

Envisioning the Greek Landscape: From Thera to Climate Change (Save the date)

19-21 October 2023

Athens, Greece

We would like to thank the Rector of the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens (NKUA) Professor Meletios-Athanasios C. Dimopoulos for his encouragement and support of the international conference “*Envisioning the Greek Landscape: From Thera to Climate Change*” which will take place at the Kostis Palamas building, main auditorium 48 Akadimias Street on 19 & 20 October (Thursday and Friday) and at Cotsen Hall, Gennadius Library on Saturday, 21 October.

Members of the academic community of the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens (NKUA) will be participating in the international conference, which is organized by the Hellenic Studies Programs of (1) California State University, Sacramento, (2) the UCLA- University of California, Los Angeles, and 3) Simon Fraser University, Canada.

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.

The three themes that we will be exploring are:

1. Climate challenges and resilience: fires, drought, poor agricultural production, and how people faced these challenges since antiquity
2. Stewards or exploiters of the land: in what way has the environment been perceived by various societies, institutions, and rulers.
3. Land use and external influences: modernized technology versus traditional forms of domestic practices.

Conference Day I

Thursday - (4 panels, 9:00 am - 6:00 pm)

The conference will take place at the Kostis Palamas building, main auditorium.
48 Akadimias Street & Sina Street, GR-105 62, Athens

(https://en.uoa.gr/el/about_us/services_units/kostis_palamas_building/)



1. **The Past is the Future: Climate Change in Antiquity, 9:00 – 10:30 am**
Moderator, Bonna Westcoat (American School of Classical Studies, Athens)
 - a. Ruben Post (University of St. Andrews, UK) – “Volcanically-Induced Climate Change and Societal Resilience in the 420s BCE Aegean”
 - b. Nikos Lazaridis (Sacramento State University, USA) - “Mother Nature Delivers Moral Lessons: Invoking the Natural Environment in Ancient Greek Wisdom”
 - c. Evangelos Protopapadakis (National and Kapodistrian University of Athens) - “Chrysippus Dog and the Paradoxes of Aristotle’s Teleological Universe”

2. **The Medieval East: Byzantium and the Environment, 11:00 am – 1:00 pm**
Moderator, Sharon Gerstel (UCLA, USA)
 - a. Jim Crow (University of Edinburgh, UK), “‘Water, Water, Everywhere but not a Drop To Drink’, Constantine’s Legacy and Water Management in Medieval Constantinople”

- b. Sam White (University of Helsinki, Finland), "A 'Little Ice Age' in the Byzantine Empire?"
- c. Neil Roberts (University of Plymouth and University of Oxford, UK): "The Climate and Environment of Greece Between Antiquity and Early Modern Times"
- d. Nikos Tsivikis (Institute of Mediterranean Studies, Crete), "Environmental Challenges to Agricultural Production in a Transforming Byzantine Landscape (6th-12th c.): The Archaeological View"

Lunch break, 1:00 – 2:30 pm (Catered lunch)

**3. A Sacred Duty: The Greek Orthodox Church and the Environment, 2:30 – 4:00 pm
Moderator, Athanassios Grammenos (University of Piraeus)**

- a. Niki Tsironi (National Hellenic Research Foundation, Athens), "Η Ιερότητα της Ύλης: Μια Επίκαιρη Ιστορική Αναζήτηση"/"The Sacredness of Matter: A Timely Historical Inquiry"
- b. Andreas Doulfis (National and Kapodistrian University of Athens), "Sacred Buildings in the Wild. Aspects of the Relationship Between Rural Churches and the Natural Environment in Early Modern and Modern Greece"
- c. John Chryssavgis (Ecumenical Patriarchate), "Ecology and Theology: What Does Church Have to Do with Climate?"

4. Past Approaches, Modern Legacies: The Environment in the Ottoman Empire, 4:30 – 6:00 pm

Moderator, Molly Greene (Princeton University, USA)

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

Evening Reception, 7:30 - 9:30 pm

Conference Day II

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

1. Modern Approaches, Modern Problems: The Early Greek State and the Environment, Part I, 9:00 – 10:30 pm)

Moderator, Katerina Lagos (Sacramento State University, USA)

- a. Socrates Petmezas (University of Crete), "Land Reforms and Landscape Transformations in Mainland Greece (circa 1800-1960s): A Preliminary Report"

- b. Anastasia Karakasidou (Wellesley University, USA), "The War on Nature for Modernity's Victory and the Resulting Ailments for Both Nature and Humans"
- c. Iosif Botetzagias (University of the Aegean) - "Forests' Conservation in Interwar Greece"

2. Modern Approaches, Modern Problems: The Early Greek State and the Environment, Part II, 11:00 – 12:30 pm

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

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

Lunch break, 12:30 – 2:30 pm

3. A Moment of Change: The Environment and Contemporary Greece, 2:30 – 4:00 pm
Moderator, James Horncastle (Simon Fraser University, Canada)

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

Dinner for conference participants - 8:00 - 10:00 pm

Conference Day III

Saturday (4:00 - 8:00 pm) - Roundtable and Keynote lecture

Cotsen Hall, Gennadius Library (<https://www.ascsa.edu.gr/about/cotsen-hall>)

Souidias 61, GR-106 76, Athens



**Roundtable - Contextualizing Greek Environmental Concerns in a Global Context,
4:00 – 6:30 pm**

Policy panel with moderators

Keynote Lecture, 7:00 - 8:00 pm

Andreas Papandreou, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens

Introduction, Irene Kamberidou (National and Kapodistrian University of Athens)

Concluding Remarks and Cocktail Reception, 8:00 – 9:30 pm

Katerina Lagos and James Horncastle