmann, ibahmann@hca.uni-heidelberg.de

Organizers: Ida Bahmann, Jennifer Klotz and Emma Wolf

HCA Forum || HCA Spring Academy

Heidelberg Center for American Studies

Curt und Heidemarie Engelhorn Palais

Hauptstraße 120

69117 Heidelberg, GERMANY

SCHOOL OF PHILOSOPHY

NATIONAL AND KAPODISTRIAN UNIVERSITY OF ATHENS

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE:

“Through the Pen of Others: Nineteenth-Century Views of Revolutionary Greece”

8-11 DECEMBER 2021



Leonardo Gavagnin (Venezia 1809-1887), *Episodio delle lotte per l'indipendenza della Grecia dall'Impero Ottomano*

Revolutionary Greece embodied humanist values for many foreigners throughout the 19th century, a time in which the ideals of independence, freedom, self-determination and solidarity were gaining ground in Europe. From the destruction of Souli in Epirus and the 1821 Revolution, to the Cretan Revolt and the 1897 Greco-Turkish war, the Greek struggle inspired many foreign writers, artists, musicians and playwrights, and influenced popular and material culture, as well as fashion. The European and international press recorded and analysed the dramatic events, profiled the protagonists and shaped the perception of the Greek national cause, even as political opinion may have been sceptical or at times hostile.

Greece became the place where imagination and politics met, a dreamlike and often contradictory land of revolution that defined the pen of others and their views of the central issues of the nineteenth century, such as freedom and bondage, revolution and colonialism, Empire and the Orient. The consolidation of the classical ideal, together with the movements of Romanticism and Philhellenism, shaped the image of revolutionary Greece as guarantor of its own and Europe's enlightened past, which in turn clashed with its present reality.



This conference aims to expand both our knowledge of the reception of revolutionary Greece in the nineteenth century and the ways in which it contributed to the formation of a national “character” and political and cultural stereotypes that may still be at play two centuries later.

Topics may include the following:

1. Literature: the impact of the revolution and the founding of the Greek state

Greece in revolt is a prevalent theme in nineteenth-century European and world literatures (poetry, drama, fiction), both in the texts of important poets and authors and in the widely read contemporary popular literature. Such texts include works of fiction as well as life writing: the memoirs and correspondence of the Philhellenes, who participated in the independence struggle, and travel writing. This axis seeks to examine literary reflections of Greece in national literatures as well as comparative analyses.

2. Academic discourse

The Greek affair quickly became an academic pursuit. Historians and scholars from many disciplines, especially philologists and folklorists, studied the modern culture of Greece, sometimes using the examination of folk songs, customs and habits, costumes and language to support the Greek cause. This axis aims to explore debates in academic Philhellenism focusing on their ideological tenets.

3. The international press

Greece was regularly present in the European and international press through political articles written for or against the Greek struggle, information on the developments in Greece and connection to European affairs. This axis wishes to examine the variety of opinions expressed in sources such as nineteenth-century newspapers and magazines which placed revolutionary Greece in the international political context.

4. Music and the visual and performing arts

The Greek cause was an inspiration to arts other than literature. This axis seeks to explore nineteenth-century musical and visual works inspired by Greek battles or “heroes and heroines” of the Revolution as well as those representing Greece as a



newly formed state. It will also consider intermedial approaches and engage in a comparative dialogue that will highlight analogies between literature and the visual and/or performative arts.

5. Material culture

This axis aims to examine the production of everyday objects decorated in Philhellenic patterns (clocks, ornaments, porcelain, caskets, fans, medals, etc.) and the focus on Greek costumes that influenced European fashion.

6. “Heroes and Heroines”: Gendered identities— women’s writing

This axis will explore women’s writing focusing on the theme of revolutionary Greece and will contextualise the literary representations of “heroes and heroines” in the light of gender theory.

7. New literary myths about Greece and its Other

Philhellenic literature has mythologized several revolutionary figures (Markos Botsaris, Konstantinos Kanaris, Souliotissa) and heroic places (Missolonghi, Souli, Chios). Inspired by historical events and occasionally linked to ancient Greece, such figures and places come across as abstract and transhistorical, bearing mythical qualities. This axis will invite reflection on the creation of new Philhellenic myths that was accompanied by the stereotyping of the enemy and the construction of a negative mythology of the Other.

8. The formation of national identities

This axis examines the formation of Greek national identity within the historical context of the nineteenth century and its representation in literature, academic discourse and the press. It also seeks to investigate the relevant Philhellenic discourse which often includes the Philhellenes’ own political demands during and in the wake of the Greek affair.

Submission deadline: 31 December 2020. A title, an abstract of no more than 300 words and a short biographical note should be sent to: 200etielladaFLSekpa@phil.uoa.gr

Paper duration: 20 mins.

Proposal acceptance: 28 February 2021.

Contact: 200etielladaFLSekpa@phil.uoa.gr



Conference webpage: <https://conferences.uoa.gr/e/ellada200flsekpa>

Publication instructions: Sent upon proposal acceptance.

Fees: 60 euro for speakers & 10 euro for students (certificate of attendance and full conference dossier included).

Working language: Greek.

Languages for submissions: Greek, English, French, German, Italian, Spanish, Russian.

The conference will take place from **8 to 11 December 2021** at the central building of the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens (30 Panepistimiou Street).

The Scientific Committee

Chair: Achilleas Chaldaeakes (Dean of the School of Philosophy, Department of Music Studies)

Vice-Chair: Ioannis Dim. Tsolkas (Department of Italian Language & Literature)

Members: Efterpi Mitsi (Department of English Language & Literature)

Despina Provata (Department of French Language & Literature)

Anastasia Antonopoulou (Department of German Language & Literature)

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Spyridon Mavridis (Department of Spanish Language & Literature)

Nikolaos Maliaras (Department of Music Studies)

Evanthia Stivanaki (Department of Theatre Studies)

Olga Alexandropoulou (Department of Russian Language & Literature and Slavic Studies)



HELAAS LISTSERV

The HELAAS List-serv consists of an electronic mail discussion list and a related network site on the World Wide Web. Please use this list for the discussion of virtually anything pertaining to the broad range of American Studies.

Messages to be circulating in this List-serv will concern news about: teaching and research projects, works in process, announcements of conferences, jobs, grants, fellowships, internet resources, book reviews, syllabi exchanges etc. Also, you are invited to use this List-serv as an e-forum where you could post questions/queries or host debates over academic issues relating to American Studies.

An archive of all previously posted messages on the List-serv will be kept. All messages will be sorted by date or subject (eg. Women studies, cultural studies, teaching of American literature, etc).

Given that the HELAAS List-serv will be a semi-public e-forum, the list's editors, managers, advisory board and the association itself bear no responsibility for messages forwarded to people outside the list without the initial contributor's prior consent.

We hope that you find this List-serv service useful and constructive.

For any comments or suggestions, please contact Dr. Katerina Delikonstantinidou (d.e.katia@hotmail.com).



HELAAS SUBSCRIPTIONS

Memberships for 2020 are now open for renewal or joining in! Help us give American Studies in Greece a stronger voice!

The fee amounts to **15 Euros** per annum for students or **20 Euros** per annum for regular members. If you are a student, please verify your status by sending us a photocopy of your student ID (fax: 2310-997432 or email: dfeleki@enl.auth.gr). You may also contact our Treasurer for any further inquiries.

Your HELAAS membership fee entitles you to:

- renew your subscription to EAAS
- apply for the EAAS grants (as advertised at www.eaas.eu)
- participate in all EAAS conferences
- advertise your American Studies publications at the EAAS Book Reviews section

Your membership fee also:

- helps HELAAS cover its organizational expenses (Newsletter, webpage support)
- enables HELAAS to organize events (symposia and conferences)
- supports HELAAS publications
- enables you to participate in HELAAS elections
- enables you to participate in all HELAAS conferences with a reduced fee

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We would also like to inform you that it is possible to download the membership form posted on the HELAAS web site:

http://www.enl.auth.gr/HELAAS/registration_form_HELAAS.doc

AN IMAGE, A CADENCE...

Summertime

Summertime
And the livin' is easy
Fish are jumpin'
And the cotton is high.

Oh, your daddy's rich
And your ma is good lookin'
So hush, little baby
Don't you cry.

One of these mornings
You're going to rise up singing
Then you'll spread your wings
And you'll take the sky
But 'til that morning
There's a'nothing can harm you
With daddy and mammy
standing by.



DuBose Heyward, aria for George Gershwin's opera *Porgy and Bess* (1935)