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**The Newsletter
of the Hellenic Association for American Studies (HELAAS)
Fall-Winter 2022**

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EDITORIAL: HELAAS IN INTERESTING TIMES

Dear HELAAS members and friends,

On behalf of all members of the Board we would like to wish you once more a Happy, Healthy, Prosperous and Creative New Year! After four years on the Board of HELAAS, the time has come for some of us to cede our place. As it is the tradition, we all try to provide an account of the challenges we faced and the achievements we have attained, and I propose to do the same. The last four years have been hard but very interesting – for so many reasons, and for so many of people. Between the corona virus lockdowns, the Russian invasion of Ukraine, the global economic downturn and the current effects of climate change, we definitely live in challenging times.

With its emphasis on culture and against all odds, HELAAS has always sought to create opportunities to build connections and strengthen the bonds between our members. And 2022 was no different!

First and foremost, in 2022, HELAAS in collaboration with the Fulbright Foundation has inaugurated an annual online lecture series. Emily Van Duyne (Associate Professor, Stockton University, US; Fulbright Scholar, School of English AUTH) was the guest speaker of the Women's Month online event titled: "They waited like sweethearts': Domestic Violence and Sylvia Plath." This event was followed by an online panel discussion succeeding an exclusive virtual film screening of Christine Jeff's *SYLVIA*. We are looking forward in eager anticipation to this year's guest speaker and ensuing events.

In addition, in 2022, the Board has decided to inaugurate the annual Young Scholar Excellence Award. The award is monetary and the awarded young scholar can use it for purchasing research resources or a ticket for traveling to a needed resource center, or for covering the EAAS conference fee. The HELAAS Board is planning to be offering the award on an annual basis.

The YS Award initiative was prompted by the great many accomplishments of our active and ever creative young scholars. Under the lead of Aikaterini Delikonstantinidou, who served as the YS representative between 2019 and 2023, the 3rd HELAAS Young Scholar Symposium took place, entitled "Sharing Critical Testimonies of Wellness in Times of Crisis." Moreover, a new YS HELAAS



initiative was introduced in May 2022: a podcast of the interview between Ms Stavroula (Stave) Vergopoulou, translation editor of the book *Οι αρχές και η άσκηση της αφηγηματικής ιατρικής* (PhD Candidate, School of English, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki), and Dr. Aikaterini Delikonstantinidou, our YS Representative. Dr. Delikonstantinidou also offered a teaching scenario on the hot topic of Human Rights in the context of American Studies. It consists of a 1st voice-over PowerPoint presentation as part of the American Studies Resource Portal (ASRP, <http://www.asrp.gr/>). We hope that under the Representative to be elected soon, our Young Scholars will continue their excellent work in strengthening the communication of its junior members with other postgraduate communities in Europe.

Finally, we are happy to announce the publication of the sixth issue of our association's blind peer-reviewed online *Ex-Centric Narratives: Journal of Anglophone Literature, Culture and Media*. Following the journal's two-fold structure, the 6th issue of *ExNa* comprised of a special issue titled "The Cultural Politics of American Relief Efforts in Greece" co-edited by Dr. David Roessel, Stockton University, US and Dr. Zoe Detsi, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece and 3 independent contributions, belonging to the second part.

All the endeavors above shed light on the successful development of our Association, and these are only a few highlights. There are many more initiatives and synergies that have been organized in these last four years, as you will see in the pages that follow. Meanwhile, we look forward to future events and actions, such as the Past-Postmodernism conference (happening at last!), the next Young Scholars' Symposium in 2023, and the next issue of *ExNa*, already in the works.

We warmly thank you for all your trust you put in us, your manifold contributions to, and news of accolades shared with, our HELAAS community, and the honor of having worked with you. May you all have a fulfilling new academic year!

Theodora Tsimpouki, President of the HELAAS Board



THE HELAAS SPECIAL PRE-ELECTIVE ACCOUNTING ASSEMBLY GENERAL!

To all HELAAS members:

Please be reminded that our upcoming Assembly General, which has moved to **Saturday, January 14, 2023, at 5:00pm (Athens time)**, is of particular importance, as it will be **the last Assembly under the current Board**, and not only will there be a concluding review and accounting for all our activities since 2019, but there will also be **elections for the members of the Elections Committee** to be held by the end of January! So please join us at <https://authgr.zoom.us/j/96068274664> (Meeting ID: 960 6827 4664)!

Agenda:

1. Activities review and account for 2019-2022
2. Financial review for 2019-2022
3. Report of the Financial Accounting Review Committee for 2019-2022
4. 2023 Budget
5. Elections for the members of the Elections Committee who will manage the upcoming Board and FARC elections
6. Announcements
7. HELAAS Young Scholars News 2023: the next Young Scholars' Symposium
8. HELAAS Young Scholars' Excellence Award 2023

Please be reminded that only members who have settled their dues for 2022 will be able to participate in our Assembly General and submit their candidacy for election.

Hope to see you all there!—The HELAAS Board members



MEMBERS' CORNER

Ever active, ever original, our members continue to do us proud with their achievements. Here's a sampler:

Eirini Bouraki, who is at the moment putting her finishing touches on her MA thesis, became a participant in the CIVIS Transitive Modernities summer school in Stockholm, Sweden, where the hot excitement of scholarly exchanges made up for the colder-than-expected weather. She also participated with an online paper presentation in the IAAS postgraduate conference in November 2022, took part in a course on environmental health in Aegina, and is currently pursuing a certification in project management while completing a seminar on group dynamics. Oh, the wonderful energy of the young and smart!

Dr. Vinia Dakari, our resident Narrative Medicine expert, is about to become more of an expert, as she is currently pursuing a Certification of Professional Achievement (CPA) in Narrative Medicine from the School of Professional Studies, Columbia University, NY. Since the onset of the pandemic, she has been facilitating live virtual group Narrative Medicine sessions in Greek in collaboration with Columbia University's Program in Narrative Medicine. She also participated in the Hellenic Cancer Society's "Professional Education Program in Clinical Psycho-Oncology" (2021-22) for mental health professionals and nurses working with oncology patients, funded by the Hellenic Ministry of Health in collaboration with the P. Sakellariopoulos Society of Social Psychiatry. The section she taught was titled: "Interventions promoting connection and expression: Narrative Medicine". As if that weren't brilliant already, she additionally delivered the inaugural talk in the Medical Humanities Colloquy, a seminar series initiated by the Humanities and Social Sciences, Indian Institute of Technology Gandhinagar, with the title "Illness and Medicine in Theatre: Aesthetic, Disciplinary, and (Inter)Personal Crossings" on Aug 13, 2022.

Yours truly delivered her first keynote conference paper in October 2022, during the annual International Conference on Myth Criticism at Complutense University in beautiful Madrid, combining myth theorizing with Bruno Latour (who had passed away 18 days earlier).



The talk has remained memorable only because Judith Butler delivered a speech two hours later in the building across the yard. Now, as head of the Incredible team of students who shone at the Hull conference of the British Association for American Studies last June, is preparing the group's even better return with a conference panel on Queer Gothic and Narrative Medicine! Wish us luck!

Dr. Tatiani Rapatzikou offered not one, but two speeches during the Fall of 2022. The first (invited speaker) was in September 2022 as part of the “Media Literacy and Critical Thinking in the Digital Age International Conference” (23-24.9.2022) organized by the Communities: Media Literature in Practice project in Greece and Bulgaria with the title of “Participatory Learning - Digital Literacy - Digitality in the Classroom.” The second (Keynote) was in October 2022 as part of the “Interculturalia #5 international conference” (14-15.10.2022) organized by the University of Iași, Romania, under the title of “Experimenting with Materials: Print and Digital Synergies.” Kudos in stereo are in order!

Here's to even more and greater achievements in 2023!



THE YOUNG SCHOLARS: REPORT CARD

THE HELAAS YOUNG SCHOLARS' EXCELLENCE AWARD 2022

This January, our Assembly General will be special for another reason: along with news of the upcoming YS Symposium for 2023, we will be happy to announce the winner of the first-ever HELAAS Young Scholars' Award, as established during our previous year's deliberations. The award is offered to PhD candidates or recent PhD holders who do not hold formal academic positions, for academic and scholarly excellence in their field of research. Our Board had a hard time evaluating the four bids that were submitted, as each was brilliant in its own way, but we have finally arrived at a decision and we can't wait to share it with the rest of our members—so please, be there on January 14 to cheer a young hopeful colleague on their way to scholarly greatness!

For more information on the HELAAS YS, please contact:

Dr. Aikaterini Delikonstantinidou, Young Scholar Representative (aikaterini@enl.auth.gr)



HELAAS ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES AND INITIATIVES

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

Right before the year's end, we got the happy news that issue No 6 of *Ex-Centric Narratives: Journal of Anglophone Literature, Culture and Media* had been published online, under the general title "The Cultural Politics of American Relief Efforts in Greece & Other Essays." **Take it from yours truly, folks, this is a collector's item for Greek history buffs and not only!** In PART I of the issue, the two guest editors – Dr. Zoe Detsi (AUPH) and Dr. David Roessel (Stockton University) – explore the theme of "The Cultural Politics of American Relief Efforts in Greece" from a number of perspectives investigated in the essays submitted by David Roessel (Stockton U), Konstantinos Diogos (AUPH), Shilo Virginia Previti (U of North Dakota), Christina Dokou (National and Kapodistrian University of Athens), Gonda Van Steen (King's College London) and Zafiris Nikitas (AUPH). The themes touch upon: American philanthropic endeavors at the time of the Greek War of Independence, the actions of the American Red Cross and American YMCA in Greece during 1918-1920, William Jourdan Rapp's personal papers from the years of his YMCA service in the Mediterranean with emphasis on Camp Perry, autobiographical narratives on US soft power in Northern Greece after WWII, the American social worker Charles Maxton Schermerhorn's memoir and the American food aid in Northern Greece just after WWII, the Ford Foundation grants to Greek theater artists during the dictatorship (1967-1974), and the Cold War US aid to Greece and the Greek-born adoptees. The special issue is also supplemented by the book review written by Smatie Yemenedzi-Malathouni (AUPH) on Mark Mazower's book titled *The Greek Revolution: 1821 and the Making of Modern Europe* (2021).

In Part II of the issue, the independent essay contributions by Evangelos Magkoutas (National and Kapodistrian University of Athens), George Vasilikaris (AUPH) and Stavroula (Stave) Vergopoulou (AUPH) offer their own insights into American Literature and Culture with attention on exceptionalism and the urban frontier, videogames and grief, pseudo-wellness and gender in the translation of commercials.



For the publication of the *ExNa* 2022 issue, the *ExNa* Editorial Team (Dr. Tatiani Rapatzikou, AUTH; Dr. Theodora Tsimpouki, NKUA; Dr. Smatie Yemenedzi-Malathouni, AUTH) is also indebted to the work provided by its team of copyeditors, proofreaders and cover designers (PART I: Chrysovalantis Kampragkos, AUTH; Shilo Virginia Previti, U of North Dakota/ Part II: Vasilis Delioglanis, NKUA; Anna Diamantouli, Deree/ Cover typesetting: Tasos Paschalis, AUTH; Cover Ink sketch creator: Eva Leaverton, Stockton U). Special thanks go to Efi Emmanouilidou (Librarian, online Journal publications, Prothiki at AUTH Library and Information Centre) for taking care of all the final publication details.

The full issue can be accessed at: <https://ejournals.lib.auth.gr/ExCentric/issue/view/1129/showToc>

INFORMATION ABOUT THE FORTHCOMING EXNA ISSUE 7, 2023:

The dust has not settled yet on the flurry of editorial activity that gave us the above excellent volume, yet *ExNa* is already gearing for the next special issue, which is going to focus on the exploration of *Trajectories from the Past: Modernist Futures and the Future of Modernism*, under the guest editorship of Dr. Sara Dunton and Dr. Anna Fyta.

Possible topics the issue will explore are:

- Defamiliarizations of space and modernist articulations of the future
- Modernism and Periodization: still a legitimate connection?
- Modernist feminisms and cross-temporal, cross-cultural trends
- High modernism and restorative biographies
- Intersectionality in print and digital modernism: prospects
- Black modernism: film and aesthetics
- Modernist journals and periodicals: mapping the digital future
- Queer ecologies and modernist utopias



- Anthropocene modernism: conceptions of nature
- Cryptic modernism and clairvoyance: visualizations in past and future
- Liberalism and totalitarianism: radicalizing hegemonical narratives
- Temporality and the modernist divide/rupture between open and closed poetics

For any inquiries, please email: Dr. Sara Dunton (sara.dunton@unb.ca) and Dr. Anna Fyta (annafyta@gmail.com).

PAST POSTMODERNISM: AMERICAN STUDIES IN THE 21ST CENTURY



ONE-DAY-CONFERENCE

organized by

The Department of English Language and Literature, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens
in collaboration with **the Hellenic Association for American Studies (HELAAS)**

March 17, 2023



This one-day-conference hails the forthcoming publication of the volume titled “Past Postmodernism: American Studies in the 21st century” (Palgrave Macmillan 2023).

Taking as a point of departure the words of Ben Lerner’s narrator, that “the world [is] rearranging itself” (*10.04*), it aims to address fresh and original questions relevant to studying the post-postmodern condition. It carefully attends to the 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; and yet, it is indeed 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, what is post-postmodernism’s cultural imaginary, its strategies and features? 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. Last but not least, while this is by all means an ongoing debate, there seems to be a consensual effort among our participants to generate through their interventions a level of awareness for the spirit of our own age to emerge, as Hegel would have it.

The conference will follow the roundtable format and its two main sessions will be initiated by 10-minute interventions by each speaker.

Organizing committee:

Dr. Theodora Tsimpouki, Professor, Faculty of English Language and Literature,
National and Kapodistrian University of Athens

Dr. Konstantinos Blatanis, Assistant Professor, Faculty of English Language and Literature,
National and Kapodistrian University of Athens

Dr. Angeliki Tseti, Independent scholar

For more information, please contact **Professor Dora Tsimpouki** at tsimpouki@enl.uoa.gr.



CALLS FOR PAPERS AND OTHER OPPORTUNITIES FOR SCHOLARLY FUN

CFP: COLLECTIVE VOLUME CFP - DEADLINE EXTENSION:

“Digital Games and/as Theatre: Retooling Entertainment, Art, Learning”

EXTENDED Abstract submission deadline: 28 February 2023

The histories of gaming and theatre figure rich connections dating to the early-modern period. According to Gina Bloom’s *Gaming the Stage* (2018), theatre was established in the entertainment market, in the first place, largely due to the similar experiences of attending a play and playing a game. Moreover, the position that games can be approached and studied as theatrical media and theatre “as an interactive gaming technology” is being supported by ludologist and game studies scholars such as Johan Huizinga in his seminal work *Homo Ludens* (1938) and Sara Lynne Bowman in *The Functions of Role-Playing Games* (2010).

Both gameplay and theatreplay have taken a decisive digital turn in the past decades. However, the advent of the digital revolution shifted the terrains of gaming more radically than those of theatre. It certainly affected the theatre as art, craft, industry, and the sweep of applied theatre, and it also gave rise to forms of theatre native or adapted to the digital environment that now fall under the rubric of “digital theatre.” Still, generally speaking, the basics of theatre (especially mainstream theatre), namely its aesthetics, politics, and ethics, have not so far undergone any radical transformation owing to the integration of digital technology into the theatre praxis.

The case is different with games. Digital games’ prevalence over analog games in the last decades, and the proliferation of the former, have had a deep impact on the design, production, distribution, and reception of games as loci of sociality and socializing, as well as on their uses beyond the entertainment industry, in education, and in the intersection of games and the arts (Quandt and Kröger 2014; Dillon 2020). Digital gaming signals a dramatic change in the ontology and epistemology of gaming: what games are, what they do, and how we make meaning out of/with them. Ubiquitous and technologically forward-facing, digital gaming is not simply an intrinsic part of convergent media culture in contemporary societies, as game scholars Johannes Fromme and Alexander Unger have argued



(2012); rather, it has emerged as one of the major actors therein. This could partially explain why contemporary theatre has turned to digital gaming in search of tools and to engage new audiences.

While the mutual feed between games and theatre was already there, it may be that the unique qualities of the digital (flexibility, mutability, openness, generativity, etc.) favored a more pronounced interrelation between digital games and theatre in recent years, in theory and practice. Additionally, the dawn of the performance studies paradigm has also fortified the said interrelation an expansive understanding of performance and an interdisciplinary multiplicity of entry points for performance analysis. Importantly, the connection between theatre and gaming is present in the very founding of the field of performance studies. Seminal texts that essentially instituted the field of performance studies clearly establish that connection at least as potentiality.

But in the nascent field of game studies too, as Clara Fernández Vara has showed, “[d]ramatic models have been repeatedly invoked to study virtual environments ... in game design, [and] to refer to different strategies to create uncertainty and tension in gameplay.” The way performance is currently defined corresponds to what people experience when engaged in digital gameplay. Fernández Vara has expounded on this issue in a 2009 article that delivers a theatre-based performance framework for understanding digital games, and Massively Multiplayer Online Role-Playing Games in particular (MMORPGs for short), as software and as gameplay. Without equating theatrical performance and digital gaming, the scholar renders our grasp of both and of their relationship with more nuance. This is also the approach that the present volume adopts.

Among other things, this volume seeks to probe into the question of why there are good reasons for theatre to be chosen as one of the basic reference models to study digital games (including MMORPGs). More generally, it sets about to explore affinities and intersections between theatre—analogue, digital, or mixed—and digital games of various kinds, as well as the benefits that the theatre-digital games alliance entails for both sides of the hyphen, and for the social domains of entertainment, art, and learning in which both are involved and which both affect.

We are looking for papers which are theoretically informed and well-grounded in relevant research, irrespective of whether the said research falls within the field of game studies, theatre studies, cultural studies, popular culture studies, etc. We welcome papers that engage with both theatre and digital games and are written in a compelling and accessible prose.



The length of each paper should not exceed 6,000 words, including bibliography. Authors should follow the format and citation style of MLA guide, 9th edition. All submissions will undergo peer review.

Topics may include (but are not limited to):

- Connections between theatre and games from the past to the present
- Digital games as theatrical media
- Theatrical performances in digital gameplay
- Theatre as a reference model to study MMORPGs
- Theatre as gaming technology
- The tools of digital gaming in contemporary theatre
- Digital (or mixed mode) theatre and digital games
- Digital gaming and gameplay in applied theatre contexts
- Actual and potential benefits of the theatre-digital games alliance
- The implications of the theatre-digital games alliance for the entertainment industry
- The implications of the theatre-digital games alliance for the realm of the arts
- The implications of the theatre-digital games alliance for education
- Digitally enriched Live Action Role-Playing Games (LARPs)
- The theatrical dimension of serious play tuned to the digital mode

Timeline

Please send a **well-developed abstract of 300–500 words** and a **biographical note of 150–200 words** to Dr. Aikaterini Delikonstantinidou (aikaterini@enl.auth.gr) and Dr. Dimitra Nikolaidou (d.nicolaidou@gmail.com). The abstract should state clearly the author's thesis, outline the author's theoretical framework, briefly describe the research method and/or design, and identify the aims of the work. Your proposal should also include 3–5 keywords and selected bibliography.



New Submission Deadline: Formal invitation to contribute to the volume by **February 28, 2022.**

Deadline for the submission of the book chapter, **May 31, 2023.**

Projected date of publication and publisher: **TBA.**

**CALLS FOR PAPERS POSTED BY THE AMERICAN COMPARATIVE LITERATURE ASSOCIATION
AND THE MODERN LANGUAGE ASSOCIATION**

To learn more about each call, and to submit your proposal, please click on the links.

- **Papers:** Conference on orienting the self in the past, present, and future, [due 29 Jan.](#)
- **Essays:** Volume on care ethics and disability theory, [due 31 Jan.](#)
- **Submissions:** *SANE Journal* issue on comics studies, [due 1 Feb.](#)

[View more opportunities on MLA's Profession](#)



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. Aikaterini Delikonstantinidou (d.e.katia@hotmail.com).



HELAAS SUBSCRIPTIONS

Memberships for 2023 are 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...

White-Eyes

In winter
all the singing is in
the tops of the trees
where the wind-bird

with its white eyes
shoves and pushes
among the branches.
Like any of us

he wants to go to sleep,
but he's restless—
he has an idea,
and slowly it unfolds

from under his beating wings
as long as he stays awake.
But his big, round music, after all,
Is too breathy to last.

So, it's over.

In the pine-crown
he makes his nest,
he's done all he can.

I don't know the name of this bird,
I only imagine his glittering beak
tucked in a white wing
while the clouds—

which he has summoned
from the north—
which he has taught
to be mild, and silent—

thicken, and begin to fall
into the world below
like stars, of the feathers
of some unimaginable bird

that loves us,
that is asleep now, and silent—
that has turned itself
into snow.

Mary Oliver, *Poetry* (2002)

