



HELLENIC REPUBLIC

**National and Kapodistrian
University of Athens**

— EST. 1837 —

Department of History and Philosophy of Science

Newsletter no. 1

November 2023

This is the **First Newsletter** of the **Department of History and Philosophy of Science (PHS)**, which aims to inform about activities of its members of staff and students. The History and Philosophy of Science is an interdisciplinary academic field, which studies science as a complex historical, social, and cultural phenomenon and highlights the philosophical dimensions of its theories and practice. It examines the philosophical, conceptual, and historical approaches to science in general, as well as to a variety of particular research fields, including the humanities and social sciences, natural sciences, psychology and cognitive sciences, life and medical sciences, mathematics and logic, and new technologies. The [faculty members](#) of the Department include some of the world experts in their respective fields, while several of the members lead or collaborate in [international research projects](#). The Department consists of three Divisions: History of Science and Technology, Philosophy and Theory of Science, and Technology, and Cognitive Science. It offers the sole [undergraduate programme](#) of studies on History and Philosophy of Science in Greece and 9 [postgraduate programmes](#) of studies in both Greek and English, which cover a wide range of philosophical topics, the history of science and technology, studies in society, science and technology, digital humanities and augmented textual studies, and cognitive psychology. PHS is among the highest rated of humanities departments in Greece, in terms of international research citations.

Awards and Distinctions

- On Friday, 15 September 2023, at the “Leonidas Zervas” Auditorium of the National Hellenic Research Foundation, the **International Academy of the History of Science awarded the Young Historian Prize 2021** (<https://www.aihs-iahs.org/en/prizes>) to Associate Professor of the History of Science at the Department of History and Philosophy of Science, **Petros Bouras-Vallianatos**.

The President of the International Academy of the History of Science, Prof. Serguei Demidov, presented Bouras-Vallianatos with the prize and congratulated him on his original monograph entitled [*Innovation in Byzantine Medicine: The Writings of John Zacharias Aktouarios \(c.1275-c.1330\)*](#) (Oxford University Press, 2020). In his response to the President’s

remarks, Bouras-Vallianatos thanked the International Academy of the History of Science, highlighting the importance of the Young Historians Prize for himself and the field of Byzantine Studies.



Prof. Demidov awarding the prize to Assoc. Prof. Bouras-Vallianatos

- Dr **Michalis Sotiropoulos**, a post-doctoral researcher at the Department of History and Philosophy of Science under the supervision of Prof. **Aristides Hatzis** was elected Fellow of the **Royal Historical Society (RHS)**. He is currently an 1821 Fellow at the British School of Athens.

Research Projects

- Two **EU-funded** projects on “**Science, Technology, Society—Science and Technology Studies (STS)**” and “**Ethics of Technology and Science**”.

Professor **Aristotle Tympas** will be the Principal Investigator of an international EU Erasmus+ programme on ethics of technology, entitled “**TETHICS GAME: A Serious Game for Innovative Education in Ethics of Technology**” (2023-2025), which will run in collaboration with a second international EU Erasmus+ programme, entitled “**ETHICS4CHALLENGES -- Innovative Ethics Education for Major Technological and Scientific Challenges**” (2022-2025) (Professor Tympas is the coordinator of the NKUA participation in the programme). TETHICS GAME involves one more Greek partner and a partner from France, whereas ETHICS4CHALLENGES involved partners from Turkey, Germany and Belgium. The NKUA team, which will combine inputs from “Science, Technology, Society—Science and

Technology Studies” and “Ethics of Technology and Science”, includes several department members, including Emeritus Professor **Stelios Virvidakis**, Professor **Stathis Psillos**, Professor **Theodore Arabatzis**, Professor **Stavros Drakopoulos**, Professor **Giorgos Gotsis**, Dr. **Katerina Vlantoni**, Dr. **Manolis Simos**, Dr. **Giorgos Velegrakis**, Dr. **Christina Zoi Siamanta** and PhD Candidate **Konstantinos Konstantis**. The projects will focus on STS and ethics approaches to the so called “existential threats”, from AI and climate change to genetic engineering. The total budget for the two programmes is 460.000 euros. The two projects and their synergies will be presented in detail in a following newsletter.

- Dr **Vanessa Seifert** is the new **Marie Curie Postdoctoral Fellow** (since July 2023), working on the project “**CReaCaL: Chemical Reactions as Causes and Laws**”. Her supervisor is Professor **Stathis Psillos** from the **HPS**,

and scientific advisor is Professor **Costas Methenitis** from the Department of Chemistry (NKUA). CReaCaL investigates in what sense chemical reactions correspond to causal relations, and consequently to laws in chemistry. It is

an interdisciplinary project that examines our best current scientific knowledge around chemical reactions, so as to inform our metaphysical understanding of chemistry. For more information, visit the project's [website](#).

Past Events – Talks

- The **MA in Cognitive Science** along with the Hellenic Cognitive Science Society co-organised successfully the **6th Panhellenic Conference of Cognitive Science** in Xylokastro between **21 and 24 September 2023**. More details [here](#). Professor **Irini Skaliora** gave the following talks in the framework of the Conference:

- “Perception and Cognition in ancient philosophy and contemporary”.
- “Un-freedom of the will”.

- The new English-language **MA in Contemporary Philosophy/Philosophy of Science** officially launched in September 2023 with a very successful international conference on “[Contemporary Philosophy meets Philosophy of Science: Trends and Perspectives](#)”. The conference included speakers from France, Germany, Greece, Italy, and Norway and took place in “Kostis Palamas” Building between **28 and 29 September 2023**.



Participants dining after the end of the first day of the Conference

- With the hosting of a significant international conference, the new English-language postgraduate programme **The Athens MA in Ancient Philosophy** officially launched its operation. The inaugural conference of the programme, held **under the patronage of H.E. the President of the Hellenic Republic Ms. Katerina Sakellariopoulou**, had as its topic the



Professor Thanassas (Director of the Programme) with the Minister of Education Mr. Pierrakakis



Participants at the Conference Hall, Central building, NKUA

role played by “**Athens in Ancient Philosophy**”. It took place in the central

building of the NKUA on **5-6 October 2023**. The conference attracted speakers from around the world, including the USA, Brazil, India, the UK, Belgium, Germany, and Greece. The proceedings were conducted in English, and the complete programme can be accessed on the [programme's website](#). The opening session was addressed by the Minister of Education Mr. **Kyriakos Pierrakakis**.

- From **October 25th to 28th 2023**, the European Cultural Centre of Delphi hosted an international event dedicated to the study of Ancient Greek Mathematics, known as the "[Delphi International Symposia](#)".



Participants, Symposium on Ancient Greek Mathematics

These symposia were a series of international meetings on Ancient Greek Mathematics held from 1992 to 2002 that played a significant role in shaping the

modern discipline of the History of Ancient Greek Mathematics. Organised by Emeritus Professor **Jean Christianidis**, Associate Professor **Michalis Sialaros** (Department of History and Philosophy of Science) and Professor **Reviel Netz** (Stanford University, Department of Classics). Supported by the Hellenic Foundation for Research and Innovation.

- Professor **Katerina Ierodiakonou** and Associate Professor **Petros Bouras-Vallianatos** together with the Assistant Professor **Giorgos Kazantzidis** (University of Patras, Department of Philology) successfully co-organised a two-day international conference on "[Colours in Ancient Medicine](#)". The conference included speakers from France, Germany, Greece, the United Kingdom, Israel, and Italy, and took place at the University of Patras on **3 and 4 November 2023**.



Participants, "Colours in Ancient Medicine"

Forthcoming Events – Talks

- The Centre of Greek & Chinese Ancient Civilisation in collaboration with the PHS organise an international two-day workshop on "**Cultures of Therapy in Ancient Greece and China**". The event will particularly focus on drug therapy with an aim to establish a platform for the comparative study of

pharmacology across premodern Eurasia. A highlight will be the screening of a recently produced documentary on "**Health and Healing in Ancient Greece and China**". The event will take place on **7 and 8 November 2023** in "Kostis Palamas" Building, 48 Akadimias street, Athens 10679. The programme is [here](#).

To register (free), please write to pbourasval@phs.uoa.gr

- Professor **Alex Paseau** (University of Oxford) will give a talk on “**The Euclidean Programme**” on **Tuesday 7 November** at 7pm at the Department of History and Philosophy of Science (Goudaroulis Hall). This is the first of a series of talks organised by the Division of Philosophy and Theory of Science.

- On **Tuesday 14 November** at 7pm at the Goethe-Institut Athen, 14-16 Omirou street, will take place an event on «**MOORE & WITTGENSTEIN. Ένας διάλογος για το νόημα της ηθικής και τον γρίφο της βεβαιότητας**» in the framework of the following two recent publications: George Edward Moore, *Principia Ethica*, transl. Anthony Hatzimoysis and Λούντβιχ Βιτγκενστάιν, *Περί Βεβαιότητας*, transl. Miltiadis N. Theodosiou (Crete University Press, Foundation of Research and Technology). Speakers include: Professor **Anthony Hatzimoysis**, Emeritus Professor **Stelios Virvidakis**, Professor **Vaso Kindi** and Mr. **Miltiadis N. Theodosiou**. For more details, [here](#).

- The **Athens Colloquium in Ancient Philosophy** commenced on October 19th with a presentation by Professor **Katerina Ierodiakonou**, entitled “**Why Do Flowers Smell Good but Taste Bad? The Aristotelian Perspective**”. The Colloquium is a forum for scientific research and exchange on all topics and aspects of Ancient Philosophy, including its modern reception. It is organised by **The Athens MA in Ancient Philosophy**, in cooperation with the Research Centre for Greek Philosophy of the Academy of

Athens. The talks take place once a month, on a Thursday at 7 pm, at the Elli Lambridi Philosophical Library (9 Ypsilantou Street, 10675 Athens). The duration of the talks is between 30-40 minutes, followed by an extensive, free, focused, critical discussion that can last up to 60 minutes. The programme for the academic year 2023-24 is as follows:

- 16 Nov. **Panagiotis Thanassas**:

“Parmenides in Freiburg”

- 14 Dec. **Stasinios Stavrianeas**:

“Aristotle's chemistry in his Meteorology”

- 11 Jan. **Stavros Kouloumentas**:

“The Derveni Cosmogony: Is the God a Good Mathematician?”

- 15 Febr. **George Karamanolis**:

“A forgotten aristotelian ethical work: the case of *Magna Moralia*”

- 14 Mar. **Chloe Balla**:

“Socrates in the *Phaedo*”

- 18 Apr. **Doukas Kapantais**:

“‘Necessary conclusion’ in Kripke frames and in *Prior Analytics*, I, 10”

- 16 May **Ioanna Tigani**:

“Ten Categories as models of dialectical problems and premisses”

- 13 June **Alexander Nehamas**:

“What Do We Learn About Philosophers and Philosophy in *Republic V*?”

- **Graduate Seminar, Department of History and Philosophy of Science**, Fall 2023. The meetings will be held live and online in the GOUDAROULIS HALL at the Secretariat Building, (first stop of the Campus), on certain Tuesdays from, 18.00-20.00. The link to join via Webex is [here](#).

- Tuesday, 31 October 2023, Dr. **Theodoni Panagiota** (NKUA): “On the foundations of intersubjective science –

the problem of closing the loop”.

- Tuesday, 21 November 2023, invited PhD Cand. **Maxim Gorbachev** (University of Crete): “Options for Illusionist Distortion Thesis”.

- Tuesday, 28 November 2023, PhD Cand. **Rodoula Frangidou** (HPS /NKUA): “Contemporary Theories of Propositions – The Proposition in the Light of Process Semantics”.

- Tuesday, 19 December 2023, PhD Cand. **Iason Krontiras** (HPS/NKUA): Title to be announced.

- The **Division of History of Science and Technology**, Department History and Philosophy of Science, cordially invites you to attend the **First “Research Celebration Day”**, which aims to inform the public about the research of the members of the division and how their research appeals to the wider society. The event will take place on **Thursday 23 November 2023** at 5:30 pm in “Kostis Palamas” Building, 48 Akadimias street, Athens 10679. It will be introduced by the Rector of the NKUA, Professor **Gerasimos Siasos**.

- The Wellcome Funded research project “Making and Consuming Drugs in the Italian and Byzantine Worlds (12th-15th c.)” directed by Assoc. Professor **Petros Bouras-Vallianatos** in collaboration with the PHS cordially invites you to attend the talk of Emeritus Professor **Ludmilla Jordanova** (University of Durham) on “**Traces of Life: Portraits as Historical Evidence**” on **Wednesday 13 December 2023** at 7pm in “Kostis Palamas” Building, 48 Akadimias street, Athens 10679.

- **11th conference of the European Society for the History of Science,**

Barcelona (Spain), 4 to 7 September 2024.

The theme will be **Science, Technology, Humanity, and the Earth.**

Conference [website](#). **Call for papers.**

Proposals must be uploaded in the section proposals submission of the website of the [conference](#). In the menu proposals submission/my proposals

please select the option standalone papers. The option for uploading standalone papers proposals will be

active between **23 November 2023** and **19 February 2024**. **Call for Symposia.**

Proposals must be uploaded in the section proposals submission of the website of the [conference](#). In the menu proposal submission/my proposals

please select the option symposia. The option for uploading symposium proposals will be active between

1 October 2023 and **22 November 2023**.

- **DHST Call for Symposia. 27th**

International Congress of History of Science & Technology, New Zealand 2025.

The organising committee invites you to submit a proposal for Symposia to be considered for presentation at the conference in **Ōtepoti Dunedin, 29 June**

- 5 July 2025. We invite Symposia submissions on any topic in the history of science, technology and medicine, but

we especially encourage proposals that address aspects of the conference theme, across all periods, and from a variety of

methodological and historiographical approaches. Symposia proposal submissions will close on **Monday 1**

April 2024. The theme of the 27th ICHST is “**Peoples, Places, Exchanges, and Circulation**”.

For more information and to download your symposia proposal template, please visit the conference

[website](#). Deadline for submission of symposia proposals **1 April 2024**. Deadline for submission of stand-alone paper proposals from **1 October 2024**.

Deadline for submission of paper abstracts within symposia from **1 November 2024**.

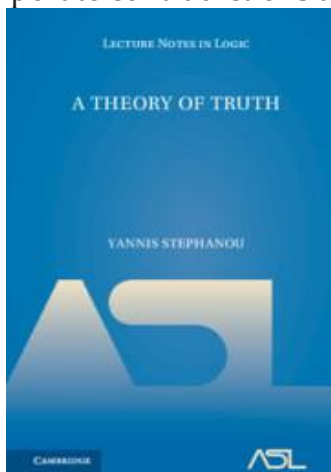
Publications of Members of the Department

• Monograph:

Yannis Stephanou, [*A Theory of Truth*](#), [Lecture Notes in Logic 55](#),

Cambridge: Association of Symbolic Logic and Cambridge University Press, 2023, pp. xii + 345.

Abstract: How should we treat the liar and kindred paradoxes? *A Theory of Truth* argues that we should diverge from classical logic, and presents a new formal theory of truth. The theory does not incorporate contradictions and is



not substructural, but deviates from classical logic significantly, and endorses principles like “No sentence is both true and false” and “No sentence is neither true nor false”. The book starts with an introduction to the paradoxes, suitable for newcomers to the subject, before presenting its approach. Four versions of the theory are covered, extending the theory to a determinacy operator and to a full first-order language with quantifiers. Each includes all Tarskian biconditionals that can be formulated in its language. The author uses original

methods to prove the consistency of each version and compares the theory to alternative non-classical theories, including Field’s paracomplete approach, Ripley’s nontransitive system and Zardini’s contraction-free calculus.

• Articles:

- Karakostas Vassilios, Zafirios Elias, “[On the Structure and Function of Scientific Perspectivism in Categorical Quantum Mechanics](#),” *The British Journal for the Philosophy of Science* 73 (2022): 811-848.

- Chalkea, Z.S.; Papavranoussi-Daponte, D.; Polissidis, A.; Kampisioulis, M.; Pagaki-Skaliora, M.; Konsolaki, E.; Skaliora, I, “[Fear Conditioning by Proxy: The Role of High Affinity Nicotinic Acetylcholine Receptors](#),” *Int. J. Mol. Sci.* 24 (2023): 15143.

- Golfidis A, Vinos M, Vassilopoulos N, Papadaki E, Skaliora I, Cutsuridis V. “[Machine learning algorithms for mouse LFP data classification in epilepsy](#),” (2023) In *Proceedings of the 16th International Joint Conference on Biomedical Engineering Systems and Technologies (BIOSTEC 2023)* - shortlisted for the BIOSIGNALS 2023 best paper award, based on marks provided by the reviewers.

- Vasilopoulos N, Kaplanian A, Vinos M, Katsaiti Y, Christodoulou O, Denaxa M, Skaliora I, “[The role of selective Satb1 deletion in somatostatin expressing interneurons on endogenous network activity and the transition to epilepsy](#)”, *J Neurosci Research*, 101.4 (2023): 424-447.

- Tigani, Anna, "[Sextus on Place: A Dialectical Insulation between Philosophical Questions and Ordinary Answers](#)", *Ancient Philosophy*, 43.1 (2023): 169-193.
- Konstantinos Konstantis, Antonios Georgas, Antonis Faras, Konstantinos Georgas, and Aristotle Tympas, "[Ethical considerations in working with ChatGPT on a questionnaire about the future of work with ChatGPT](#)", *AI Ethics* (2023).
- Aristotle Tympas, "[Technological black boxing versus ecological reparation: From encased-industrial to open-renewable wind energy](#)", in Papadopoulos D., Puig de la Bellacasa, M., & Tacchetti, M., (Eds.). *Ecological Reparation. Repair, Remediation and Resurgence in Social and Environmental Conflict*. Bristol: Bristol University Press, 2023, 362-377.
- Manolis Simos, Konstantinos Konstantis, Konstantinos Sakalis and Aristotle Tympas, "[AI Can Be Analogous to Steam Power' or from the 'Postindustrial Society' to the 'Fourth Industrial Revolution': An Intellectual History of Artificial Intelligence](#)", *ICON: Journal of the International Committee of the History of Technology*, 1 (2023): 97-116.

Two New MA Programmes in English

- The [MA in Contemporary Philosophy/Philosophy of Science](#) offers students a solid background to the study of Contemporary Philosophy, delivers an advanced introduction to Philosophy of Science, and teaches the intellectual skills required for engaging with issues which occupy current research into the perennial problems of philosophy. The programme aims to familiarise the students with the major schools of thought in contemporary philosophy and to offer high-level training in the different fields of philosophical research. By the end of their studies, graduates are expected to be able to conduct independent and collaborative research, meeting all requirements for pursuing doctoral studies. It is the only programme in Greece to focus on Contemporary Philosophy, in both its "analytic" and "continental" instantiations, and one of the few programmes worldwide to provide a specialisation in the Philosophy of Physical and Social Sciences. In its first year of operation, the MA programme attracted a truly international audience, with applicants who have graduated from UC Berkeley, the London School of Economics, Universities in China and Singapore, and from several academic institutions across Europe. The Programme's duration is one academic year (12 months). Director of the Programme is Professor **Anthony Hatzimoysis**.
- [The Athens MA in Ancient Philosophy](#) is the result of a collaboration between four major Greek universities, which have joined forces to create a highly competitive Programme:
 - National and Kapodistrian University of Athens (Department of History and Philosophy of Science)
 - Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (Department of Philosophy and Education)

- University of Patras (Department of Philosophy)
 - University of Crete (Department of Philosophical and Social Studies).
- The Programme promotes the study of Ancient Greek Philosophy in its entire historical and thematic range. It is the only programme in Greece (and among a few worldwide) that focuses solely on Ancient Philosophy as a subject of systematic study and research. The programme is hosted and administratively supported by NKUA's Department of History and Philosophy of Science. The programme commenced a few days ago in its inaugural year, receiving 24 applications and admitting 16 candidates. Out of these, 13 students have enrolled, representing diverse nationalities, including three from the USA, three from China, and one each from Brazil, Mexico, Uzbekistan, Italy, the Netherlands, Turkey, and Greece. Director of the Programme is Professor **Panagiotis Thanassas**.
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Head of Department: Professor Anthony Hatzimoysis

This **Newsletter** was prepared by Assoc. Professor Petros Bouras-Vallianatos

The **Newsletter's website** is maintained by Professor Christos Papatheodorou

To register, please email to pbourasval@phs.uoa.gr

The **next Newsletter** is scheduled to be published in **early December**. Please send your news to pbourasval@phs.uoa.gr by **27 November 2023**.