



LEARNING FROM GREEK WEAVERS

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A LIFE IN HELLENIC STUDIES

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UCLA

Stavros Niarchos Foundation
Center *for the Study of Hellenic Culture*

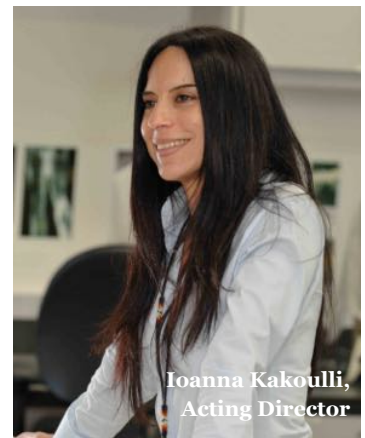


Detail of a kilim from Geraki
(photo: *Gefyra*)

Letter from the Director

Dear esteemed members of the UCLA SNF Center for the Study of Hellenic Culture, our dear friends,

As I step into the role of acting director for this year, I am acutely aware of the formidable legacy that Professor Sharon Gerstel leaves behind as she embarks on her well-deserved sabbatical. Her leadership has been instrumental in shaping our Center into the vibrant hub of Hellenic studies that it is today. I look forward to building upon this strong foundation and carrying forward her vision during my tenure.



Ioanna Kakoulli,
Acting Director

With a background in materials science and conservation, my career at UCLA has been dedicated to creating interdisciplinary bridges between scientific and cultural explorations. This year, we aim to illuminate the intersection of “Science, Environment, & Cultural Heritage in the Eastern Mediterranean,” with a specific focus on Cyprus. Several planned activities—lectures, seminars, mini-conferences, and performances—navigate the complexities and richness of this multifaceted theme.

As the fall season approaches, our excitement escalates for a diverse range of immersive programs that await us. Among these, we look forward to “Envisioning the Greek Landscape: From Thera to Climate Change,” a uniquely situated conference in Greece (see p. 5). Closer to home at UCLA, we prepare to explore the ethos and broad influence of Greek modernism with the conference “Reconsidering the Generation of the 1930s: The Roots and Breadth of Greek Modernism” (see p. 4). The enriching programming extends further with a cinematic exploration via a screening of Tassos Boulmetis’ powerful film *1968*, and a series of lectures shedding light on varied facets of Hellenic culture.

In winter and spring 2024, we will delve into pressing issues with “Culture in Crisis,” examining environmental and anthropogenic factors such as climate change and looting that impact cultural heritage. Together, we will explore the geology and archaeology of Cyprus, its diverse languages and dialects, and the ways these elements shape its culture and society. Moving beyond the academic sphere, we also plan to celebrate the vibrant essence of Cypriot culture through music and culinary events, providing an immersive experience for our community.

Over the years, my efforts at UCLA have always been centered on fostering an environment conducive to interdisciplinary research and education. From founding the Archaeomaterials Research Group and the Molecular and Nano Archaeology Laboratory to establishing the Graduate Program in Conservation of Material Culture, we have sought to equip our students with a holistic and innovative approach to the preservation and understanding of cultural heritage.

It is a privilege to be part of a community where students go on to win prestigious fellowships and secure positions in academia, museums, and industries. As we embark on this new chapter, our commitment to promoting diversity and inclusivity in our initiatives remains stronger than ever.

As we journey through this year, let us remember that our role goes beyond the study of Hellenic culture—we are custodians, interpreters, and celebrants of a rich and enduring heritage. I look forward to your companionship and support in this venture.

Onwards to a year of discovery and engagement!

Ioanna Kakoulli
Acting Director

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activities, please click on
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website or email us at
hellenic@humnet.ucla.edu**

Center News

Vlahakis-Hanks Undergraduate Scholarship



Kelly Vlahakis-Hanks

Our Center is pleased to announce that, beginning in winter 2024, applications will be accepted for the new Vlahakis-Hanks Undergraduate Scholarship. Established by UCLA alumna Kelly Vlahakis-Hanks, President and CEO of ECOS and chair of our Center's Community Advisory Board, this annual scholarship will be provided to a UCLA undergraduate student beginning in 2024-25. Eligible students must demonstrate leadership in Hellenic causes, environmental issues, or community empowerment. Center Director Sharon Gerstel stated: "We are thrilled that Kelly Vlahakis-Hanks has established this meaningful fellowship, which honors and promotes Hellenic values, leadership, social responsibility, and the green movement. Our students are fortunate to have the support and mentorship of Vlahakis-Hanks, a visionary businesswoman and a passionate advocate of Hellenic causes." Application guidelines will be

announced soon on the Center's website, and the deadline to apply is March 1, 2024 (<https://hellenic.ucla.edu/fellowships/>).

Supporting New Research on Asia Minor and Pontic Hellenism

Our Center is pleased to provide funding to the Armenian Genocide Research Program (AGRP), housed within UCLA's The Promise Armenian Institute, for a research project launched in collaboration with the Asia Minor and Pontos Hellenic Research Center (<https://hellenicresearchcenter.org/>) on the documentation of the Pontic Genocide. The research project seeks to collect, classify, and evaluate previously undisclosed or misrepresented information on Asia Minor and Pontic Hellenism available in Turkey's main historical archives. The project will focus on two time periods, 1915–1918 (World War I) and 1919–1923 (the aftermath of the Armistice of 1918). It aims to locate relevant archival documents, categorize them according to the relative periods and subjects, and present them to the public with an extensive preface to allow the world to better understand Ottoman history, as well as the history of Hellenism and Turkish-Greek relations. For more information about the Armenian Genocide Research Program, visit <https://www.international.ucla.edu/armenia/armeniangenocide>.



Photo: Library of Congress

Gefyra News

Gefyra (Bridge) is a collaborative program established with the support of the Stavros Niarchos Foundation (SNF) by the UCLA SNF Center for the Study of Hellenic Culture and the SNF Centre for Hellenic Studies at Simon Fraser University. Gefyra’s mission is to connect students, faculty, and communities along the West Coast of North America with Greek scholars, artists, and other creators, so that they can together explore expansive and imaginative approaches to Greek culture and knowledge production. The program additionally supports academic conferences and cultural projects that bridge the West Coast and Greece.

Exploring Modern Greek Art

An international conference, “Reconsidering the Generation of the 1930s: The Roots and Breadth of Greek Modernism,” will be held at UCLA on November 18, 2023, in Royce Hall 314. Organized by Professor Sharon Gerstel and UCLA Ph.D. candidate Sofia Pitouli, the conference is sponsored by *Gefyra*. We are honored to receive additional support from the Mary Jaharis Center for Byzantine Art and Culture, the UCLA Center for European and Russian Studies, and the UCLA Department of Art History for this event. The conference will bring together participants from institutions in Europe and the United States, including Areti Adamopoulou (University of Ioannina), George Baker (UCLA), Nikos Daskalothanasias (Athens School of Fine Arts), Polina Kosmadaki (Benaki Museum), Sofia Pitouli (UCLA), and Poppy Sfakianaki (formerly Princeton University).

The conference will challenge the attribution of the term “Generation of the 1930s” (*Genia tou '30*) to artists and writers active during the 1930s and the following decades. The term initially addressed a group of writers and poets bound by similar experiences and socio-historical backgrounds. However, between 1948-50, artists were also clustered under the term, which literati employed regularly—and still do—in scholarship. These artists were credited with the creation of modernism in Greece, which was inspired by Western European movements but was also deeply rooted in history, particularly in Orthodox Byzantium. The conference explores the various poles of artistic inventiveness during the decade of 1930 but also negotiates the work of these artists and writers throughout the 20th century, prompting us to conceive their oeuvre diachronically, as opposed to within the confines of a single decade. Given the socio-political circumstances of the 20th century in Greece (the traumatic changes resulting from the Greco-Turkish war, the ensuing population exchange, the collapse of the *Megali Idea*, the dramatic upheavals of interwar Greece, the Metaxas dictatorship, and the Junta regime), the conference examines transnational and cosmopolitan orientations within Greek modernism and the ways in which these intertwined with narratives of nationality and folklore.

We look forward to this exciting exploration of modern Greek art and literature—a topic understudied outside of Greece. Join us for this enriching gathering of scholars and experts from diverse fields to uncover the vibrant legacy of modern Greek writers and artists.



Fotis Kontoglou, detail of wall painting from the artist's house, 1932. National Gallery of Greece (photo: Sharon Gerstel)

Gefyra News

International Conference on the Greek Landscape

This fall, the University of Athens, UCLA, Simon Fraser University, and Sacramento State University, with the support of *Gefyra* and other substantial donors, will host a conference entitled “Envisioning the Greek Landscape: From Thera to Climate Change.” This interdisciplinary conference will bring together academics and policymakers from ten countries to discuss the perception and exploitation of the Greek environment, from antiquity to the present. Specifically, the conference seeks to explore how the various peoples and institutions who have overseen the Greek landscape have understood its natural wealth and how they have overcome natural climatic challenges. Professor Katerina Lagos, co-organizer of the conference, stated: “As climate change and environmental crises pose challenges at a global level, the past can be a source of inspiration and ideas for policymakers. We hope that ‘Envisioning the Greek Landscape’ will begin this conversation.” For more information on the conference scheduled for October 19–21, 2023 at the Kostis Palamas building (University of Athens), and Cotsen Hall (Gennadius Library), visit www.greeceandtheenvironment.com.



“Aesthetics of Crisis” Lecture at UCLA

In Greece, street art has emerged as a potent medium for chronicling the nation’s trials and tribulations. Street art is unique because it is accessible to individuals from diverse socioeconomic backgrounds. Julia Tulke, assistant professor at Emory University, has spearheaded a longitudinal research project focusing on this art form in Greece since 2013. This research, entitled “Aesthetics of Crisis: Political Street Art and Graffiti in Athens, 2013-2023,” documents and delves into the realm of political street art and graffiti in Athens, culminating in an extensive archive comprising nearly 7,000 photographs. The project began by exploring the city’s walls as artifacts and sites of performative responses to the Greek debt crisis. The research eventually shifted to newly emerging discourse exploring various themes, including the austerity referendum and the so-called refugee crisis of 2015, the growing visibility of feminist and queer protest and expression since the mid-2010s, the emergence of anti-Airbnb and anti-gentrification graffiti since 2019, the response to the COVID-19 pandemic since 2020, and, most recently, the turn to graffiti removal as an aspirational performance of the end of crisis. The presentation will be a captivating exploration of street art’s role as a poignant reflection of society’s pulse. We warmly invite you to join us for this lecture by Professor Tulke on Saturday, October 14, at UCLA’s Royce Hall, at 3 p.m. For more details and to RSVP, visit <https://hellenic.ucla.edu/events/>.



Wall for Sale, by Bleeps (Athens, 2016)
(photo: Julia Tulke)

Gefyra News

Documenting the Geraki Weavers, Their Incredible Artistry and Cultural Heritage



UCLA Hellenic Center Director Sharon Gerstel, UCLA, SFU and UBC students, and members of the Cultural Society of Geraki (photo: *Gefyra*)

From June 24-July 14, 2023, eight graduate students from UCLA, Simon Fraser University (SFU), and the University of British Columbia embarked on a collective exploration of the artistry of weaving. Our journey led us to the captivating village of Geraki, where generations of women have preserved and passed down their craft through time. This comprehensive project, which forms part of *Gefyra*, was generously funded by the Stavros Niarchos Foundation (SNF). The project was also held in collaboration with the Cultural Society of Geraki and was further supported by the Municipality of Evrotas. We are also working together with the Ephorate of Antiquities of Laconia and The Geraki Project, which is affiliated with the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam.

Situated on the slopes of Mount Parnon in the southeastern part of the Peloponnese, Geraki holds a special place within the intricate tapestry of Greek culture. Our days in the village were filled with engaging

Gefyra News

projects, including the meticulous cataloguing of kilims, recording conversations with skilled weavers, collecting plants, and immersing ourselves in the village's diverse sources of inspiration, including the many Byzantine churches in the settlement and the *kastro*. These endeavors allowed us to unravel the intricate threads that connect Geraki's weaving traditions to its vibrant and closely-knit community.

Weaving is a heritage primarily handed down through the matrilineal line. Kilims hold great significance as they traditionally formed an essential part of a woman's dowry, encompassing both the tangible kilims themselves and the monetary proceeds derived from their sale. We hope to look more closely at dowry contracts from Geraki in the next phase of our project. Through the examination of these contracts and the road system, we can map the distribution of Geraki-made textiles, charting the broad influence of the village's weavers.

Geraki's cultural heritage and the art of weaving is closely knitted. Excavations of ancient and medieval sites in the village have revealed large numbers of finds connected to weaving. In addition, the profound connection between ornamental elements found in Byzantine churches and motifs featured in Geraki's weaving traditions is truly captivating. Just as these ornamental motifs hold immense value within the context of Byzantine churches, conveying complex ideas, emotions, and concepts in a condensed and meaningful manner, Geraki's weavings beautifully incorporate ornamental details that derive from this rich heritage.

As we learned more about the village, we learned that the artistic heritage of Geraki extended more broadly into the fabric of the community. Local residents have attributed the creation of painted ceilings in two houses to the renowned writer, artist, and hagiographer Fotis Kontoglou (1895-1965). Kontoglou, a refugee from Aivali following the Asia Minor Catastrophe, left an indelible mark on Geraki's cultural landscape and Greece's modern history.

To deepen our understanding of the threads that create Geraki's renowned kilims, a part of our



Chrysoula Stamatopoulou teaches UCLA Ph.D. student Luis Rodríguez-Pérez to weave (photo: Gefyra)



UCLA Ph.D. student Christine Muron learns to make a *chortopita* (photo: Gefyra)

Gefyra News



exploration was dedicated to identifying plants used to dye wool. Botanists from Organization Earth helped guide the students to the abundantly blooming *Sparto* (*Spartium junceum*) plants. When boiled, the plants create a vibrant yellow color. The green skin of walnuts created a deep brown hue.

One special moment of our project was a celebration held by village women at a local monastery. Following a lesson on making *chortopitas*, we settled down for a wonderful meal that included singing of songs related to weaving. Our close connection to the women of Geraki, who also taught us to weave, and our work with the village's cultural society, inspired

students involved in the project to think about public outreach and collaborative endeavors. We are very grateful to the members of the Cultural Society of Geraki for embracing this complex project and to Chrysoula Stamatopoulou, who has led the effort to preserve the village's tradition of weaving and to teach the craft to the next generation.

A beautiful mountain road links Geraki to Vamvakou, the seat of the Stavros Niarchos family and our home for the duration of our project. Vamvakou Revival (<https://www.vamvakourevival.org/>), an organization dedicated to revitalizing the village of Vamvakou, focuses on preserving Greek village life, while also safeguarding the history and traditions that thrive in the region through innovative practices. Vamvakou Revival serves as a remarkable model for the preservation and sustainable growth of the community.

Recognizing the cultural significance of the weaving tradition in Geraki, our project is documenting and safeguarding traditional patterns and motifs, and bringing attention to the cultural history of Geraki, including highlighting the perspective of women in this history. This project is driven by the objectives of empowering local weavers, preserving traditional knowledge, facilitating market access, and fostering community engagement. Through these efforts, the project not only contributes to the socio-economic development of the community but also preserves and promotes Greece's rich cultural heritage for future generations.



<https://hellenic.ucla.edu/>



<https://www.facebook.com/UCLASNFCenter>

<https://www.instagram.com/uclasnfhellenic/>

Glendi!

Beginning of the Year Celebration



Music Performance by:

Petros Antoniadis, Alexis Cohen, Emmanuela Chiotaki
and Eirini Norvikos

This program is held under the auspices of the Consulate General of Greece in Los Angeles, and made possible thanks to the Stavros Niarchos Foundation (SNF).

Join us for refreshments, music, and dancing!

September 23, 2023
(Saturday)

UCLA Rolfe Courtyard
7:00-9:00PM

For parking details and to RSVP, please visit:
<https://hellenic.ucla.edu/event/glendi2023>

UCLA

Stavros Niarchos Foundation
Center for the Study of Hellenic Culture



HELLENIC REPUBLIC
CONSULATE GENERAL OF GREECE
IN LOS ANGELES

Reflecting on the Past and Looking Ahead to the Future: A Conversation with Sarah Morris

Through her scholarly contributions, her distinguished record of teaching, and her presence in the community, Professor Sarah Morris (Classics; Cotsen Institute of Archaeology) has been a cornerstone of Hellenic life at UCLA. As she enters her final year of teaching, we chatted with Morris about her career, archaeology, Hellenic studies, and her future goals.



What drew you to classics and archaeology and, more broadly, to Hellenic studies?

Learning Latin in middle and high school was my entry to the ancient world, but only when I started ancient Greek in college did I fall in love with classics. Archaeology was a major I chose without any background, in part for the sake of visiting the Mediterranean, but my first trip to Greece did not happen until I was advanced to candidacy for my Ph.D. degree. Like many classicists, I discovered that modern Greece and its language and culture became even more important for me than ancient Greece, and like many archaeologists, I learned modern Greek largely in small villages from native speakers.

Your contributions to the field are numerous and significant, ranging from excavations to cultural and historical analysis. Looking back, is there a specific project that you cherish above others?

Our recent fieldwork at Methone in Pieria has been my longest and deepest engagement with an ancient site and its modern heirs, in collaboration with Greek archaeologists and the local community. But earlier opportunities to work with Greek and German colleagues at Kalapodi, Lepreon, on Naxos, and Leukas were more rewarding in introducing me to archaeology in Greece beyond American field projects, and five years in Albania excavating an Illyrian tumulus opened a new country, language, and ancient culture. Meanwhile, I had always been attracted to the art and archaeology of the Near East, thanks to undergraduate courses and my first field experiences (in Israel and Turkey). Perhaps my most long-lived engagement has been trying to understand Greek art, literature and culture from an Eastern perspective, from its Near Eastern roots through its Hellenic transformations, now an agenda central to classics.

Reflecting on your many years in the field, how have relations between American archaeologists and their Greek counterparts developed? What do you envision for the future of archaeological studies in Greece? Are there regions of the country, phases of history, or even approaches to archaeology that will attract greater attention?

Half of all foreign field projects in Greece are required to be conducted as *synergasies* with responsibilities and resources shared with Greek archaeologists and ephorates; in my view, all of them should be (as they are in Turkey and Albania). I also hope that more American archaeologists become inspired to work beyond the traditional locales of U.S.-based projects (Athens, Crete, and the Peloponnese), especially in Northern Greece, which also experienced such a different modern history. In terms of research methods, the last fifty years have seen the rise of regional field projects that practice not just excavation but intensive and extensive surface surveys of the greater landscape around archaeological sites, along with ethnography, engaging with post-antique history and local communities. Finally, recent years have focused attention on those displaced by archaeology, the modern inhabitants of ancient sites who are often forced to relocate for the sake of antiquity and its modern agendas, as happened in both Rome and Athens in the 1930s (for the latter, a recent book and upcoming exhibit honor the inhabitants of the Vrysaki neighborhood whose homes were destroyed to uncover the Agora). Meanwhile, I hope that all classicists who spend time in Greece can and will learn modern Greek!

You played an important role in the promotion of Hellenic studies, including modern Greek, at UCLA. Can you trace the history of the field at UCLA and what you envision for its future now that a center has been established?

Ever since I lived in Greece for the first time, I wished to expand the range of classics beyond the traditional time frame and disciplinary boundaries of the ancient world. In my first teaching position at Yale, I explored possibilities, but it was not until the 21st century that the support of the Stavros Niarchos Foundation (SNF) launched a Hellenic studies program at Yale. When I joined UCLA, I learned that the Department of Classics once included a Greek classicist—Evangelos Petrounias—who also offered modern Greek instruction. As chair of the department in the late 1990s, I welcomed the efforts of UCLA's Hellenic-American Students Organization and of the Hellenic University Club to add modern Greek language classes, offered once as a summer course. With Stelios Vasilakis (then at the Vryonis Center in Northern California), I hosted a conference in 2000 on the future of modern Greek studies in classics (published in the *Journal of the Greek Diaspora* 2001), and through negotiations with the Greek Ministry of Education, UCLA was enabled to offer a year of modern Greek in 2010-2011. As a later chair, John Papadopoulos approached the SNF to fund a lecturer in modern Greek, but it was not until Sharon Gerstel's renewed initiative with the same foundation, and the extraordinary support of so many individuals and organizations in Los Angeles, that UCLA was able to establish its own SNF Hellenic Center.

Faculty News

Welcoming New Faculty in Hellenic Studies



UCLA is delighted to announce the hire of **Dr. David Schneller** (Ph.D. Columbia University) as assistant professor of ancient art (Art History). According to Schneller, “Greece has long inspired my research and my life as an archaeologist and historian of the art of the ancient eastern Mediterranean. After four excavation seasons at the Athenian Agora, I joined the inaugural team from Columbia University excavating in the sanctuary of Poseidon at Onchestos (in Boeotia). While living in Athens, I was fortunate to receive support from the American School of Classical Studies at Athens (ASCSA) and the Alexander S. Onassis Foundation, which propelled my doctoral research well beyond the Aegean to the shores of North Africa and Western Asia. The book I’m currently writing, *Crafting Across Time and Space: Artistic Exchange in the Eastern Mediterranean*, which originated as my doctoral thesis, takes a renewed approach to small, portable votive objects that have been found in sanctuaries across the Greek world and are stylistically

linked to Western Asia, Cyprus, and Egypt. By closely examining these works of art in Greek museums and excavation storerooms, I am able to tell narratives of materially-informed object histories that center expert, culturally-specific crafting knowledge. The book makes the case for collaborations among a diverse group of ancient artists and their patrons during the early first millennium B.C. It fills gaps in our understanding of the mobility of and interactions among ordinary Syrian, Egyptian, Cretan, Cypriot, and Aegean artists who are omitted from the written sources. Throughout my research, Athens has always been my home, a refuge where I return year after year to an extraordinary community of international scholars and friends.”

Professor Purves Receives Guggenheim Fellowship

Professor Alex Purves (Classics) was named a Guggenheim Fellow for 2023-2024. During her fellowship

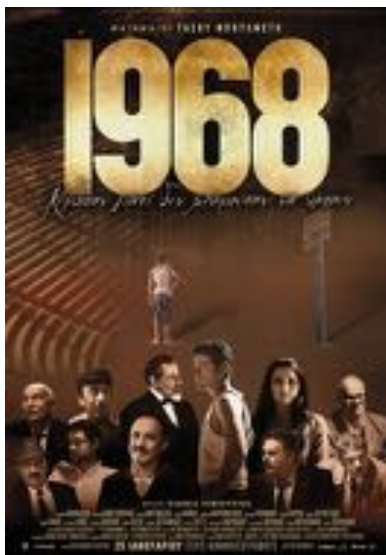


year, Purves will be working on a book entitled *Blue Homer: Reading the Sea In and Beyond the Odyssey*. This book will examine Homer’s *Iliad* and *Odyssey*, James Joyce’s *Ulysses*, and Derek Walcott’s *Omeros* from various marine perspectives, including underwater, from the shoreline, and from the surface of the sea. It considers how thinking through the medium of water opens up various poetic and narrative possibilities for epic, and proposes ways in which the reception of the *Odyssey* might be reframed through an aquatic medium. Purves is a distinguished scholar of ancient Greek poetry from the perspective of the body, time and the environment. She has published on Homer, Sappho, Herodotus and other early Greek authors.

Faculty News

Film Director Tassos Boulmetis at UCLA

We are excited to welcome **Tassos Boulmetis**, the acclaimed Greek film director and UCLA alumnus, to our campus this fall as the inaugural artist-in-residence of *Gefyra* (<https://bit.ly/3KvEaSf>). Boulmetis' award-winning works include *A Touch of Spice*, the highest-ever grossing Greek film, and *Mythopathy*, a sweeping, yet deeply personal, panorama of Greek history in the second part of the 20th century. Our Center will partner with the UCLA Film &



Television Archive for a screening of *1968*, his most recent feature-length film, at the Hammer Museum on October 28. Boulmetis will also be closely engaged with academic life at UCLA, offering “Ancient

World and Cinema: Journeys of Displaced Heroes,” an undergraduate course in the Department of Classics that explores how ancient Greek dramaturgy impacted contemporary film genres. The course proved to be immensely successful and popular with UCLA students when Boulmetis first offered it in fall 2019. We are thrilled that UCLA students will have the opportunity to engage with Hellenic culture in connection with broader issues under the guidance of an accomplished artist and teacher!

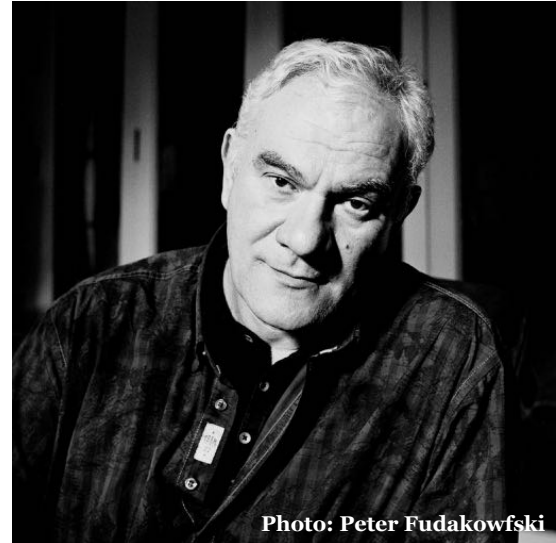


Photo: Peter Fudakowski

Publications on Bouboulina and Byzantine Architecture



Photo: Michalis Kokorakis

Professor Sharon Gerstel (Art History) traveled to Spetses in July to participate in the book presentation of *Bouboulina and the Greek Revolution: Interdisciplinary Perspectives on the Heroine of 1821*, edited by April Kalogeropoulos Householder. The event took place at the Bouboulina Museum in front of a lively audience. Her chapter, “Laskarina Bouboulina Imagined: Portraits of a Greek Heroine,” examines the construction of the heroine’s image in a number of artistic media, including paintings, engravings, ceramics, textiles, and even playing cards. Gerstel also published “Rite and Passage in the Middle Byzantine Church,” in *The Cambridge Guide to the Architecture of Christianity*, edited by Richard A. Etlin. In 2023-2024 she will be on sabbatical and hopes to complete a number of projects.

Faculty News

Professor Kathryn Morgan Receives Fellowship at the Institute for Advanced Study



Professor Kathryn Morgan (Classics) was recently honored with a fellowship for the fall term at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton, New Jersey. Morgan will be hosted in the School of Historical Studies and will be conducting research for her current book project, *Plato, Thucydides, and the Uses of History*. This project will explore Plato's reception of Thucydides' *History of the Peloponnesian War*, arguing that Plato found in Thucydides a powerful model of inductive world-building that challenged his own analysis of ethics and politics, and that this challenge was taken up in a number of Platonic dialogues. The book will, she hopes, engage classicists and ancient historians, but more broadly, all who investigate the cultural uses of the past, by investigating what history is for and how it is constructed and experienced. Although Plato subverts Thucydides' model of constructing historical understanding through investigation of what actually happened, he shares with Thucydides skepticism about popular history

and Athenian political rhetoric, as well as faith in the power of rational conjecture. Watching these ancient authors negotiate the fraught borderlands between "myth" and "history" has much to teach us about how we deploy the past.

Lecture and Exhibition on Dionysios Solomos

Dr. Simos Zenios (Center Associate Director and Stavros Niarchos Foundation & Ioannis P. and Eirini Caloyeras Lecturer in Modern Greek Language and Culture) offered a lecture in June on the work of Dionysios Solomos, the major Greek poet of the 19th century. The lecture, hosted by the Gennadius Library of the American School of Classical Studies in Athens, is available on the School's YouTube channel (<https://bit.ly/44xUNEB>). It was part of the exhibition "Dionysios Solomos... two flames... Manolis Charos" (<https://bit.ly/3PmIruq>), which Zenios co-curated with Dr. Maria Georgopoulou, director of the Gennadius Library. The exhibition, which ran from March 28 until June 30, brought together paintings by renowned Greek artist Manolis Charos, inspired by the work of Solomos, and rare books and manuscripts from the collections of the Gennadius Library and other Greek institutions. This year, Zenios will serve on the Division of Humanities' Global Language and Intercultural Education Task Force, which will explore ways to ensure the flourishing of language programs at UCLA.



Photo: Savvas Margaritis

Fellowship News

The UCLA SNF Hellenic Center provides several fellowships and scholarships that allow UCLA students and faculty to advance their studies and research. We are pleased to congratulate the following 2023 recipients:



Professor Ella Haselswerdt received a 2023-24 residential fellowship at The Patrick & Joan Leigh Fermor House in Kardamyli, Messenia, Greece. Provided in collaboration with the Benaki Museum, these fellowships allow scholars to devote their time to research and writing during one academic term. Haselswerdt, an assistant professor in the UCLA Department of Classics, earned her Ph.D. in classics from Princeton University and teaches ancient Greek at both the undergraduate and graduate levels, as well as general education courses in ancient Greek civilization, gender and sexuality, and Greek tragedy. Haselswerdt has wide ranging interests in Greek literature, with particular focus in the poetics and aesthetics of Attic

tragedy and in queer literary methodologies, and has published in both areas. During this residency, Haselswerdt will focus on a short, experimental monograph called *Deep Lez Philology*, which attempts to bridge the gap between academic and popular conceptions of Sappho. Drawing from her own philologically-attuned readings of the Sapphic corpus alongside its literary and artistic reception, both ancient and modern, this project seeks new, non-positivist ways to construct the poet and her poetry as open sites of contemporary queer identification, while simultaneously offering a provocation to philology itself.

Nicolyna Enriquez received a 2023 James and Carolyn Kolokotronis Endowed Graduate Research Fellowship. Situated at the intersection of island studies and environmental history, Enriquez's dissertation, *Surrounded by Sea, Rooted in Land: An Environmental History of Late Byzantine Art on Crete*, explores how rural Cretan villagers in late Byzantium (13th-15th century) perceived and experienced their insular environment. Focusing on the provinces of Selino and Pediada, she brings together visual imagery, architectural studies, archaeological research, and topographical analysis into a comprehensive discussion of late-Byzantine island communities and the surrounding terrestrial and maritime world. By combining a study of the placement of churches in the larger island landscape with the visual evidence on their walls, Enriquez argues that rural churches are not simply mirrors of the heavenly realm (a metaphor articulated by Byzantine theologians) but are simultaneously connected to the surrounding environment. Her dissertation proposes a broader understanding of the relationship between rural island villagers and the sea and land from which they gained sustenance, engaged in trade, and, in the case of climate, from which they requested divine protection.



Leah Marangos received the 2023 Peter and Vivi Demopoulos Endowed Graduate Research Fellowship. Her dissertation, *Itinerant Images, and Inventive Encounters: Michael Damaskinos, Georgios Klontzas, and Art in the Eastern Mediterranean*, examines how mobility during the late 16th century impacted the works of two Cretan artists, Michael Damaskinos (1530/35-1592/93) and Georgios Klontzas (1535-1608). Her project assesses how these artists responded to diverse sources and demands of patrons as they and their objects traversed the early modern Mediterranean. The four chapters of her dissertation examine four fascinating and exemplary artworks that provoke investigation of their

Fellowship News

often unpredictable formats, compositions, iconographies, and pictorial vocabularies. She is approaching these objects as mixed places—as diverse formats (altarpieces, icons, manuscripts, and walls) for the encounter of materials, forms, idioms, ornamentation, and conventions that migrate. *Itinerant Images* investigates how experiences of the Mediterranean—observations and encounters with new materials and formats, as well as maritime environments—were incorporated into the works of Damaskinos and Klontzas. The objects serve as sites to explore themes of alterity, gender, identity, migration, and place. Her study of these artists, their journeys, and the artifacts they produced also yield insights into the evolving connections of Venice and its Greek colonies. It investigates the effects of colonialism and the fall of the Byzantine Empire on the Greek community throughout Venetian dominions and along the coast of the Italian Peninsula. She is exploring, then, through case studies, how the eastern Mediterranean is a conduit for artistic invention in the early modern period, revealing the persistence and creative legacy of Byzantium. The focus on Damaskinos and Klontzas allows a reassessment of categories such as periodization and national boundaries.

Christine Muron received the 2023 Peter and Vivi Demopoulos Endowed Graduate Research Fellowship. Her project, *Medieval Pottery Analysis Training and Research in Greece: Sparta, Corinth, and Athens*, will investigate the production and distribution of medieval pottery in Laconia, Greece, focusing on 12th-century Sparta. The city’s strategic location within an agriculturally rich province allowed it to achieve close ties to Constantinople and other trading hubs and ports in the Mediterranean region, and the fine craftsmanship and quantity of wares recovered from the religious and secular remains suggest that it was a site of ceramic production. By comparing the decorations, fabrics, and techniques of Spartan wares with those unearthed at the meticulously-excavated sites of Corinth and Athens (sites with concrete evidence of workshops and unfinished products), Muron’s research will trace regional tastes and preferences in Laconia to better understand what characterizes this pottery as “Spartan.” The Peter and Vivi Demopoulos Endowed Graduate Research Fellowship will foster laboratory and hands-on training at three sites with pottery collections kept in storage for long periods following excavation. The significance of glazed table wares among various architectural features suggests that domestic life was in constant dialogue with public monuments and spaces, simultaneously emphasizing the city as an essential node within a distribution network.



Sofia Pitouli received a 2023 James and Carolyn Kolokotronis Endowed Graduate Research Fellowship. The fellowship will enable Pitouli to study the work of Greek architect Dimitris Pikionis (1887-1968) and his vision of “Japanese” as negotiated in his tectonic and landscaping projects from 1933 to 1958. In 1954, the



Greek government commissioned Dimitris Pikionis to landscape the area around the Acropolis. Within the 80,000 square meter complex, Pikionis synthesized a modern Greek identity by intertwining the narratives of heritage emerging from the classical Greek and Byzantine past. Pikionis’ modern-era Greekness, however, laid its inventiveness elsewhere—in Japan. Her research, *Toward Greekness: Dimitris Pikionis’ Architectural Fantasies of Japan*, centers around the question of how Pikionis employed and negotiated a version of Japan in his tectonic works in the decade of the 1930s and traces its influence leading up to the Acropolis project. This award will allow her to travel to Athens and Thessaloniki to study the archives of the open-air theatre Marika Kotopouli at Heyden Street in Athens (1933) and the Experimental

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School of Thessaloniki (1935), described as “of a slightly Japanese character.” Pikionis never visited Japan but was close to Nikos Kazantzakis (1883-1957), who traveled to China and Japan and documented his insights in his book *Le Jardin des rochers* (1936). Kazantzakis collaborated with Pikionis on an essay about Japanese gardens and their spatial organization. Pitoulis will also travel to Heraklion to study Kazantzakis’ letters to Pikionis during and after his trip to Japan and document his collection of Japanese works.

Luis Rodríguez-Pérez received a fellowship from the George and Cleola Gavalas Fund for Archaeology. Rodríguez-Pérez is currently in his second year in the Ph.D. program of the Cotsen Institute of Archaeology. Although his research is centered on the archaeology of Greece, he is continuously exploring the different ways of digitizing antiquity and community engagement in the field. This summer, he was involved in both the archaeological excavations at the Athenian Agora and the Vamvakou Summer Institute. At the agora, he digitized excavation materials as they are stratigraphically excavated, creating a digital record that could be published for the wider public. Incorporating digital methods into an archaeological excavation, especially in Greece, is critical to the future engagement and preservation of material heritage. At the same time, engaging with the Greek community who allow scholars to excavate and publish their findings, is critical for building rapport between the two communities. Examining this collaboration and the legacy (and construction) of the classical heritage in Greece will be an important first step toward his research while at UCLA.



Rachel Schloss received the George and Barbara Olympios Family Endowed Graduate Research Fellowship for 2023. With the support of the fellowship, Schloss will travel to Athens to participate in two programs run through the American School of Classical Studies at Athens (ASCSA) that will transform her archaeological research through training in advanced geoarchaeological techniques uniquely taught in Athens. First, she will participate in the intensive micromorphology course at the Malcolm H. Wiener Laboratory for Archaeological Science at ACSA, learning skills that will allow her to decipher the makeup of soil and uncover activity patterns in her dissertation site. Then, she will participate in the Wiener Laboratory’s Geoarchaeology and Site Formation Field School, which takes place through excavation at the Athenian

Agora and teaches specialized skills for high-level Ph.D. students. The Olympios Fellowship will provide the opportunity to develop new archaeological research techniques that she could not learn elsewhere, taught by experts on the cutting edge of developing and mobilizing geoarchaeological methods.

The Center also provided a fellowship from the Aristides G. Alexopoulos Endowment Student Fund, which allows for small grants to UCLA students in financial need.

The Center wishes to thank George Manginis and the Benaki Museum for their partnership, Nicolaos Alexopoulos and Sue Curtis Alexopoulos, Peter and Vivi Demopoulos, George and Cleola Gavalas, James and Carolyn Kolokotronis, and Stavros and Anne-Marie Olympios, who are generously supporting the next generation of scholars! For information on how to establish a named fellowship, please contact Center Director Sharon Gerstel at gerstel@humnet.ucla.edu or (310) 825-5323. For more information about these fellowships and scholarships, visit <https://hellenic.ucla.edu/fellowships/>.

Student News

Research on Byzantine Art

Sofia Pitouli (Ph.D. candidate, Byzantine art history) has been extremely active over the last few months. In May, she presented a paper at the 42nd meeting of the Christian Archaeological Society in Athens, Greece. Her talk, “A Vlach Nun and her 13th-Century Monastery,” examined a now-destroyed foundation, which the Thessalian *sebastokratorissa* Hypomone endowed in the late 13th century. Hypomone was a Vlach—a nomadic group—that is vastly unexplored in scholarship because of the lack of material remains. Pitouli also presented at the 58th International Congress on Medieval Studies at Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo. Her paper explored an oration delivered by the 12th-century writer Nikolaos Mesarites over his brother John’s grave. Her inquiry concerned the treatment of speech according to the acoustics of space and the descriptive techniques Mesarites employed to refer to sound. The paper has been published in the academic journal *Diogenes*. Pitouli also worked as project manager for the 2023 *Gefyra* weaving project in Geraki (see pp. 6-8) and is currently overseeing the preparation of the catalogue of textiles.



An Exciting 2023 for the Hellenic Students’ Community

The Hellenic Students’ Community (HSC), a UCLA student organization, was active throughout the academic year, organizing several events that brought together the vibrant community of Greek, Cypriot, and Greek American students from UCLA and other local universities. Our Center was delighted to support the HSC in celebrating the first day of Lent with kite flying and traditional dishes at UCLA and, with the support of Peter and Vivi Demopoulos, in organizing an Easter celebration with lamb, *tsoureki*, and other holiday dishes. Students interested in the events of the HSC can write to hellenicstudentscommunity@gmail.com.



UCLA, USC, and LMU students celebrate Easter (photo: HSC)



Student News

FLAS Fellowships to Promote Language-Based Graduate Research



Congratulations to **Christine Muron** (Ph.D. candidate, Byzantine Art History) and **Luis Rodríguez-Pérez** (Ph.D. candidate, Archaeology), recipients of 2023-2024 Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowships! The FLAS fellowships, which are funded by the U.S. Department of Education and are administered at UCLA by the Center for European and Russian Studies, support students to enhance their knowledge of a foreign language that is relevant to their research. Language-based research is crucial for the creation of a diverse and inclusive scholarship that fosters bonds with local communities. We are thrilled that Muron and Rodríguez-Pérez, who had already distinguished themselves for their exceptional performance in our Elementary Greek language classes, will have the opportunity to continue their study of Greek!

George Kefalas Receives the Gus and Judie Christopoulos Award in Modern Greek

Congratulations to **George Kefalas**, recipient of the Gus and Judie Christopoulos Award in Modern Greek! The award recognizes and honors an undergraduate student with exceptional performance in modern Greek language courses. Kefalas displayed such performance throughout the year and his aptitude in language learning was lauded by his instructor and peers. As a second generation Greek American, he maintains strong family connections to Greece and he is active with Hellenic life both on campus, with events hosted by the Hellenic Students' Community, and in the broader community in general. Kefalas stated that he is excited to continue his study of the Greek language and he looks forward to enrolling in Intermediate Modern Greek (Greek 9A-9C).



Alexia Andricopoulos Receives Helen Caldwell Award for Outstanding Minor

Congratulations to **Alexia Andricopoulos**, recipient of a 2023 Helen Caldwell Award for Outstanding Minor in Greek Language and Culture! The award recognizes exceptional academic performance by seniors graduating with a minor from the Department of Classics. In addition to modern Greek language courses, Andricopoulos studied such topics as race and ethnicity in the Greco-Roman World, displacement narratives in Greek literature and history, and the Olympics, from the ancient to modern period. She cherished the opportunity that this unique path of study afforded her: "I am grateful to have been able to explore my heritage through the Greek Language and Culture minor. The connections with my fellow Helleno-Bruins, the engagement with Greek arts and culture, and learning the language have been the most meaningful part of my UCLA experience." Andricopoulos will begin graduate studies at UCLA this fall in the Biochemistry, Molecular and Structural Biology program.



FALL 2023 EVENTS | MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- SEPTEMBER 23**
7:00-9:00 PM
ROLFE COURTYARD
- GLENDI/BEGINNING OF THE YEAR CELEBRATION**
Music Performance by Petros Antoniadis, Alexis Cohen, Emmanuela Chiotaki and Eirini Nomikos; held under the auspices of the Consulate General of Greece in Los Angeles
- SEPTEMBER 30**
10:00 AM-12:00 PM
ONLINE (ZOOM)
- GEFYRA BOOK CLUB**
Μίνως Ευσταθιάδης, *Ο Δύτης* (Ικαρος, 2018)
- OCTOBER 14**
3:00 PM
314 ROYCE
- GEFYRA LECTURE**
“Aesthetics of Crisis: Political Street Art and Graffiti in Athens, 2013-2023”
by Julia Tulke (Emory University)
- OCTOBER 19-21**
**UNIVERSITY OF ATHENS,
GENNADIUS LIBRARY**
- GEFYRA CONFERENCE**
“Envisioning the Greek Landscape: From Thera to Climate Change”
co-sponsored by the University of Athens and California State University, Sacramento
- OCTOBER 28**
7:30 PM
BILLY WILDER THEATER
- FILM SCREENING & DISCUSSION WITH THE DIRECTOR**
1968 by Tassos Boulmetis (Director & Writer)
Co-hosted by the UCLA Film & Television Archive
- NOVEMBER 4**
3:00 PM
314 ROYCE
- GEFYRA LECTURE**
“On Maria Callas” by Helena Matheopoulos (Independent journalist)
Co-sponsored by the UCLA Herb Alpert School of Music; held under the auspices of the Consulate General of Greece in Los Angeles
- NOVEMBER 15**
LOCATION TBD
- RECEPTION OF HELLENIC CULTURE LECTURE SERIES**
Emilio Capettini (UC Santa Barbara), Title To Be Announced
Co-hosted by the UCLA Department of Classics
- NOVEMBER 18**
TIME TBD
314 ROYCE
- GEFYRA CONFERENCE**
“Reconsidering the Generation of the 1930s: The Roots and Breadth of Greek Modernism”
Co-sponsored by the Mary Jaharis Center for Byzantine Art and Culture, UCLA Center for European and Russian Studies, and UCLA Department of Art History; held under the auspices of the Consulate General of Greece in Los Angeles
- DECEMBER 9**
10:00 AM-12:00 PM
ONLINE (ZOOM)
- GEFYRA CONVERSATION WITH THE AUTHOR**
Κάλλια Παπαδάκη, *Δενδρίτες* (Πόλις, 2015)