



Stony Brook  
University

# CENTER FOR HELLENIC STUDIES NEWSLETTER

Fall 2021- Spring 2022



Σπύρος Βασιλείου -Καράβι στο Κερασίλι

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**2- LECTURES**

**3- CULTURAL  
EVENTS**

**4- AHEPA  
PROJECT**

**5- MEET THE  
FACULTY**

## About the Center for Hellenic Studies

The Center for Hellenic Studies serves as a hub of initiatives and activities focused on Hellenic language, history, society and culture. Through the comprehensive study of Greece and Hellenism, the Center aspires to foster in-depth knowledge of Hellenic civilization and promote its values and ideals. It also aims at forming strong bonds between the University and the Greek-American communities of Long Island and New York and at establishing connections and interactions with educational and academic institutions in the US and in Greece.

**The Center for Hellenic Studies  
presents**

# **Slaying the Dragon: Byzantine Survivals in the Greek War of Independence**

**Nikos Panou**  
**Stony Brook University**



This talk will focus on an aspect of the Greek War of Independence that calls for answers to questions as basic as they are elusive. What role did the Byzantine heritage play in conceptualizing, representing, or animating the struggle against the Ottoman Empire? What strands of Byzantium were foregrounded and through which mechanisms did they find a place in the collective imaginary of the period? In what ways was that process of reception and signification manifested, and to what extent? How can it be studied and properly understood today?

Nikos Panou is Assistant Professor of Comparative Literature and Peter V. Tsantes Endowed Professor in Hellenic Studies in the Department of English at Stony Brook University. His current research focuses on articulations of power and authority in pre-modern moral and political discourse, with emphasis on advice literature and related genres. He has written on topics ranging from Byzantine historiography to seventeenth-century satire, and has co-edited a volume on conceptions of tyranny from Antiquity to the Renaissance with Oxford University Press.

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**Thursday, October 7, 2021 - 6.00pm**

Webinar via Zoom: Meeting ID: 943 4318 5475 Passcode: 059135

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FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE VISIT  
[stonybrook.edu/hellenic](https://stonybrook.edu/hellenic)



**Stony Brook University**  
**College of Arts and Sciences**

## Greek 'Oxi Day October 28



'Oxi Day is a national holiday in Greece commemorating the day of October 28, 1940 when Prime Minister and General Ioannis Metaxas replied 'Oxi (no) to Italian dictator Benito Mousolini's demand to give Italian troops free passage into Greek Territory.

The courage of the Greeks changed the outcome of World War II.



## OXI DAY CELEBRATION

The Stony Brook Greek and Cypriot Student Association hosted this year's OXI Day celebration. The event was open to families and friends. Professor Stella Tsirka spoke about the day and its history, and the students read poems, sang songs and danced. The Greek Diner "Mesogeios" offered traditional Greek food.





# “PRIMAL LOSS: FOUR HUNDRED YEARS OF ORPHEUS AND EURYDICE IN OPERA”

A lecture and recital  
by award-winning composer

**Matthew Aucoin**

and selections performed by  
soprano

**Liv Redpath**



Free and Open to the Public

Aucoin will discuss his opera *Eurydice* premiering at the Metropolitan Opera in November 2021, the influences of playwright Sarah Ruhl and the history of Orphic operas.

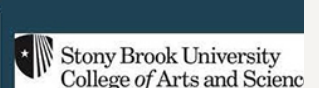
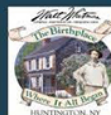
**OCT 28 2021**

**8:00-9:30 PM**

**STALLER RECITAL HALL  
STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY**

Proof of vaccine or valid exemption required for all attendees.  
See [stallercenter.com/contact/Covid](https://stallercenter.com/contact/Covid) for details.

Sponsored by the English Department, the Office of the Provost, the Music Department, the Humanities Institute at Stony Brook, The Center for Hellenic Studies, the Graduate Student Organization, the Women's, Gender, and Sexual Studies Department, the Walt Whitman Birthplace, and the Walt Whitman Initiative.



For more information  
[www.stonybrook.edu/hisb](https://www.stonybrook.edu/hisb)

**The Center for Hellenic Studies  
presents**

# **Cold War Liberalism, Civilization, and the Neoliberal Turn in Greece**

**Despina Lalaki, PhD  
City University of New York**



“The cradle of democracy” has been an expression of instrumental rationality, cultural commodification, and liberal democracy. It is a Cold War construct, which carries the imprints of American modernization theory and European hegemonic structures, and continues to condition our cultural dispositions and political imagination to this day. Indeed, the social and political significations invested in Hellenism have evolved into internalized forms of domination, that is, coherent identities which, combined with social hierarchies, perpetuate inequality. The paper argues that the inability to perceive, under the mantle of European integration, alternative modes of political and social organization beyond neoliberalism is intrinsically related to these identities, which are grounded in configurations and events following the Second World War, such as the European Cold War order, fierce anti-communism, transatlantic militarism, and free market economy – albeit moderated by a welfare state destined to succumb to the onslaughts of neoliberal capitalism.

Despina Lalaki works in the areas of historical and cultural sociology, social theory, and American and Modern Greek Studies. She teaches at the City University of New York-CUNY and most recently she was a Laskaridis Visiting Research Fellow in Modern Greek Studies at the University of Amsterdam and M. Alison Frantz Fellow at the American School of Classical Studies in Athens. Her publications include articles in collective volumes and peer-reviewed journals, while she is currently working, with Christos Mais, on a co-edited volume, *The Battle of Ideas: Cultural Cold War and the Making of Liberal Democracy in Greece* (forthcoming in 2022), and a monograph entitled *Digging for Democracy in Greece: Intra-Civilizational Processes during the American Century*. She also writes for newspapers, magazines, and online publications, serves on the Executive Board of the Modern Greek Studies Association, and is a founding member of the collective *decolonizehellas*.

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**Monday, November 15, 2021 - 2:30pm**

Webinar via Zoom: Meeting ID: 996 4448 3372 Passcode: 139581

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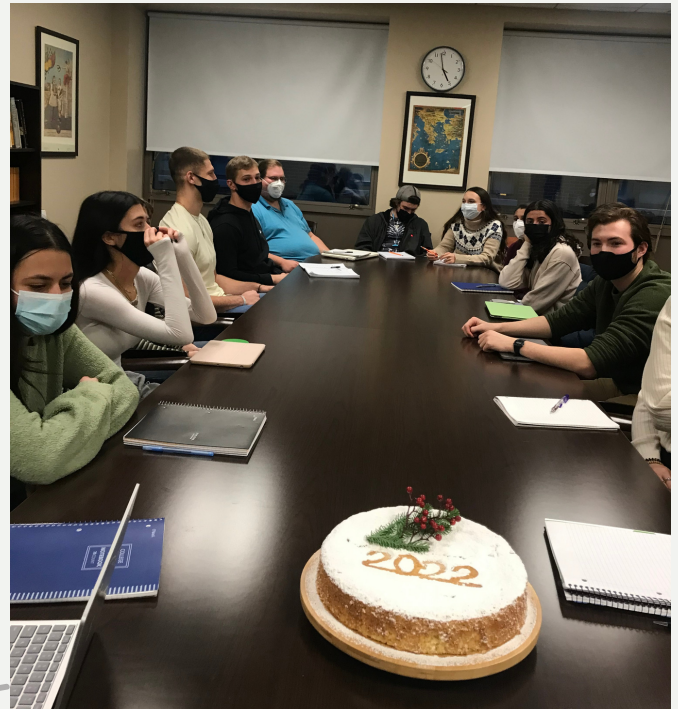
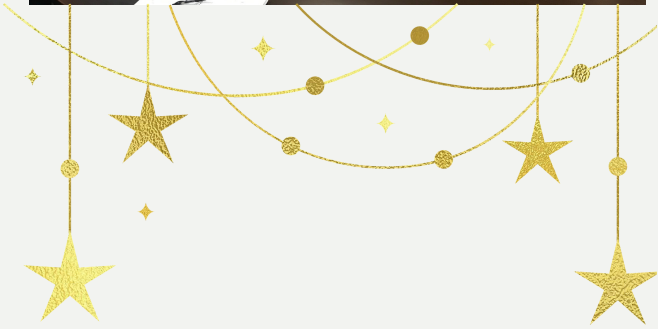


*Happy New Year!!  
2022*



**VASILOPITA**  
for the New year

**The students of GRK 112  
celebrated the New Year  
2022 with Prof. Maria  
Athanasopoulou. They  
started the Spring Semester  
by cutting a traditional pie,  
the "Vasilopita" with the  
lucky coin**



**The Center for Hellenic Studies  
presents**

**From the Permanent Collection of the  
National Gallery of Greece**

**Thanasis Spiliopoulos, MFA  
Educational Programs**

**National Gallery of Greece – Alexandros Soutsos Museum**



The National Gallery was founded in 1900 and is the most important museum of Greek art and history of 19th and 20th centuries. There are over 20,000 paintings, sculptures, photographs, prints, archives etc. in its collections. This brief, on line presentation will include selected art works spanning from the post-byzantine period to contemporary art. The purpose is to show how Greek art evolved during the past two centuries through the dialogue it has with a very long and strong tradition and heritage, and the artistic movements of western art. There has been a continuous, on-going search by Greek artists for an individual and national identity in a fast changing and turbulent world.

Thanasis Spiliopoulos was born in Athens, Greece in 1963. He studied painting at the Academy of Fine Arts, in Florence, Italy. Following this, he continued his studies, under a Greek State Scholarship Foundation Award, and obtained a Master of Fine Arts degree at Lehman College of the City University Of New York, U.S.A., where he was awarded a Lehman College Foundation Award for outstanding academic achievement. He had several one-man and group shows. He has taught art in various institutions in Greece (Western Attica University, Pedagogical Institute, Thracian Institution of Art, Xanthi, etc.) . Since 1998 he has been working in the educational programs department of the National Gallery of Greece.

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**Wednesday, March 9, 2022 - 12:00pm (noon)**

Webinar via Zoom: Meeting ID: 961 5372 6096 Passcode: 235251

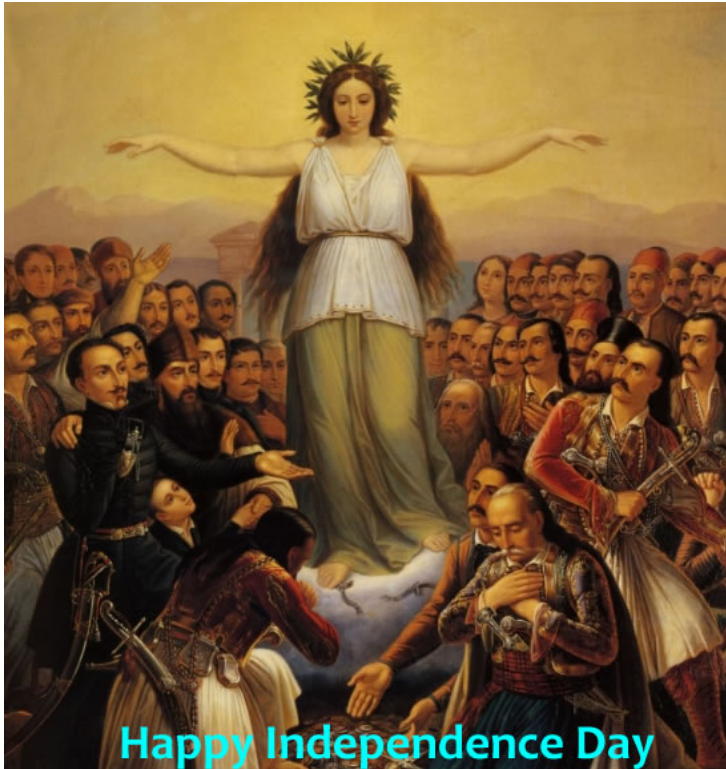
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**Stony Brook University**  
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# March 25th: Greek Independence Day



**This year's cultural and historical events were a success! We learned more about our culture and celebrated our National Holidays.**





**The Center for Hellenic Studies  
presents**

## **Atlas of Greek- Turkish Relations**

**Angelos Syrigos**

**Associate Professor, International Law and Foreign Policy  
Department of International and European Studies  
Panteion University of Social and Political Sciences, Athens  
Deputy Minister for Higher Education  
Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs**



This talk will be based on the book by the same title, published by Kathimerini.

From the book cover: The idea for this book stems from a previous special publication in Greek by Kathimerini, titled "Turkish claims in the Aegean and Eastern Mediterranean - 35 maps explaining the differences between Greece and Turkey," which was published on June 3, 2018, as part of the series "Greek-Turkish Relations"...This book was originally published in Greek in 2018 with 35 maps. It was republished in Greek on the 9th of August 2020 with 60 maps. The translation and editing of the book in English resulted in its significant rewriting. Another 5 maps were added, and some 9 maps were redrawn in order to include the new maritime border following the Greek-Egyptian agreement signed on the 6th of August 2020.

Angelos Syrigos is a member of the Greek Parliament (elected in July 2019 General Elections in the 1st District of Athens with the New Democracy Party). He is a graduate of the Law Schools of the National University of Athens and of the University of Bristol, England where in 1994 he was conferred the degree of Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in the field of public international law.

He has served as Secretary General of Population and Social Cohesion of the Greek Ministry of Interior (August 2012 and May 2015) and Secretary of the Ministry of Education responsible for Intercultural Education (2007-2009). He has published six books and several articles on Greek-Turkish relations, the law of the Sea, the Cyprus issue, the Balkans, minorities and migration.

He is married with Prof. Dr. Eirini STAMATOUDI and they have three children.

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**Wednesday, March 30, 2022 - noon**

Webinar via Zoom: Meeting ID: 918 0639 3518 Passcode: 827858

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**Stony Brook University**  
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THE CENTER FOR HELLENIC STUDIES  
CO-HOSTED BY  
GREEK & CYPRIOT STUDENT ASSOCIATION

*Mikis Theodorakis*  
July 29, 1925 - September 2, 2021



A CELEBRATION OF LIFE  
SUNDAY MAY 1ST AT 2:00 PM  
UNION AUDITORIUM

Funded by the USG Student Activity Fee



**On Sunday, May 1st, the Center for Hellenic Studies and Greek & Cypriot Student Association celebrated the life of famous Greek composer, poet, and activist**

**Mikis Theodorakis.**

**Some of his most notable works include music scores arranged for the films “Zorba the Greek”, “Serpico” and “State of Siege”. We commemorated his vast intellectual work and paid tribute to the legacy he left behind.**





# THE JOURNEY OF GREEK- AND CYPRIOT-AMERICAN IMMIGRANTS COMPETITION

Supported by AHEPA Port Jefferson Chapter 319, District #6

The Center for Hellenic Studies is pleased to announce the 2nd Annual Essay Competition, which focuses on documenting the experiences and history of people of Greek and Cypriot descent who immigrated to the US in the first half of the twentieth century, and who settled on Long Island, NY. The competition is open to all students. Students enrolled in the Hellenic Studies minor, or in Modern Greek classes, are encouraged to participate.

Timeline (specific dates will be determined):

October 2021 - Announcement of the competition

March 2022 - Deadline to submit the essays

April 2022 - Announcement of the winner of the competition

May 2022 - Award ceremony

The participants are expected to interview five senior Greek and Cypriot residents of Long Island and document how they were received and blended into the American culture, learned the language and became established in the community as citizens of the United States. Correlations could be drawn to the current immigration environment. Access to senior Greek and Cypriot residents of Long Island will be facilitated by the AHEPA Chapter. The essays will be submitted to the Center of Hellenic Studies. A committee of faculty will review the submissions and select the winners of the competition, who will receive an award of \$1,000 sponsored by **the AHEPA Port Jefferson Chapter 319, District #6.**

## The AHEPA Project

The faculty associated with the Center for Hellenic Studies (Professors Stella Tsirka, Nikos Panou, and Maria Athanasopoulou) are available to advise, help and support the students as they conduct their research and prepare their essays. Students may register for EUR487 Independent Project in European Studies upon consultation with the faculty. Please contact Prof. Stella Tsirka ([styliani-anna.tsirka@stonybrook.edu](mailto:styliani-anna.tsirka@stonybrook.edu)) for details and clarifications.



# THANK YOU GIVING DAY

**April 27, 2022**

#SBUgivingDay

**We thank all the people who contributed and supported the Center during the Annual Giving Day as well as through the year. Your gift will enable the Center to continue supporting Hellenic letters and culture and our students**

## CENTER FOR HELLENIC STUDIES

### MEET THE FACULTY

**Nikolaos (Nikos) Panou, PhD**

Assistant Professor and Peter V. Tsantes Endowed Professor in Hellenic Studies  
Department of English  
631.632.7465 | 1100 Humanities Building  
nikolaos.panou@stonybrook.edu



**Maria Athanasopoulou, PhD**

Adjunct Lecturer, Department of European Languages, Literatures and Culture  
2027 Humanities Building  
maria.athanasopoulou@stonybrook.edu



**Styliani-Anna (Stella) E. Tsirka, PhD**

(Acting Director)  
SUNY Distinguished Professor  
Miriam and David S. Donoho Endowed Professor  
Department of Pharmacological Sciences  
Vice Dean for Faculty Affairs  
Renaissance School of Medicine  
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