



HELLENIC REPUBLIC

**National and Kapodistrian  
University of Athens**

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## Department of History and Philosophy of Science

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Newsletter no. 4

March-April 2024

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The **Newsletter** of the **Department of History and Philosophy of Science (PHS)** 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.

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### Research News

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- Professor **Aristotle Tympas** participates in the research team of the proposal “**A transfer of knowledge and technology for investigating gender-based inappropriate social interactions in the Metaverse (META-TOO)**”, which was selected for funding by the EU HORIZON program (HORIZON-WIDERA-2023-ACCESS-02-01). The scientific coordinator of META-TOO is Maria Roussou, associate professor at the NKUA Department of Informatics and Telecommunications. The funding of META-TOO is in the order of 1.5 million euros. NKUA, the coordinating institution, is joined in this project by two European institutions that lead in research in computing technology, INRIA and IDIBAPS.
- **Vladimiros Katranidis**, PhD Candidate at the Department of History and Philosophy of Science has recently

received a scholarship from the Hellenic Foundation for Research & Innovation. His PhD topic is “A critical investigation

of the necessitism-contingentism debate in modal metaphysics”. He is supervised by Assoc. Professor **Yannis Stephanou**.

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## Past Events – Talks

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- Assoc. Professor **Petros Bouras-Vallianatos** gave the keynote talk at the [2<sup>nd</sup> Panhellenic Congress of Ethnopharmacology](#), which took place in Ioannina, 1-3 March 2024. His talk focused on “[Contextualising Pharmaceutical Substances from Asia in Late Antique and Byzantine Medical Works](#)”.



*Keynote Talk, Assoc. Professor Petros Bouras-Vallianatos, 2<sup>nd</sup> Panhellenic Congress of Ethnopharmacology, Ioannina*

- Assoc. Professor **Petros Bouras-Vallianatos** gave invited talks on “Byzantine Medicine in Light of the Global Middle Ages: Current Trends and Future Avenues” at the University of Edinburgh ([History of Science, Medicine and Technology](#)) and the University of Oxford ([Oxford Centre for Byzantine Research](#)) on **Monday 4 and Wednesday 6 March 2024**, respectively.

- Professor **Aristides Hatzis** appeared on Nicky Lyberaki’s popular TV show as the main guest. He talked about the

Greek War of Independence in 1821.



*Interview, Professor Aristides Hatzis, Mega Channel.*

Professor Hatzis is the author of *The Noblest Cause: The Greek War of Independence*. The full interview is available [here](#).

- The Research Programme πρόγραμμα [Go-JuST](#) (PI: Assoc. Professor **Stathis Arapostathis**) organised successfully on **28 March 2024** its first [Webinar](#). The talk was given by **Silvio Funtowitz (University of Bergen)**, one of the founders, along with Jerry Ravetz, of the Post-normal Science.
- Assistant Professor **Stavros Ioannidis** and Professor **Stathis Psillos** gave an invited talk entitled “**Mechanisms in Science: from Metaphysics to Scientific Practice**” at the conference for the 25 years since the launch of the inter-institutional Graduate Program in “Chemistry Education, Information and Communication Technology and Education for Sustainable Development”, which was organised on **29-30 March 2024** in the Central Building of the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens.

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## Forthcoming Events – Talks

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- Upon completion of the research project “**Contextualizing biobanking in Greece: histories, practices, discourses – BIO-CONTEXT**”, which was funded by the Hellenic Foundation for Research and Innovation (H.F.R.I.) in the framework of the Action “2nd Call for H.F.R.I. Research Projects to support Post-doctoral Researchers”, the BIO-CONTEXT research team, consisting of **Katerina Vlantoni** (Assistant Professor-Principal Investigator of the project) and postdoctoral researchers **George Zoukas** and **Yulie Foka-Kavalieraki**, is organizing a two-day International Research Workshop on **10 and 11 April 2024**. The [Workshop](#) entitled “**Data flows? Making and Sharing Data in Biomedical Research: Between Local and Cross-Border Practices**” will take place in a hybrid format, in the lecture room of the Historical Archive of NKUA (Skoufa 45, Athens) and through the Webex platform. Researchers, from all over the world, will present papers focusing on diverse issues regarding the creation and the mobilization of biological specimen and data in biomedical research, based on historical and Science & Technology Studies (STS) approaches. To see the Program and to register for online participation, please visit the website: [www.biocontext.gr](http://www.biocontext.gr)
- **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](#). Programme: -16 April, 2024  
**Athanasios Christophilopoulos** (NKUA)  
«Από το φάσμα φωτός στο κβάντο φωτός. Μία ιστορική αναδρομή»
- **The Athens Colloquium in Ancient Philosophy** 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:
  - 18 Apr. **Doukas Kapantais**: “‘Necessary conclusion’ in Kripke frames and in *Prior Analytics*, I, 10”
  - 16 May **Anna Tigani**: “Ten Categories as models of dialectical problems and premisses”
  - 13 Jun. **Paul Kalligas**: “From Virtue to Happiness: A Neoplatonic Reversal”
- **The Division of Philosophy and Theory of Science and Technology** (PHS) organises the following seminar at the Department of History and Philosophy of Science (New Building, **23 April 2024, 7pm**):

Dr Vanessa Seifert:

«**Metaphysics of Chemistry: What are chemical reactions?**»

- We are happy to announce the new endeavour of the **MSc Programme in Cognitive Science: a series of monthly seminars given by graduates who have continued in this field and are either doing or have completed PhD theses**, have performed research in topics related with Cognitive Science, or have faculty positions in Universities and Research Centers in Greece and abroad. The goal of these seminars is to enhance the communication between people with common interests and a shared background: exchange ideas, discuss the latest findings and foster collaborations. For this reason, the talks will have an informal format – with questions and discussions during the presentations. Speakers will base their presentations on the work they have performed but will also describe the context and the big picture without too much technical details. The first seminar took place on Friday 15/3/2024: the speaker was **Nadia Paraskevoudi** (graduation in 2017) and her talk was entitled “**Why can't we tickle ourselves? Evidence from psychophysics, EEG, and pupillometry in the auditory modality**”. Despite the short notice, we had a room full of

Seminars take place in the teaching rooms of the department of the Philosophy and History of Athens at 6pm on the dates indicated below. The series will stop for July and August and continue again after the summer holidays – stay tuned!

- 26 April **Manos Konstantinidis**:

“Sources of information and decision

making under risk and uncertainty”

- 23 May **Katerina Rassaia**:

“What can simulations tell us about what it is like to see again with artificial vision”

- 21 June **Fotis Fotiadis**: “Η επίδραση των λεκτικών ετικετών στη μάθηση κατηγοριών”

- Book presentation by Assistant Professor **Christos Douskos** (University of Crete), Professor **Stavroula Tsinorema** (University of Crete), and Professor Antonis Hatzimoysis (PHS) **on 25 April 2024 at 6pm**, at [Ianos Bookstore](#). G. M. Anscombe, *Η Πρόθεση*, Crete University Press, translated into Modern Greek by Eugenia Mylonaki (Patras) and Konstantinos Sandis (Hertfordshire).

- **Michael Frede Memorial Lecture**. It will take place on **31 May 2024 at 18:00** at the British School at Athens, Upper House, 52 Souedias Steet. Professor **Benjamin Morison** (Princeton University) will give this year's talk on: “**Δόξα and ἐπιστήμη in Aristotle: some implications for ethical thought**”. Please register [here](#) to attend in-person. Please register [here](#) to attend via Zoom.

- The **24<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of Greek Historians of Economic Thought** will take place at Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Department of Economics, between **14 and 15 June 2024**. **Registrations by 30 May 2024**: [ptsaliki@econ.auth.gr](mailto:ptsaliki@econ.auth.gr)

- Talk by Professor **Antonis Hatzimoysis** on «**Ο Νίτσε και η Μουσική**» on **22 June 2024** at The Greek National Opera in the Stavros Niarchos Foundation Cultural Center.

- **3rd International Conference on [Museum Big Data](#) (MBD2024) 18-19 November 2024, Athens.**

Big Data and Data mining processes comprise relatively new fields in museum research and inquiry, which are expected to become core disciplines as museum data input increases and digital museum data collections from museums' everyday activities and operations become increasingly larger. Nowadays, museums all over the world maintain and expand dynamic databases and big datasets on museum objects and operations as well as generated data extending from visitors' numbers, times and stops to tweets, likes and shares. There is an emerging need to detect new and discover hidden and useful information, patterns, clusters and relationships among large sums of museum data. To address this need, we require ethical considerations and processes, a thorough understanding of contexts in the physical and the digital world, and cross-disciplinary Big Data methods, techniques and testing. We also need to develop theoretical frameworks and explore connections with the Big Data ongoing discussion in libraries, archives and information studies. Have museums (had to) become data-driven? Have they been transformed and how? The MBD conference is organized by the **Department of History and Philosophy of Science, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens (NKUA), Athens, Greece and the Department of Archives, Library Science and Museology, Ionian University, Corfu, Greece.** The conference will be held at the Main Building of NKUA, amphithe-

ater 'I. Drakopoulos', **18 and 19 of November 2024** and aims to attract academics, practitioners and technologists engaged in the current research discourse on the new trends of the Museum Big Data domain; in addition, the conference aspires to showcase experimental work.

#### **Important Dates**

Paper submission deadline: 13 July, 2024

Notification of acceptance: 31 July, 2024

Camera-ready copies due: 31 August, 2024

Authors Registration due: 31 August, 2024

Conference days: 18-19 November, 2024

- **18th International Conference on [Metadata and Semantics Research](#) (MTSR 2024), 20-22 November 2024, Αθήνα.**

MTSR is an annual international interdisciplinary conference, which brings together academics, researchers and practitioners in the specialized fields of metadata, ontologies and semantics research. The conference provides an opportunity for participants to share knowledge and novel approaches in the implementation of semantic technologies across diverse types of information environments and applications. These include Open Access Repositories and Digital Libraries, Cultural Informatics, Digital Humanities, E-learning applications, Search Engine Optimization and Information Retrieval, Research Information Systems and Infrastructures, e-Science and e-Social Science applications, Agriculture, Food and Environment, Bio-Health & Medical Information Systems. The MTSR2024

conference is organized by the Department of History and Philosophy of Science, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens (NKUA), Athens, Greece, the Department of Archives, Library Science and Museology, Ionian University, Corfu, Greece and the De-

partment of Library, Archival & Information Studies, International Hellenic University, Thessaloniki, Greece and will be held at the Main Building of NKUA, amphitheater 'I. Drakopoulos', 20 - 22 of November 2024.

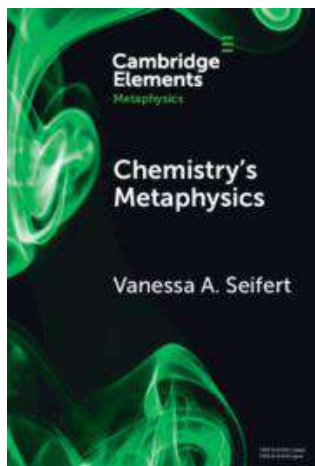
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## Publications of Members of the Department

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- **Monograph:**

Seifert, Vanessa, [Chemistry's Metaphysics](#), Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2024.

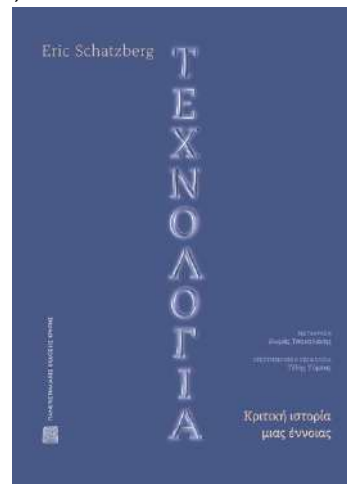


**Abstract:** The place of chemistry in the metaphysics of science may be viewed as peripheral compared to physics and biology. However, a metaphysics of science that disregards chemistry would be incomplete and ill-informed. This Element establishes this claim by showing how key metaphysical issues are informed by drawing on chemistry. Five metaphysical topics are investigated: natural kinds, scientific realism, reduction, laws and causation. These topics are spelled out from the perspective of ten chemical case studies, each of which illuminates the novel ways that metaphysics of science can be informed by chemistry.

- **Greek translation of Monograph:**

Schatzberg, Eric, [Τεχνολογία. Κριτική](#)

[ιστορία μιας έννοιας](#), transl. Thomas Tsakalakis, scientific advisor: Telis Tympas, Iraklio: Crete University Press.



**Abstract:** A Greek translation of the book *Technology: Critical history of a concept* (The University of Chicago Press, 2018) by Eric Schatzberg, Professor at the School of History and Sociology, Georgia Institute of Technology, is available in Greek through the University Press of Crete (2024, translated by Thomas Tsakalakis). In his introduction, Aristotle Tympas, Professor of the History of Technology and Director of the NKUA anglophone interdepartmental graduate program in STS, notes: "Schatzberg's book forces us to study the reason for the absence of our concept 'technology' from the Classic and Hellenistic Antiquity, as well as from the Byzantine and the Ottoman Empire. Studying this absence is, I would argue, an absolute priority for the

decisive enrichment of the way we understand the difference between modernity, historical capitalism, and the previous historical periods. Unlike the products of the problematic assumption that the concept 'technology' can be used without qualifications in reference to the Ancient Greek and Byzantine history, studies to take into account seriously the absence (or the different meaning) of this concept before industrial capitalism will be of special interest to the international community of professional historians of technology".

- **Special Issue:**

Vlantoní, Katerína and Karydaki, Danae (επιμ.). Αφιέρωμα: «[Ιατρική και Βιοϊατρική Επιστήμη και Τεχνολογία στη Νεότερη Ελλάδα: Ιστορικές και STS Προσεγγίσεις](#)». *Νεύσις*, 29.2 (2023).

- **Articles:**

- Vlantoní, Katerína and Karydaki, Danae. «[Εισαγωγή στο αφιέρωμα 'Ιατρική και Βιοϊατρική Επιστήμη και Τεχνολογία στη Νεότερη Ελλάδα: Ιστορικές και STS Προσεγγίσεις'](#)». *Νεύσις*, 29 (2023), 75-80.

- Christopoulou, Vasiliki and Arabatzis, Theodore, "[From the Determination of](#)

[the Ohm to the Discovery of Argon: Lord Rayleigh's Strategies of Experimental Control](#)," in Jutta Schickore, William R. Newman (eds.), *Elusive Phenomena, Unwieldy Things: Historical Perspectives on Experimental Control*, Archimedes 71 (Springer, 2024), pp. 243-267.

- **Book reviews:**

- Gotsis, George. Review of: Završnik, A. and Simončič, K. (eds.) (2023). *Artificial Intelligence, Social Harms and Human Rights*. Cham: Palgrave Macmillan (pp. XIV+276). In: [The Greek Review of Social Research](#) 162(2024), 137–142.

- Gotsis, George. Review of: Kirkpatrick, G., McMylor, P., and Fadaee, S. (eds.) (2022). *Marxism, Religion, and Emancipatory Politics*. Cham: Palgrave Macmillan, pp. XVII+ 269. In: [The Greek Review of Social Research](#) 162(2024), 143–149.

- Gotsis, George. Review of: Jones, C.G., Martin, A.E. and Wolf, A. (eds.), (2022). *The Palgrave Handbook of Women and Science since 1660*. Cham: Palgrave Macmillan, pp. XXVIII+658. In: [Neusis](#) 30(1), 2024, 71-80.

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## New MSc Programme

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- The new postgraduate program [MA in Greek and Chinese Civilizations. A Comparative Approach](#), is the result of collaboration between four major Greek universities, which joined forces to create an exceptionally competitive Program: **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)**. This two-year program presents a dual global uniqueness: (a) it is the only one that combines one year of studies in China (at Southwest University, Chongqing) and one year of studies in Greece (at the University of Patras, which also has the administrative responsibility of the pro-

gram), (b) it is the only Master's Program, both in Greece and worldwide, focusing exclusively on the comparative study of these two civilizations. The first year of studies is devoted to Chinese civilization (with an emphasis on history) and the second to Greek civilization (with an emphasis on philosophy). The comparative character of the program is ensured, among other things, by the fact that students' dissertations must necessarily concern both civilizations. The program began operating in September 2023, in China, with 18 participants. All students from Greece receive scholarships either from the Chinese State or from the province of Chongqing. The Director of the Program is Professor **Pavlos Kontos** (University of Patras).

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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](mailto:pbourasval@phs.uoa.gr)

The **next Newsletter** is scheduled to be published in **early June 2024**. Please send your news to [pbourasval@phs.uoa.gr](mailto:pbourasval@phs.uoa.gr) by **29 May 2024**.