



# NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2023

## The Center for Byzantine and Modern Greek Studies

### Greeting from Director by Gerasimus Katsan

Spring Semester is underway and we are once again looking forward to a full slate of courses, events and activities to invigorate our students and the Community. We have enjoyed an unusually mild Winter so far, although anyone who lives in New York knows that March “comes in like a lion” and often leaves like one too! Once again, this term the Center’s courses have over 120 students enrolled, which is an encouraging sign. We hope that our endeavors will attract and interest more students to explore and experience Hellenic culture and to raise their understanding of all things Greek.

Nevertheless, our efforts at fundraising in order to keep the Center going on towards its 50th anniversary next year are reaching a critical point. We have received several very generous donations from friends of the Center and the wider community, but they are only a starting point to finding substantial funding for the long term. We are committed to accomplishing the goal of making the Center viable for years to come, but we need everyone’s help. I make a plea to all our alumni and friends to support the Center this year: No donation is too small! Please see the last page of the newsletter for directions on how to donate.

### Newsletter Highlights

1. Message from Director
2. Journal of Modern Hellenism
3. Harry Psomiades Library Project
4. Byzantine & Modern Greek Podcast
5. Contribution to Research Program
6. Why Study Byzantine & Modern Greek Studies?
7. Greek Club Ikaros
8. Hellenic American Project
9. Fall 2023 Courses Schedule
10. Upcoming Events
11. Gifts and Donations



# JOURNAL OF MODERN HELLENISM

The continued publication of peer-reviewed academic research in the Journal of Modern Hellenism remains an important facet of the Center's activities and serves to promote the study of Byzantine and Modern Greek Culture. Thanks to the efforts of Editors Constantine Hatzidimitriou and Van Coufoudakis, and with the generous cooperation of AHIF (American Hellenic Institute Foundation), Volume 35 of the Journal of Modern Hellenism was published in January 2023.

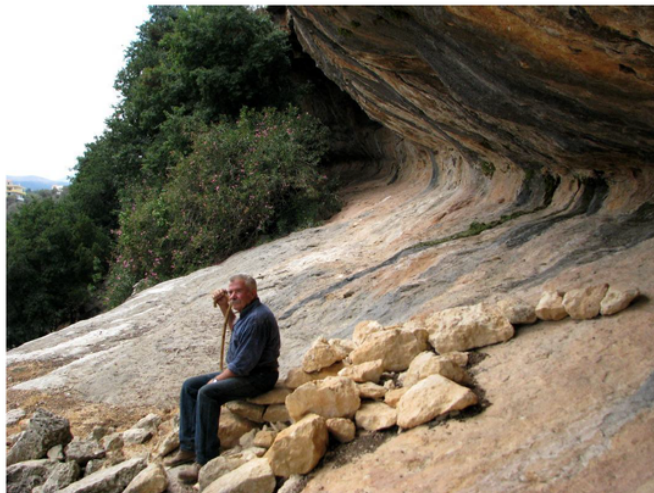
The publication of the Volume was delayed by the unexpected passing of Dan Georgakas, who had been the long-time Managing Editor of the Journal, and who had worked closely with the Center for many years. Thus, we felt it appropriate that this volume should be dedicated to his memory. See here for the announcement: Please see the link to Volume 35 here:

<https://www.ahifworld.net/jmh-issues>

<https://www.ahifworld.org/press-releases-1/2023/1/13/ahif-releases-winter-2023-issue-of-the-journal-of-modern-hellenism>

## The Journal of Modern Hellenism

Volume 35 (Winter 2023)



Edited by Constantine G. Hatzidimitriou

# Harry J. Psomiades Library Project

## Library Project Underway

Last November the Center received a very generous donation earmarked for the reorganization and improvement of the Harry J. Psomiades Greek Studies Library. In consultation with Dean and Chief Librarian Simone Yearwood, and Librarian Carlo Minchillo of QC's Rosenthal (Main) Library, a plan has been developed for updating and renovating the Center's extensive library holdings. Neophytos Ioannou has been appointed by the Center to work on the initial phase of the project, which is to work in conjunction with the Rosenthal Library to catalogue the collection so that it can be searchable on the Library's webpage: the goal is to allow public access to the collection digitally and to promote the circulation of these valuable research materials. The collection will remain housed in the space of the Center in Jefferson Hall, but volumes will be available for borrowing. A second major portion of this initial phase is to identify texts within the collection that are rare or in delicate condition, and to ensure that those texts are preserved appropriately. Finally, the library has a vast quantity of books and materials in storage, which needs to be sorted, catalogued and eventually integrated into the main collection. Future plans entail the process of digitizing selected important parts of the collection.



In addition to the interest that the Rosenthal Library has shown in the collection, its Office of Special Collections and Archives has done an initial evaluation of the numerous materials in the Center's offices and is considering ways in which the history of the Center can be permanently archived and preserved.

## Byzantine and Modern Greek Podcast

### **“Learning Modern Greek at Queens College” “Podcasting with John Metaxas” (Episode 30)**

Thanks to the generous cooperation and initiative of John Metaxas - well-known journalist and former CNN and CBS radio broadcaster – who is also a member of our Advisory Board, the Center produced the first of what we hope will be a series of podcasts. Dr. Maria Athanasopoulou and Dr. Gerasimus Katsan sat down with Mr. Metaxas for a discussion on the topic of “Learning Modern Greek.” The podcast is available for streaming on the series “Podcasting with John Metaxas” (Episode 30: available on various podcast platforms) as well as on YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pZHL0EPUUvs>



## Contribution to Research Program for the New Greek Diaspora with University of Macedonia, Greece

The Byzantine Center contributed to the Research Program of the University of Macedonia, CR.E.DI.T.T.GR (Crisis Emerging Diaspora Tendencies Towards Greece)

Research Team's goal is to gather, synthesize and produce knowledge that will contribute to the formation of new policy proposals for the country's relationship with the Greek diaspora all around the world.

The aim is to formulate new policy proposals informed by the outcomes of our Research and provoke a public debate about a new relationship between Greece and its diaspora. For this reason, the results of our research will be presented through scientific publications and policy analysis documents, but also through Op-Eds on relevant media in Greece and abroad. The idea for CR.E.DI.T.T.GR was born in the midst of the economic crisis at a time when Greek immigrants seeking work and meritocracy in metropolises around the world were growing exponentially.



The director of the Center Dr. Gerasimus Katsan and the Ass. Director Dr. Maria Athanasopoulou with Dr. Revecca Pedi who is an Assistant Professor of International Relations Theory at the Department of International and European Studies, University of Macedonia.



# Why study Byzantine and Modern Greek Studies?

The Major in Byzantine and Modern Greek Studies is a program for students interested in obtaining an understanding of Byzantine Civilizations and Modern Greek Language and Culture. The Center's interdisciplinary BA is unique in that it offers students the opportunity to study the range of Greek history from medieval to modern times. While the Center is invigorated by numerous students of Greek ancestry and its location in the largest Greek American community in the United States, the program welcomes students from all walks of life and backgrounds.

## Career Options

Graduates with a major in Byzantine and Modern Greek Studies have the ability to analyze, critique, and research language, literature, history, and culture. They are well-prepared to enter the fields of education (at all levels), archive and information management, library cataloging, languages and translation, cultural heritage, journalism, media, and art (including museum curatorship).

Byzantine and Modern Greek Studies should be of special interest to those students who have either a cultural or professional interest in the Greek experience, and to those seeking to understand a culture and a civilization other than their own. Because the Program draws from several disciplines, it offers insights into the unity of knowledge. The Program is also an excellent choice as a second major and provides the background for graduate work in Byzantine and Modern Greek Studies, among other disciplines.



## Study program Information

The Center's program in Byzantine and Modern Greek Studies offers a structured body of courses drawn from the Division of Arts and Sciences and the Division of Social Sciences, leading to a BA in Byzantine and Modern Greek Studies. It is designed to provide a detailed knowledge of the Greek people's history, language and literature, institutions, customs, and culture. Program offerings are divided into four categories:

### Byzantine Studies

The Program offers courses and seminars on The History of the Byzantine Empire, Byzantine Culture and Civilization, and Byzantine Art.

### Modern Greek Studies

The Program offers courses and seminars on Modern Greek Culture and Civilization, The History of Southeastern Europe, Modern Greek History, The Formation of the Modern Greek State, The Economy of Greece, The Politics of Greece and Cyprus, and Middle Eastern Politics.

### Modern Greek Literature and Culture

The Program offers courses and seminars on Modern Greek Language, Modern Greek Literature, and Greek Cinema.

### Greek American Studies

The Program offers courses, seminars, and workshops on Ethnic Groups in New York, The Greek American Community.

# The Byzantine Center's 45th Annual Certificate of Achievements Awards Ceremony and Harry J. Psomiades Memorial Lecture

The specific purposes of the Byzantine and Modern Greek Studies are to initiate, support, and coordinate the teaching of Byzantine and Modern Greek subjects at Queens College, to promote Byzantine and Neo-Hellenic scholarship , and to relate academic research and teaching to the needs and interests of the Greek community of Queens and beyond. In support of the above goals, the Center provides library support for the Byzantine and Modern Greek collection of the College; organizes conferences, lectures, exhibits, and seminars; Also, every year offers scholarships to students.

The **45th Annual Certificate of Achievements Awards Ceremony and Harry J. Psomiades Memorial Lecture** will be held on **May 16, 2023 at 6:00pm at the General Consulate General of Greece in New York.**

We are pleased to announce that the **Key Note Speaker will be the Consul General Mr. Konstantinos Konstantinou**

## Scholarships

### Scholarships for student achievement in the field of Modern Greek Studies

The Center for Byzantine & Modern Greek Studies is pleased to announce that the Center will award as previously a certain number of scholarships for student achievement in the field of Byzantine and Modern Greek Studies. The scholarships will be awarded at the **Center's 45th Annual Certificate of Achievements Awards on Tuesday, May 16th, 2023, at 6:00 pm at** The Consulate General of Greece in New York. To be eligible to apply, you must be a Greek major or a Greek minor or have taken or are taking at least **two** courses offered by the Center. For information, call the Center at 718-997-4520 or come and visit us at Jefferson Hall, Room 302.

Note: you must sign in with your CUNY login credentials to submit the application.

Please apply [here](#)

# GREEK CLUB IKAROS

Ikaros Hellenic Club has been an integral part of Queens College since the 1970s. It has served as a place of community for Greek, Cypriot, and the entire Queens College Student Body.

## Executive Board Members 2022- 2023:

**President** – Stephanie Szpylka

**Vice President** – Demi Kapetanakis

**Treasurer** – Despina Boudouris

**Secretaries** – Elizabeth Georgiou & Georgia Liotopoulos

## Upcoming Events:

### March 2nd

Cafe Night at Baraki (7:30 pm)

### March 17th

Laterna Bouzoukia Night  
(8:30 pm) 40 dollars per person

**March 27th Greek** Independence  
Day Free Hour (12:15-1:30 pm)  
Room: Student Union 310



Where to find Ikaros  
Hellenic Orthodox Club:

In person: Student Union Room 219  
Follow on Instagram:  
[@ikaroshellenicqc](https://www.instagram.com/ikaroshellenicqc)



Cafe night with current and former club members

# HELLENIC AMERICAN PROJECT

By Prof. Nicholas Alexiou



## - Dodecanese Photo Archive

Mr. Manolis Cassiotis, a long-term friend and benefactor of HAP, and a scholar, recently donated to HAP Dodecanese Photo archive. It includes about 5,000 photographs about people and places of the Dodecanese, from 1912 to the present.

The archive is digitized and it will be uploaded to HAP's website soon.

## - The Bobby Malafouris Archives

Bobby Malafouris, a journalist and a scholar, is the author of the seminal book 'The Greeks of America; 1528 - 1948'. Nikos and Lena Patouris donated to HAP a box of tape recordings of radio programs hosted and produced by Malafouris.



### Δωρεά τριών αξιόλογων αρχείων στο Κέντρο Έρευνας του Κολεγίου του Κουίνς

Το Αρχείο Ελληνικής Διασποράς απέκτησε το «Δωδεκανησιακό Φωτογραφικό Αρχείο» και τα αρχεία των Μπόμπι Μαλαφούρις και Νέλλης

## HAP – CULTURAL/EDUCATIONAL EVENTS:

### FEBRUARY 9, 2023 – GREEK LANGUAGE DAY

In commemorating Greek Language Day, the Hellenic Institute of Cultural Diplomacy - USA, Nashville, TN, published three poems of HAP's Director, Nicholas Alexiou, on their site/facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/HICDUSA/>)

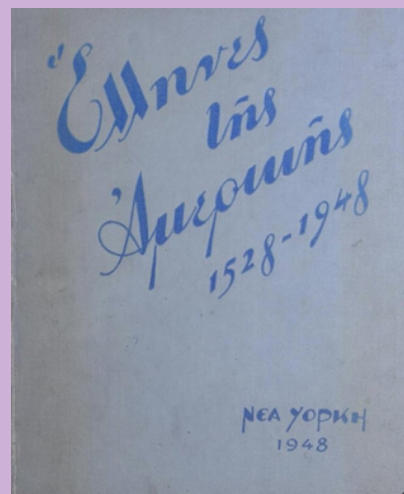
### Saturday March 18th, 2023, 2pm – Poetry Event - Book Fair \$ Open Mic

HAP, in collaboration with the Greek Writers' Guild and the Athenians' Society, organize a Poetry event, music performances and a Book Fair, at the Hellenic Cultural Center 27-09 Crescent Street, Astoria, NY 11102.

**QC students are welcome to read a poem;** must notify the Open Mic Committee until Thursday March 17th: [hap.soc@qc.cuny.edu](mailto:hap.soc@qc.cuny.edu)

### Friday May 19, 2023 - Manolis Mitsias Concert

HAP and Byzantine Center organize a historic concert celebrating the songs of the legendary Greek singer Manolis Mitsias '50 Years of Gold'. At QC'S Kupferberg Music Hall, at 8pm.



# The Center for Byzantine & Modern Greek Studies

## Courses Schedule Fall 2023

### Modern Greek Literature in Translation

**GRKMD 41W-01 (Prof. Soumakis) M/W 9:15 – 10:30 a.m. (In Person)**

**GRKMD 41W-02 (Prof. Soumakis) M/W 10:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. (In Person)**

Surveys modern Greek literature (in translation) from the middle of the nineteenth century to the present. The authors and their works are examined not only for their individual stylistic and thematic elements but also within the context of European literary and cultural movements.

---

### Elementary Modern Greek I

**GRKMD 111 (Prof. Athanasopoulou) T/H 10:05 – 11:55 a.m. (In Person)**

Designed to establish correct pronunciation, to teach the elements of grammar, to enable students to understand written and spoken Greek, to become familiar with cultural aspects of modern Greece, and especially to establish a good basic vocabulary.

---

### Intermediate Modern Greek I

**GRKMD 203 (Prof. Athanasopoulou) T/H 3:10 – 4:25 p.m. (Online Synchronous)**

A continuation of GRKMD 112 with grammar review, conversation, composition, and readings in literary and cultural materials. Selections from prose and poetry.

---

### Modern Greek Studies: Short Story

**GRKMD 335-01 (Prof. Katsan) T/H 1:40 – 2:55 p.m. (in person)**

**Cross-listed as CMLIT 336 Forms of Fiction**

Taught in English translation, this course will follow the development of the short story in Greece, arguably the most important fictional form in Greece for the majority of the modern period. Selected readings from both 19th and 20th century writers, including Papadiamantis, Vizyenos, Karkavitsas, Myrivilis, Samarakis, and others.

---

### ARTH 200 "The Silk Roads" (Prof. Woodfin) Monday, 1:40 - 4:30 p.m

This course focuses on the art and architecture of the empires linked by trans-Eurasian trade from approximately the 4th to the 14th centuries C.E. The course will look not just at the arts themselves, but at cultural, technological and religious exchanges facilitated by the movement of people and goods across the Silk Roads.

---

### HIST 210 "The Byzantine Empire, 1025-1453" (Prof. Woodfin) M/W, 10:45 a.m -12:00p.m

This course surveys the history of the Byzantine Empire from its height of power in the eleventh century to the capture of Constantinople by the Ottoman Turks in 1453. Topics include the Turkish incursions, the Crusades, religion, culture, politics and government. Students should gain an appreciation both of the achievements of Byzantine civilization and of the historical reasons for its decline and fall.

---

**PLEASE see or write to Dr. Katsan regarding placement and/or overriding prerequisites:**

**gerasimus.katsan@qc.cuny.edu Office: Queens Hall 200**

**(718) 997-5981 ELL Main Office: (718) 997-5980**



# Upcoming Events



"An Introduction to a Heroine of the Greek Revolution and her Context: Views from the Bouboulina's Museum"

**By Pavlos Demertzis-Bouboulis,**  
President of the Bouboulina Museum,  
**Date: March, 22 (Online)**

Please register below:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEuc-upqDgiEtXoYoNpAjS2X80cZ-ZmKSRg>

" Understanding Two Important Commemorations: America's Involvement in the Greek Revolution of 1821 and the Smyrna Catastrophe of 1922"

**By Dr. Constantine G. Hatzidimitriou**  
American Hellenic Institute Fellow, Astoria, NY  
**Date : April 26 (Hybrid Lecture)**



## Piraeus, 1922: Refugee Documents

The exhibition was organized by the Historical Archive in collaboration with the Municipal Gallery and the Municipal Library and includes rare archival material, photographs, maps, other documents, and testimonies of refugees.

**by Dr. Evangelia Bafouni**  
Director of Culture of the Municipality of Piraeus  
**Date: May 5 (Online Lecture & Exhibition )**

## '50 Years of Gold' Manolis Mitsias Concert

HAP by Prof. Alexiou and the Center for Byzantine and Modern Greek Studies organize a historic concern celebrating the songs of the legendary Greek singer Manolis Mitsias '50 Years of Gold'.

QC'S Kupferberg Music Hall, at 8pm.  
**Friday May 19**



# Gifts and Donations

The Center for Byzantine and Modern Greek Studies is a community supported entity. Please support the Byzantine Center for its impact as an essential part of World Heritage. We humbly accept donations of any size: any and all assistance is appreciated.

Thank you for your Ongoing Support

To make a gift or donation, please send a check to:

**The Queens College Foundation**

Center for Byzantine Center and Modern Greek Studies  
Jefferson Hall Room 302  
Queens College  
65-30 Kissena Blvd.  
Flushing, NY 11367

or Visit the Website at:

<https://qccommunity.qc.cuny.edu/QueensCollege/Support>



Center for Byzantine and Modern Greek Studies  
Jefferson Hall, Room 302  
Queens College  
65-30 Kissena Blvd.  
Flushing, NY 11367  
E-mail: [qc.byzantine.center@gmail.com](mailto:qc.byzantine.center@gmail.com)  
[www.qc.cuny.edu/academics/bmgs/](http://www.qc.cuny.edu/academics/bmgs/)  
Info: Dr. Maria Athanasopoulou

