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Welcome to the third electronic *Bulletin* of the MGSA. This Bulletin takes the form of a short newsletter, which the MGSA has decided to distribute via electronic means. Further information about the MGSA's goals, activities, programs, and faculty can be found on the association's [website](#).

If you are not already a member, please consider supporting the MGSA with your membership dues and/or a voluntary contribution. You can register online. We thank you for your support.

### Membership

### Support

## MGSA Greek Language Pedagogy Workshop

The 7th biennial Greek Language Pedagogy Workshop will be held at Brown University on November 4-5, 2016. Elsa Amanatidou will be serving as local host, and the MGSA's Undergraduate Studies Committee will be coordinating a one-and-a-half-day program. This year's workshop will focus on the development of foreign language literacy and the articulation of a unified literacy-driven curriculum. Rick Kern, Professor and Director of the UC Berkeley Language Center and author of *Language, Literacy, and Technology* (Cambridge UP, 2015), will offer the keynote address on Friday afternoon, November 4, to be followed by a group dinner.

The purpose of the 2016 Greek Language Pedagogy Workshop, which is co-sponsored by the Brown Modern Greek Program and the Center for Language Studies, is to explore current research and perspectives on foreign-language literacies, including digital literacies, within the framework of humanistic learning. The workshop will also be offering examples and recommendations for best classroom practices, with a focus on Modern Greek language instruction at the tertiary level in North America and study abroad programs in Greece and Cyprus.

Why literacy? "Foreign language literacy" is a relatively new term that aims to bridge the gap between communicative language skills acquired at basic levels of language ability and the more interpretative and critical skills and interactions with discourse usually associated with the study of literature at a higher level of language proficiency.

### Symposium 25

The MGSA's 25th biennial Symposium will be held at Stockton University, located near Atlantic City in Galloway, New Jersey, on November 2-5, 2017 (Th. pm through Su. am). David Roessel, Professor of Greek, and Tom Papademetriou, Professor of History and Director of the [Pappas Center for Hellenic Studies](#) at Stockton University, will host the event and co-chair the Local Arrangements Committee. The Program Committee will be posting its call for papers in early summer of 2016 (with anticipated deadlines of January 2017).

The closest major airport to Galloway, NJ, is Philadelphia airport. The Local Arrangements Committee will be providing a shuttle bus service from PHL airport to the historic [Stockton Seaview Hotel](#), where the symposium will take place and where the LAC has held rooms at very reasonable rates (\$109/night).

For more information and regular updates, please visit the MGSA website, where a webpage will be dedicated to the Fall 2017 Symposium. Please save the dates of November 2-5, 2017, and join us for another symposium of the highest academic standards.

Literacy has become the driving force of curricular configurations in many language programs, stressing the importance of foreign-language education in the humanistic intellectual endeavor and educational mission of universities and colleges across the US. Foreign-language literacy identifies the learning outcomes of studying a foreign language in terms of language proficiency, mastery of content, and development of cognitive abilities. It expands the notion of competence, traditionally conceived as communicative and functional proficiency, to include familiarity, interpretation, and reflection on fields of knowledge and cultural narratives that appear in a variety of contexts and modalities. A literacy-oriented foreign-language curriculum cultivates students' ability to understand, critically interpret and use language, while also engaging conventions that make meaning possible in different genres and forms of expression, whether text-based or media-based. Such socially-oriented practices in the modern foreign-language classroom align with revised definitions of literacy that consider the sociocultural contexts of language use, which nowadays unfolds in digital landscapes and reaches far beyond written materials.

The MGSA Greek Language Pedagogy Workshop is a biennial event offering a working weekend on college or university-level Greek language instruction focused on a select topic or approach to language pedagogy. A steering group comprised of the members of the MGSA Undergraduate Committee determines the subject and presenters of each workshop, which is free and open to the public. Past topics have included the instrumental aspects of language, the alignment of Greek instruction with national and European standards, and skills-building. The workshop of February 2015 focused on Content Based Instruction (CBI), an approach that integrates academic subject matter within the context of second or foreign-language instruction. The workshop format fosters intellectual exchange on the theoretical underpinnings of second-language acquisition and critical pedagogies and allows time and space to solve practical problems. Faculty members with expertise in teaching Modern Greek language and culture are invited to present innovative projects pertaining to emerging technologies and recent developments in the field of pedagogy and to relate these to classroom practice. All participants spend time working through guided activities directly related to the topics presented.

The workshop is open to anyone engaged in language pedagogy as an instructor/researcher with a commitment to (Modern Greek)

language/literature/culture instruction at the tertiary level, to those developing the undergraduate curriculum of Modern Greek Studies and/or directing a Modern Greek program or a Study Abroad program. Do place the 2016 workshop on your schedule and come and take advantage of its offerings. Make this and future workshops an occasion for learning (and sharing) through practice. If you are working on a project, have a pedagogy/curriculum question, wish to become a better teacher, imagine incorporating Greek in other classroom modules, and also wish to learn how to do this better in the company of others, please talk to the workshop host to see how your concerns can be addressed in this or a subsequent workshop.

### **MGSA Fund for Innovative Initiatives**

The MGSA Fund for Innovative Initiatives has been very active in recent months: one grant awarded to Constanze Kolbe and Paris Papamichos Chronakis helped to sponsor a two-day international workshop, entitled "Jewish Commercial Cultures in Global Perspective," for junior colleagues at the advanced PhD and postdoctoral or early career stage. This workshop took place at Indiana University, Bloomington, on October 11-12, 2015. It featured new work on inter-ethnic trade networks and on commercial litigation in the 19<sup>th</sup> century Mediterranean, as well as new approaches to the topics of the mobility of political ideas in the Eastern Mediterranean and of transnational commercial and political mobilization during WWI.

Vassiliki Tsitsopoulou received sponsorship for a conference held in Athens on June 5-7, 2015. This 3-day event was entitled "Early Cinema in the Balkans and the Near East: Beginnings to Interwar Period" and featured several movie screenings along with a rich academic program of formal presentations. Dina Iordanova (University of St Andrews) was one of the three keynote speakers. Among the conference highlights were topics of nationalism and colonialism in early cinema, memory and history, urban modernity, cinematic perception and otherness, sound and music for early cinema, and film preservation through archiving and digitization.

Another important initiative has recently been granted sponsorship from the MGSA's Fund for Innovative Initiatives: Yiorgos Anagnostou and Martha Klironomos will be co-editing a new online journal in Greek American and Greek Transnational Studies, tentatively entitled

*Ergon: A Journal of Greek American Transnational Studies.* *Ergon* will explore and promote the arts, culture, and scholarship of Greek America. As an online journal, it will showcase the creative work of writers, artists, and poets, and will also feature new scholarship that engages with Greek worlds in the context of transnational and diaspora affiliations. The co-editors call *Ergon* “a decisively interventionist project,” and they intend to bring into focus Greek America’s artistic achievements and to chart its cultural heterogeneity. Their new journal aims to re-center Greek America as a cultural field that speaks to the realities of an increasingly interconnected world, opening up creative ways to reclaim how Greek identity is felt and practiced in its multicultural dimensions.

## Modern Greek Studies Programs

The MGSA regularly updates its web directory of Modern Greek Studies Programs in the United States and Canada. In February 2016, it launched its most recent campaign to solicit accurate program information from all known North American program directors and administrators. If you have not yet had a chance to list your program or to update your program’s profile, please contact us at [mgsa.org@gmail.com](mailto:mgsa.org@gmail.com), and we can help you with the process. If you are working to establish a new program or know of such an effort, please do not hesitate to seek the MGSA’s advice. Updates of and additions to faculty and graduate student profiles are always welcome as well. Currently the MGSA’s program directory lists more than 50 programs.



## MGS Courses: A Recent Sampling

At the start of each new semester, Modern Greek Studies Programs in the US and Canada announce their current course listings. The spring 2016 course offerings have been exceedingly rich, and the following offers some samples:

- Brown University, Elsa Amanatidou reporting:

*Mediterranean Fictions: On Debts, Crises, and the Ends of Europe*, taught by Vangelis Calotychos: Sun-drenched, seductive, and timeless, the Mediterranean is an appealing location from which to ponder Europe’s debt to this cradle of western civilization. Recently, the region’s economic debt crisis has crystallized thoughts that, beginning here, a peaceful, unified Europe will come undone or be rehabilitated. The word “crisis” itself connotes a crucial decision, often the turning point of a disease. This course examines representations of this moment through literature and film—but also in history, anthropology, journalism, and art—and in the context of other pivotal 20th-century Mediterranean texts that marked, and anticipated, seismic shifts on the continent. Texts include works by Lanthimos, Camus, Daoud, Haneke, Carlotto, Sorrentino, Rosales, Pamuk, Ikonomidou, Balibar, Varoufakis.

- Columbia University, Katherine Stefatos reporting:

*The World Responds to the Greeks*, taught by Dimitris Antoniou: This course examines the way particular spaces—cultural, urban, literary—serve as sites for the production and reproduction of cultural and political imaginaries. It places particular emphasis on the themes of the polis, the city, and the nation-state as well as on spatial representations of and responses to notions of the Hellenic across time. Students will consider a wide range of texts as spaces—complex sites constituted and complicated by a multiplicity of languages—and ask: how central is the classical past in Western imagination? How have great metropolises such as Paris, Istanbul, and New York fashioned themselves in response to the allure of the classical and the advent of modern Greece? The question of space and the site-specific will also be raised by the very logistics of the course, which link two classrooms, two groups of students, and two professors (one at Columbia University, and the other at Boğaziçi University) by way of long-distance technologies.

- Princeton University, Dimitri Gondicas reporting:

*Staging the Greeks*, taught by Bryan Doerries: This course offers an acting/directing workshop that investigates how to stage ancient Greek plays on the contemporary stage. Students are introduced to some of the plays, the contexts in which they were first performed, and approaches taken by theater directors over the last few decades. During class once a week, too, students are on their feet, exploring the plays' performative possibilities for themselves. Over midterm break students travel to Greece to attend performances, visit sites, and participate in master classes and seminars offered by leading Greek artists and scholars.

- University of Illinois at Chicago, Paris Papamichos Chronakis reporting:

*Fascism and Dictatorship in Southern Europe and the Mediterranean*, taught by Paris Papamichos Chronakis: This course offers a comprehensive understanding of fascism by tackling a key historical question: why did some of the first European countries to introduce liberal democratic institutions end up with authoritarian dictatorships in the 20th century? Focusing on Italy, Greece and Spain, the course adopts a comparative perspective and deals with the most important aspects of fascist rule: the origins of fascist ideology; political violence, torture and repression; propaganda and censorship; the role of charismatic personalities and the cult of the leader; treatment of women; culture and fascism's relation to the classical past. Finally, the course considers the afterlives of fascism in popular memory and culture. Working through various textual and visual sources and exploring questions of memory and legacy, the course offers a historically informed perspective on the current crisis of democracy in Mediterranean Europe and the rise of populism and political extremism.

- University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Stefanos Katsikas reporting:

*Pirates, Merchants and Cross-Cultural Interactions in the Mediterranean Sea*, taught by Stefanos Katsikas: This eight-week course explores the history of the Mediterranean region and the political, economic and cultural dynamics of Mediterranean societies from antiquity to the present day. The course discusses issues such as the birth and development of ancient Greek democracy and its present legacy, the rise of the ancient Hellenic world, the rise and fall of regional and global empires in the region, such as the Macedonian Empire of Alexander

the Great, the Roman, Byzantine, Ottoman and Arab Empires as well as the extension of the British Empire into the region, the birth of modern nation-states during the 19th and 20th century, and finally the region's integration into mainland Europe and the European Union in the 20th and 21st centuries. The course also explores the maritime history of the region, including conflicts between pirates (the Knights of St. John, the Barbary corsairs) and their victims (Greek and other merchants who traded in the Mediterranean waters), migration movements to and from the region, including contemporary forms of piracy and migration.

- University of Michigan: Artemis Leontis reports on 2 new courses:

1) "Writing on the Wall," a freshman writing course on graffiti and public writing in Athens from a contemporary and diachronic point of view.

2) "Translating Greek, Reporting the World" is an intermediate to advanced Greek language class geared toward multiple levels of comprehension: students of different levels use every resource available to them to translate current news, literature, advertisements, and other media.

- Yale University, George Syrimis reporting:

*European Cold War Culture*, taught by George Syrimis: This course examines the common assumption that culture mirrors or reflects its historical circumstances by focusing on the diverse ways the experience of the Cold War informs the literature and film of the period in Europe. In examining European culture during and after the Cold War, the course seeks to assess and question the interconnectedness of politics and dominant ideologies with their correlative literary and cinematic aesthetics models and with popular culture. Though the historical milieu is the primary mimetic object of such politicized art, the course argues that artistic expression also reflects and negotiates the conventions of its own tradition. At the same time, it questions the cliché universality of the Cold War experience by focusing on the specific local factors and divergences of certain countries particularly in southeastern Europe. Themes explored include totalitarianism, Eurocommunism, decolonization, espionage, state surveillance, the nuclear threat, sports, propaganda, as well as literary and cinematic aesthetics.

## Western Consortium for Hellenic Studies

In order to create links and to foster collaboration between Hellenic and Greek Studies programs in the western regions of North America, representatives from a number of institutions founded the Western Consortium for Hellenic Studies (WCHS) in 2012. The members of the WCHS have now announced the second Graduate Student Conference titled *Byzantine, Ottoman, and Modern Greek Studies in an Interdisciplinary World*, to be hosted on March 31-April 2, 2016, at the Stavros Niarchos Foundation Centre for Hellenic Studies at Simon Fraser University, Vancouver, Canada. Participating graduate students will present their work and receive feedback from fellow students and faculty in a congenial atmosphere, meet and interact with others working in their field, and hopefully create bonds that will help them in their future careers. Participation is open to all graduate students in North America.

The WCHS will continue its efforts to foster greater collaboration among its members and to create institutional linkages that will strengthen Hellenic Studies in North America.

(contributed by Evdoxios Doxiadis, Simon Fraser University)

## JMGS: From the Editors

The editors of the *Journal of Modern Greek Studies*, the biannual flagship journal of the MGSA, together with Johns Hopkins University Press, the journal's publisher, encourage institutional members—particularly institutions of higher learning and foundations in Greece—to renew their JMGS or Project Muse subscriptions. Institutional subscriptions cost very little and allow research and teaching staff at Greek universities and foundations to access articles in the JMGS online.

Given the high academic and truly international standing of the Journal, the editors encourage senior scholars from around the world to consider the JMGS as the venue of choice for the publication of their work and to recommend articles in the *JMGS* to their advanced undergraduate and doctoral students.

In line with the journal's mission, the editors encourage submissions devoted to all aspects of scholarship on Greeks, Greek, and the Greek world from the early modern period to the present. They particularly welcome new work in Transnational Studies, including Greek American



A rare photograph of a Greek-owned barbershop, 1910

Studies. Topics of interest are: transnational archives; reverse migrations; the impact upon and interaction of Greeks with adoptive societies; attitudes to non-Greek immigrants in Greece; technologies, communication, and identity; diasporic communities and their counterparts in Greece (who speaks for Greek/Australians/Canadians/Americans?); demographics and the newest wave of migrations; self-conscious development of digital, cultural, expressive forms of ethnic identity; heritage practices; heritage management; the co-opting of diasporic identity politics by the media; transnational political affiliations and international politics.

We are particularly proud of the May 2016 issue of the JMGS, which has now gone to press. It will feature the following articles, in addition to a review essay and several book reviews:

- “The Old Acropolis Museum, Athens, Greece: An Overdue Necrology,” by Nassos Papalexandrou
- “Disappearing Byzantine Heritage: The Case of the Medieval Church at Boiana,” by Rossitza B. Schroeder
- “‘The Patrimony of Our Race’: Louis-Albert Bourgault-Ducoudray and the Emergence of the Discourse on Greek National Music,” by Panos Vlagopoulos
- “Crafting the Volunteer: Voluntary Associations and the Reformation of Sociality,” by Katerina Rozakou
- “Twisting the Story: Margarita Karapanou’s *Rien ne va plus* and Amanda Michalopoulou’s *Θα ήθελα* as Metaautobiographical Novels,” by Lissi Athanasiou-Krikelis
- “Unthinkable Histories: The Nation’s Vow and the Making of the Past in Greece,” by Dimitris Antoniou.

In coordination with the *JMGS* topics and other current issues, relevant interviews have appeared on [the e-JMGS Occasional Papers page](#). Look for the most recent papers:

- “*‘Il était un petit navire’*: The Refugee Crisis, Neo-orientalism, and the Production of Radical Alterity,” by Elisabeth Kirtsoglou and Giorgos Tsimouris
- “Notes from the Border: Refugee Lives and Necropolitics in the Aegean, August – November 2015,” by Katerina Stefatos, Dimitris Papadopoulos, and Chloe Howe Haralambous
- “The Banality of Solidarity,” by Heath Cabot
- “Solidarity, Ethnography, and the De-instituting of Dissent,” by Theodoros Rakopoulos

The e-JMGS Occasional Papers is an online, open-access supplement to the JMGS used by the editors to explore contemporary matters concerning Greece, Cyprus, and Greeks in the world today. It includes interviews, essays, position papers, field reports, and other materials gathered at the editors’ invitation.

(contributed by Artemis Leontis, JMGS Editor for the Arts and Humanities  
Thomas Gallant, JMGS Editor for the Social Sciences  
Neni Panourgiá, Editor e-JMGS Occasional Papers)

## FAQs

The MGSA and JHUP have now created a “Frequently Asked Questions” page, which should address the bulk of your questions. Check it out at <https://faq.press.jhu.edu/mgsa>

These questions and answers will prove particularly useful when you renew your MGSA membership, access the *Journal of Modern Greek Studies* online, register for our next symposium (Nov. 2-5, 2017, Stockton University, NJ), and, as members, participate in our next electronic voting cycle (spring 2017).



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### In Memoriam

John Rassias (1925-2015)