

MGSA Bulletin 2019

Καλώς ορίσατε!

Welcome to the latest electronic Bulletin of the MGSA! This holiday installment of the Bulletin presents current MGSA events and concerns in the form of a short newsletter. 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

Symposium 26

The MGSA's 26th biennial Symposium was held at the California State University, Sacramento, from November 7-10, 2019. Katerina Lagos, Professor of History and Director of the CSUS Hellenic Studies Program, hosted the event and welcomed our members to the Hyatt Regency Hotel. The conference featured 29 academic panels, 4 special sessions, a meeting with the editorial team of the *Journal of Modern Greek Studies*, and a mixer for graduates students in our field.

The keynote event featured two eminent speakers, Professors Artemis Leontis (University of Michigan) & Antonis Liakos (Kapodistrian National University of Athens). The theme they addressed was "Modern Greek Studies in the 21st Century: Views from History and Literature."

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Artemis Leontis



Antonis Liakos

MGSA Prizes

At the Awards Ceremony and Reception on the opening night of the Symposium, the MGSA announced the winners of its prize competitions (for books, translations, edited volumes, dissertations, and graduate student essays).

Edmund Keeley Book Prize, presented by Dimitris Antoniou, Chair

To **Dr. Konstantina Zanou** for her book *Transnational Patriotism in the Mediterranean, 1800-1850, Stammering the Nation*, Oxford University Press, 2018.

Elizabeth Constantinides Memorial Translation Prize, presented by Nikos Panou, Chair

To **Brian Sneed** for his translation of Phoebe Giannisi's 2016 collection of poetry *Ραψωδία* (Rhapsody) and honorable mention to Johanna Hanink for her translation of Konstantinos Poulis' 2014 collection of short stories *Ο Θερμοστάτης* (The Thermostat).

John O. Iatrides Best Dissertation Prize, presented by Evdoxios Doxiadis, Chair

To **Dr. Constanze Kolbe** for "Crossing Regions, Nations, Empires. The Jews of Corfu and the Making of a Jewish Adriatic, 1850-1914." University of Washington, Post-Doc.

Vasiliki Karagiannaki Prize for the Best Edited Volume in Modern Greek Studies, presented by Kostis Kourelis, Chair

To **Dr. Tina Bucuvalas** for her edited volume *Greek Music in America* (University Press of Mississippi).

Victor Papacosma Graduate Student Essay Prize, presented by Despina Lalaki, Chair

To **Christopher Leo Jotischky-Hull** (Brown University) for "The Crowning of the Lyre: Andréas Kalvos and the Appropriation of Pindaric Imagery in Nineteenth-Century Greek Diaspora Poetics."

MGSA President Franklin Hess on the establishment of the Founders' Endowment for the MGSA Symposium.

"Tonight, I would like to announce the creation of a new fundraising campaign, the Founders' Endowment for the MGSA Symposium. Since I hosted the Symposium in Bloomington in 2013 on what was essentially a shoe-string budget, the three subsequent Symposia—Atlanta, Stockton, and now Sacramento—have raised the bar considerably. We are now providing catered lunches as well as catered coffee breaks. And, in addition to travel grants for graduate students, which have been in place since Indiana, we are now, through Katerina Lagos' initiative, supporting the travel of scholars from Greece and elsewhere in Europe. This is something that I expect will be a one-time event for the foreseeable future and that will mark the Sacramento Symposium as a truly unique event.

These amenities and stipends—to which we are rapidly becoming accustomed—have largely been provided thanks to the generosity of donors: some are national organizations like Johns Hopkins University Press and the National Hellenic Society. Most, however, are local. While hosting the Symposium is an honor and an opportunity to put your program on the map, I and the other members of the Executive Board believe that programs should not have to pay a financial penalty to host the Symposium. The resources that are going to support our biennial meeting could be put to other uses: improving facilities and collections and endowing scholarships and professorships. For that reason we voted at the last Executive Board Meeting to inaugurate a new fundraising campaign: the Founders' Endowment for the MGSA Symposium. The goal of this campaign is to raise \$250,000 to make the Symposium economically self-sufficient. With a 5% rate of return, this endowment will yield approximately \$25,000 every two years to help offset the expense of hosting the Symposium. This will allow us to do a variety of things such as: keep registration fees down, increase graduate student stipends, inaugurate permanent travel stipends, reduce fundraising pressures for the Local Arrangements Committee, etc. Most importantly, it will allow the Symposium to remain an important venue for academic free speech.

The Founders' Endowment will honor the Founding Members of the MGSA: people like Edmund Keeley, John Iatrides, Lily Macrakis, John Petropoulos, Thomas Doulis, and Peter Bien. This is a very partial list. There are so many who have contributed to our shared endeavors. While the founders were not always without controversy, I think we can agree that we are indebted to the vision and initiative that they showed in creating the MGSA. Putting the Symposium on solid financial footing is a proper tribute to their memory."

Nominations for Executive Board Elections

This is a call for MGSA members to nominate candidates for the MGSA's next Executive Board, which will assume its duties at the Fall 2020 board meeting for a three-year term.

Current members should send their nomination(s) to the Chair of the Nominations Committee, [Katerina Lagos](#) no later than February 22, 2020. Please consider the candidate's investment in the MGSA's goals and initiatives and his or her ability to work actively with others toward these ends.

For nomination of regular EB members, Article IV.7.g. of the MGSA Constitution states:

Any regular or student member may nominate a member of the Association for election to the Executive Board. If the chair of the Nominations Committee receives, not later than April 1, four or more letters nominating the same candidate, that candidate shall have equal standing with those nominated by the Nominations Committee. [Because of time constraints this year, please send nominations before February 22]

For nomination of the graduate student representative on the EB, Resolution 2/10 states:

(...) Any graduate student at a Doctoral Program in the United States or Canada, who is pursuing a Ph.D. in any aspect of Modern Greek Studies and who is a member of the Association in good standing can be nominated or self-nominated for the position of Graduate Student Representative to the Executive Board; such nomination shall be accompanied by a nominating statement and a letter from the student's advisor stating the standing of the graduate student in the Program and the student's project.

For complete details on the mandated procedures, refer to [Article IV, 6-7](#) of the MGSA's Constitution.

Members of the Nominations Committee are:

Katerina Lagos, California State University, Sacramento (Chair)

Nia Georges, Rice University

Nicholas Kalogerakos, University of Oxford

MGSA Greek Language Pedagogy Workshop

The MGSA Greek Language Pedagogy Workshop is a biennial event offering a working weekend on university-level Greek language instruction focused on a select topic or approach to language pedagogy. The MGSA's Undergraduate Studies Committee determines the subject and presenters of each workshop, which is free and open to the public. Past topics have included the instrumentalist aspects of language, the alignment of Greek instruction with national and European standards, skills-building, and Content Based Instruction (CBI), an approach that integrates academic subject matter within the context of second or foreign-language instruction. The [8th biennial Greek Language Pedagogy Workshop](#) took place at Columbia University in 2018 and the topic was "The Future of Modern Greek Language and Teaching in Higher Education in the US: Opportunities and Challenges."

The 9th biennial Greek Language Pedagogy Workshop will be devoted to the topic of "Language and Content: Resources, Materials and Sound Practices for Teaching and Learning Modern Greek." The workshop will take place at Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana, from November 6-8, 2020. In addition to receiving support from the MGSA, the 2020 workshop will benefit from the local support of the Institute for European Studies and the Modern Greek Program at Indiana University Bloomington. In January, the organizing committee will invite proposals for the workshop sessions of Saturday, November 8. Topics may include: evaluation of existing materials and approaches/methods; project-based and community-based learning; teaching with technology; inclusive teaching, etc.

The workshop is designed for those engaged in language pedagogy as an instructor/researcher with a commitment to (Modern Greek) language/literature/ culture instruction at the tertiary level; as well as those developing the undergraduate curriculum of Modern Greek Studies and/or directing a Modern Greek program or a study abroad program. Do place the 2020 workshop on your schedule and take advantage of its offerings. Make this and future workshops an occasion for learning (and sharing) through practice. If you have a pedagogy or curriculum question or wish to incorporate Greek in other classroom modules and want to learn how to do this better in the company of others, please talk to the prior workshop host(s) to see how your concerns can be addressed in this or subsequent workshops. If you are interested in hosting a Pedagogy Workshop, please contact Elsa Amanatidou, Chair of the MGSA Undergraduate Studies Committee. The organizer's home institution receives a \$1,000 grant from the MGSA to defray the costs of hosting.

MGSA Fund for Innovative Initiatives

This fund, [for innovative initiatives in Modern Greek Studies](#), provides monetary support to institutions of higher learning and other professional organizations to support conferences, workshops, and other activities that promote Modern Greek Studies (including those of the Greek diaspora). Granted on a competitive basis, up to five grants will be awarded per academic year, each for a maximum award of \$500. An institution may receive an award once every three years. Applications for support of individual activities will not be supported.

Ergon: Greek/American Arts and Letters

Ergon: Greek/American Arts and Letters, the online journal in Greek/American and Greek Transnational Studies is a recipient of three-year start-up support from the MGSA (2018-2020).

The MGSA notes Dan Georgakas's recognition in the *National Herald* of *Ergon* and the support it enjoys from the MGSA:

“... Poetry has always played a central role in Greek culture. Since the

end of World War II, Greece has produced two Nobel laureates and a dozen Nobel nominees. In the United States, the sparsity of Greek-oriented literary journals has made it difficult to establish a literary community. Some defunct journals that tried to meet that need include *Coffeehouse*, *Mondo Greco*, *Aegean Review*, and *Voices*. Two years ago, that tradition was revived by the creation of *Ergon* magazine.

Yiorgos Anagnostou, *Ergon's* editor, considers Hellenic culture to be a multi-lane, two-way highway complex connecting diverse regions, not a one-way street of translated homeland exports. With that perspective, *Ergon* publishes poetry, fiction, translations, interviews, and literary essays. Initial funding for the creation of this lively forum involved grants from the Modern Greek Studies Association and Ohio State University. *Ergon* is available gratis. Queries about submissions and donations can be directed to yiorgos.anagnostou@osu.edu.

The projects I have described respect and honor our past achievements, but they believe a culture that wishes to endure and prosper must grapple with the givens of the present rather than being immersed in the past. In that sense, they do not advocate for Hellenic culture, they are Hellenic culture. Anyone who desires a culturally viable Greek America can consider them and similar initiatives as guides for what can be done in the here and now.”

Prof. Georgakas is Director of the Greek American Studies Project at Queens College – CUNY and Consulting Editor of *CINEASTE* magazine.

Dan Georgakas [with Vicki James Yiannias]. 2019 “[For Today: Growing Up Greek and American in Detroit](#)” 23 November.

Ergon's editorial team consists of scholars, poets, and writers with extensive experience in Greek/American scholarship and the arts and letters. Christopher Bakken (Allegheny College) serves as poetry editor. The book review editors are Franklin Hess (Indiana University Bloomington) and Neovi Karakatsanis (Indiana University South Bend). The journal was founded by Martha Klironomos and Yiorgos Anagnostou in 2017.

[Ergon is open access.](#)

Journal of Modern Greek Studies: From the Editors

The *Journal of Modern Greek Studies*, published by Johns Hopkins University Press, is the semi-annual flagship journal of the MGSA. On January 1, 2019, the Journal was passed on to two new editors, Johanna Hanink (Arts & Humanities) and Antonis Ellinas (Social & Behavioral Sciences). New Associate Editors Nektaria Klapaki (Arts & Humanities) and Olga Demetriou (Social & Behavioral Studies) have joined the staff as well. Book Review Editors Kostis Kourelis and Katerina Lagos are continuing.

We are happy to report that the JMGS now utilizes an online submissions platform that offers increased transparency to the review process because authors can now track the progress of their articles through that process. [Please find the platform here.](#)

All submissions to the JMGS, including of commissioned book reviews, must now be uploaded via the platform.

The May 2019 issue of the JMGS (37:1) featured the following articles, in addition to book reviews:

Political Refugees of the 1848–1849 Revolutions in the Kingdom of Greece: Migration, Nationalism, and State Formation in the Nineteenth-Century Mediterranean
Christos Aliprantis

Reinventing Albanian Identities in *Eduart* and *Mirupafshim*
Philip-Edward Phillis

Europeanization of National Defense and Security: The Greek Case
Petros Violakis

Policy for Growth and Public Discourse in Greece during the Crisis
Charalampos Chrysomallidis and Martin Lykos

Communication in Social Media: Football Clubs, Language, and Ideology
Aspasia Papadima and Thomas Photiadis

C.P. Cavafy's Christianity in the Context of Fin de Siècle Discourses on Pleasure: The Vicissitudes of Reinvented Love
Vasiliki Dimoula



The debut issue of the new editorial team (October 2019) featured original cover art specially commissioned from the Athens-based artist Simek.

The October 2019 issue of the JMGS (37:2) featured the following articles, in addition to book reviews:

The Iconography of a Nation: Materiality and Coin Production in Twentieth-Century Greece
Vasileios Balaskas

Emperor Ras Tafari in Piraeus: Seferis's Colonial Anxieties
Akis Gavriilidis

Unwed Pregnancy and Adoption in Postwar Greece (1950–1983)
Eirini Papadaki

“A Luscious Anarchism in All of This”: Revisiting the 1980s and 1990s Greek “Neo-Orthodox” Current of Ideas
Sotiris Mitralaxis

Utopian Spatialities: The Past as Present in the Films of Filippos Koutsaftis
Dimitris Plantzos

Opposition to Syrian Refugees and Immigrants during the Refugee Crisis in Greece
Stefania Kalogeraki

The Perception of Greek National Orthography and Greeklish at the Threshold of the Post-Modern Era: Investigating Attitudes Towards Orthography in Greek Education
George J. Xydopoulos, Kyriakoula Tzortzatou, and Argiris Archakis

In addition to five articles and eight book reviews, the upcoming May 2020 issue (38:1) will also feature an additional five articles guest edited by Sharon E. J. Gerstel and called “Perspectives on the Greek Village.”

Given the high academic and truly international standing of the Journal, the editors encourage scholars from around the world to consider the JMGS as the venue of choice for the publication of their work. 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.

Modern Greek Studies Programs

The MGSA regularly updates its web directory of Modern Greek Studies Programs in the United States and Canada. In January 2018, 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, 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 58 programs.

FAQs

The MGSA and JHUP have now created a “Frequently Asked Questions” page, which should address the bulk of your questions. [Check it out.](#)

These questions and answers will prove particularly useful when you renew your MGSA membership, access the *Journal of Modern Greek Studies* online, and register for our next Symposium.

Contact Information

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MGSA Executive Board 2017-2020

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Nikos Panou
David Idol
(graduate student representative)

In Memoriam

John Chioles (1938-2018)
Andre Gerolymatos (1951–2019)
Thanasis Maskaleris (1930-2017)
Ruth Macrides (1949-2019)
Speros Vryonis (1928-2019)
Nanos Valaoritis (1921-2019)