

Director's Report

It has been a busy year for the Centre for Hellenic Studies, continuing to develop our aims while navigating the lingering pandemic and re-imagining the 'new normal'. We managed both the online teaching for extended periods of time *and* the return to our on-campus classrooms in September 2021. We also managed the technological challenges of hosting virtual events but appreciated all the more those few events that we have been able to hold in person, such as our walking tours, a film-screening, and smaller get-togethers. Our students have been good sports, adapting as quickly as we needed them to, and our staff has risen to every conceivable professional and managerial challenge. We transformed our 21in21 programme as needed, to mark the 200-year anniversary of the outbreak of the Greek War of Independence, and we put the next important conference in place, which will be devoted to the 100-year anniversary commemoration of the 1922 Smyrna Catastrophe. To both historical landmarks, we have been keen to bring a more global or transnational approach, and we have taken the opportunity to connect with scholars from around the world. We also celebrated together, as at the Twelfth A.G. Leventis conference in Edinburgh in November 2021, organised by Niels Gaul and Roderick Beaton, Emeritus Korae



Celebrating the new documentary *Queens of Amathus*, dir. Panayiotis Panayiotou

Professor. Meanwhile, the physical space of the Strand in between the King's buildings and Bush House is being transformed drastically, as is the inner courtyard of the Strand campus. Amidst all the familiar and the radically new, we remain enormously grateful to you all for your ongoing support during these challenging times, enabling us not only to maintain but also to increase, diversify, and share our teaching, research, and outreach activities. We hope this Newsletter will do justice to all we accomplished but could not have done without you.

Gonda Van Steen, December 2021

INTERNATIONAL ADVISORY BOARD

The Board held its annual meeting on 4 February 2021, the day of the Runciman Lecture. Its external members are Dr Dionysios Kapsalis (former Director, Cultural Foundation of the National Bank, Athens), Dr Tassos Leventis FKC (Director of the A.G. Leventis Foundation), Professor Richard P. Martin (Stanford), Professor Paschalis M. Kitromilides (Professor Emeritus of the University of Athens), and Professor Sir Michael Llewellyn-Smith (former HM Ambassador to Greece and a CHS Visiting Professor). The latter two have also recently published books that could not be more timely in the light of Greece's historical anniversaries: P. M. Kitromilides and C. Tsoukalas edited and published *The Greek Revolution: A Critical Dictionary* (Cambridge, MA, and London: The Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 2021). The volume's Greek translation will be coming out with Crete University Press in early 2022. Sir Michael Llewellyn-Smith published *Venizelos: The Making of a Greek Statesman, 1864-1914* (London: Hurst, 2021).

CHS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

For the past three years, the Management Committee of CHS has consisted of the following members: Dr John Kittmer, Dr Daniel Orrells, Dr Tassos Papacostas, Dr Emily Pillinger, Professor Michael Trapp, and Professor Gonda Van Steen. We welcome Dr Will Wootton as a new member. He replaces Daniel Orrells, who is enjoying a well-earned leave after his term as Head of Department.



GRANTS, PRIZES, STUDENTSHIPS AND DONATIONS

The **A.G. Leventis Foundation** continues to fund our collaborative planning for events and activities marking the 1821 bicentennial of the Greek War of Independence. The full programme consists of 21 events and is called **'21 in 21: Celebrating 2021 in 21 Encounters'**. The programme offers lectures, panel discussions, conferences, and a couple of walking tours around Greek London. It has its own website at 21in21.co.uk and offers more details on [past](#) and [upcoming events](#).

The **Tassos and Angele Nomikos Postdoctoral Fellow in Modern Greek and Byzantine Studies** has been appointed. Dr Peter Swallow combines research in the field of reception studies and Greek comedy, while also helping CHS with preparing (and presenting remotely, if necessary) some of the many London-based events of 2021 and 2022.

The **Niki Marangou Translation Prize**, sponsored by Mr. Constantis Candounas and awarded this year to Elpiniki Meimaroglou, commemorates Niki Marangou, with a focus on her own

written work. The prize was inaugurated in 2016. From 2019 onwards, the prize has been awarded annually to a literary translation from Modern Greek into English of one poem and one prose extract from Marangou's many publications.

The Jamie Rumble Memorial Fund at King's sponsors the annual **Rumble Fund Lecture in Classical Art**. On 17 March 2021, Professor Salvatore Settis spoke on the topic of 'A Greek Lady from Persepolis: A Statue of Penelope and Her Roman Sisters'. The event was organised by the Centre for Hellenic Studies and the Department of Classics at King's, in collaboration with The Courtauld and the Institute of Classical Studies. Due to the pandemic, the 2021 event was held online (and can be accessed via the link above). While we look forward to hosting 'live' the 16 March 2022 Rumble lecture, to be delivered by Professor Dimitris Plantzos (University of Athens), the online format meant that the 2021 lecture (the seventh in the series) could be enjoyed across five continents, by a record number of virtual attendees. For further information about the Rumble

Fund and the activities it supports in the fields of Art and Archaeology, please contact Professor Michael Squire (michael.squire@kcl.ac.uk).

The **J.F. Costopoulos Foundation** generously extended tuition support to incoming PhD student Aaron Niles, whereas the **Robert Browning Memorial Fund Graduate Scholarship** was awarded to Prodromos Papanikolaou. Both PhD students work in the field of Byzantine and Modern Greek Studies.

CHS received a 6,000 Euro grant from the **Cyprus government**, which was facilitated by the Ministry of Education, Dr Marios Psaras, and Dr Achilleas Hadjikyriacou. The latter was recently appointed as the new Director of the Centre for Greek Diaspora Studies at Royal Holloway, University of London. He will also be serving as Senior Manager at The Hellenic Institute at RHUL.

Lastly, CHS is grateful to **Christopher, Lord Terrington** for his generous donation of several Greek translations of books by his late father, Christopher Woodhouse.

WORKSHOPS, PANEL DISCUSSIONS AND OTHER HIGHLIGHTS OF 2021

Our '21in21' events calendar has marked the 200-year anniversary of the Greek Revolution, drawing in audiences from across the world. This extensive and collaborative events programme has been generously sponsored by the A.G. Leventis Foundation. With its emphasis on the global impact of the revolutionary age, the 21in21 series has become the *de facto* Anglo-Hellenic platform for celebrating the bicentennial. The 21 events below bespeak the collective nature of our events calendar, which proved to be highly effective during the many months of lockdown restrictions. See also our dedicated website at 21in21.co.uk.

SPRING AND SUMMER 2021

The concert dedicated to Greece, featuring Sir Simon Rattle (London Symphony Orchestra) conducting Leonidas Kavakos (violin, Berg and Schubert Symphony No 9), was organised in collaboration with the National Bank of Greece and Initiative 1821-2021. It was originally scheduled for 7 January 2021 but had to be recorded in the absence of an audience. It was then streamed in a non-live, deferred broadcast

via the streaming service Marquee.tv and on the Greek ERT. For more information, see www.protovoulia21.gr, and, more specifically, [here](#).

The Hellenic Observatory at the London School of Economics hosted a 28 January panel discussion entitled **'Power and Impunity: What Donald Trump and Boris Didn't Learn from the Ancient Greeks'**. This online public event was widely advertised and is still accessible [here](#) and via [YouTube](#). Paul Kelly, Professor of Political Philosophy, Dept. of Government, LSE, chaired the panel that featured the following speakers: Kevin Featherstone (introduction), Hellenic Observatory Director; Eleftherios Venizelos Professor in Contemporary Greek Studies and Professor in European Politics; Michael Cox, Emeritus Professor of International Relations, LSE; Director of LSE IDEAS; Simon Goldhill, Professor of Greek at the University of Cambridge and Foreign Secretary of the British Academy; and Johanna Hanink, Associate Professor of Classics at Brown University.

The month of February 2021 started

off with King's Annual Runciman Lecture. On 4 February 2021, Prof. David Ricks (King's) delivered online the 30th Annual Runciman Lecture on 'The Shot Heard round the World: The Greek Revolution in Poetry'. The speaker was introduced by Professor Gonda Van Steen, and the vote of thanks was given by Dr Dionysis Kapsalis. The event, sponsored by the late Matti and Nicholas Egon, can be accessed online via [YouTube](#).

February 2021 also saw our diptych of panel discussions on **'1821: The Migration of Revolutionary Ideas'**, organised and chaired by Professor Roderick Beaton, in collaboration with the British School at Athens. These panels studied the common topic of ideas *about* making a revolution – ideas that are in themselves revolutionary. They revolved around both concepts, as ways of understanding the outbreak of revolution by Orthodox Christian, Greek-speaking subjects of the Ottoman Empire in the spring of 1821, that would lead to the creation of Greece as a modern nation-state in 1830. The speakers focused on the transmission, or 'migration', of such ideas across the European continent

in the wake of the 1789 Revolution in France and their impact in creating the climate in which a Greek revolution became possible in 1821.

The speakers of the 15 February Athens edition of this diptych of panels were Antonia Dialla (Athens School of Fine Arts), Efi Gazi (University of the Peloponnese), and Kostas Tampakis (National Hellenic Research Foundation). The event was attended virtually by 255 people. Watch via [YouTube](#).

The UK-based speakers of 22 February were Georgios Varouxakis (Queen Mary), Athena Leoussi (Reading), and Sanja Perovic (King's). This session was co-hosted also with the Society for the Promotion of Hellenic Studies, and its Chair, Emeritus A.G. Leventis Professor Paul Cartledge, gave an additional brief welcome. The event drew an online audience of 300 people from all over the world. Watch via [YouTube](#).

On 11 March 2021, Koraes Professor Gonda Van Steen gave the Nineteenth Annual Hellenic Lecture on 'The Greek Revolution of 1821 and Its Multiple Legacies'. The event was organised by Dr Charalambos Dendrinos, Director of The Hellenic Institute at RHUL, in collaboration with Dr Achilleas Hadjikyriacou and Dr Paris Papamichos Chronakis. The event was well received, and a recording of the talk has been uploaded [here](#). The 21in21 calendar continued online with a 22 April 2021 panel discussion, organised by The Hellenic Institute, RHUL, and chaired by Dr Paris Papamichos Chronakis: 'The Greek Revolution through the Eyes of Its "Others"'. The Greek War of Independence (1821-1830) was a national revolution that fractured existing patterns of multi-ethnic coexistence and generated instead strong and enduring images as much of the national self as of the new nation's 'Others'. This panel took a closer look at the understudied ways in which some of Greece's most prominent 'Others' have responded to the war and its legacy over the course of the past two centuries. Moving away from Euro- and Graeco-centric perspectives, the panel focused on early nineteenth-century Albanian warlords, interwar Sephardi Jews, and mid-twentieth-century Turkish historians and their engagement with the Greek Revolution in the context of their own repositioning in the changing Ottoman and post-Ottoman worlds of Southeastern Europe and the Eastern Mediterranean. The speakers were:

Dr Antonis Hadjikiakou (Panteion University, Athens), 'Winning at Land, Losing at Sea: The First Turkish History of the Greek Revolution'; Dr Sukru Ilicak (Research Centre for the Humanities, Athens), 'The Greek War of Independence as an Albanian Experience'; and Dr Paris Papamichos Chronakis (Lecturer in Modern Greek History, Royal Holloway, University of London), 'From "Other" to "Brother": Greek Jews and the Greek Revolution in the Interwar Period'. The three presentations were followed by a concise and probing response from Dr Konstantina Zanou (Columbia University), who rounded off the information-filled evening and opened the floor for questions from the audience. Approximately 80 people attended the event.



Jenny Karezi as Manto Mavrogenous (still from *Manto Mavrogenous*, dir. Kostas Karagiannis, 1971)

Late May saw an online roundtable discussion, organised by the Society for Modern Greek Studies and entitled: 'The Greek War of Independence in Greek Cinema: Themes, Forms, Representations'. This late morning event on 28 May featured Dr Lydia Papadimitriou in conversation with Professors Vrasidas Karalis (Sydney) and Maria Stassinopoulou (Vienna). Greek cinema has dealt only sporadically with the Revolution of 1821. While emblematic events and leading figures from the period made their first screen appearance in the late 1920s, Revolution-inspired fiction films were made intermittently, mainly in the late 1950s-60s and early 1970s. This roundtable discussion explored key themes and recurrent forms in the fictionalised representation of the Greek War of Independence in Greek cinema, such as depictions of heroism, the role of women, the regional geographies of Greece, stardom, and public memory. The session was organised by Dr Liana Giannakopoulou, Senior Research Fellow, Faculty of MMLL and Centre for Greek Studies, University of Cambridge, and Dr Lydia

Papadimitriou, Reader in Film Studies, Liverpool John Moores University, who also chaired the session. On this occasion, too, David Holton, Professor Emeritus Cambridge University, announced the two winners of the inaugural Niki Marangou PhD Dissertation Prize for the best dissertation completed in Modern Greek Studies in the UK. Winners were Yannis Stamos (Birmingham) and John Kittmer (King's).

On Saturday, 29 May 2021, Dr Konstantinos Trimmis (Bristol) led a **historic walking tour** of Greece-related sites and sights in London. Participants met outside of the Bayswater tube station for a two-hour-long tour of the Bayswater area and Agia Sophia Greek Orthodox Cathedral on Moscow Road, passing by the London residence of Seferis, the house where Cavafy used to live for three years, the first Greek boarding school where G. Valetas was headmaster (at Kensington Gardens Square), the house of Dimitrios Vikelas (at 22 Porchester Gardens), past the statue of George Kastriotis-Skanderbeg (1405-1468) described as the 'invincible Albanian national hero, defender of Western civilization', etc. This walking tour was the first on-site event of our year-long 21in21 programme. As per UK government guidelines, we limited admission to the first 30 people who pre-registered. The tour enjoyed great weather and earned us many words of praise, which inspired us to organise future such tours as well.



The tour group outside Agia Sophia

On 11 June, the 21in21 programme co-organised with the Hellenic Centre an online presentation entitled "'The Land of the Great, the Home of the Brave": Echoes of the Greek War of Independence on Stage', delivered by Dr Maria Georgopoulou, Director of the Gennadius Library at the American School of Classical Studies

in Athens. The talk focused on two theatrical plays written by American playwrights, Mordecai Noah and John Howard Payne, which were performed in New York and in London in 1822.

The relaunch of the **Runciman Award** took place on 17 June 2021 and featured keynote speaker Professor Stathis Kalyvas (Oxford), on the abiding relevance of the Greek Revolution of 1821: 'Why the Greek Revolution still matters today'. This online event was organised by the Anglo-Hellenic League, which administers the Runciman Award, to which the Leventis Foundation has generously contributed. Dr John Kittmer, Chair of the AHL, led the ceremony and congratulated the winner, Roderick Beaton, Emeritus Koraes Professor and author of the award-winning book, *Greece: Biography of a Modern Nation* (2019). The work of Gonda Van Steen and Joshua Barley, both from King's, was included first in the longlist of '21 Books for 21' and then in the shortlist of seven finalists. Professor Peter Frankopan surveyed the field of longlisted and shortlisted books on behalf of the panel of judges. The event closed with an acceptance speech by the winner. The Anglo-Hellenic League Runciman Award is sponsored by the A.C. Laskaridis Charitable Foundation and the A.G. Leventis Foundation. More information and a recording of the event are available [here](#).

On 24 June, the 21in21 programme and the Hellenic Observatory, LSE presented a panel discussion called 'The Greek War of Independence: Re-Appraising Its Economic Legacies'. Chaired by Joan Roses, Professor in Economic History, LSE, the discussion pivoted on the central questions and topics of: How far may the economic problems of the modern Greek state be attributed to the nature of its origins? Its small, albeit enlarging, size; the lack of popular trust in public institutions and authority; the recourse to patrons and to 'rent-seeking'; and its own vulnerability to external powers? Are these path-dependent features that overwhelm the scope for change? This panel discussed the legacy of 1821 for the course of the development taken by modern Greece and how it has structured options and choices. When, and how, has or might such historical determinism be overcome? The speakers were: Maria Christina Chatziioannou, Director of the Institute of Historical Research of the National Hellenic Research Foundation; Andreas Kakridis, Assistant Professor of Economic History, Ionian University;

and Stathis Kalyvas, Gladstone Professor of Government, All Souls College, University of Oxford.



Blue plaque celebrating Cavafy outside his childhood home in Bayswater, London

AUTUMN 2021

This year's **Cyprus Lecture Series** took the form of an on-campus documentary film screening followed by a discussion with the producers and presenter. Held on 9 October 2021 in the Bush House Auditorium, the Cyprus Lecture Series screening was co-organised by the Cultural Section of the Cyprus High Commission in the UK (www.culturalchc.co.uk) and CHS at King's. Nikolas Manolis, Chargé d'affaires, introduced the event on behalf of His Excellency Andreas Kakouris, High Commissioner for the Republic of Cyprus to the UK. He also thanked Professor Gonda Van Steen, Koraes Chair and CHS Director, and Dr Marios Psaras, Cultural Counsellor at the High Commission, for continuing a long tradition of collaboration between King's and the High Commission, highlighting the importance of such events for the promotion of cultural exchange and dialogue between Cyprus and the UK. The award-winning documentary *Queens of Amathus*, produced by Panayiotis Panayiotou, sensitively treats the subject of Greek-Cypriot families' displacement from Northern Cyprus and highlights the role of the strong Greek-Cypriot women in a decades-long history of adjustment to the city of Birmingham. The screening was followed by a Q&A session with the producer, the presenter, Christina Savvas, and the production coordinator Petros Kkolas, and was moderated by Dr Marios Psaras. Approximately one hundred people attended and enjoyed a reception afterwards in the Bush House Arcade. Also in attendance was MP Bambos Charalambous.

On 13 October 2021, the third Niki Marangou Annual Memorial Lecture, sponsored by Mr Constantis

Candounas and co-organised with King's CHS, took place in Nicosia, Cyprus. The lecture was delivered by Roderick Beaton, Emeritus Koraes Professor, whose title was '1821 and European Philhellenism' (in Greek). The Temporary Exhibition Room of the Leventis Gallery in Nicosia was filled to capacity for this important event.

On 20 October 2021, UCL's School of Slavonic and East European Studies joined in the 21in21 programme with a panel discussion entitled 'Rethinking 1821: Greek Independence and Its Transnational Contexts'. The panel aimed to present new research on the events of 1821, with a particular emphasis on their transnational and Balkan dimensions. After the opening remarks delivered by Wendy Bracewell, Professor of Southeast European History, UCL-SSEES, three speakers delivered a paper each, followed by a Q&A session. They were: Viron Karidis (London), Alex Drace-Francis (University of Amsterdam), and Elisavet Papalexopoulou (European University Institute). Their respective titles were 'Greek Revolutionaries in Moldavia and Wallachia (February - June 1821)', 'Tudor Vladimirescu and His Transimperial Connections (1806-1821)', and 'Female Fatherlands: Gendered Patriotism and the Greek Revolution'.

The Cambridge Centre for Greek Studies made its significant contribution to the 21in21 programme with a 22 October diptych of talks, coordinated and moderated by Dr Liana Giannakopoulou, Senior Research Fellow, Faculty of MMLL and Centre for Greek Studies, University of Cambridge. Within the framework of *Greek Dialogues Online 21in21* and the specific topic of 'The Greek War of Independence in the Visual Arts and Literature', Dr Aris Sarafianos (University of Ioannina) delivered a talk entitled 'Cultural Diplomacy, Local Nationalism and the Birth of a Philhellenic Picture: Thomas Phillips's "Albanian Portrait of Byron"'. Professor Dimitris Plantzos (University of Athens) spoke on 'Public Statues, National Anniversaries, and the Winters of Our Discontent'. Both thought-provoking talks were beautifully illustrated and were also very well received. A lively discussion ensued. On 28 October and in light of Ochi Day, the Hellenic Observatory added another critical event to the 21in21 events calendar: a panel discussion chaired by Spyros Economides (Associate Professor in International

Relations and European Politics, LSE) on ‘The Geopolitics of Greece: Continuities and Discontinuities’. Geopolitics has always been invoked as an explanation for Greek foreign policy and its position in the European and broader international order. This event examined to what extent the intersection of geography and politics accounts for Greece’s external relations and to what extent it provides a useful link for understanding Greece’s international position in 1821 and the 21st century. The speakers were: Konstantina Botsiou (Associate Professor and Director of KEDIS, University of the Peloponnese), Erik Goldstein (Professor of International Relations and History, Boston University), and George Prevelakis (Professor Emeritus, Sorbonne University; Permanent Representative of Greece at the OECD).



On 4 November 2021, CHS and Classics at King’s, in partnership with the [Fondazione Brescia Musei](#), contributed an online panel discussion called ‘Classical/Contemporary: In Conversation with Francesco Vezzoli’. The following speakers engaged in a conversation with the renowned Italian artist Francesco Vezzoli: Dr [Patch Crowley](#) (Cantor Center, Stanford University), Prof [Verity Platt](#) (Cornell University), Dr [Letizia Ragaglia](#) (Kunstmuseum Liechtenstein), Prof [Salvatore Settis](#) (Scuola Normale Superiore) and Prof [Michael Squire](#) (King’s College London). They addressed the following themes: How might classical art speak to contemporary concerns? In what ways can present-day perspectives illuminate the Greek and Roman past? And how can new dialogues between artists, art historians and classical archaeologists engage new – more diverse and inclusive – audiences in the twenty-

first century? The discussion took its cue from Vezzoli’s current exhibition, [Paloscenici archeologici](#) (‘Archaeological Stages’) at the UNESCO archaeological park at Brescia (June 2021 – January 2022). By bringing together an international panel of art historians, archaeologists and curators, the event also explored the show’s larger artistic, conceptual and curatorial context: the aim was not only to initiate new dialogues between archaeology and contemporary art, but also to explore the past, present and future of classical traditions. This online international event was part also of the ‘Modern Classicisms’ project at King’s, and was additionally supported by the Jamie Rumble Memorial Fund.

Our plan to tour the West Norwood Greek Orthodox Cemetery had to be revised, because the Greek section of the cemetery is under restoration. Instead, Dr [Victoria Solomonidis-Hunter](#) FKC (UCL), kindly offered a 6 November walking tour focusing on Cavafy in London, which she called ‘C.P. Cavafy’s West London: 1870-1877: A Historic Walking Tour’ and for which she designed a special brochure featuring her own drawings. She writes that the walk aimed to ‘illustrate the formative years that C.P. Cavafy spent in London as a young boy within the closely linked cosmopolitan Greek community’, and that it provided insight into the ‘subsequent development of Κ.Π. Καβάφης, an Alexandrian Greek, into C.P. Cavafy, a Victorian gentleman, a poet and a scholar, writing mostly in Greek and cherished by audiences around the globe to this day’. The group met at Queensborough Terrace, Bayswater, to follow in the footsteps of the young Cavafy on this walking tour that included Cavafy’s childhood home, the George J. Cavafy family home, the Aghia Sophia Greek Orthodox Cathedral, the site of the former Hellenic College, and the studio of Cavafy’s ‘cousin’, Maria Cassavetti-Zambaco.

From 18 through 20 November 2021, King’s and other faculty took part in the Twelfth A.G. Leventis Conference in Hellenic Studies at the University of Edinburgh. Professors Niels Gaul and Roderick Beaton, A.G. Leventis Visiting Professor in Greek, organised the conference and dedicated it to the topic of ‘The Greek Revolution of 1821: Contexts, Scottish Connections, the Classical Tradition’. The full conference

programme may be accessed [here](#). The conference was also accompanied by the 2021 Leventis Exhibition, on display in the University of Edinburgh Library, and entitled ‘Edina/Athena: The Greek Revolution and the Athens of the North, 1821–2021’. This exhibition opened on 29 October and will remain open until 29 January 2022. The display explores Scottish–Greek connections in the early nineteenth century and plays on the synchronicity of the Greek Revolution and the emergence of the discourse of Edinburgh as the ‘Modern Athens’ and ‘Athens of the North’.

On 26 November, The Hellenic Institute presented a panel called ‘Imagining a Free Greece: British, Cypriot and Russian Engagements’ in the 21in21 series. This event, led by Dr Paris Papamichos Chronakis, took as a point of departure the famous Ionian Academy established by the great Philhellene Frederick North, 5th Earl of Guilford (1766–1827), which was the first university established on Greek soil (1824–1827). It explored the history of intellectual movements that led to the liberation of the Greeks, including the contribution of the Cypriots and the Greek communities in Britain and Russia. Professor Sakis Gekas (York University, Toronto) delivered the main lecture on Lord Guilford and British cultural politics in the Ionian Islands. A panel discussion followed, with Professor Lucien Frary (Rider University, New Jersey) speaking on Philhellenism and the Greek Diaspora in the Russian Empire, and Dr Chrysovalantis Kyriacou (Bank of Cyprus Cultural Foundation/RHUL) on Cyprus and Greek Cypriots in the Greek War of Independence.

The 21st event in the 21in21 series was a conference in honour of Roderick Beaton, Emeritus Korae Professor of Modern Greek and Byzantine History, Language and Literature. The conference, entitled ‘Byron, Philhellenism in Literature, the Arts, and Scholarship’, was scheduled for 10–11 December but had to be postponed until spring 2023, given the current Covid guidance.

All our public events are announced online, either at [21in21.co.uk](#) or on the [CHS site](#). The archive of CHS events going back to 2013 may be accessed [here](#). Reminders are also regularly sent out by email to all who have registered their email address at chs@kcl.ac.uk. These venues also assist us when sending out notifications of alternative arrangements due to the ongoing COVID restrictions.

OTHER PUBLIC EVENTS IN 2021

In the year and a half during which our lives moved predominantly online, our weekly #HellenicFridays events on Twitter have become a crucial part of our engagement. The posts included theatre such as Jermyn Street Theatre's *15 Heroines* and the Actors of Dionysus' performance of *Lysistrata*; virtual exhibitions from the Benaki Museum and the Great North Museum; concerts from the Hellenic Centre, such as the Greek Fringe performance of Thracian-inspired music by the group Evritiki Zygia; film festivals from London, San Francisco, Los Angeles, and Berlin; and a whole host of panels, conferences and lectures, many of which can still be found online (including Joshua Barley's translation of a Greek folk song, 'The Return of the Long-Lost Husband', podcast interviews by Professor Gonda Van Steen and Dr George Giannakopoulos, the '21 Objects for 21' series of the British School at Athens, the '21 Quotes for 21' series of the Greek Embassy in London, and Professor Edith Hall and Dr Henry Stead's discussion of their publication, *A People's History of Classics*. As 'slices

of Hellenic culture online', our Hellenic Fridays posts offered our followers all sorts of remote activities and learning opportunities to fill their lockdown days.

Two interviews stand out, because we hope to return to them in the post-covid future: one with **Professor Dimitris Papanikolaou** (Oxford) on the BBC Greek Service (which was situated in Bush House on the Strand from 1939 through 2005), and a follow-up panel discussion on the same topic with **Dr Fiona Antonelaki**, Postdoctoral Fellow at Princeton University's Seeger Center for Hellenic Studies, who focused on the modernist literary cultures of the BBC Greek Service. Next, **Dr Foteini Dimirouli** (Oxford) discussed the productions of the BBC Greek Service from the perspective of Anglo-Greek cultural and literary relations. Lastly, **Dr Anna-Maria Sichani** (U of Sussex), who devoted her doctoral work to literary productions of the BBC Greek Service, elaborated on the Greek modernists at the BCC. All three speakers took turns to delve deeply into the archives and the stunning photographic materials related to the Greek Service.

You can enjoy the interviews [here](#).

On 21 June 2021, the **Katie Lentakis Memorial Fund Award Ceremony and Lecture** took place at the Hellenic Centre, co-organised between the Anglo-Hellenic League and King's Classics/CHS. This year's Katie Lentakis Award was presented to **Hermione Dowling** for her dissertation: 'Classical Fans: How Does the Treatment of Mythological Characters and Narrative in Euripides' *Helen* and *Hecuba* Compare to Modern Fan-fiction Authors' Treatment of Original Characters and Narrative from the BBC's *Merlin*?'. Congratulations to Hermione and to the two runners-up, Isabella Riglia and Eleanor Sheppard.

Poet, novelist, and King's **Professor Ruth Padel** gave the annual Katie Lentakis lecture, entitled 'Jane Harrison, Neuro-Anatomy, and What Was It Like to Live with Greek Gods?'. She brought together various strands of her work on Greek religion, Darwin and science, starting with her debt to Jane Harrison, the first woman to have an international profile as a Classics scholar.

UPCOMING EVENTS IN 2022

CHS continues to strengthen its work in the area of decolonising traditional Hellenism and adding new critical perspectives. The year 2022, itself an invitation to dissect the breakdown of empires in 1922, offers an additional incentive and impactful opportunity for the Centre to enhance its international and cross-cultural focus.

SAVE THE DATES

24 and 31 January 2022, 17.00 (UK): A diptych of panel discussions, in collaboration with the British School at Athens and Aiora Press, on the topic of 'Translation and Inclusion versus Exclusion'. Among the speakers will be: Haris Psarras, Mika Provata-Carlone, Claire Heywood, Therese Sellers, Ruth Padel, and Antonis Nikolopoulos (Soloup). The first session will be chaired by David Holton and the second by Gonda Van Steen.

3 February 2022, 18.00 (UK): The 31st Annual Runciman Lecture, to be given by Margaret Mullett, Professor Emerita Queen's University Belfast, on the topic of 'Hybrid by Nature: Experiment and Innovation in Twelfth-century Literature'.

March 2022 (TBC): The biannual Greek Archaeological Committee

UK (GACUK) Lecture, organised by Dr Zetta Theodoropoulou-Polychroniadis in collaboration with CHS. Special tribute will be paid to the late Mrs Matti Egon, the generous founder of the GACUK lectures and scholarships, who never missed a Runciman Lecture or a GACUK Lecture. Matti was given the Honorary Fellowship of the College in spring 2021, and we have been awaiting an in-person opportunity to celebrate her life and her unwavering devotion to Anglo-Greek cultural understanding.

16 March 2022: The Eighth Annual Rumble lecture, to be delivered by **Professor Dimitris Plantzos** (University of Athens)

31 March – 1 April 2022: Conference 'The Global 1922: New Critical Reflections' (partially online): approximately 60 UK and international scholars have responded to our call for papers, to present at a 2-day conference called 'The Global 1922: New Critical Reflections' and organised by the Centre for Hellenic Studies in collaboration with the SMH Centre for the History of War and other partners. Our scheduled conference will have a large online component, but we aim to bring at

least the UK-based speakers together in an on-campus conference setting. The year 1922 is a key date in Greek history but also in the history of Greek-Turkish relations and in the history of power structures in Europe, Russia, and the Eastern Mediterranean. On the centenary of the Asia Minor disaster, this conference and the related publication project argue that the Greek-Turkish conflict should be understood in the wider context of nationalist agitations, state-building processes, imperial transformations, and socio-economic upheavals across lands and seas in flux: from Western Europe (Ireland), Central and Eastern Europe, European and Asian Russia, to the Eastern Mediterranean and beyond. Using the Greek-Turkish war as a starting point, the project aims to place the events that followed the armistice of 1918 in a broader international and transnational context and, conversely, use this wider frame to better understand the transformations on a local level.

The academic scope of this conference is to probe our knowledge about the events of 1922 by delving into new perspectives, multilingual archives, global approaches, innovative methodologies, etc. The conference will be especially welcoming to

junior and early career scholars from various disciplines and backgrounds. One of CHS's visiting research fellows, Dr George Giannakopoulos, plays a lead role in organising the conference and in compiling the papers and preparing them for publication. Dr Giannakopoulos was also successful in attracting a \$1,000 Innovation Grant from the

Modern Greek Studies Association. **16 June 2022, 19.00 (UK): The Runciman Award Ceremony**, organised by the Anglo-Hellenic League, and to be held in the Great Hall at King's Strand campus.

27 June 2022: The Katie Lentakis Memorial Fund Award Ceremony and Lecture, co-organised

between the Anglo-Hellenic League and King's Classics/CHS.

28 October 2022: The Fourth Annual Niki Marangou Memorial Lecture will be given by the Greek diplomat Dr Catherine Bouras on King's Strand campus.

NEWS ABOUT DIGITAL PROJECTS

The year 2021 has seen considerable progress on various digital projects throughout the Department of Classics and CHS. **Professor Emerita Charlotte Roueché**, alongside Joyce Reynolds, Gabriel Bodard, and Catherine Dobiass-Lalou, has published *'Inscriptions of Roman Cyrenaica'*. She is now working on *'Inscription of Roman Tripolitania 2021'*, with a grant from the Libyan Society and in collaboration with the Institute of Classical Studies, the University of

Bologna and the British School at Rome. Professor Roueché has also various other digital projects underway, including *'Prosopography of the Byzantine World'* in collaboration with Niels Gaul (Edinburgh) and with the Austrian Academy. She has been in talks with the British International Research Institutes on how to develop and foster such resources.

Dr Irene Polinskaya continues to work with King's Digital Lab on *'Ancient*

Inscriptions of the Northern Black Sea' and is currently developing a new project with them, entitled *'The Language of Greek Religion'*. Both Professor Roueché and Dr Polinskaya advocate for the importance of such projects in training graduate students in digital skills.

Also working with King's Digital Lab, **Professor Henrik Mouritsen** brought to completion the *'Digital Prosopography of the Roman Republic'*.

PEOPLE

NEW DIRECTIONS

Both **Eleftherios Kefalas** and **Martha Paspaliou** defended their PhD dissertation in the 20-21 academic year. Lefteris wrote on *'Renos Apostolidis' Critique of Post-War Greece: A Life in Letters (1945-1965)'*. Martha pursued the topic of *"Literary" Monuments to National Heroes (1830s-1870s): Literature, Cultural Memory and the Making of Greek National Identity'*.

Dr Alexandra Vukovich, whose research has focused on Byzantium, the late medieval Balkans, and Rus/Muscovy, will be joining King's History Department in January of 2022. Her current research explores state formation and the transmission of political ideas in the Slavonic and Byzantine literary traditions in the late medieval period. She also delves into historiography and the reception of ideas about the medieval past through narrative and the built landscape.

Dr Bobby Xinyue has been appointed as the Classics Department's new Lecturer in Ancient Greek and Latin Language and Literature for one year. He is about to complete his monograph, *Politics and Divinization in Augustan Poetry* (OUP), which offers a new interpretation of the theme of Augustus' divinization as a language of political science for the Augustan poets.

Three Classics colleagues have received 0.5FTE secondments to

Liberal Arts for the duration of three years: **Dr Ellen Adams**, recently promoted to Reader in Classical Archaeology and Liberal Arts, **Dr James Corke-Webster**, Senior Lecturer in Classics, History and Liberal Arts, and **Dr Emily Pillinger**, Senior Lecturer in Classics and Liberal Arts. Dr Pillinger reports that her article on Xenakis, *'The Music of Iannis Xenakis' Estranged *Kassandra*'* was recently published by *CRJ* in an open-access format. It was fostered by CHS-organised events, including the conference at the British School at Athens in 2015, *'Music, Language and Identity in Modern Greece'*.

Dr Corke-Webster reports that he and Christa Gray published *The Hagiographical Experiment: Developing Discourses of Sainthood, Supplements to Vigiliae Christianae* (Leiden: Brill, 2020).

Our Classics/CHS colleague **Dr Irene Polinskaya**, recently promoted to Reader in Ancient History, has become the Faculty's new Pro Vice Dean for Research Culture. In the last round of academic promotions, **Dr Arlene Holmes-Henderson** became Senior Research Fellow in Classics Education. **Dr Dan Orrells** was promoted to Professor of Classics, and **Will Wootton** to Reader in Classical Art and Archaeology. **Professor Edith Hall** has accepted a new position at Durham University, where she will take on a Professorship of Classics starting in January 2022. She

will be a great loss to the Department, having been here since 2012, and to the London community, since she joined Royal Holloway in 2006.

On 7 May 2021, the 2020 London Hellenic Prize, established in 1996 as the Criticos Prize, was awarded to *The Greek Trilogy of Luis Alfaro* (Methuen Drama/Bloomsbury), edited by our very own **Dr Rosa Andújar**. This collection publishes for the first time the three Greek plays by Mexican-American playwright Luis Alfaro. Inspired by Sophocles' *Electra*, *Oedipus Rex* and Euripides' *Medea*, Alfaro's *Electricidad*, *Oedipus el Rey*, and *Mojada* transplant ancient themes and problems into the 21st-century streets of Los Angeles and New York, in order to voice the concerns of Latinx communities in the United States. The book contains several contextualising essays by Dr Andújar which draw on her expertise in Greek tragedy and its rich reception history, as well as a range of supplementary material which enhances understanding of Alfaro's plays.

NEWS FROM CHS STAFF AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Roderick Beaton FBA, Emeritus Koraes Professor of Modern Greek and Byzantine History, Language and Literature, won the Anglo-Hellenic League's Runciman Award 2021 for *Greece: Biography of a Modern Nation* (Allen Lane/Penguin 2019). In winning the award for a fourth time, Roderick has set a new record of

achievement. *Greece: Biography of a Modern Nation* also won the Daedalus Award 2020 from the Greek Society of Authors (Εταιρεία Συγγραφέων), which recognised the author's 'multi-faceted contributions to learning and to cultural communication'. The same book was shortlisted for the London Hellenic Prize and for the Cundill History Prize. Roderick has been a sought-after interviewee for numerous press and documentary film venues in Greece and Cyprus. From December 2019, he served on the *Greece 2021* Committee chaired by Ms Gianna Angelopoulou-Daskalaki. For his many ongoing contributions, Roderick was honoured with a Vardinoyannis Award for Culture in September 2021 and was similarly honoured by the annual publication *EPILOGOS* in December. In September he took up his appointment as A.G. Leventis Visiting Professor of Greek at the University of Edinburgh (until December 2021). There, he co-organised (with Niels Gaul) the Twelfth A.G. Leventis Conference in Hellenic Studies (see above, p. 5), and will co-edit a volume of essays based on the papers given, to be published by Edinburgh University Press. During the anniversary year he was commissioned by Aiora Publications (Athens) to publish a short booklet entitled *The Greek Revolution of 1821 and Its Global Significance*, which appeared in English in July and in Greek in September. His book-length overview of Greek history from the Bronze Age to the present day, entitled *The Greeks: A Global History*, was published in November by Basic Books (New York) and Faber (London) and will be launched on 30 March 2022.

Dr George Giannakopoulos, Visiting Research Fellow with CHS, published an important article in *Jacobin* magazine, entitled 'Greece's Fight for Independence Was Part of a Global Revolutionary Movement'.

Professor Emerita **Judith Herrin** has been studying the role of Ravenna in mediating the interactions between Byzantine and Western Medieval culture. Her latest book, *Ravenna: Capital of Empire, Crucible of Europe* (Penguin), appeared in 2020 and won

the 2020 Duff Cooper Prize. Postponed until post-COVID times is Professor Herrin's international conference, 'Power and Images: Ravenna in a Comparative Perspective'. Her current work and also the future conference are generously supported by the Ahmanson Foundation.

CHS Visiting Fellow **Dr Anastasia Lemos** published the article 'Echoes across the National Divide: Common Topoi in the Turkish Literature of the War of Independence and the Greek Literature of the Asia Minor Disaster' in the 2021 *Journal of Academic Studies in World Language, Literature and Translation*. The article will be included in a volume to be published by Koç University as well. She further contributed to the 'Ion Dragoumis between East and West' exhibition at the Gennadeion with a section on the Turkish literary movement of the early 20th century known as Neo-Hellenism, which she also covered in a lecture titled 'With the Gaze Turned Westward: Neo-Hellenism, a Literary Movement in Turkey at the Time of the Balkan Wars'. Together with Olympia Pappa, she co-curated the exhibition '1821: Visions of Freedom, the Hand of Zographos, the Mind of Makriyannis, the Zeal of Gennadius', held at the Hellenic Centre in London. She is currently preparing material for the commemorative exhibitions on the Asia Minor Disaster to be held in the Gennadius Library and the Benaki Museum in 2022.

Emeritus Professor **David Ricks** published, with his King's colleague Rosa Mucignat, a book chapter, 'The Revolution and the Romantic Imagination: Echoes in European Literature'. A published version of his 2020 Runciman Lecture, 'The Shot Heard round the World', is in press. He also gave the Society for Modern Greek Studies Annual Lecture on the Greek poetry of 1920, and he served once again as co-convenor of the Michaelmas Term Classical Reception Seminar in Oxford, this year on the theme of 'Receptions and Comparatists'.

Dr Polina Tambakaki reported on a recent symposium called 'Art Music

in Modern Greece', which took place at the Athens Conservatoire on 24 November 2021, the first of a series of events celebrating the Conservatoire's 150 years of contributions to the cultural life of Greece. The symposium also marked the occasion of the publication of the paperback edition of the collective volume *Music, Language and Identity in Greece: Defining a National Art Music in the Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries* (Routledge 2020), edited by Polina Tambakaki, Panos Vlagopoulos, Katerina Levidou, and Roderick Beaton, together with the publication of the accompanying CD 'Harmony', with rare works by Greek composers from the Conservatoire's archive. Building on her research as Niki Marangou Fellow (2016-2018), Polina recently published an article entitled 'Women of Cyprus and "World Literature": Niki Marangou and Constantia Soteriou' (in Greek). She further submitted the manuscript of *Brill's Companion to Classical Reception and Modern World Poetry*, which she edited and which will be published in 2022. Polina also contributed, in addition to the introduction, a chapter on George Seferis. She has been working on a monograph on Seferis and antiquity, and on one dealing with Manos Hadjidakis and Greek poetry. Together with Stefanos Geroulanos and John Kittmer, Polina is making progress on the edited volume *C.P. Cavafy: Poetics and Reception – Music, History and the Arts*.

Koraes Professor **Gonda Van Steen** celebrated the publication of the Greek translation of her book on the Cold War Greek adoption history: Ζητούνται παιδιά από την Ελλάδα: Υιοθεσίες στην Αμερική του Ψυχρού Πολέμου (translator Ariadni Loukakou). The Greek version appeared in November 2021 with Potamos Publishers. Gonda also contributed a 33-page article to a special issue on the history of adoption of the *Annales de démographie historique*, and she published the keynote address that she gave at the Sixth Panhellenic Conference in Theatre Studies, entitled 'Sophocles' Oedipus: Acting on Knowledge of Performance and Adoption'.

PEOPLE AND CONTACT INFORMATION FOR THE CENTRE FOR HELLENIC STUDIES IN 2022

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