

ENVISIONING THE GREEK LANDSCAPE

From Thera to Climate Change Conference

19.10.2023 - 21.10.2023

CLIMATE
CHALLENGES
AND
RESILIENCE

STEWARDS
OR EXPLOITERS
OF THE LAND

LAND
USE AND
EXTERNAL
INFLUENCES



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THE GREEK LANDSCAPE

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Athens, Greece – This fall, the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, UCLA, Simon Fraser University, and Sacramento State University will host an international conference entitled “Envisioning the Greek Landscape: From Thera to Climate Change.” This interdisciplinary conversation/event will bring together academics and policymakers to discuss the perception and exploitation of the Greek environment from antiquity to the present. The conference seeks to explore how the various peoples and institutions who have overseen the Greek landscape have valued its natural wealth and how they have overcome climatic challenges.

This conference provides a fresh approach to the topic of environment and climate change. Stakeholders from academia, government and industry will offer important perspectives on climate change and its impact on society. By exploring the past in terms of climatic challenges and society’s responses to them, new visions and possible solutions can be developed.

Using the lessons of the past will help shape the policy of today and the future. As climate change and environmental challenges dominate headlines worldwide, looking to the past for sources of inspiration will generate ideas for policymakers. “Envisioning the Greek Landscape” hopes to begin this conversation.

For more information on the conference scheduled for 19 – 21 October 2023 at the Kostis Palamas building (National and Kapodistrian University of Athens), and Cotsen Hall (American School of Classical Studies at Athens)

CANADA

USA

ENGL

19 – 21 OCTOBER 2023

Kostis Palamas building (National and Kapodistrian University of Athens), and Cotsen Hall (American School of Classical Studies at Athens)

ENVISIONING THE GREEK LANDSCAPE

From Thera to Climate Change



Since ancient times, people residing in the **Mediterranean** have **encountered and confronted climatic challenges**, including volcanic eruptions, tsunamis, fires, and drought.

Over the millennia, the Greek people have dealt with the health, demographic, and economic consequences of environmental change, offering a variety of solutions.

Today, governments around the world are developing new technologies and policies to mitigate the environmental impact of contemporary society. By going back to one of the oldest civilizations in the world – Greece – this conference will explore various topics on the climate and environment.

CLIMATE CHALLENGES & RESILIENCE

fires, drought, poor agricultural production, and how people faced these challenges since antiquity

STEWARDS OR EXPLOITERS OF THE LAND

in what way has the environment been perceived by various societies, institutions, and rulers.

LAND USE & EXTERNAL INFLUENCES

modernized technology versus traditional forms of domestic usage.



The Envisioning the Greek Landscape conference is breaking new ground by exploring the Greek environment through an interdisciplinary and diachronic lens. Academics from different scholarly disciplines and historical periods will address the themes outlined above, examining how the peoples inhabiting Greece, broadly conceived, have responded to these issues. Additionally, the conference will conclude with a policy roundtable so that both academics and policymakers can discuss some of the important issues raised in the scholarly panels. In this manner, the scholars will be extending their influence beyond academic circles. The conference organizers strongly believe that understanding past environmental challenges and experiences can influence or shape contemporary policymaking. Often, earlier historical solutions to environmental challenges can inspire for more ecologically friendly solutions in the present.

The panels will examine topics such as disease, drought, forest fires, earthquakes, and balancing human existence to the surrounding environment. The panels will begin with the ancient period, and then progress to Byzantium, the Ottoman era, the modern Greek state, and then conclude with recent developments. Additionally, institutions such as the Orthodox Church, political and economic elites, both domestic and foreign, will be analyzed vis-à-vis their perceived role toward the environment.

Finally, one of the fundamental goals of the conference is **to stimulate a new exchange of ideas regarding the Greek environment.**

With that in mind, the organizers of the conference intend to publish a selection of the presentation papers as an edited volume. This will disseminate the ideas of the conference to a wider audience – both popular and academic – and help foster greater interest in the environment: past, present, and future.



The Stavros Niarchos Foundation Centre *for Hellenic Studies*
at Simon Fraser University *and the* UCLA Stavros Niarchos
Foundation Center *for the Study of Hellenic Culture,*

through their “Gefyra” program,
**proudly sponsor the “Envisioning
the Greek Landscape: From
Thera to Climate Change”
conference.**

OVERVIEW

Envisioning the Greek Landscape **examines the perception, appreciation, 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 land have understood its natural wealth and how they have confronted and overcome natural climatic challenges.**



SCHEDULE

CONFERENCE DAY 1



Thursday (4 panels, 9:00 am - 5:30 pm)  **Kostis Palamas Building**, Main Auditorium

9:00 – 10:30 am

The Past is the Future: Climate Change in Antiquity

Moderator, **Bonna Wescoat** (American School of Classical Studies at Athens)

a	“Volcanically-Induced Climate Change and Societal Resilience in the 420s BCE Aegean”	Ruben Post (University of St. Andrews, UK)
b	“Mother Nature Delivers Moral Lessons: Invoking the Natural Environment in Ancient Greek Wisdom”	Nikos Lazaridis (Sacramento State University, USA)
c	“Notions about the Anthropogenic Character of Disasters in Antiquity”	Justine Walter (International University of Applied Sciences, Germany)

11:00 am – 1:00 pm

The Medieval East: Byzantium and the Environment

Moderator, **Sharon Gerstel** (UCLA, USA)

a	“‘Water, Water, Everywhere but not a Drop To Drink’, Constantine’s Legacy and Water Management in Medieval Constantinople”	Jim Crow (University of Edinburgh, UK)
b	“A ‘Little Ice Age’ in the Byzantine Empire?”	Sam White (University of Helsinki, Finland)
c	“Environmental Challenges to Agricultural Production in a Transforming Byzantine Landscape (6th-12th c.): The Archaeological View”	Nikos Tsivikis (Institute of Mediterranean Studies, Crete)

2:30 – 4:00 pm

A Sacred Duty: The Greek Orthodox Church and the Environment

Moderator, **Athanassios Grammenos** (University of Piraeus)

a	“The Sacredness of Matter: A Timely Historical Inquiry”	Niki Tsironi (National Hellenic Research Foundation, Athens)
b	“Sacred Buildings in the Wild. Aspects of the Relationship Between Rural Churches and the Natural Environment in Early Modern and Modern Greece”	Andreas Doulfis (National and Kapodistrian University of Athens)
c	“Ecology and Theology: What Does Church Have to Do with Climate?”	John Chrysavgis (Ecumenical Patriarchate)

4:30 – 6:00 pm

Past Approaches, Modern Legacies: The Environment in the Ottoman Empire

Moderator, **Molly Greene** (Princeton University, USA)

a	“Human pressure in the Argive Plain (16th–18th c. CE)”	Georgios Liakopoulos (Max Planck Institute of Geoanthropology, Germany) and Dr. Cristiano Vignola (Sapienza University, Italy)
b	“The Ottoman Dodecanese as an Environmental Borderland”	Chris Gratien (University of Virginia, USA)
c	“Bread Riot in the Vicinity of Smyrna in 1890: The Experience of Greek Sharecroppers During the Late 19th-Century Droughts”	Önder Eren Akgül (Kadir Has University, Turkey)





THE ANGELO K. TSAKOPOULOS HELLENIC STUDIES
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is a proud sponsor of

“Envisioning the Greek Landscape: From Thera to Climate Change” conference.

The Hellenic Studies Program supports Greek language, history, politics, arts, and literature.



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SCHEDULE

CONFERENCE DAY 2



Friday (3 panels, 9:00 am - 4:00 pm)

📍 **Kostis Palamas Building**, Main Auditorium

9:00 – 10:30 am

Modern Approaches, Modern Problems: The Early Greek State and the Environment, Part I

Moderator, **Katerina Lagos** (Sacramento State University, USA)

a	“Land Reforms and Landscape Transformations in Mainland Greece (circa 1800-1960s): A Preliminary Report”	Socrates Petmezas (University of Crete)
b	“The War on Nature for Modernity’s Victory and the Resulting Ailments for Both Nature and Humans”	Anastasia Karakasidou (Wellesley University, USA)
c	“Forests’ Conservation in Interwar Greece”	Iosif Botetzagias (University of the Aegean)

11:00 – 12:30 pm

Modern Approaches, Modern Problems: The Early Greek State and the Environment, Part II

Moderator, **James Horncastle** (Simon Fraser University, Canada)

a	“Geography, Health and the Greek Peasantry: Malaria in a Fragmented Land”	Katerina Gardikas (National and Kapodistrian University of Athens)
b	“The Ecological and Productive Paradigm Shift in Macedonia: Large Land-Reclamation Projects in the Province from 1928 to 1938”	George L. Vlachos (EIE, National Institute of Research, Athens)
c	“The Long 20th Century: Slow and Fast Agricultural Modernization, Landscape Change, and Conservation”	Thanasis Kizos (University of the Aegean)

2:30 – 4:00 pm

A Moment of Change: The Environment and Contemporary Greece

Moderator, **Andreas Kakridis** (Panteion University of Social and Political Sciences, Athens)

a	“The Politics of Common Agricultural Policy in Greece from an Environmental Perspective”	George Vlahos (Agricultural University of Athens) and Stathis Klonaris (Agricultural University of Athens)
b	“Youth, Socio-Political Participation and the Environment in Greece, in Times of Increasing Inequalities: A Micro and Meso Level Approach”	Maria Paschou (University of Crete), Angelos Loukakis (National Centre of Social Research, Athens), Maria Kousis and Stefania Kalogeraki (University of Crete)
c	“Environmental Security in Greece”	Charis Gerosideris (Prince Mohammad Bin Fahd University, Saudi Arabia)

SCHEDULE

CONFERENCE DAY 3



Saturday (4:00 - 8:00 pm)

Roundtable and Keynote lecture

📍 **Cotsen Hall, American School of Classical Studies,**
9 Anapiron Polemou, GR-106 76, Athens

4:00–6:30 pm	Roundtable - Contextualizing Greek Environmental Concerns in a Global Context
7:00 - 8:00 pm	Keynote Lecture - Dr. Andreas Papandreou (National and Kapodistrian University of Athens)
8:00–9:30 pm	Concluding Remarks and Reception

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For more information on the conference scheduled for 19 – 21 October 2023 at the Kostis Palamas building (National and Kapodistrian University of Athens), and Cotsen Hall (American School of Classical Studies at Athens), please contact *Dr. Katerina Lagos*: lagosk@csus.edu

All donations are tax-deductible (501c3) in the United States.

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