06. SNF sponsors Rebooting the Greek Language project

08. Greek language workshop in Athens

14. Charalambos (Harry) and Helene Katevatis graduate scholarship
The Stavros Niarchos Foundation Centre for Hellenic Studies was established in 2011 at Simon Fraser University through a multimillion-dollar grant by the Stavros Niarchos Foundation. Situated atop Burnaby Mountain, just east of downtown Vancouver, the SNF Centre for Hellenic Studies is a major site for Hellenic Studies in North America and is committed to the advocacy and study of Hellenism. The Centre supports the Hellenic Studies Program at SFU which offers undergraduate courses in Ancient, Byzantine, Early Modern and Modern Greek History, in addition to Archaeology and Greek language training. Graduate students working with our faculty receive significant financial support as well as teaching and publication opportunities. The SNF New Media Lab, through the creation of the intelligent language tutor, has forged new methods for language learning and language preservation. The Centre also has partnerships across the United States and is leading the way in the expansion of Hellenic Studies to China.

As we pause to reflect upon and celebrate our achievements at the close of the 2017 / 2018 academic year, we find ourselves in a moment of transition. It is with some sadness that I report that our longtime director, Dr. André Gerolymatos, has stepped away from the Centre on medical leave. This turn of events has found me keeping his chair warm, while he focuses on his recovery. André is very much in all of our thoughts here at the Centre and SFU; we wish him a speedy recovery.

He would nevertheless be pleased with everything that we have accomplished in his absence. Here in Hellenic Studies, at the close of the academic year, as we are able to take stock of what we achieved over a very active twelve months we can also reflect on the ways in which our pursuit of innovation in pedagogy and knowledge-translation intersects with our efforts to deliver a rich and appealing curriculum at the university level. We celebrate our colleagues’ achievements and take pride in our students’ work and public presence.

The SNF Centre for Hellenic Studies finds itself in a stronger position as Dr. Doxiadis confidently moves towards the completion of his tenure process, thus raising the profile of SFU as a place for the study of Modern Greek History. This very year saw the publication of two new books by Dr. Doxiadis, one single-authored on the History of the Jewish community of Greece and one edited on the societal impact of the Greek financial crisis. Drs. Gerolymatos, Krallis, and Higgins continued to publish compelling work – outlined in the report below – that made its way into peer-reviewed journals and edited volumes. Notably, our graduate students too, both in Byzantine and Modern Greek History, saw impactful work in article format published in international scholarly journals.

In addition to the purely academic work, 2017 / 2018 was a breakout year for our SNF-funded Rebooting the Greek Language project. An international team of more than twenty people working in fields that range from iOS and Android application development, to computational linguistics, language acquisition and teaching, graphic design and storyboarding produced important new mechanisms for the effective online delivery of Greek lessons to a wide array of age groups. This very year also saw our rebooting team joining the Greek community of Vancouver and Burnaby as well as the Odysseus Charter School in Philadelphia to consider student, parent, and teacher feedback to our new learning applications.

The SNF Centre for Hellenic Studies continued to host compelling public events addressed to both academic and lay audiences. Notably, Dr. Loukas Tsoukalis delivered the second annual Edward and Emily McWhinney Memorial Lecture focused on the burning question of Brexit, while Dr. Gerolymatos hosted Professor Christopher Andrew from Cambridge University for an event on Donald Trump, populism, and the Russia factor. Finally, Dr. Gerolymatos held a well-attended symposium entitled Between Two Fires: Neutral Countries as Clandestine Battlefields, 1939-1962 on neutral capitals and intelligence operations during the Second World War.

We are also pleased to announce a new donation by Harry and Helene Katevatis that will support graduate students in Hellenic Studies at SFU. It is thanks to friends and supporters like the Katevatiss and most notably the Stavros Niarchos Foundation, that we are able to continue to offer innovative programs and initiatives that bring Greece alive to our students and communities.

Dr. Dimitris Krallis Acting Director, Stavros Niarchos Foundation Centre for Hellenic Studies
The Greek language is facing increasing pressure in the diaspora. At the current rate of decline, there is a real risk that within one or two generations, it may disappear as a living language. It is time for new approaches to this intractable problem that incorporate the latest in language pedagogy and educational technology. Thanks to a $1.6M US grant from the Stavros Niarchos Foundation, the SNF New Media Lab is taking up the challenge to help preserve the use of Greek in the global diaspora. Our Lab is well placed for success on this project, with over fifteen years of experience and millions of dollars in research and development of online learning application. Expanding on the work done on the Odysseas Intelligent Language Tutor’s and also incorporating the extensive improvements made to the Tutor during a recent $2.5M CA First Nations Language SSHRC Partnership Grant, the SNF New Media Lab is working to develop a powerful and effective method for teaching the Greek language.

This new approach, called Rebooting the Greek Language, is a combined effort by over a dozen organizations and features recent advances in mobile technology, including augmented and virtual reality, a conversational User Interface (i.e. No-UI), localization, and revolutionary new teaching methods. Taken together, these features will be put to work in a series of apps covering Greek language education from preschool, through elementary and high school, to adult learners. At the end of this two-year project, the goal is to have these tools in classrooms throughout Greek diaspora communities in North America, Europe, and Australia, giving educators and parents the tools they need to keep their heritage language alive.

Community participation is key to the success of the Rebooting the Greek Language project and that’s why the project team has been consulting with diaspora communities to hear directly from educators about their challenges in real-world classrooms. Moreover, two pilots are planned for the fall of 2018 to gather additional feedback from students.

An integral component of the Rebooting the Greek Language project is the internship programme that brings young computer science graduates and designers from Greece to Vancouver for technology and entrepreneurial training in the SNF New Media Lab and with our partner, VentureLabs, a world-class business accelerator at SFU. Greece has huge depth of talent that can contribute to this project and so after their training in Vancouver, interns return to Greece where they are embedded directly into the project team. Because the SNF New Media Lab operates in a distributed work environment, project teams scattered throughout North America and Europe can work together seamlessly, with coordination coming from the project lead in Vancouver. At the end of summer 2018, the team has already welcomed one cohort, with another planned for the fall of 2018 and the spring of 2019.

As Rebooting the Greek Language enters its second year towards the beginning of 2019, the project team plans to be active in local Greek communities, getting feedback and bringing more schools and parents on board. Expect announcements in the spring of 2019 about new pilots and the release of an open beta in the fall. Final release of the full suite of apps is expected in early 2020. For more information about the program and to sign-up for updates, visit the project website www.rebootinggreek.com or follow us on social media @rebootGRK.
Members of the SNF New Media Lab were onsite in Athens with project partners and internship programme participants for a Rebooting the Greek Language workshop during the summer of 2018. The team was also pleased to welcome the Greek Minister of Education, Research and Religious Affairs Kostas Gavroglu, who took time out of his busy schedule to learn more about the project. The event, held on June 19th, featured an open roundtable discussion about the current state of Greek language education in the Diaspora, which highlighted many of the ‘pain points’ experienced by the Greek state and other community and academic stakeholders. An official presentation of the project was also made to assembled members of the Greek media outlining the Rebooting Approach, which can be found on the project website (rebootinggreek.com/overview).

The public portion of the workshop was followed by internal meetings of the project working groups to coordinate their activities. The SNF New Media Lab has for years operated as a distributed workplace and has established effective best practices for coordinating projects between its operations in Athens and Vancouver, and is bringing this expertise to bear on the Rebooting the Greek Language project. The result is a truly international project, with teams working throughout Greek diaspora communities in North America and Europe, as well as in Greece, all pulling together towards the goal of preserving the Greek language in the diaspora. This project was made possible through the generous support of the Stavros Niarchos Foundation.
snf new media lab joins in helping threatened first nations languages

Beginning in 2013, the SNF New Media Lab has been pleased to participate in the ‘First Nations Languages in the 21st Century: Looking Back, Looking Forward’ project, a seven-year collaboration between the First Nations Language Centre at Simon Fraser University and 22 community partners to preserve 13 critically endangered First Nations languages in British Columbia and the Yukon. This initiative was made possible by a $2.5M Partnership Grant by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada and uses the Lab’s Odysseas Intelligent Language Tutor as anchor technology. As a result, for the past six years members of participating First Nations communities have been working alongside SFU researchers and the Lab’s developers to create innovative online and mobile educational resources for their language communities, in a concerted effort to preserve critically endangered First Nations languages.

As this project comes to a close, the SNF New Media Lab is looking ahead towards next steps in our collaborations on First Nations endangered languages. The Rebooting the Greek Language project represents an important opportunity for other languages beyond Greek: the pedagogical approaches and innovative technologies being developed are as useful for Haida and Squamish as they are for Greek. This is why the SNF New Media Lab is looking for ways to share the Rebooting Approach for other threatened languages. This is especially important given that 2019 has been declared the International Year of Indigenous Languages by the United Nations General Assembly. Stay tuned for future announcements.

technology in the classroom

It’s been over a decade since Hellenic Studies took its first tentative steps into online language education at SFU, beginning in 2003 with the development of the first version of the Odysseas Intelligent Language Tutor, thanks to a $250,000 grant from the Stavros Niarchos Foundation. Two years later in 2005, the SNF New Media Lab was founded to coordinate these efforts and has since launched dozens of online courses with community and academic partners, including a suite of Greek history, culture, and language courses for universities across China. The Odysseas Intelligent Language Tutor is now in its fourth iteration and is about to take a giant step forward with the launch of the Rebooting the Greek Language program this year, thanks to another generous grant from the Stavros Niarchos Foundation.

In addition to these important initiatives, the SNF New Media Lab has also been working on smaller-scale projects to develop innovative tools for use in the classroom. Thanks to a recent Open Education Research grant from SFU’s Teaching and Learning Centre, the SNF New Media Lab developed an online learning resource to accompany Hellenic Studies’ first-year survey course, HS100: The Greeks. The resource is hosted on the Odysseas Intelligent Language Tutor and features videos, primary source material, an interactive timeline, teaching bios, and a whole host of study aides that bring Greece alive - from Antiquity to the Modern Era - to undergraduate students. This resource is provided free of charge to students in lieu of a textbook, making Hellenism even more accessible to students. This is just one of many in-classroom initiatives that the SNF New Media Lab is supporting in Hellenic Studies at SFU, including using video-conferencing to deliver interactive, online lectures to students throughout the region. As the Rebooting the Greek Language project proceeds, we expect to have even more announcements in the months to come. Stay tuned!
During the 2017 / 2018 academic year, the Centre has continued to deliver on its mandate to engage with institutions in China to support Greek language training and the delivery of courses on Greek history and culture. Developers and content developers from the SNF New Media Lab have been working with our Chinese university partners to update and transition existing course materials to the latest version (4.0) of the Odysseas Intelligent Language Tutor. Once complete, this upgrade will provide our Chinese partners with new functionalities and features to better bring Greek history, language, culture alive to their students.

Over the past year, pedagogical experts from the Greek Language Program have been working hand-in-hand with developers from the SNF New Media Lab on the Rebooting the Greek Language project. Together with the Centre’s many partners, the project team has been working hard on new, innovative tools to preserve and expand the use of the Greek language in the diaspora. What’s more, the technology and pedagogy developed as part of this project will find its way into Hellenic Studies’ for-credit course offerings at Simon Fraser University.

In addition to Greek language courses, the Program also administers the annual Elimomatheia exams on behalf of the Greek Ministry of Education, Research, and Religious Affairs for the greater Vancouver region and Western Canada. This year, a record eighteen applicants took the in-person exams at the Centre; these exams are important to students who can receive credit for an additional language at their local high schools.
The Charalambos (Harry) and Helene Katevatis Graduate Scholarship was established in 2009 through generous donations from Harry and Helene Katevatis and the Burnaby Mountain Endowment Fund Matching Program to promote knowledge and understanding of Hellenism, including Greek history, language, and literature. Since the creation of this endowment, a large number of students researching everything from Greek immigration to North America, the Balkan Wars, and the Macedonian Question, have benefitted from this generous gift. As we near the tenth anniversary of the establishment of this fund, we are pleased to announce that the endowment has been further enriched with a new donation of $70,000 by Harry and Helene Katevatis to support graduate education in Hellenic Studies at Simon Fraser University. The annual scholarship is now worth $12,000.

This gift will allow us to continue to support top students like Jovana Andjelkovic, who recently joined the Centre as a PhD student under the supervision of Dr. Dimitris Kiallis. Before coming to SFU, Ms. Andjelkovic received her BA and MA from the University of Belgrade in Serbia. Her research project examines the place of a medieval, Greek-speaking Roman empire holds in contemporary society. As an international student, with fewer support options so far from home, private scholarships and awards such as the Charalambos (Harry) and Helene Katevatis Graduate Scholarship are a crucial component in making her education possible. In particular this will allow Ms. Andjelkovic to enrol in further language courses in Greece and Canada and to visit overseas archives essential to her research.

"I am able to take on this interdisciplinary research project only in an open and multidisciplinary unit such as Stavros Niarchos Foundation Centre for Hellenic Studies.... The generous financial support that I receive makes this academic journey possible. It is my hope that this project will contribute not only to the field of Byzantine Studies, but well beyond it as well. History does not reside only in classrooms, it is important to engage with and challenge it outside laboratory-set, scholarly conditions."

Jovana Andjelkovic, PhD student and recent recipient of the Charalambos (Harry) and Helene Katevatis Graduate Scholarship
In 1935, Nobel Laureate Cecil Day Lewis in one of his famous poems, "The Conflict", captured the feeling of helplessness that had taken hold of Western Europe when he wrote "[...] only ghosts can live between two fires." Lewis was speaking about people caught in conflict, but the same could be applied to neutral states caught between the opposing blocs during and after the Second World War, and into the early Cold War. It was here that ghosts, in this case intelligence organizations and their agents, competed for power and influence as the flames of war overshadowed their efforts.

The SNF Centre for Hellenic Studies was pleased to host an international symposium on 6 November 2017 entitled “Between Two Fires: Neutral Countries as Clandestine Battlegrounds, 1939-1962” at Simon Fraser University’s campus in downtown Vancouver. The symposium followed three interconnected thematic avenues of enquiry, starting with the beginning of the Second World War and concluding with developments in the early Cold War. Invited scholars presented papers on Spain, Portugal, Switzerland, Ireland, India, and Greece.

The Centre welcomed Dr. Denis Smyth (University of Toronto); Dr. David A. Messenger (Alabama University); Dr. Alexandra Luce (Royal Military College); Dr. Neville Wylie (University of Nottingham); Dr. Eunan O’Halpin (Trinity College Dublin); Mathilde von Bulow (University of Glasgow); and Dr. Paul McGarr (University of Nottingham). These extraordinary scholars were joined by Dr. Christopher Andrew from Cambridge University, a world-renowned expert on United Kingdom and Russia intelligence and a former official historian for MI5, the UK’s domestic counterintelligence and security agency. The Centre’s then-director, Dr. André Gerolymatos also presented a paper on covert Axis and Allied efforts to bring Ioannis Metaxas’ government into the Second World War. A collection of conference papers is currently being prepared for publication with Lexington Books, for release some time in 2019.

 Neutral countries as clandestine battlegrounds, 1939-1962

between two fires:

events
In November 2017, one year after the unexpected election of Donald J. Trump as the 45th President of the United States of America, allegations of Russian interference has dominated news coverage of his young presidency, with no signs of abating. Evidence of contact between members of the Trump campaign team and Russian officials continued to surface and even implicated members of the President’s immediate family. The appointment of a special prosecutor in the person of Robert Mueller following the firing of FBI Director James Comey kept these allegations circulating in the media.

To engage with these important issues, on November 7th, the Stavros Niarchos Foundation Centre for Hellenic Studies presented an event entitled “Donald Trump and the Spectre of Russian Intelligence” featuring Dr. Christopher Andrew. Dr. Andrew is an Emeritus Professor of Modern and Contemporary History at Cambridge University and a former President of Corpus Christi College. To date, he has written twelve books on British and Russian intelligence and is perhaps best known as a former official historian of the UK Security Service (MI5). He has also been a frequent commentator and presenter for BBC Radio and TV.

Dr. Andrew’s talk covered historical Russian intelligence operations, how they might have sought to influence the US presidential election, and assessed the vulnerability of other western democracies, including Canada’s. His lecture was followed by a panel discussion with other experts on intelligence history and the media, including Dr. Denis Smyth from the University of Toronto, Dr. Eunan O’Halpin from Trinity College Dublin, Dr. Alexandra Luce from the Royal Military College, and Dr. André Gerolymatos, the Centre’s then-director. As one would expect from such a topic, there was a lively question and answer session immediately following this discussion.

The SNF Centre for Hellenic Studies collaborated with SFU Public Square to mount this important event at the stately Segal Building in downtown Vancouver. SFU Public Square is a signature initiative designed to spark, nurture and restore community connections, that has established Simon Fraser University as the go-to convener of serious and productive conversations about issues of public concern. The Centre was also grateful to receive financial support from the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences.
On 23 June 2016, the majority of British people voted to leave the EU, arguably the most important political decision taken in the British Isles since the end of the Second World War. Was it an accident long waiting to happen or the result of the populist surge in an era of globalization and widening inequalities? Can the UK afford to cut itself loose from the rest of the European continent? Or, will membership be replaced by a new special relationship yet to be defined? In recent years, the EU has been through a major crisis of its common currency, the euro, as well as a refugee crisis, and now comes Brexit. Can European integration overcome internal divisions in an adverse external environment? And if not, what would be the implications for Europe and the rest of the world?

For answers to these questions, the Centre was pleased to be able to rely on an important scholar and expert on European integration, Professor Loukas Tsoukalis, president of the Hellenic Foundation for Europe- an and Foreign Policy (ELIAMEP), Greece’s leading think tank. Professor Tsoukalis has taught in several universities in Europe and North America, including the University of Oxford, the London School of Economics, Sciences Po in Paris, the University of Athens, the European University Institute in Florence, and Harvard University (Kennedy School). He is the author of many books and articles on European integration and international political economy. He has advised the former President of the European Commission and the former President of the European Council. He now teaches in Paris and Bruges. His latest book *In Defence of Europe: Can the European Project Be Saved?* was published by Oxford University Press in 2016. He has received the Légion d’honneur of the French Republic for his contribution to European integration, as well as many academic distinctions and awards.

Professor Tsoukalis’ talk, entitled “Brexit and the European Union: Is there life after the divorce?” was held as the second annual Edward and Emily McWhinney Memorial Lecture on 21 March 2017. The annual lecture was established in 2016 to honour the memory of two long-time friends of Hellenic Studies at Simon Fraser University. Both Edward and Emily were committed to academic excellence and public service and the annual lecture, which is organized and supported by the Centre, is a lasting legacy for the couple which fosters public discussion of topics that animated the McWhinney’s professional and intellectual lives.

The public talk took place in front of a capacity audience at SFU’s Segal Building in downtown Vancouver. Professor Tsoukalis provided an excellent summary of many of the issues surrounding the referendum campaign, including demographic factors. The talk then turned to what Brexit means for the EU27, and likely consequences for the remaining bloc, followed by questions from the audience. As has become tradition for the McWhinney Lecture, the talk was capped off by a brief reception held in Founders Hall.
During the fall and spring semesters, the SNF Centre for Hellenic Studies presents a series of seminars featuring visiting scholars, centre faculty, and graduate students from a variety of disciplines, on a range of hellenic topics.
The World Federation of Cephalonian and Ithacian Societies “Odysseus”, the Ionian Cultural Federation of America, and the Stavros Niarchos Foundation Centre for Hellenic Studies celebrated the unveiling of a bronze bust of the Greek navigator and explorer Ioannis Focas Vallerianos at an event at the Museum of Vancouver on 24 April 2018. Ioannis Focas Vallerianos, originally from the Ionian island of Kefalonia, visited the Pacific Northwest in 1592.

The unveiling opened to a capacity crowd with a welcome and acknowledgement of the unceded First Nations territories on which the event took place by the CEO of the Museum of Vancouver, Mauro Vescara. The event featured speeches by the Consul General of Greece to Vancouver, Thanos Ioannou, the Member of Parliament for London North Centre, Peter Fragiskatos, the President and Secretary of the World Federation of Cephalonian and Ithacian Societies, Dionisios Vlachos and Costas Van- gelatos respectively, and the Deputy Governor for Tourism of the Ionian Islands, Spyros Galatsatos. Assembled guests were also fortunate to hear directly from the artist of the bust, famed Greek sculptor Ioannis Bardis, as well as the historian and author of Juan de Fuca: Justice to a Man’s Memory, Evi Livada-Duca.

The bust of Ioannis Focas unveiled during the event is one of a pair. The second bust, also by the artists Ioannis Bardis, was unveiled in August 2017 and is installed overlooking the harbour in Argostoli, on the island of Kefalonia. The two sculptures therefore represent a deepening of the bond between British Columbia and the island. In recognition of this connection, Bill Matarangas, the President of the Hellenic American National Council pledged $2,000 for an annual scholarship for students studying Greek archaeology at SFU. Similarly, Odysseus President Dionisios Vlachos pledged an annual scholarship of $3,000 for students studying Greek archaeology, as well as four $500 annual prizes to support SFU continuing studies programs on the island of Kefalonia.
We were very pleased to welcome the recently appointed Ambassador of the Hellenic Republic to Canada, Dimitris Azemopoulos, to the SNF Centre for Hellenic Studies on 17 January 2018.

H.E. Azemopoulos is no stranger to Canada, having served as Consul General of Greece in Toronto for over five years where he championed many humanitarian causes and was honoured by AHEPA with a CEGA award for the promotion of Hellenism in 2011. During his career, he has also served in Poland, Norway, the Council of the European Union, as well as in various positions in the Greek Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He studied law and political science at the University of Athens and the London School of Economics and speaks seven languages.

H.E. Azemopoulos was pleased with the demonstration and looked forward to reporting to the Ministry on the important work being done at the Centre as well as the positive impact that the Stavros Niarchos Foundation was having on supporting the Greek language throughout the diaspora.

Not only did the onset of autumn usher in the beginning of a new academic year, but it also brought two new faces to the Centre as part of the SNF Centre for Hellenic Studies Visiting Scholar Program. The Visiting Scholar Program brings specialists in Classics and Modern Greek Studies to Simon Fraser University to share their work with the Centre through public talks and seminars.

This year, the Centre was pleased to welcome Dr. Emily Varto, a member of the Department of Classics at Dalhousie University and separately Dr. Anna FYTA, who studied Modern Literature at the University of Ioannina and New York University. Dr. Varto, an alumna of the program, shared her recent research as part of the Centre's regular seminar series, in a talk entitled "Greeks, Romans, and the 'Science of Man': Building a New Picture of Classics and Early Anthropology." Dr. FYTA gave three seminars to Hellenic Studies, the Department of English, and the Department of Gender, Sexuality, and Women Studies on her research on Greek Travel Writing, Hilda Doolittle and Richard Aldington, and parallel literary conversations with Greek Myth.

Ms. Sokou's talk examined the role that the US played in trying to contain the Greek debt crisis and the impact that it had. Ultimately, even as US involvement was a foregone conclusion to the imminent danger to global financial stability, their motivations were also rooted in geopolitical considerations: the need to safeguard US interests in a traditionally volatile region that at the time was facing new challenges like the refugee crisis, the civil war in Syria and increasingly difficult relations with Turkey.
Faculty in the SNF Centre for Hellenic Studies help bring Greece alive for our students and communities

André Gerolymatos

In addition to his administrative roles as director of the SNF Centre for Hellenic Studies, the Hellenic Studies Program, and co-director of the Terrorism, Risk, and Security Studies Professional MA Program, Dr. Gerolymatos maintained an active research and publication programme. His book on the Greek Civil War (originally published by Yale University Press in 2016) was translated and published in Greece by Dioptra Press to critical acclaim. Also this year, his monograph The British and the Greek Resistance: 1936–1944: Spies, Saboteurs, and Partisans was published by Lexington Books in early 2018. Dr. Gerolymatos has two articles set to appear in collected volumes over the next academic year that stemmed from papers he gave at California State University, Sacramento on the Greek Junta and at SFU on neutral countries during the Cold War. This last contribution will appear in a volume that he is co-editing with Dr. Denis Smyth of the University of Toronto. Moreover, he is also working on two book length projects on espionage in classical Greece for Lexington Books and a history of American special forces for Yale University Press. Dr. Gerolymatos was also active in the classroom and taught a seminar on terrorism and espionage in the eastern Mediterranean and continued to supervise two PhD students and is looking forward to welcoming a new MA student in the fall of 2018. Finally, he remained engaged with local and international audiences for expert commentary on issues of global security and international relations. He was generous with his time and frequently gave interviews to the media and was often in the community as a speaker to various groups.

Towards the end of the academic year, Dr. Gerolymatos stepped away from his duties at SFU to go on medical leave. Everyone at the Centre wishes him a speedy recovery.

Dimitris Krallis

This past academic year has been busy and productive for Dr. Dimitris Krallis. Four articles appeared in various journals and edited volumes. “Popular Political Agency in Byzantium’s Village and Towns” features in the 28th volume of Byzantina Symmeiktika, while “Historiography as Critical Contemporary Commentary” appeared in the Cambridge Intellectual History of Byzantium. “Historians, Politics, and the Polis in the eleventh and twelfth Centuries” was hosted in the volume by Traux et Mémoires dedicated to the memory of the great Byzantinist Paul Lemerle and “Imagining Rome in Medieval Constantinople: Memory, Politics, and the Past in the Middle Byzantine Period” in the proceedings of the British Academy. Notably Dr. Krallis’ book manuscript, now titled Serving Byzantium’s Emperors: The County Life and Career of Michael Attaleiates has passed review and is now contracted with the New College of the British Academy.

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Sabrina Higgins

The past year has been a period of research creation for Sabrina Higgins. She was awarded a Small SSHRC for her current research project, entitled “The Early Cult of the Virgin in the Eastern Mediterranean,” which explores and problematizes the traditional chronological framework applied to the Cult of Mary in the Eastern Mediterranean Basin through an examination of the available material and textual evidence. The initial findings of this project will be presented at an international symposium organized by Dr. Higgins and hosted by the Centre in October 2018. Dr. Higgins is also collaborating with Dr. Niki Tsironis (NHRF, Athens) on a related digital humanities project to collect and digitize all of the known materials relating to the Virgin from the eastern Mediterranean in Late Antique and Early Medieval periods. In addition to these research projects, Dr. Higgins has one forthcoming article set to appear in the Journal of the Canadian Society for Coptic Studies in the Spring of 2019, which grew from conference paper she gave at the 11th Annual Coptic Studies Symposium at the University of Toronto. Dr. Higgins also presented a paper at the 17th Annual International Congress of Christian Archaeology at Utrecht University and the Radboud University Nijmegen in the Netherlands. Finally, Dr. Higgins participated in her sixth season of excavations at Golemo Gradiste, a Late-antique Church in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. This year, however, she was accompanied by her PhD student Aurora Camaño, who joined the team for her first season of excavations at the site.
Over the past academic year, Dr. Kotsovili worked on new research bringing together comparative literature, Greek and Indigenous mythology. She presented her findings on Greek-Canadian and Aboriginal literature at the inaugural conference on Greek Canadian studies, which was hosted at York University in Toronto. She served as a co-editor for the edited volume titled “Consumption and Gender in Southern Europe since the Long 1960s” (Bloomsbury Academic), and continues to serve as an editor for the Journal for Modern Hellenism. In addition, she presented the work of the celebrated Greek author Maro Douka at the event organized by the Consulate General of Greece in Vancouver and the EU - NIC for the EU Book Club of Vancouver in collaboration with the Vancouver Public Library and the Hellenic Community. She also presented the activities of the SNF Centre for Hellenic Studies at the annual meeting of the Odysseus Federation, in Kefalonia, Greece. Finally, she was invited to deliver a speech in the Parliament of Greece on the Greek Language in the Diaspora and the work of the SNF Centre for Hellenic Studies at SFU, during the proceedings of the Standing Committee of Educational Affairs of the Hellenic Parliament.

James Horncastle

Dr. James Horncastle had a productive 2017 and early 2018, having taught as well as publishing several articles, in addition to preparing his manuscript on the Macedonian Question in the Greek Civil War for publication. In addition, James taught full-time at Simon Fraser University. Three of his articles were submitted and accepted for publication in edited volumes: “Turning off the Tap: The 1999 Bombing Campaign of Kosovo and the Securitization of Water” in Ethics and Water Security; “The Death of a City: The Yugoslav Peoples Army Siege of Vukovar, 1991, Refugee Crisis, and its Aftermath” in War and the Urban Context; and “A Measure of Success? Soviet and American Military Advising in Yugoslavia, 1945-1957” in Air Force Advising and Assistance. James also chaired a panel at the War and Society in Colonial Sicily international workshop at the University of British Columbia, as well as presented an early version of “The Death of a City” at War and the Urban Context in New York. Finally, James produced a policy brief on the issue of refugees and potential risks for the International Security Preparedness Professional Development Conference. James is currently researching the relationship between refugees and conflict in the Balkans.

Evdoxios Doxiadis

This year saw the publication of Dr. Doxiadis’ second monograph State, Nationalism, and the Jewish Communities of Modern Greece with Bloomsbury Academic, as well as a co-edited book (with the cultural anthropologist Aimee Placas) Living under Austerity: Greek Society in Crisis with New York’s Berghahn Press, which includes a chapter by him. He also published another chapter in an edited volume with Routledge called Gender, Law and Economic Well-Being in Europe from the Fifteenth to the Nineteenth Century: North vs South? Dr. Doxiadis was also invited to give a talk at a conference in honor of Professor Leslie Peirce at New York University, and gave another presentation at the 9th Conference of the European Network held at the German Historical Institute London, where he also chaired a session of the conference. Finally in November 2017, Dr. Doxiadis assumed his role as a member of the Executive Board of the Modern Greek Studies Association and Chair of the Digital Communications and Social Media Committee of the Modern Greek Studies Association and continues to serve as member of the editorial board of the Journal of Modern Greek Studies.
The Centre, through its partnerships with the Departments of History and Archaeology, offers thesis-based MA and PhD programs to students interested in Ancient, Byzantine, Early Modern and Modern Greek History and Archaeology. This year, faculty members oversaw five PhD students and one MA student at various stages of their academic programs. In the fall of 2018, these will be joined by three new graduate students: a PhD student studying Byzantine history, an MA student who will study Modern Greek history, and a second MA student who will be studying classical archaeology.

Students studying with Hellenic Studies faculty receive comprehensive funding packages, that combine research support from the Stavros Niarchos Endowment with private awards and scholarships. This allows us to attract the very best academic talent from around the world. Indeed, our current student body has representatives from Canada, Serbia, and Greece. This past academic year, the Centre disbursed $104,600 in private scholarships and awards, fellowships, and other research support. Furthermore, we are pleased to announce that the Harry and Helene Katevatis Graduate Endowment Fund was augmented this year by a donation of $70,000, which will allow the Centre to increase its graduate funding even further.

Also, as of this year, graduate students working with our faculty members are now offered affiliate membership in the Centre. This membership opens up opportunities for participation in conferences and symposia, as well as increased avenues for publications and networking. Students are also given the chance to participate in the organization and execution of academic gatherings. Combined with the traditional thesis-based education, as well as opportunities for teaching that the Centre also provides, Hellenic Studies graduate students are therefore provided with the skills and experience to succeed both inside and outside the academy, wherever their career paths take them.

Outside of the classroom, Hellenic Studies graduate students present their research at the Centre’s ongoing seminar series and were well-represented at major international conferences, including the 43rd Annual Byzantine Studies Conference in Minneapolis, MN, and the 25th Biennial Symposium of the Modern Greek Studies Association. Moreover, many also maintained an active publication profile, with several seeing their work appear in peer-reviewed collected volumes, as well as academic journals such as the Journal of Military History, the Journal of Balkan and Near Eastern Studies, and Byzantine Symmeikta.

We were very pleased to welcome Aurora Camaño as a PhD student in the fall of 2017, working under the supervision of Dr. Sabrina Higgins. Ms. Camaño joins Hellenic Studies from Newcastle University where she completed an MA in Early Medieval and Byzantine Archaeology. Before that she studied at Memorial University of Newfoundland where she completed a BA (honours) in Archaeology and Religious Studies, as well as a Diploma in Heritage Resources. Her research interests extend to Byzantine and Medieval Armenian landscapes and constructions of social memory and identity; the archaeology of forced migration and resettlement; and the archaeology of the South Caucasus, Anatolia and Asia Minor, particularly in Cilicia and Cyprus.

Ms. Camaño represents a number of firsts for the Centre, which she has recently joined as a Graduate Affiliate Member; not only is she the first graduate student enrolled with our partners in the Department of Archaeology to join the Centre, but she is also one of the first students at SFU to hold the Stanley Morisse Memorial Scholarship to Support Graduate Students in Hellenic and Cypriot Studies. This scholarship was initially created in 1993 - and recently revised - to provide financial support to graduate students undertaking studies related to history, archaeology, art history, international relations, literature, or language of Cyprus or Cypriot culture. This $21,000 scholarship is allowing Ms. Camaño to pursue her research project in the archaeology of forced migration and refugee studies through a comparative analysis of natural and built landscapes of places of origin (Bagratid Armenia) against those of the resettled environment (Rubenid Cilicia) and Later Medieval Cyprus. This project has the potential to provide a completely new approach to future archaeological research on the study of forced migrations, while also having wide-ranging implications on contemporary studies of refugee populations.

The generous financial support provided by our friends and supporters, like Stanley Morisse and especially the Stavros Niarchos Foundation, allows the Centre to attract top academic talent like Ms. Camaño and give them the support they need to make the most of their time at Simon Fraser University.
undergraduate program

Jovana Andjelkovic

In the academic cycle of 2017/18 I have completed my first year of doctoral studies. During that time, I participated in the 43rd Annual Conference of Byzantine Studies in Minneapolis, MN (organized by Byzantine Studies Association of North America), where I presented a paper titled “The Nature of Mauroppos’ Promotion – The Social Activity Displayed in a Letter Collection.” I have also had a chance to speak about the contemporary reception of Byzantine culture in the Stavros Niarchos Foundation Centre for Hellenic Studies at SFU. Last fall, the paper I have submitted for Brill’s edited volume Transmitting and Circulating the Late Antique and Byzantine Worlds, received positive reviews and is now awaiting publication. Finally, I was invited to join the organizing team of Seminar for Social Sciences and Humanities in Petnica Science Centre (Serbia) and to hold a workshop on the use of medieval (Byzantine) heritage in modern culture on the Balkans.

Stevan Bozanic

This is my first academic year as a PhD student enrolled the Department of History. In addition to my coursework, I TA’d two courses on European history and presented several papers, including “Inventing the State in their Image. Serbia Under the Karadjordjevic Dynasty” in the SNF Centre for Hellenic Studies Spring Seminar Series, as well as student papers at the University of Alberta, CA, North-eastern University in Boston, MA, and McGill and Concordia Universities in Montréal, CA. Over the next academic year I will be presenting a paper at University College Cork, UK and I am looking forward to seeing an article appear in an Italian-based journal out of Friuli Venezia Giulia called Quodestoria. On a personal note, in June of 2018 I was also thrilled to welcome a new addition to our family. My two-year-old daughter Isabel is now a big sister to baby Vivien!

Aurora Camaño

During the 2017/2018 academic year I completed the first year of my doctoral studies in the Department of Archaeology at SFU and presented research on new theoretical and methodological approaches to studying forced migration in the archaeological record and on the reinterpretation of the archaeological landscapes of Medieval Armenian Cilicia at the International Medieval Congress in Leeds, UK; the 10th International Young Archaeologists’ Conference in Vardzia, Georgia; The Institute for European and Mediterranean Archaeology (IEMA) Visiting Scholar Conference on modelling mobility and migration in human history held in Buffalo, USA; and the Near and Middle Eastern Civilizations Graduate Student Association annual symposium in Toronto, Canada. I also gave a lecture on my doctoral research for the SFN Centre for Hellenic Studies Spring Seminar Series and continued my position as an Assistant Editor for Porphyrion. Finally, I ended the academic year by working as a trench supervisor and conducting excavation at a 6th century basilica complex at the site of Golemo Gradiste in Konjukh, FYROM.

Panagiotis Delis

Passed a significant milestone this year in my PhD program with the successful defence of my comprehensive fields. I was also very active participating in a number of academic conferences, including at the University of Bern in Switzerland, the Institut d’études byzantines et historique allemand in France, and Brock University in St. Catharines, ON. In addition, I presented a paper as part of the Stavros Niarchos Foundation Centre for Hellenic Studies Spring Seminar Series on the Balkan Wars, 1912-15. During the summer months I conducted archival research towards my thesis project in Greece, Bulgaria, and Austria. Over the next year, two of my articles will appear in the Journal of Military History and the Journal of Balkan and Near Eastern Studies.

Jeffrey Greenall

This past year was mainly spent researching and writing my MA thesis, which is centered on the 10th century Byzantine text The Book of Ceremonies. The thesis looks at the ways that imperial ceremonial tended to advertise the virtues and qualifications of emperors in the political arena of Constantinople. Three chapters look at the ways the emperor’s courage, justice, temperance, and wisdom were impressed upon the citizens through different ceremonies in venues designed to accentuate these concepts. This was not always an uncontested project as the emperor was highly exposed to the citizenry and their opinions during imperial ceremonies; properly leveraged, the people could cast doubt on the legitimacy of the regime or even overturn it. The thesis is nearly complete with final revisions remaining and likely being ready for defense some time in the spring 2019 semester.

Alessandar Jovanović

The academic year of 2017/18 was a fruitful one for Aleks Jovanović. In the Fall 2017, Aleks presented his research at two major academic conferences: The 43rd Byzantine Studies Conference (University of Minnesota) and The Biennial Symposium of the Modern Greek Studies Association (Stockton University). In the Fall 2017, Aleks’s paper exploring the ways in which Byzantine authors conceptualized ethnic and national communities of others entitled “Imagining the Communities of Others: The Case of the Seljuk Turks” was accepted by Byzantine Symmexiko.

Simultaneous to his academic activities, Aleks was hired as a Sessional Instructor in the Spring 2018 at the University of the Fraser Valley (Abbotsford) where he taught a survey course on Medieval European history, focusing not only on Western Europe but also on the Hellenophone Byzantine Empire. The second course Aleks taught was a special topics, upper level course on Alexander the Great and his afterlife in European and Near Eastern literatures. By engaging with extensive teaching at UFV, Aleks, a PhD Candidate and Graduate Affiliate Member of the Centre, was able to entice students outside SFU to engage with Hellenic history and legacy. In the Summer 2018, Aleks taught a course on daily life in Ancient Greece and Rome in the Hellenic Studies Program at SFU.
M y time in Greece was nothing short of incredible! As this was my first trip to Europe, I am truly grateful for my overall experience. Each day in the busy city of Athens provided an entirely new cultural experience. It was particularly impactful for me to connect the topics we studied in class to the city as we explored it. For instance, after learning about the population exchange between Turkey and Greece in 1922, the seemingly disordered city design of Athens started making more sense, as I now knew the city was built haphazardly to accommodate a drastic increase in population. Molyvos provided an entirely different cultural and learning experience. Contrary to Athens, Molyvos runs at a much slower pace. This allowed us to really engage with the locals within the village. On a few separate occasions, I spoke with folks about local-life, tourism, and the 2015 refugee crisis. Furthermore, a local hotel owner visited our class, to personally discuss her experiences during the crisis with us. Though evidence of the crisis is almost completely gone in Molyvos, it is still a contentious topic for many on the island. By discussing these difficult topics, I developed a new understanding of how this event significantly impacted the lives and livelihoods of locals. Moreover, engaging with the locals created a humanizing effect, which caused me to reflect upon my Canadian view of a distant event, and allowed me to focus on the people and their experiences.

I am profoundly touched by the experience I had in Greece. Whether it was in the classroom, on a field trip, or adventures during our free time, this experience has connected me with history in a way I never thought possible. It challenged me mentally, physically, and emotionally. My two months abroad gave me an opportunity to reflect and grow, for their exceptional support presented me with this opportunity to students of Simon Fraser University, for their generosity, not only for offering this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, and I feel extremely grateful to everyone that helped me during this incredible journey. Until we meet again!
Hellenic Studies faculty offer a wide range of undergraduate courses on Greece’s history, language, and culture from a variety of disciplinary perspectives.

**Fall 2017**
- GRK 110 Modern Greek for Beginners I
- GRK 160 Modern Greek for Beginners II
- GRK 210 Modern Greek Intermediate I
- GRK 260 Modern Greek Intermediate II
- HS 100 The Greek World
- HS 231 Daily Life in Ancient Greece and Rome
- HS 275 From Alexander to the Caesars: The Hellenic and Roman Worlds to the end of Antiquity
- HS 277 History of Greek Civilization (Online)
- HS 280 War in the Balkans and the Making of the 21st Century
- HS 303 Selected Topics in Hellenic Studies (Popular Representations of Women: Film and Literature)
- HS 303 Selected Topics in Hellenic Studies (Cinema and Politics in the Mediterranean)
- HS 312 Greek Art and Archaeology
- HS 364 Traveller, Diplomatic, and Media Narratives in Greece, the Balkans and the Mediterranean
- HS 441 Women, Property, and the Law in the Mediterranean

**Spring 2018**
- HS 150 Warfare in the Hellenic World: From Plato to NATO
- HS 232 The Religions of Ancient Greece and Rome
- HS 277 History of Greek Civilization
- HS 303 Selected Topics in Hellenic Studies (Reflections on Civil Wars)
- HS 303 Selected Topics in Hellenic Studies (Roman Art and Archaeology)
- HS 304 Alexander the Great and the Quest for World Empire (Online)
- HS 307 Selected Topics in Hellenic Studies (Warfare in Antiquity)
- HS 403 Selected Topics in Hellenic Studies (Greeks go Global)
- HS 422 Greece, 1935-1944: Occupation and Resistance
- HS 477 War in the Shadows: Espionage, Insurgency, and Violence in the Eastern Mediterranean

**Summer 2018**
- HS 231 Daily Life in Ancient Greece and Rome
- HS 276 Social, Economic, and Political History of the Mediterranean
- HS 277 History of Greek Civilization (Online)
- HS 303 Selected Topics in Hellenic Studies (Radical Politics and Dissent)
- HS 307 Selected Topics in Hellenic Studies (On Women: Antiquity to Present)
- HS 477 War in the Shadows: Espionage, Insurgency, and Violence in the Eastern Mediterranean

**Field School**
- HS 216 War and Society
- HS 277 History of Greek Civilization (Online)
- HS 303 Selected Topics in Hellenic Studies (Rome after Rome)
Maria Brastianos Memorial Thesis Prize

Maria Brastianos embodied a passion for life and knowledge and was a voracious reader of the Greek classics, from Herodotus to Homer. Ms. Brastianos passed away in 2014 and this award was established in her name to support graduate students who are in the final stage of preparing their dissertations. Valued at $500.

Recipient: James Horncastle

scholarships + awards

Thanks to the Stavros Niarchos Foundation and our many generous donors, Hellenic Studies is able to offer extensive financial support for students at both the undergraduate and graduate levels

Stavros Niarchos Foundation Centre for Hellenic Studies Graduate Fellowship

The SNF Centre for Hellenic Studies offers a wide range of support to graduate students studying various aspects of Greece’s history, language, and culture, from a variety of disciplinary perspectives. Thanks to the generosity of the SNF, we are able to fund several graduate fellowships from the endowment every year. Multiple fellowships valued at $6,500.

Recipients: Jovana Andjelkovic and Stevan Bozanich

Katevatis Graduate Scholarship in Hellenic Studies

The Charalampos (Hary) and Helene Katevatis Graduate Scholarship was established in 2009 through generous donations from Hary and Helene Katevatis and the Burnaby Mountain Endowment Fund Matching Program to promote knowledge and understanding regarding Hellenism, including Greek history, language, and literature. Currently valued at $12,000.

Recipient: Jovana Andjelkovic

Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies Fellowship

SFU’s Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies assists the SNF Centre for Hellenic Studies to attract and support top academic talent from around the world through a series of graduate fellowships. Awards are made based on academic merit and need and form an important part of the Centre’s institutional support packages. Valued at $6,500.

Recipients: Jovana Andjelkovic, Jeffery Greenall, and Dionysios Arkadianos

The Edward and Emily McWhinney Foundation Hellenic Studies Graduate Scholarship

The Edward and Emily McWhinney Foundation Hellenic Studies Graduate Scholarship was established in 2016 year with a generous gift of $125,000 from the Edward and Emily McWhinney Foundation. The scholarship supports graduate students pursuing research in international relations in the Hellenic Studies Program. The scholarship is awarded on the basis of academic merit and research interests. Valued at $6,250.

Recipient: Stevan Bozanich

Nick Kravariotis Memorial Graduate Scholarship in Hellenic Studies

In 1998, family, friends, and colleagues of Nick Kravariotis – founder of United Maritime Shippers in Vancouver – established an endowment fund in his memory in order to support a Graduate Scholarship in Hellenic Studies. Valued at $800.

Recipient: Stevan Bozanich

Stanley Morisse Memorial Scholarship to Support Graduate Students in Hellenic and Cypriot Studies

In 1993 Stanley Morisse established this scholarship to recognize Greece (his native country), his interest in Cyprus, and his love for his adopted country of Canada. The purpose of this scholarship is to provide financial support to graduate students who are undertaking studies related to history, archaeology, art history, international relations, literature, or language of Cyprus or Cypriot culture. Currently valued at $21,000.

Recipients: Aurora Camaño and Panagiotis Delis

The Edward and Emily McWhinney Foundation Hellenic Studies Graduate Scholarship

The Edward and Emily McWhinney Foundation Hellenic Studies Graduate Scholarship was established in 2016 year with a generous gift of $125,000 from the Edward and Emily McWhinney Foundation. The scholarship supports graduate students pursuing research in international relations in the Hellenic Studies Program. The scholarship is awarded on the basis of academic merit and research interests. Valued at $6,250.

Recipient: Stevan Bozanich

Hellenic Canadian Congress of BC Graduate Scholarship

Established in 2006 through donations by the Hellenic community and matching funds by SFU, the purpose of the Hellenic Canadian Congress of BC Graduate Scholarship is to support graduate students in SFU’s Hellenic Studies Program. Preference is given to graduate students entering their second year of studies after having successfully completed all first year requirements. Valued at $1,500.

Recipient: Stevan Bozanich

Maria Brastianos Memorial Thesis Prize

Maria Brastianos embodied a passion for life and knowledge and was a voracious reader of the Greek classics, from Herodotus to Homer. Ms. Brastianos passed away in 2014 and this award was established in her name to support graduate students who are in the final stage of preparing their dissertations. Valued at $500.

Recipient: James Horncastle
people

The Stavros Niarchos Foundation Centre for Hellenic Studies is:

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Stevan Bozanich (graduate)  
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Aurora Camaño (graduate)  
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Panagiotis Delli (graduate)  
Modern Greek History

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The Agora is the annual publication of the Stavros Niarchos Foundation Centre for Hellenic Studies at Simon Fraser University. Agora is the Greek word for public space. It is the place where citizens come together, where ideas and goods are exchanged, and where politics are created. This publication informs students, faculty, and the community at large who share our interest in Hellenism. We highlight those individuals and groups who have joined us on our Hellenic journey and have impacted our program. Their contribution and enthusiasm make our journey worthwhile.

ISSN 1929-185X (print)
ISSN 1929-1868 (online)