



<http://helaas.enl.auth.gr/>

**The Newsletter**  
**of the Hellenic Association for American Studies (HELAAS)**  
**Spring-Summer 2019**

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## EDITORIAL

Dear HELAAS Members and Friends,

On behalf of the members of the board I'd like to wish you all a pleasant and relaxing summer break! We are very happy to share with you some news regarding the activities of our Association in the past few months.

Let me start by pointing out the enormous success our 5<sup>th</sup> Summer School which took place at the Aristotle University from June 28 to July 4, 2019. You will find in this issue of the newsletter a more detailed account about the thematic concerns and the participants in the conference. Kudos to our worthy colleagues (and HELAAS members), professors Zoe Detsi and Tatiani Rapatzikou, for organizing this event this year as well—we look forward to the announcement of your next Summer School theme!

We are delighted to report that the new HELAAS Young Scholar Representative is Katerina Delikonstantinidou, who shares with us her thoughts and ambitions about her new post, and invites us to contribute to the successful organization of the 2<sup>nd</sup> HELAAS YS Symposium.

Important to note also is that two members of HELAAS are opening up two networks in the effort to promote contact and collaboration among scholars with similar academic interests. One concerns issues of LGBTIQ+ interest and can be found at <https://www.eaas.eu/eaas-networks/650-lgbtq-network>, while the other concerns Digital Studies and can be accessed at <https://www.eaas.eu/eaas-networks/643-eaas-digital-studies-network>. Please take the time to explore, network, connect, and contribute!



Finally, we are very excited to announce a number of significant conferences, special events, and symposia scheduled to take place in the next academic year. Please note down important dates and news. We look forward to seeing you in any one of these events.

All the endeavors above shed light on the successful development of our Association. We look forward to staying in touch with you, as well as sharing your insights, suggestions and ideas, so as to work together for the growth of our Association and materialization of its forthcoming exciting events.

Happy summer!

**Theodora Tsimpouki**

**President of the HELAAS Board**



## THE HELAAS ASSEMBLY GENERAL

Dear HELAAS members

The HELAAS Assembly General for this year was held on **Tuesday, February 12, 2019, from 3:00-5:00pm**, with attendance from both our Athens and our Thessaloniki chapters. It was a vigorous discussion, in which the following major topics were presented and investigated:

- a. Our Treasurer, Dr. Feleki, notified us of all the motions necessary for the smooth transition of our financial management to the new Board. We are happy to inform you that thanks to her efforts, this has been concluded smoothly.
- b. Our President, Dr. Tsimpouki, and our VP, Dr. Rapatzikou, put forth a number of initiatives for the coming year, including a number of conferences and seminars, some of which have been since implemented (Aristotle University, English Department Summer School) or are on their way of being implemented (more on that on the relevant sections that follow).
- c. A standing issue is our HELAAS membership, whose numbers could use some augmentation. Measures for alerting potential members and activating dormant ones were discussed—and subsequently implemented. Also, it was proposed that a honorary membership would be conferred on Professors Yiorgos Kalogeras and Savvas Patsalidis for their lifelong contribution to the Association and matters of American Studies in general.

In view of the impending end of Dr. Feleki's tenure as Young Scholar Representative, measures were implemented for the advertising of the position for hopeful young scholars. Since then we are happy to inform you that a new Young Scholar Representative for HELAAS has been found in the worthy person of Dr. Katerina Delikonstantinidou ([d.e.katia@hotmail.com](mailto:d.e.katia@hotmail.com)).



## MEMBERS' CORNER

Coolness is a sought-after quality in the heat of the summer, so here's to those HELAAS members for their cool achievements!

Professor **Kyriakos Kouveliotis**, apart from his post as the Chair of Hellenic Studies at Uninettuno University in Rome, is now also Programmes and Partnership Director at the Berlin School of Business and Innovation. From November 2019, Prof. Kouveliotis will also be the Rector of a new University in Cologne, Germany. Greeks abroad rock on!

Dr. **Despoina Feleki** participated successfully in the 3rd Biennial EAAS Women's Network Symposium: "Feminism and Technoscience" with the paper "Intertwining Feminist Narratives: Political Writing and Speech in Networked Spaces." Dr. Feleki has also received a Fulbright Educational Grant in order to participate in the Salzburg Global Seminar American Studies Association with the theme: "The Changing Role of the Media in American Life and Culture: Emerging Trends" between September 20-24 2019.

One of our newest members, Dr. **Glikeria Selimi**, is taking part in the ESSE Doctoral Symposium at the Institute of English Studies at the University of Wrocław (Poland) on 27 and 28 August 2019. Information on the Symposium, which covers multiple areas in Linguistics, Literature and Culture, can be found at <http://www.ifa.uni.wroc.pl/nauka/esse-doctoral-symposium/?lang=pl>

Newly-minted Dr. **Constantine Chatzipapathodoridis** presented a paper titled "Staging a Riot: Theatrical Perspectives of Stonewall 1969" at the 64th BAAS Annual Conference at the University of Sussex, which took place in **25-27 April 2019**. Then he went on to



defend his PhD thesis, titled “Strut, Sing, Slay: Diva Camp Praxis and Queer Audiences in the Arena Tour Spectacle”—and he “slew it,” earning a unanimous Summa Cum Laude!

In October 2018, Dr. **Anna Fyta** presented part of her research work at the International Conference “Secrecy and Community in Contemporary Narrative in English” held by the University of Granada, Spain. Her paper titled “H.D. and the Secrets of *The Gift*” explores the author’s palimpsestic memoir against the backdrop of WWII. In December 2018, as speaker at the First HELAAS Young Scholars Symposium “Exploring Trends and New Directions in American Studies” held at Deree College, Athens, Dr. Fyta offered the paper “Sketches of Greek Lyric Poetry: Statues, Ruins and Idyllic Landscapes. H.D., Euripides and the Myth of Hippolytus.” In February 2019, her chapter “Translation as *Mythopoesis*: H.D.’s *Helen in Egypt* as Meta-Palinode” was published in the volume, *The Classics in Modernist Translation*, edited by Miranda Hickman and Lynn Kozak (Bloomsbury Academic). Finally, in April 2019, Dr. Fyta offered the seminar and workshop with the title “Double Lunar Dogs, or Using Written and Visual Texts in the Classroom to Investigate Time, Space and Human Memory” as part of *Educate the Educators*, a series of seminars organized and hosted by HAEF, Athens College. Sounds like a very well-invested academic year!

**Congratulations to all!**



## **THE HELAAS--ARISTOTLE UNIVERSITY SUMMER SCHOOL 2019 : REPORT CARD**

### **Exploring Conflict, Sharing a Future in a World in Transition**

The Department of American Literature, School of English, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece, in collaboration with the Hellenic Association for American Studies (HELAAS) and the Fulbright Foundation in Greece, successfully organized its **5th Summer School** which took place on the School of English premises (Faculty of Philosophy, New Building, 3rd Floor) from **June 28 to July 4, 2019**.

Twenty-five participants (from Greece, Turkey, Ukraine, U.S.) attended the lectures and workshops of the Summer School which covered three main thematic sections:

**June 28<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup>, 2019**

**Healing through Nature and Traditional Folk Medicine**

Sofia Emmanouilidou

**July 1<sup>st</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup>, 2019**

**The World as Hospital/The Stage as Hospital**

Penelope Chatzidimitriou



**July 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2019**

**Mind/Body Fitness: Navigating Health and Wellness in Mainstream North American Culture**

Sarah Hentges

For six intensive days, the summer school participants were exposed to the exploration of physical and psychological wellbeing through an interdisciplinary and multicultural approach to questions of health, fitness and activism, environmentalism, sickness, trauma, and healing within the context of American Studies with emphasis placed on ecopsychology, *curanderismo* (folk healing medicine), biomedicine/bioethics and drama practice, feminist fitness, mind/body wellness, self-care and community healing. The diverse professional and academic background of the participants (undergraduates, MA holders, Ph.D. candidates, educators, professionals, senior high school students) in conjunction with the practical and stimulating presentations and workshops played a major role in the creation of an energizing, thought-provoking, and spiritually stimulating environment.

Special thanks from the Summer School coordinators, Tatiani Rapatzikou and Zoe Detsi, go to the instructors (Sophia Emmanouilidou, Special Teaching Fellow from School of English and Fulbright Alumna; Penelope Chatzidimitriou, Ars Moriendi theater group director, dramaturge and set designer; Fulbright Scholar Sarah Hentges from the Intercountry Lecturing program 2018-19) for all the effort and energy they put into the preparation of all the teaching sessions. We would also like to thank our volunteer, Stavroula Vergopoulou, and summer school facebook coordinators, Despoina Feleki, Vassilis Delioglanis and Stavroula Vergopoulou for their help in the effective support and promotion of our special summer school event.





Please check the **Summer School website**:

<http://www.enl.auth.gr/summerschool/2019-amlit/index.html>

Please check the **Summer School AUTH Facebook page**:

<https://www.facebook.com/pg/summerschoolAUTH/posts/>

Please check the bios of our **Summer School instructors**:

<http://www.enl.auth.gr/summerschool/2019-amlit/instructors.html>

*Participants receive their certificates*





## **HELAAS YOUNG SCHOLARS: PASSING THE TORCH**

Serving as the first HELAAS Young Scholar Representative, I would like to share my enthusiasm for this role. These four years I have gained invaluable experience and knowledge. I have had the chance to converse with many of our HELAAS Members and share our thoughts and ideas regarding the profile of our Association within the broader European network of young scholars.

In the past two years, we have worked towards strengthening the bonds and bridges among all of us. In December 2018, I, in close collaboration with Katerina Delikonstantinidou (PhD, AUTH) and Eleftheria Tsirakoglou (PhD, AUTH) organized the 1st HELAAS Young Scholar Symposium, entitled “Exploring Trends and New Directions in American Studies,” which created the avenue to young scholars of not only the Greek but also other European associations to share their original research projects within our vibrant young scholar community.

The EAAS PGR and Early Career Lead Martin R. Halliwell (PhD, University of Leicester) honored us with his presence as a special guest at the Symposium. What is more, the President of European Association for American Studies, Philip McGowan (PhD, Queen's University Belfast) connected with us via Skype. They both shared ideas and initiatives that would promote the academic profile as well as job and publication prospects of both Greek and European Young Scholars. With the valuable collaboration of another HELAAS Member Konstantinos Karatzas (PhD, NKUA), we also managed to connect with the Young Scholar Representatives of other European Associations (Irish and Italian) and we hope we will continue in this direction.

It is reassuring to know that Katerina Delikonstantinidou is our new elected Young Scholar Representative for the term 2019-2023, as she has already been pursuing the aims of our Association, offering her voluntary work and passion. I am certain that



Katerina will stay in close contact with all the members of our Association and continue directing fresh ideas and initiatives in our direction. For a taste of what is to come with her at the helm, please read below.

Until we meet again!

**Despoina Feleki**

Dear HELAAS members,

It is with true delight that I recently received news of my election as HELAAS's new Young Scholar Representative. The honor is great, and I am looking forward to proving my commitment to the association's mission and to its diverse body of young scholars in the years to come.

I will do my best to continue and further build on the excellent work of the former HELAAS Young Scholar Representative, Despoina Feleki (PhD, AUTh), whose efforts for the creation of bonds and bridges among all of us have been inspiring, and whose guidance and advice through all past Young Scholar endeavors have been invaluable. It is my hope that, with the support of Despoina and the other members of the HELAAS Board, we can strengthen these bonds, extend and multiply our bridges, and diversify the association's young scholar community.

To this purpose, I would like to extend **three invitations**. Here's the first: to a Young Scholar meeting/reunion. The crowning achievement of HELAAS's young scholar community so far has been its 1st HELAAS Young Scholar Symposium, "Exploring



Trends and New Directions in American Studies.” The successful event marked the beginning of—what we hope will be—a series of annual symposia that will take place alternately in Athens and in Thessaloniki. The idea for the symposium, as some of you may recall, was conceived over cool cups of coffee, at the heart of summer, a few years ago. Since that first meeting ended up so productive, I suggest that we repeat it. I suspect that all of you juggle various obligations and want to take some time off in the weeks to come, so what about scheduling our meeting for the end of August or early September? We could gather somewhere nice, exchange our news, re-connect in many senses, and discuss new possibilities for collaboration, endeavors, initiatives, and any innovative ideas you may have for our community and its workings.

The second: to the organizing committee for the next symposium. The experience of contributing to the organization of the 1st HELAAS Young Scholar Symposium was a revelation for me and tantamount to a series of intensive seminars in event and project management (not to mention a bright addition to the CV). Plus, working with Despoina and Eleftheria was truly rewarding (and an honor, if I may add). The Board had our back through it all and that made everything smoother. Personally, I can’t wait to get on board once again! Any of you young scholars interested in joining the organization committee of the 2nd HELAAS Young Scholar Symposium to be held in Thessaloniki (probably) around March, please, contact me by email declaring so and don’t forget to attach your updated CV. After consulting with the Board, I will let the successful candidates know that they’re in and take it from there.

The third: to share your ideas about the topic of the 2nd HELAAS YS Symposium. Whether you are interested in becoming a symposium co-organizer or not, I welcome and would honestly appreciate your ideas about the thematic focus of the forthcoming symposium. Think broad and think deep, and, most importantly, think outside the box!

Bring your knowledge and experience to bear on our event, you do have plenty—it is our event after all and should be about what appeals to us, what concerns us, what horizons we see open ahead, what challenges we would like to call people’s attention to,



what our research and scholarship is or will be about, and, of course, how we can share all of this with the EAAS's network of young scholars—and beyond. I would love to discuss your ideas via any means available.

I have a feeling that this is the beginning of something great! I am looking forward to receiving your responses and to our collaboration!

Warm regards,

**Katerina Delikonstantinidou**



## HELAAS ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES AND INITIATIVES

### 1. CALL FOR ABSTRACT PROPOSALS - EX-CENTRIC NARRATIVES: JOURNAL OF ANGLOPHONE LITERATURE, CULTURE AND MEDIA (Ex-Na) <https://ejournals.lib.auth.gr/ExCentric>

**Special Issue:** "Popular Culture in a New Media Age: Trends and Transitions"

Dear Colleagues:

The Hellenic Association for American Studies (HELAAS) in cooperation with the Department of American Literature and Culture of the School of English of Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (AUTh), is launching the fourth issue of the electronic multi/interdisciplinary open access, refereed journal with the title *Ex-centric Narratives: Journal of Anglophone Literature, Culture and Media (Ex-Na)*. The journal addresses academics, scholars and graduate students engaging in the interdisciplinary study of Anglophone literatures, cultures and media and is published once a year.

Journal Chief Editors:

Dr. Tatiani Rapatzikou (Associate Professor, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki)

Dr. Smatie Yemenedzi-Malathouni (Associate Professor, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki)

Dr. Theodora Tsimpouki (Professor, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens)



Call for Abstracts - Special Issue

**"Popular Culture in a New Media Age: Trends and Transitions"**

Issue Guest Editors:

Dr. Despoina N. Feleki, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece ([dfeleki@enl.auth.gr](mailto:dfeleki@enl.auth.gr))

Dr. Otilia Cusa, Ovidius University, Constanta, Romania ([otilia.cusa@gmail.com](mailto:otilia.cusa@gmail.com))

If it doesn't spread, it's dead: this is the new modus operandi of the emerging media landscape that allows for media content to circulate from top down to bottom up, from grassroots to commercial, as argued by Henry Jenkins et al. (2013). Conversely, Cory Doctorow's "think like a dandelion" metaphor suggests a radically novel interaction between writers and readers, media producers and consumers.

Practically, these new media artifacts are like dandelions spreading in the air, not at all contagiously, but rather consciously and autonomously. By continuously shifting our attention from user-generated material to user-circulated content, we are shaping a more accurate idea of what popular culture stands for today.

What is more, the affordances of new media revisit well-established tenets of language socialization research as socialization through the use of language (the acquisition of proper use of language to acquire social competence) and socialization to use language (language as a medium or tool in the socialization process) within popular cultural production and, in particular, in the case of digital fandoms. The rise of popular culture studies and the inclusion of popular courses in universities and school curricula testify to the need for further investigation into the changing faces of the 21st century popular culture.





This special issue aims to participate in a dialogue regarding new trends and transitions in popular culture studies and answers the need for repositioning the issue. We welcome papers on popular works intended for the big screen, TV, and/or other printed or digital editions. Some of the questions raised can address, but are not limited to, the following:

- How do new media textualities inform visualizations, representations, and narratives in present-day mass-mediated popular culture?
- Can the popularity of new media content be put down only to increased visibility of media and social networking sites?
- How can visual and linguistic modes of meaning forge social bonds between viewers and characters in the digital fan communities?
- How are popular products reconfiguring Western Culture?
- Are other markets (Asian) making it into the American and European market (and vice versa)?

Contributors can also investigate how latest authorial, editorial, and reading practices of popular production are readjusted both in print and in new media environments.

Possible topics could include among others:

- Comics and graphic novels
- Superhero movies and the formation of identity: What is the future of the superhero narrative?
- Superheroes and science fiction
- Pedagogical approaches to teaching popular content (graphic novels, comics, webcomics, videogames)





- Adapting graphic novels for the big screen
- Horror stories: Do they continue to rise in popularity?
- Linguistic mapping of digital fandom and fandom
- Socialization through language and/or technology in online fan communities
- Youth language use in fandom and online communities
- Gender and language play in online fandom forums
- Popular Gothic in art and fiction
- Film adaptations and cultural influences
- TV programmes, reality shows, spectatorship
- Televisual fan research: fans, anti-fans, non-fans
- Videogames: An art form or just another medium?
- More than gaming: Videogames and their storytelling potential
- Produced by/producing for the industry. How is the industry adjusting/ informing the popular product in a globalized world?
- Transmedia storytelling
- Pop art reception: Consumer consciousness
- Fan fiction: Investigations into fan practices
- Comics studies and film studies
- Indie markets and their role
- Images of America in pop culture



All abstracts must be received by the **deadline of Friday September 6, 2019**.

The length of the abstract should be between 150-180 words.

Your abstract submission should include:

- title
- author(s)
- author contact information
- affiliated institution
- keywords (4-5)

Please send your emails to: Dr. Despoina Feleki ([dfeleki@enl.auth.gr](mailto:dfeleki@enl.auth.gr)) and Dr. Otilia Cusa ([otilia.cusa@gmail.com](mailto:otilia.cusa@gmail.com))



## 2. CALL FOR PAPERS: 2020 EAAS CONFERENCE

### 20/20 Vision: Citizenship, Space, Renewal

2020 EAAS Conference — Warsaw, May 1–3, 2020

**We encourage all HELAAS members who can and are interested to send abstracts—this is a big event, with a very topical theme!**

#### About

EAAS 2020 Conference coincides with the 400th anniversary of the establishment of the Plymouth Plantation. Falling on the quadricentennial, EAAS 2020 invites broader contemplations of American history, politics, and culture. The conference seeks to underscore questions of optics, distance, and acuity. The concept of “20/20 vision,” an optical term denoting “normal” visual clarity and sharpness of sight, invites a reflection on historical distance, focal points, visibility and invisibility of socio-historical, cultural, and literary aspects of American citizenship, space, and renewal until today.

#### Citizenship

The first thematic scope of “20/20 Vision” is citizenship. We thus welcome papers targeting the idea of citizenship from various historical, political, ethical, and aesthetic perspectives, and addressing questions about the archaic, residual or emergent forms, styles and norms of being a citizen. Papers and pre-formed panels may focus on the following problem points:

- the evolution or devolution of the idea of a democratic citizen in American politics



- legal fiction, the citizen, and citizenship in history and literature
- the problems of citizenship and agency in the days of the early Republic
- the relation between citizenship and economy
- citizenship and mobility
- citizenship and migration
- citizenship and slavery
- citizenship and disability
- citizenship and the changing idea of freedom
- citizenship and community
- civil rights
- limits of responsibility
- limits of engagement

### Space

The second theme “20/20 Vision” addresses is space, a general umbrella term for the issues related to the environment:

- land exploration and exploitation in the US
- American history of land property
- US borderland issues
- US problem of natural resources



- climate change and the US policy
- climate change and the American landscape
- pollution and toxic waste
- ecological disasters
- space exploration

The theme of space also relates issues connected with spatiality on <sup>[[1]]</sup><sub>SEP</sub> a different dimension such as the issues of

- private vs public space
- social media and internet space
- architecture, mortgage problem
- rural vs. urban space
- utopias in American history, politics and literature
- dystopias in American history, politics and literature
- American heterotopias

### Renewal

The last focus area of “20/20 Vision” is perhaps the broadest of the three: the idea of renewal. While strongly related to the issues of citizenship and space, where it may also serve as a reflective angle, the theme of renewal on its own relates to a strong appeal in the American culture of the discourse of rebirth, reawakening, and revolution. Long before “make it new” became the slogan of the



modernist artists on both sides of the Atlantic, making things new and resetting the parameters had always been part of the American life ethos. We welcome individual papers as well as pre-formed panels.

### Submissions

We welcome abstracts and proposals in a range of formats, including individual papers; complete three-paper sessions (do note that <sup>[1]</sup><sub>[SEP]</sub> a proposed session cannot feature scholars from the same institution and the same country); roundtables; and workshops. Individual paper abstracts should be no longer than 350 words (excluding bibliography, if you choose to have one). Session proposals must include a short description of the session as well as the title and abstracts of all three papers.

**Deadline for abstracts:** November 30, 2019

**Acceptance notifications:** December 15, 2019

### Contact us

Mail: [eaas.warsaw@gmail.com](mailto:eaas.warsaw@gmail.com)

The EAAS 2020 Conference CFP is available at: <http://eaas2020.eu/>



3. **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.

**Possible topics** could cover

- The post-nationalist turn in American Studies
- American Literature and the posthuman turn
- Aspects of autofiction in contemporary art, literature and popular culture
- New literacies and American fiction
- New Media literacy and authorial practices
- Post-exceptionalist American fiction
- Deterritorialization and American migrant literature
- American literature and Ecoglobalist presences
- Post theory and the ‘novelizations’ of literary theory
- Writership/readership in the post-postmodern





Please send 300-word abstracts to Dr. Dora Tsimpouki ([tsimpouki@enl.uoa.gr](mailto:tsimpouki@enl.uoa.gr)), along with a short (150-word) biographical note

Deadline for abstracts: **January 31, 2020.**



## **CALLS FOR PAPERS AND OTHER OPPORTUNITIES FOR SCHOLARLY FUN**

**LAST CHANCE! CALL FOR PAPERS**

### **MYTH AND ART REVISITED**

**December 18-19, 2019**

**Historical Central Building**

**of the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Greece**

**(30 Panepistimiou Avenue)**



The power of myth in art lies not in their literal truth but what they say about us, how they give our life meaning and restore our sense of identity (Andrew Neuendorf, *Contemporary Mythology*, 2013)

This international two-day conference hosted by the Department of English Language and Literature, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, seeks to explore from a comparativist and interdisciplinary perspective the relationship between classical myth and art as a “revisiting,” or rereading, by other means, of the mythical narratives provided to us by traditional scholarship from a later framework. Such a framework encompasses a wide spectrum, from classical artistic revisitings of myth to contemporary reworkings, reappropriations, and contestations of mythical tropes and figures; from Aeschylus’ transformation of the trickster Prometheus into a



figure of sagacious rebelliousness in drama to the appearance of classical divinities in early Christian frescos, to Shakespeare's demystification of the heroic warrior allure in *Troilus and Cressida*, to Lessing's extrapolations on plastic art in *Laokoon*, to the cultural ramifications of Goya's "Saturn Devouring His Son" or Dalí's "Metamorphosis of Narcissus", to the nationalist claim for a mythologized Alexander the Great in the Balkan peninsula. Papers are invited on topics related, but not limited, to:

- Myth as a topic in art
- Art and the artist as mythical subjects
- The myth of the artist-creator
- Myth-criticism in art
- The artefact as myth and as bearer of myth
- Classical myths, newer myths and artistic identity
- The representation of myth and visual arts
- Authorship, spectatorship and subjectivity in myth and art
- Race, myth and art
- Gender, myth and art
- Monumental recontextualization of myth
- False idols: the impossibility of depiction/the ineluctability of self-depiction
- Theorizing the relationship of transference and interbreeding between myth and art



- Pedagogical uses of art in the teaching of the classics

**Confirmed Keynote speakers:**

Professor Judith Barringer, Department of Classics, the University of Edinburgh

Professor Mary Koutsoudaki, Department of English Language and Literature, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens

Applicants are invited to submit a 300-word abstract, accompanied by a 50-word biographical note, **by July 31<sup>st</sup>** to both [cdokou@enl.uoa.gr](mailto:cdokou@enl.uoa.gr) and [ymarkidou@enl.uoa.gr](mailto:ymarkidou@enl.uoa.gr). You will be notified of a **decision by mid-September**.

There will be no registration fee for this conference.

**Organizers:** Christina Dokou, Assistant Professor of American Literature and Culture and Vassiliki Markidou, Assistant Professor of English Literature and Culture



American Comparative Literature Association

Dear Friends of the ACLA,

Our next conference will be held **March 19th-22nd, 2020** at the Sheraton Grand Chicago in Chicago, Illinois. We are pleased to announce that our seminar submission portal is now open. To submit a seminar proposal, please go to <https://www.acla.org/node/add/seminar> and log in to your [acla.org](https://www.acla.org) account (for newcomers, please take a moment to create an account). Seminar submissions are due by **9:00am Eastern on Saturday, August 31st, 2019**. We hope to see many of you in Chicago next year!

Sincerely,

Jini Kim Watson

Secretary-Treasurer, ACLA





**Twelfth Biennial MESEA Conference**

**May 27-30, 2020**

**University of Central Lancashire,**

**Cyprus Campus**

**Pyla, Larnaka, Cyprus**

**Communities of Engagement:**

**Contesting Borders, Barriers and Walls in the Era of Climate Crisis**

On November 9, 1989, the East Berlin's Communist Party announced that citizens of the GDR were free to cross the country's borders, leading to speculations of a "world without borders." Yet, as Elisabeth Vallet argues, a renewed emphasis on wall-building since this epoch-marking event has become a "global phenomenon."<sup>1</sup> As this trend is gaining new momentum with the recent electoral victories of nationalist populists across Europe, in Israel and in Trump's United States, borders are fortified and walls built to "protect" polities or to keep out refugees and migrants. We contend that these walls, borders and barriers are not only physical but also ontological and, as BREXIT shows us, ideological borders can be just as debilitating to liberal values and ideas. The 2020 MESEA conference will enable the discussion of the power of nationalist ideas that promote such borders and the ways through which activists and artists work to challenge, combat or break them down, often using utopian ideas of post-nationalism or transnationalism. As Johan Schimanski and Stephen F. Wolfe note, "Bordering is ordering, othering and negotiating difference"; however, apart from producing



“*B/ORDERING* processes of *EXCLUSION* and inclusion,” borders can “surface as aesthetic *FIGURATIONS* – narratives or tropes – which can also interrogate their including/excluding function.”<sup>2</sup>

In addition to geopolitical and ideological contexts, the significance of borders is emphasized in the era of the climate crisis. In global terms, climate change also literally alters the physical geography of borders, undermining vulnerable communities worldwide as well as creating schisms between political and economic groups, as climate change deniers disregard, condone or even actively promote and facilitate the continued exploitation of the earth’s natural resources. The malleability of such borders, the threat to them from denier ideology and the vulnerability of those living in these liminal spaces will also be key themes in the conference. The contestation of ideological as well as natural borders, walls and barriers will also be a central focus of this meeting.

Notes:

1 Elisabeth Vallet, ed. *Borders, Fences and Walls: State of Insecurity?* Routledge, 2014, 1-2.

2 Johan Schimanski and Stephen F. Wolfe, eds. ‘Intersections: A Conclusion in the Form of a Glossary.’ In *Border Aesthetics: Concepts and Intersections*. Berghahn, 2017, 149.

For the twelfth MESEA conference we welcome papers that look at the ways in which literature, film, and other art forms as well as social and political activism critically engage with climate change and (shifting) physical borders, and/or virtual, social, political, and cultural ones. The conference welcomes intersectional approaches to its topic, including but not limited to perspectives that include race, gender, ethnicity, class and sexuality. Environmental Humanities perspectives are especially welcome to shed light on the gathering catastrophe that these border-strains presage. Held in Cyprus, within the liminal UN Buffer Zone that divides the island, this



conference will provide a forum for discussions on the global climate crisis, the effect of borders on competing ideas of nation and religious belief, as well as the ways in which artists and activists work around these difficult issues. We welcome papers that revel in the fact that borders can be significant nodal points for the exchange of new ideas as well as papers discussing the representation of borders, barriers and walls, in literature, film, and other cultural and artistic expressions or in legal, economic, and social situations. This conference operates as a platform for critical and cultural interventions in the variety of debates around contesting walls, borders and barriers from postgraduate students, academics, artists and activists across all disciplines in the arts and humanities, social sciences and science.

Potential paper and panel submissions can but are not limited to work around the following topics:

- Climate change and movements of people and borders
- Raising borders and denying climate and social change
- Trump's Wall and refugees/migrants
- Israel's wall and border conflicts
- Graffiti on walls
- Refugee and migration comics
- Art and Activism in the borderlands
- Native and Artistic responses to and interventions in (potential) cross-border ecological disasters like the Keystone Pipeline
- Horror and Science Fiction as response to Liminal zones/borderlands
- Class, Race, and Gender and their intersections in the borderlands





- The Paradox of Peace Walls/Lines erected to preserve peace by dividing communities
- Communities of engagement and peace-building at borderlands
- Generational protests: youth activism
- Walls of the past, artworks of the present
- Cross-national activist networks
- Performing protest

Proposals should be submitted to our website at <http://mesea.org/> between **August 20 and November 15, 2019**. Submitters will receive notification of acceptance by January 6, 2020.

Preference will be given to complete panel proposals with an inter/transdisciplinary and/or transnational focus. Panels may not include more than 2 participants from the same institution. Presenters must be members of MESEA or MELUS in 2020-21.

As in previous years, MESEA will award at least one **Young Scholars Excellence Award**.

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For more information please visit: <http://mesea.org/>

## News from the MLA



**Join us!** We see you're not a current MLA member. **Join** or **renew** today to get all the **benefits of membership!**

**MLA News Digest**

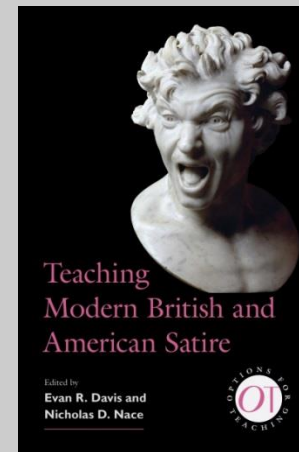
18 July 2019



### **MLA Course Development Grants**

The MLA offers \$3,000 course development grants to support faculty members in developing an innovative or interdisciplinary course or educational program aimed at engaging students in the humanities. Applicants must meet eligibility requirements and submit an application by 5 September. **[Become a member](#)** and **[apply for the grant](#)**!

### **Publication Spotlight**



### **New Volume on British and American Satire**

**Explore** the latest approaches to teaching current and historical satire in this new MLA



### **Free Online Research Course for Your Students**

Teaching literature or writing this fall? Then **check out** the *MLA Bibliography*'s free online course on how to use databases to do research. Students can earn badges for each section they complete as well as a course-completion badge.



### **Help Students Write Better Essays**

How can you prepare your students to write at the college level? In an *MLA Style Center* post, an expert writing instructor shares strategies that high school and college teachers can use to **help students develop** their research and writing skills.

**What Is the *MLA Action Network*?**



The *MLA Action Network* offers stories and tools to help you advocate for the humanities and higher education. **Learn about** resources for contingent faculty members and more!

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#### **Call for Papers: Two New MLA Volumes**

**Share your experience** teaching "lost and found" texts in rhetoric and composition or teaching the Mexican Revolution by proposing an essay for an MLA volume in development.

#### **Events**

**23–25 July:** MLA  
International Symposium,  
Lisbon

**31 July–2 Aug.:** Intl.  
Conference on Romanticism,  
Manchester

**29 Aug.–1 Sept.:** 2019  
Annual Study Tour: Coventry  
and Warwickshire, UK

#### **Calls**

**CfP:** College Art Association  
Annual Conference, [due 23  
July](#)



**CfP:** Conf. on human aspects of urban space, [due 23 Aug.](#)

**CfP:** Conference on Eilís Dillon, [due 31 Aug.](#)

**CfP:** African Studies and Research Forum conference, [due 1 Sept.](#)

**CfP:** Journal issue on migration in the German-speaking world, [due 1 Sept.](#)

**CfP:** New College Conf. on Medieval and Renaissance Studies, [due 15 Sept.](#)

**CfP:** European Architectural History Network conf., [due 20 Sept.](#)

**CfP:** Midwest Victorian Studies Association conference, [due 30 Sept.](#)

**CfP:** NeMLA 2020 convention, [due 30 Sept.](#)



## Resources



*The MLA Style*  
*Center*



*Humanities*  
*Commons*



*Profession*



*MLA Grants*  
*and Awards*



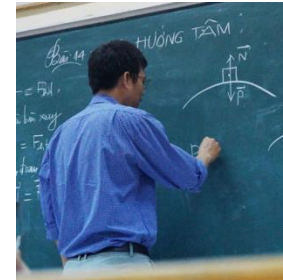
## News and Opinion



### Why Memorize Poetry?



### The Humanities Matter



### Faculty Members, Stay in the Fight

**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](mailto:d.e.katia@hotmail.com)).**



## HELAAS SUBSCRIPTIONS

**Memberships for 2019 have been finalized, but you are welcome to consider renewing, registering, or inviting a fellow scholar to register for 2020.**

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: [depfeleki@hotmail.com](mailto:depfeleki@hotmail.com)). 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](http://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

Please note our bank account details for the HELAAS subscription fee:

PIRAEUS BANK, Account Number: 5272-056406-113

BIC: PIRBGRAA

IBAN: GR28 0172 2720 0052 7205 6406 113

**PLEASE NOTE YOUR NAME WHEN YOU MAKE YOUR BANK DEPOSIT OR DO EMAIL/FAX YOUR DEPOSIT SLIP TO THE TREASURER.**

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](http://www.enl.auth.gr/HELAAS/registration_form_HELAAS.doc)

**AN IMAGE, A CADENCE...**



**Norman Rockwell, "Going and Coming," 1947**



## **Skunk Hour**

*For Elizabeth Bishop*

Nautilus Island's hermit  
heiress still lives through winter in her Spartan cottage;  
her sheep still graze above the sea.  
Her son's a bishop. Her farmer  
is first selectman in our village,  
she's in her dotage.

Thirsting for  
the hierarchic privacy  
of Queen Victoria's century,  
she buys up all  
the eyesores facing her shore,  
and lets them fall.

The season's ill—  
we've lost our summer millionaire,



who seemed to leap from an L. L. Bean  
catalogue. His nine-knot yawl  
was auctioned off to lobstermen.  
A red fox stain covers Blue Hill.

And now our fairy  
decorator brightens his shop for fall,  
his fishnet's filled with orange cork,  
orange, his cobbler's bench and awl,  
there is no money in his work,  
he'd rather marry.

One dark night,  
my Tudor Ford climbed the hill's skull,  
I watched for love-cars. Lights turned down,  
they lay together, hull to hull,  
where the graveyard shelves on the town. . . .  
My mind's not right.



A car radio bleats,  
'Love, O careless Love . . . ' I hear  
my ill-spirit sob in each blood cell,  
as if my hand were at its throat . . .  
I myself am hell;  
nobody's here—

only skunks, that search  
in the moonlight for a bite to eat.  
They march on their soles up Main Street:  
white stripes, moonstruck eyes' red fire  
under the chalk-dry and spar spire  
of the Trinitarian Church.

I stand on top  
of our back steps and breathe the rich air—  
a mother skunk with her column of kittens swills the garbage pail  
She jabs her wedge-head in a cup  
of sour cream, drops her ostrich tail,  
and will not scare.

**Robert Lowell (1958)**