

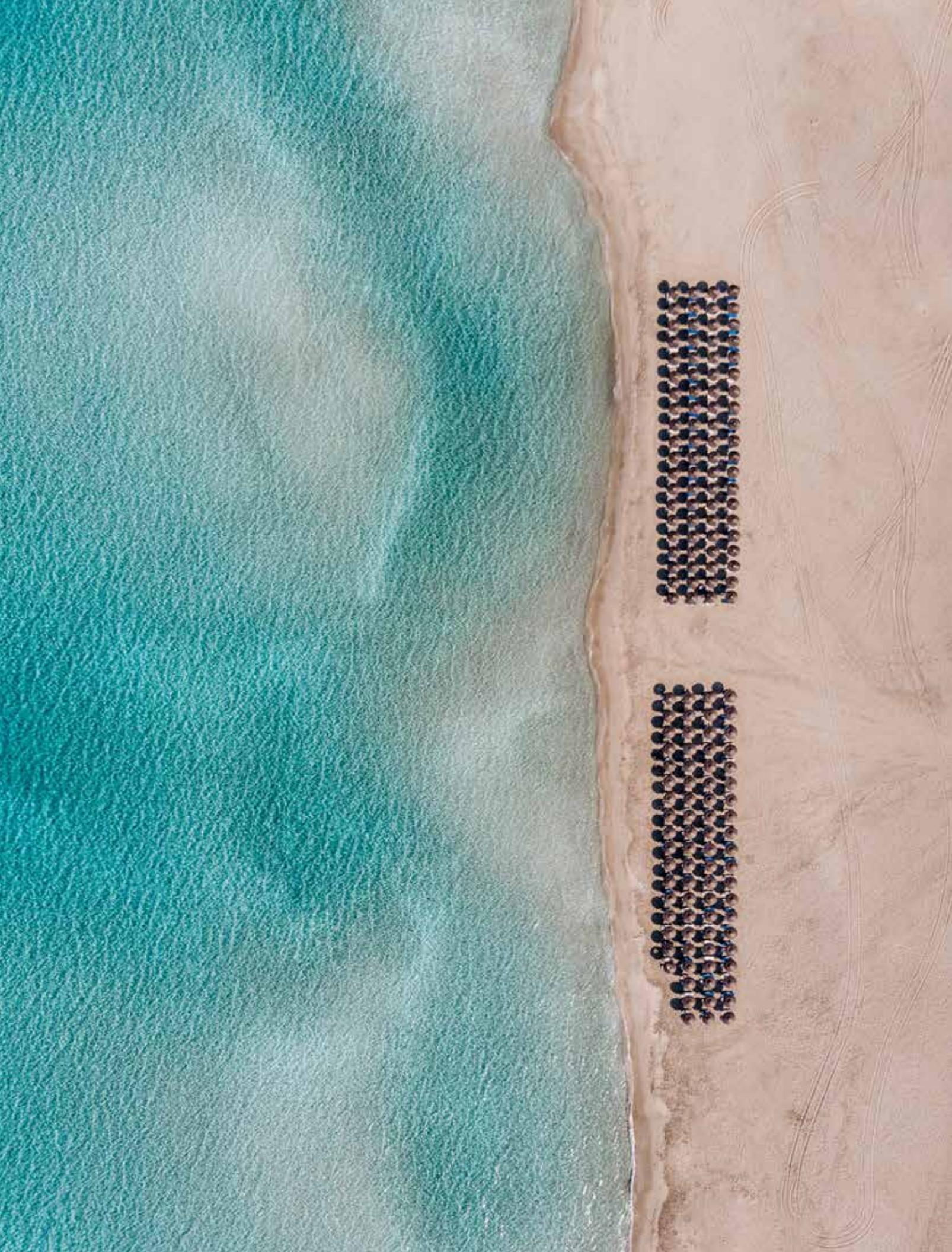
SFU

STAVROS NIARCHOS FOUNDATION CENTRE
FOR HELLENIC STUDIES

AGORA

The annual publication of the Stavros Niarchos Foundation
Centre for Hellenic Studies at Simon Fraser University

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.



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VOLUME EIGHT

2021/2022



DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Professor Dimitris Krallis

How does one begin to summarize the Janus-like year that has just passed?

How do we take stock of the dashed hopes for travel, in-person meetings, symposia and conferences, the loss of opportunities for on-site research and face to face dialogue and active thinking? The pandemic that emerged in 2020 truly upended our lives, destroying certainties and disrupting lifestyles. It tested our character and forced us to reevaluate world systems and societal structures.

This issue of the *Agora* aims not to dwell on the struggles of the past year, but on the perseverance and resilience of our students, faculty and staff. It is a tale of surprise and travails, but also one of strength and adaptation. The SNF Centre for Hellenic Studies may be a research centre, but it is populated by educators, who on Friday, March 13th of 2020, were asked to imagine new means for delivering compelling instruction that didn't rely on face-to-face interactions. Three days after the campus shut down, our members rose to the challenge and began teaching online, having migrated course materials, lectures and physical classrooms to a digital realm.

We were fortunate to have almost completed our 2019 / 2020 seminar series before the onset of the pandemic. However many of our other outreach initiatives had to be quickly adapted to a virtual format. Our "Island Sessions" event for the summer of 2020, which normally brings scholars from Canada, the U.K., U.S. and Greece to Molyvos for an interdisciplinary discussion of politics and culture from Antiquity to the present, materialised as a digital event. The success of this event and our experiences connecting with a larger more diverse audience would come to define the remainder of 2020 and guide our operations into the present year.

The lessons we learned informed the West Coast Byzantinists' Seminar. The WCBS was inaugurated in late 2020 as a cross-campus initiative, based out of the University of California, Los Angeles, Simon Fraser University and the University of British Columbia. Meeting once a month for dialogue and reflection on all manner of Byzantine themes, the WCBS is an open forum where peers — both young researchers and more established faculty — discuss their work or ideas and questions that animate our field. Hosted by myself and the director of UCLA's Stavros Niarchos Foundation Center for the Study of Hellenic Culture, professor Sharon Gerstel, the WCBS is an interdisciplinary, informal forum where rigorous academic debate is made possible. While we will offer more

information on the activities of the WCBS in the next issue of the *Agora*, I mention it here because in many ways it was the fortunate child of the pandemic. Without the urge to communicate that our being deprived of our campuses and seminar rooms generated, the impetus for a cross-border initiative linking Canada and the U.S. may not have been born. I am thankful to Sharon Gerstel's commitment to collaboration, which made this new venue for learning possible.

But by far, the greatest accomplishment of the past year was the launch of the online language learning platform, Staellinika, by our SNF New Media Lab. This new and engaging online learning platform is the culmination of more than two years of hard work by teams of scholars, education specialists and technologists, animators, video editors, storyboarders and voice artists, working from a distributed workplace, before the pandemic introduced the world to remote work. Such collaboration was made possible by the Stavros Niarchos Foundation (SNF), which elected to support our Rebooting the Greek Language proposal in 2018. Staellinika has since gone global and is adding users daily, thanks to our close collaboration with the General Secretariat for Public Diplomacy and Greeks Abroad at the Foreign Ministry of the Hellenic Republic, and support from SNF.

Finally, one note on our home at Simon Fraser University (SFU). The SNF Centre for Hellenic Studies is a research Centre at the university. Our presence on campus is not, however, limited to work on our niche research arenas. We are all, as noted above, educators active in the classroom. Since 2011 the members of the SNF Centre for Hellenic Studies have constituted a small academic program, which offered courses relating to Greek history, language, and culture. In 2020 we took a leap forward and in full confidence joined with our partners in the Department of Humanities, to begin a new chapter in Hellenic studies at SFU. We gained new colleagues with similar interests and at the same time made the study of Greece, its history and culture a central concern of a fully articulated university department, ensuring that our students would have access to majors and minors in which Hellenism could stand as a central component. A year later, we are happy in our new academic home, working side-by-side with our new colleagues to situate Hellenism in the global context, which has always been its home.

THE STORY OF STAELLINIKA

UNITING THE GREEK DIASPORA THROUGH LANGUAGE AND CULTURE

By Lauren Gilbert



It began with saving a language.

For many years, the Centre's former Director, the late professor André Gerolymatos worked with the team at the SNF New Media Lab to address a growing problem. The global population of Greek immigrants and their descendants were facing what appeared to be the inevitable decline of the Greek language as a living language in the diaspora. Over the next one or two generations, it was estimated at the time that spoken Greek would disappear from the diaspora altogether.

At the beginning of 2018, thanks in no small part to the generous support of the Stavros Niarchos Foundation (SNF), the means to promote and preserve Greek language began to take shape in the form of the Rebooting the Greek Language project.

The project offered a new way of approaching an old problem. By combining the timeless art of storytelling with new mobile technology, it promised to deliver an exciting and engaging method of learning the Greek language in an effort to revitalize the Greek language in the diaspora.

On October 6th, 2020, the SNF Centre for Hellenic Studies launched Staellinika, an online platform and suite of apps developed by the SNF New Media Lab. Born out of the Rebooting the Greek Language project, Staellinika is the result of a collaboration between the SNF Centre for Hellenic Studies and the General Secretariat for Public Diplomacy and Greeks Abroad of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Hellenic Republic. It was made possible through the support of SNF.

The long journey from ideation to delivery was filled with incredible moments of collaboration and inspiration, but also great loss. In May 2019, the Centre lost its founding Director, professor

André Gerolymatos after a long illness. It was Gerolymatos who realized that mobile technology could "reboot" the Greek language in the diaspora, and his legacy lives on in Staellinika.

Since his passing, the SNF Centre for Hellenic Studies has been guided by a new leader, professor Dimitris Krallis, a long-time faculty member of the Hellenic Studies Program and charter member of the SNF Centre for Hellenic Studies. In this new era, the Centre embarked on exciting new partnerships, including its collaboration with the Greek Ministry of Foreign Affairs to launch the Staellinika initiative. Staellinika has become the official tool for Greek language learning in the diaspora, serving a population of over three million people.

Spanning almost three years, the development of Staellinika required the support of 20 contributors specializing in Greek language pedagogy, artists, and developers, and involved nine Simon Fraser University staff, and four faculty members across two faculties. It also saw 12 Greek interns with backgrounds in graphic design, animation and UX/UI design, and other specialties, join the project, giving them a once in a lifetime opportunity to work on a continent-spanning initiative to preserve their heritage beyond their country's borders.

We are enormously grateful to our community of supporters, both far and wide, who have participated in Staellinika's journey. Whether you are a contributor, a partner or an end-user, thank you! We couldn't have done this without you. We are excited to see Staellinika grow well into the future. To the global Greek diaspora community, we hope Staellinika inspires you to continue learning about Greece's culture, history and language for many years to come.



Here's a quick look at
Staellinika's story:

01/2018

Thanks to the support of SNF, the project took off! At its helm was the late professor André Gerolymatos, technology advisor Costa Dedegikas and research coordinator Dionysis Arkadianos. The project began with phase one piloting.



04/2018

Nikos Bouas, Myrto Lazaridou, Gregory Tsolakis and Melitini Baltatzis arrived in Vancouver during the spring and were able to explore the city, making a visit during their trip to the Capilano Suspension Bridge



12/2018

Marina Apostoli, Magdalini Kandyliari and Eirini Vlachopanagioti arrived in Vancouver to work on the Rebooting the Greek Language project. The weather was colder than they were used to, but these interns got to work. This was unfortunately the last cohort to travel to Vancouver, due to the onset of the global pandemic in 2020.



04/2019

In collaboration with the Hellenic Canadian Congress of BC and under the auspices of the Consulate General of Greece in Vancouver, the Rebooting Greek Western North American Symposium & Workshop brought together stakeholders from major Greek schools and

communities across Western North America to take a closer look at the Rebooting the Greek Language project. The event also involved a teachers' workshop that focused on lesson planning and integration of the Rebooting project, both inside and outside of the classroom.



11/2019

The SNF Centre for Hellenic Studies partnered with the Museum of Vancouver to exhibit a pilot project led by the SNF New Media Lab and associate professor Nick Hedley's Spatial Interface Research Lab in SFU's

Department of Geography, under the auspices of the Greek Ambassador to Canada, Dimitris Azemopoulos. 'Between Worlds', which was part of the Rebooting the Greek Language project, saw B.C.'s new grade seven social

studies curriculum integrated into virtual and augmented experiences, including a look into the daily domestic life of an ancient Greek home, standing on a trireme during a naval battle, and other scenes from Greece's past.



04/2020

The SNF Centre for Hellenic Studies announced a new and exciting collaboration with the General Secretariat for Public Diplomacy and Greeks Abroad of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Hellenic Republic to develop Staellinika. Staellinika is an online

platform and suite of apps, and was created out of the Rebooting the Greek Language project supported by SNF. These new partnerships opened up exciting opportunities to expand the learning and teaching of Greek language across the diaspora.



05/2020

A collaboration with the Hellenic Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs was announced which saw Staellinika piloted in select U.S. schools across York and New Jersey. The pilot was carried out under the supervision of Dr. Anastasios Koularmanis, Director of the Department of Education of the Archdiocese of America.



10/2020

In response to pandemic restrictions that were keeping young Greeks at home, the SNF Centre for Hellenic Studies entered into a new partnership with the Hellenic Canadian Congress of B.C. and expanded Greek language learning into local virtual classrooms through Staellinika.

Staellinika now has over 30,000 registered users, around the world.



10/2020

Staellinika was officially launched on October 6th with four available levels: Beginners Greek for Ages 4+; Beginners Greek for Ages 6+; Beginners Greek for Ages 9+; and Beginners Greek for Teens and Adults Ages 13+. SNF Co-President, Andreas

Dracopoulos, comments that "At this moment when the pandemic has narrowed our horizons in so many ways, SNF is proud to have helped support tools for young people to reconnect with their heritage by discovering something new, the joy of learning Greek."

+30,000 REGISTRATIONS!



By David Mirhady

First let me give tribute to the former director of the SNF Centre for Hellenic Studies and SFU's Hellenic Studies Program, the Hellenic Canadian Congress of B.C. Chair in Hellenic Studies, Professor André Gerolymatos.

For more than 20 years, André championed Hellenic Studies at Simon Fraser University and achieved spectacular success, building a broad foundation on which we may now seek to raise new heights. Among many other things, André's genius was to emphasize the continuity of the Hellenic tradition, which now forms the backbone of our Department of Humanities. Very soon we will begin our search for the next Hellenic Canadian Congress of B.C. Chair — what big shoes that individual will have to fill.

As a classical Hellenist working in the Department of

Humanities, I observed André's accomplishments with great interest and admiration. During his last year at SFU, we discussed the possibility of my joint appointment in the Hellenic Studies Program. However, he sadly passed away before these plans could come to fruition. As it happens, our units merged almost a year later, and I became chair of the combined Department of Humanities. André is sorely missed, but I am comforted in the knowledge that he would be pleased with the union of Hellenic studies and humanities and the opportunities it will create in the future for our students and faculty. We are guided by his legacy to step beyond the status quo of traditional learning and teaching to create a pragmatic pedagogy for the field of humanities. This shared vision comes at a time when the significance of the humanities cannot be understated in the current context of world affairs.

About me. I was born and raised in Vancouver. My parents shared a pediatric practice for almost fifty years, and my mother still occupies our family home a couple blocks away. I was given Cyrus as a middle name, and my twin brother is Alexander. There was clearly an interest in ancient kings.

Because my father was raised in Iran, from an early age I developed an interest in the ancient Greeks and Persians.

I completed my BA and MA at UBC, with a year studying in Athens, which also happened to be the year Andreas Papandreou was first elected prime minister of Greece. I remember being impressed back then by the very peaceful transfer of power. Concerns about civil war and military coups seemed to be in the past. There was certainly concern about inflation, but not yet about debt.

I went to Rutgers in New Jersey for my PhD and wrote on Theophrastus, Aristotle's successor as head of the Peripatetic School of philosophy, the Lyceum. I also went for a year to Göttingen, in Germany, to broaden my learning and research interests. Not unlike Odysseus, it took me some time to get home. I proceeded to teach in Halifax, Edmonton, Lethbridge and Calgary before my employment at SFU. As well as continuing my interests in Aristotle's school, I do research on ancient Greek law and on rhetoric, the art of writing speeches. I am Vice-President of the International Society for the History of Rhetoric.

My employment with SFU stemmed from the University's need for a specialist to teach classical mythology and someone who could read the texts in ancient Greek and Latin. It is exciting that since my hiring, just over 20 years ago, approximately 200 students per year have taken my mythology courses. Classical mythology has such great intrinsic interest for students, stories recorded by great literary artists, such as Homer, filled with violence, vivid emotions and universal ideas about the human condition. I insist that we study them through the ancient texts (alas only in translation) and that our attention focuses on what the stories meant for the people of the ancient world. The students have already been exposed to modern retellings, in movies, TV, even video games, which have their own merits, but a serious, scholarly study must be based on the original sources.

I look forward to working with my new colleagues at the SNF Centre for Hellenic Studies to build foundations for new ways of teaching and learning the core areas of the humanities, including in my own research areas of philosophy, law and rhetoric. Although my expertise is confined to ancient texts, for example, I currently work with students in SFU's Department of Philosophy on Aristotle's texts, and I believe the size and strength of SFU's School of Criminology offers an untapped supply of students who will benefit from learning about ancient law. We have approximately 100 speeches that were prepared for delivery in Athens' democratic law courts.

They detail all sorts of issues, for rules of evidence, punishment, contracts, homicide. The list goes on.

We already have students in doctoral programs who take advantage of opportunities at the SNF Centre for Hellenic Studies to collaborate on rhetoric in Byzantium. In this same vein, we are working collectively within the Department of Humanities to renovate our curriculum to develop a new undergraduate concentration focused on Hellenic studies.

The expertise we have available together serves the continuum of Hellenic studies. As well as my interests in classical Greek texts, Sabrina Higgins attracts students from far afield to work with her on early Christian archaeological sites throughout the then Greek-speaking world. Dimitris Krallis, the current director of the SNF Centre for Hellenic Studies, likewise attracts students from far and wide to work with him on various aspects of Byzantine culture. Evdoxios Doxiadis focuses on issues of social history in early modern Greece and Eirini Kotsovili has wide-ranging expertise in modern literature. James Horncastle combines a thorough knowledge of ancient military and political history with his research interests in modern migration studies and Balkan history.

From our home in the Department of Humanities we add other complementary expertise. Samir Gandesha focuses on modern critical theory figures such as Marx, Heidegger, and Adorno, who were all highly reliant on Greek thinkers. Emily O'Brien is a specialist on the Italian Renaissance, which includes the reception of ancient Greek thought in western Europe. Paul Crowe brings a very broad humanistic education to bear on early religion in China, and Shuyu Kong likewise focuses on China and its contemporary literature.

As chair of the Department of Humanities and newly minted member of the SNF Centre for Hellenic Studies, I look forward to furthering the study of Hellenism in our communities, both locally and abroad.

A bibliography on ancient Greek law I manage with my colleague in Athens, Ilias Arnaoutoglou.

www.sfu.ca/nomoi

Sources for the early history of Greek rhetoric and rhetoricians I manage with my colleague here, Domingo Avilés.

www.sfu.ca/anewradermacher

OPPORTUNITIES IN THE HUMANITIES

By Sabrina Higgins

Since joining the SNF Centre for Hellenic Studies at SFU as a new faculty member in the fall of 2016, I have found a home among colleagues who have become friends.

I have benefitted from the unrivalled academic community that we have built here and the selfless generosity of my colleagues in the SNF Centre for Hellenic Studies, who were only too willing to read early drafts of articles, share their current research projects and to engage in lively conversations over food and drink after our biweekly seminars. Our shared passion for the Hellenic world and our commitment to creating an engaged community that extends beyond the academy has made the SNF Centre for Hellenic Studies the ideal place to conduct research.

We are consistently striving to push the boundaries of Hellenism and engage in comparative studies that bring the Greek world into contact with cultures and regions not typically studied together. You need only look at our various partnerships with Chinese universities to gauge the extent to which we see Hellenism as a global endeavour, both in facilitating its study throughout the world using online learning tools, but also in the ways that we conceive of our own research.

As a research centre, we have always adopted Greece as a launching point to facilitate broader conversations, as its unique place on the world stage enables interdisciplinary inquiries across the humanistic tradition. It is perhaps unsurprising, then, that the Hellenic Studies Program chose to merge with the Department of Humanities, a partnership that became official in May of 2020. This move is a reflection of our commitment to highlight the impact of Greek art, culture and history beyond the parameters of the Aegean Sea and to bring its legacy into sharper focus across the varied disciplines and approaches that make up the humanities at SFU.

It has offered us an opportunity to bring together scholars working on similar topics and questions related to the Mediterranean world, including professor David Mirhady, associate professor Emily O'Brien and lecturer Alessandra Capperdoni (among others), while also forging new avenues of academic inquiry between Greece and the East through collaborations with associate professor Paul Crowe and professor Shuyu Kong. The opportunity for such transnational studies will facilitate reciprocal exchanges of ideas and resources and offer a more nuanced and holistic understanding of the Greek world and its reception.

By bringing together faculty members working across similar lines of research, we are hopeful that we can push the bounds of our work within the Greek world

to new heights, engaging in a truly interdisciplinary and collaborative enterprise. This desire is mirrored in the planned name change of the department to Global Humanities, which reflects our innovative approach to the discipline, engaging with language, art, literature and culture from a global perspective; in fact, we will be the first such department in North America.

Despite the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, the value of this merger has been demonstrated in the numerous joint collaborations that have already taken place since Fall 2020, notably a conference co-organized by lecturer Eirini Kotsovili, assistant professor James Horncastle and lecturer Alessandra Capperdoni, entitled Memory and Trauma Through History and Culture: Migrations Symposium, as well as several joint events planned by the SNF Centre for Hellenic Studies and the Institute for the Humanities.

From a teaching perspective, the merger has provided an occasion for a complete overhaul of our curriculum, facilitating the inclusion of Hellenic content into a greater variety of courses and the creation of a new minor in Hellenic studies. In building a robust global humanities program, we are also excited about the opportunities for additional co-teaching, including the addition of professor David Mirhady to our already popular co-taught course HS 100: the Greek World, and the creation of new courses that bring Greece and the East into further dialogue.

From a personal standpoint, I am thrilled to join the Department of Humanities. My work has always stood at the intersection of the fields of archaeology, gender studies, art history, classics, and religious studies. By straddling disciplinary boundaries, I am equally at home offering an art historical analysis of early Christian imagery in Egypt, as I am working with critical gender theory to assess the female agency in the ancient Mediterranean world. Thus, the opportunity to work in a department of global humanities offers an opportunity to collaborate and learn from colleagues working across similar subdisciplines.

Moreover, my own work has shifted beyond the spheres of Greece and Egypt (my primary areas of research) to adopt a more global perspective, highlighted by my recent Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council-funded (SSHRC) project, The Early Cult of the Virgin and the Hegemony of the Text. This project adopts a pan-Mediterranean approach to the study of the material culture related to the Virgin Mary, prioritizing Greece, the Holy Land, Egypt, Syria and Asia Minor as primary centres of inquiry.

These types of comparative approaches allow us to engage with the legacy of Greece and the plurality of cross-cultural interactions that shaped the Mediterranean basin, both in the ancient and modern world. It is these interactions that drive my research and push me to look beyond Greece as a monolithic entity in a broader system of knowledge exchange. Thus, in addition to my SSHRC-funded project, my work seeks to build connections between Greece and the wider Mediterranean world through innovative digital humanities projects, creating accessible platforms for the mobilization of knowledge acquired through my research, notably the Digital Mary Project and Peopling the Past.

The Digital Mary Project is an open-source database that collects and digitizes all known images of the Virgin Mary throughout the Mediterranean from c. 300 CE to 1400 CE. In doing so, it brings together the disparate objects with Marian imagery into a single, easily searchable resource that will benefit any scholar working on Marian material culture, or any interested layperson. This project will officially launch in summer 2021 and reflects a collaborative endeavour between the SNF Centre for Hellenic Studies at SFU and the National Hellenic Research Foundation in Athens.

Peopling the Past, on the other hand, is a new collaborative digital humanities initiative launched in fall 2020 and run by a team of Canadian archaeologists, historians and art historians specializing in the cultures of the ancient Mediterranean and Middle East. The project produces and hosts open-access multimedia resources for teaching and learning about real people in the ancient world and the real people who study them. Peopling the Past produces a podcast, educational videos and a blog.

Through these different formats we hope to participate in public history and the sharing of knowledge with history enthusiasts, as well as to provide open-access teaching resources usable in secondary and post-secondary classrooms. Peopling the Past looks beyond the narratives of “big history” to focus on the lived experience of individuals and the stories that are often lost or overshadowed by grand political narratives. The first phase of material centres on the history and ancient cultures surrounding the Mediterranean Sea, but our goal is to expand beyond this region to produce educational materials exploring different cultures and periods throughout human history.

Peopling the Past project website: www.peoplingthepast.com



COLLABORATIONS BETWEEN AN ARTIST AND A HISTORIAN

By Dimitris Krallis

Becoming a historian, for me,
was the default option.

A risky one to be sure, no one guaranteed me a job, but more or less a natural one. From a very young age, I was attracted to daydreaming, I sought out other worlds, I loved story-crafting and appreciated storytelling. My family did little to constrain such tendencies. Parents, grandparents, uncles and friends of the family could not stop telling stories; politics, personal and collective dramas, but also discussions of history proper, populated dinner conversations, filling rooms, verandas and tavernas. The historian's craft came later, after a process of elimination of all other, potentially painful or uninspiring life paths.

Becoming a historian was less a quest for higher learning, than an imposition of order and discipline on the urge to communicate the past, tell a story, or engage a reader or audience. It was a form of storyteller's "adulting". Much as an adult gets a family and mortgage, the storyteller picks

up footnotes and historiography. And yet, discipline, order, theory and history-specific methodologies aside, I still seek the joy of storytelling even as I deal with questions a lay audience might find esoteric. I can't be the judge of the quality of my role as storyteller. That is for the reader to decide and my colleagues to assess. I can, however, keep escaping the historian's adult-ness and seek to infuse games and fun in the historian's craft.

It is in this quest for levity and play I came to encounter Chrysavgi Sakelaropoulou, the Greek graphic artist, who along with her "scenario-writer" Spyros Theocharis, recreated a historical world — that of the tenth century empress Theophano — as a backdrop for a wonderfully narrated tale of intrigue, ambition and vivid colour that took the form of a modern, Byzantine graphic novel.

My encounter with Chrysavgi was appropriately modern. I saw a Twitter post by a fellow Byzantinist highlighting her beautiful book and ordered it online. A week later I was immersed in a form of storytelling that the Byzantines would

Images from Theophano
(Chrysavgi Sakelaropoulou)

have found familiar. Tales were related in her book by way of a visual medium. Any beholder of orthodox church iconography would find the medium recognizable. Basil of Caesarea was certainly not wrong when he extolled the role of images in relating important stories that words on a page often rendered static, stale, or even incomprehensible. Words on a Twitter message flew across continents and oceans and I linked up with Chrysavgi with a proposal in mind: what if I could commission a few drawings by which to enhance the storytelling potential of my monograph? What if my scholar's words on a page could be enhanced by images? What if her sketches could become augmented reality to my words?



Holy Apostles (Chrysavgi Sakelaropoulou)

From Twitter to email a project crystallized. I wished to give life to some ideas I had about a monastic complex an eleventh century judge had built. Nothing survives of this building but a bare bones description in a monastic charter. I had already drafted a two-dimensional blueprint of the plausible shape of the structure, but I did not possess the talent to convert words and schematics into a visually allusive and plausible reality.

Leaving email and Twitter behind we stepped into the world of Zoom, and a dialogue opened between storyteller and artist. Evidence was shared and circulated, the parameters were outlined, and work began on rendering vague Byzantine blueprints into tangible, plausible visual stimuli. The artist became the historian's ally in an effort to shape perception of the past in ways more impactful than words. But this is my side of the story. Here is Chrysavgi's take on the

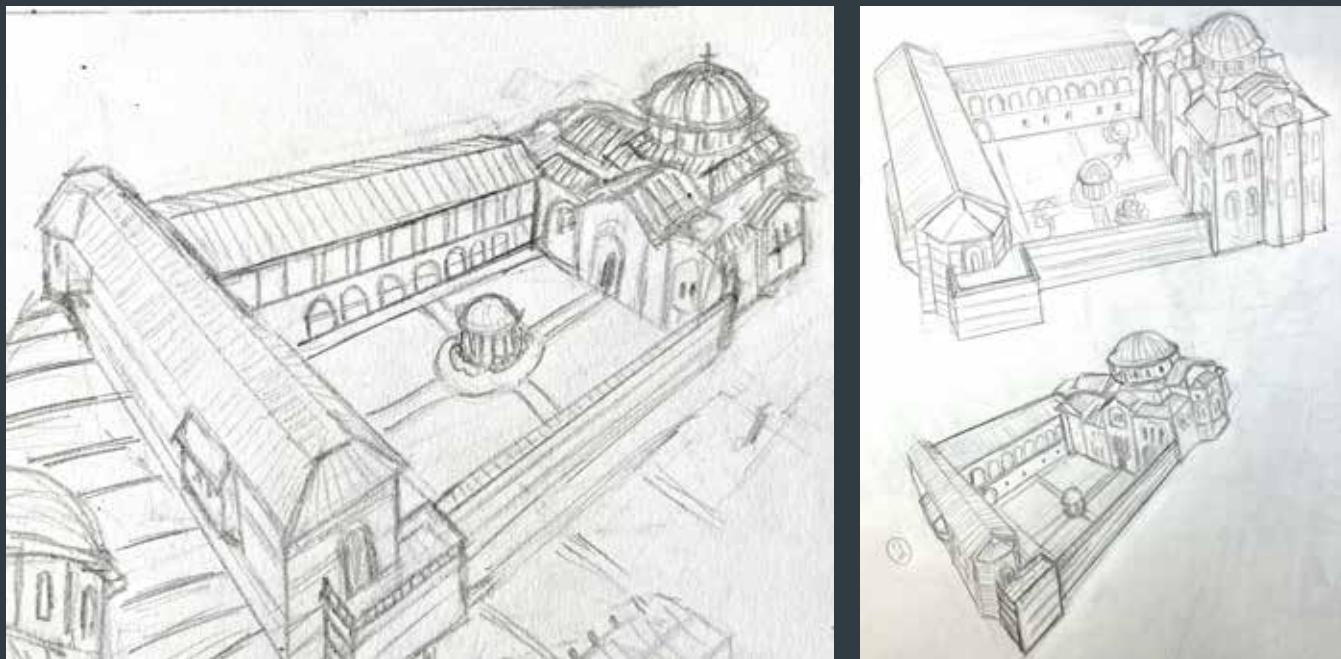
reconstruction of Attaleiates' monastery:

"First off, let me say that you made my job very easy because you knew precisely what you wanted, provided me with a lot of images for reference, and had in mind something rather fixed, so it did not require much artistic invention. That said, there were challenges. A complete drawing had to be generated from the two-dimensional floor plan you provided, taking into account the other visual cues you offered. I had to factor-in the building materials, the nature and medieval use of space, but also had to situate what was a monastic complex in a neighborhood that no longer exists as it did back in the day. In order for something realistic but also pleasing to the eye to come out, I had to understand the functionality of each space and the reason why each part of the building was where it was. Even the wall separating the yard from the street could have dozens of forms depending on its use. Was it conceived with decorative concerns in mind, or was form or function paramount in its design? What was the actual use of the yard? In early drafts I had made the whole image 'prettier', but once you asked for greater emphasis on use and practicality the look changed.... As part of my own research for this project, I used photos from the monastery of Saint Luke at Distomo, built more or less at the time when Attaleiates lived, and from the monastery of Apollonia in Albania, which combines churches and utility spaces in beautiful architecture. After various drafts and with your observations, our tentative image of Attaleiates' monastery emerged."

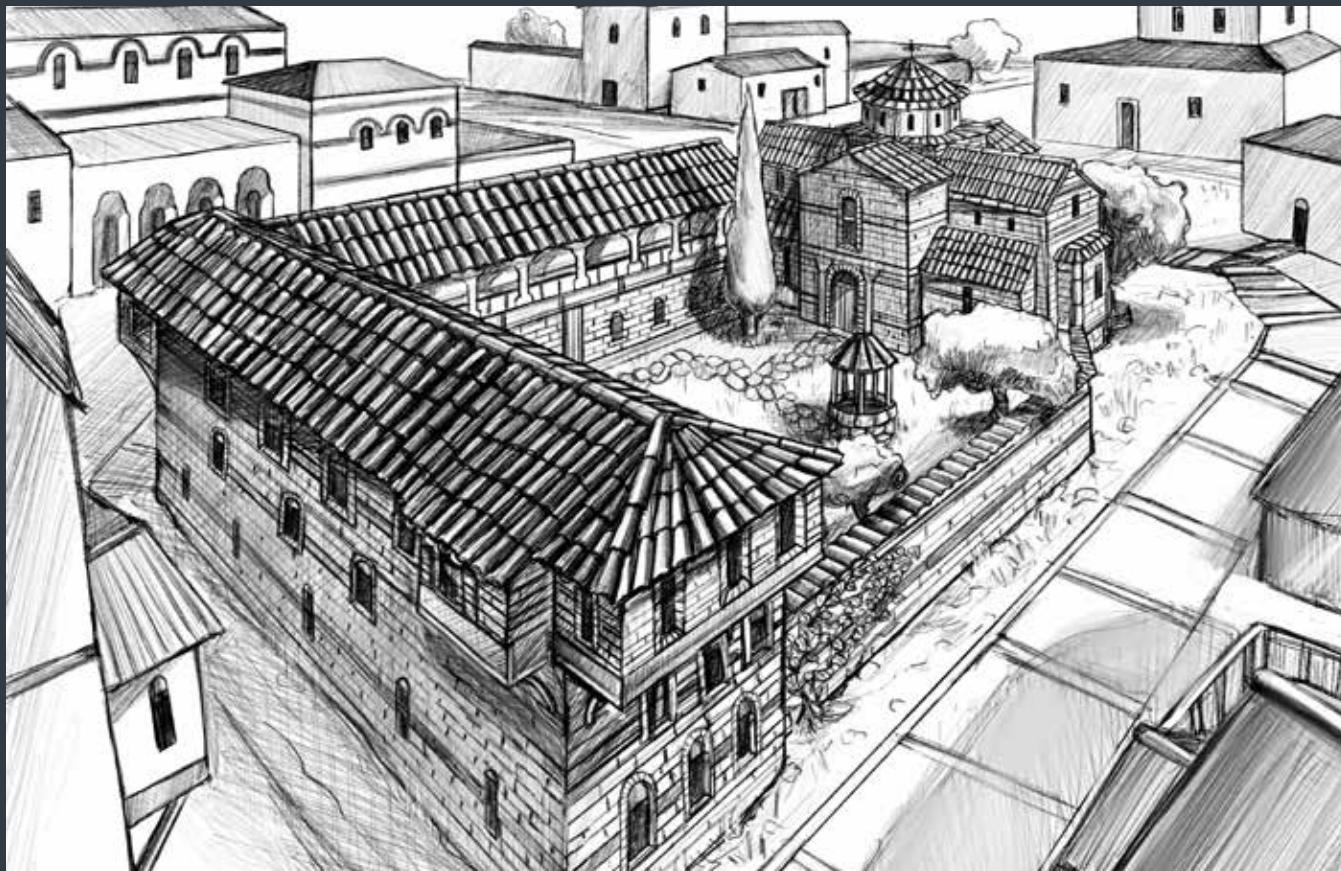
"

There is often dismissive talk of the ivory tower and the isolation of academics from day-to-day reality. This collaboration with Chrysavgi is proof that the modern university can be a place open to society at large. What is more, the artist is shown here to be an essential ally in the scholar's effort to reach a wider audience and better explain their work. This recent collaboration is but the first taste of the opportunities available to all of us. It is up to us to take this even further.

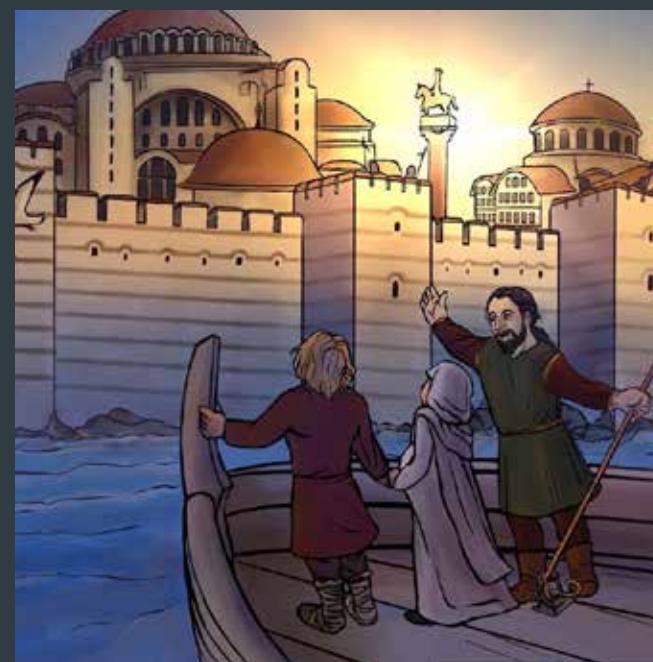
Below: Images from Dimitris Krallis' *Bίος και πολιτεία ενός Βυζαντινού Μανδαρίνου: Το Βυζάντιο ιδωμένο αλλιώς*; facing page: images from Chrysavgi Sakelaropoulou's graphic novel: *Theophano: a Byzantine tale*.



Multiple drafts of the Monastery of Attaleiates; final rendering below (Chrysavgi Sakelaropoulou)



Empress Theophano in procession (Chrysavgi Sakelaropoulou)



Hagia Sophia from the Sea of Marmara (Chrysavgi Sakelaropoulou)



Hagia Sophia Narthex (Chrysavgi Sakelaropoulou)



THE SNF NEW MEDIA LAB AND GREEK LANGUAGE OUTREACH TO CHINA

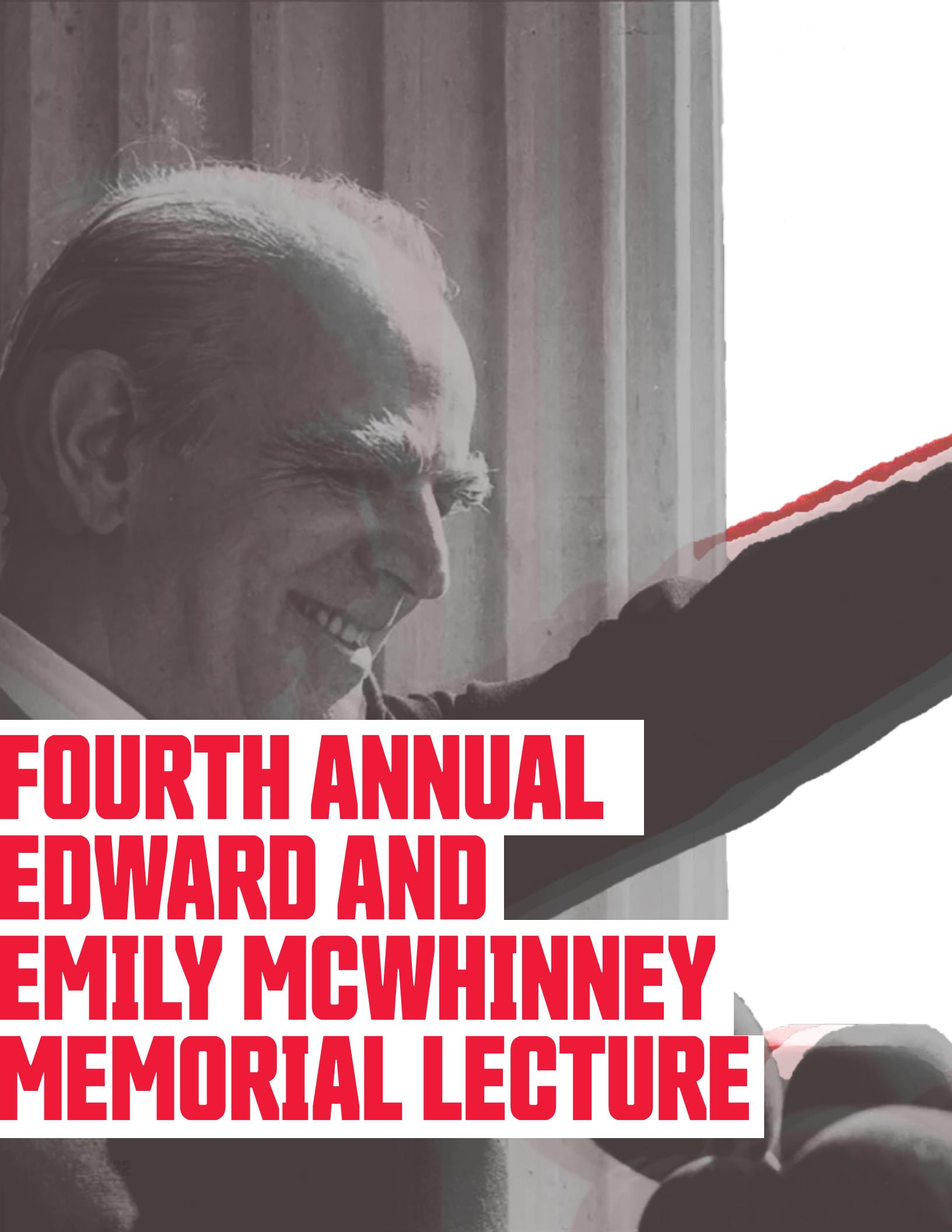
Over the past year, the SNF New Media Lab has been working hard to complete Staellinika, an online platform and suite of apps developed to support the teaching and learning of the Greek language in the diaspora.

Though Staellinika officially launched in the fall of 2020, the Lab continues to support its ongoing maintenance and development, while onboarding new schools interested in adopting Staellinika into their students' curricula.

The SNF New Media Lab also supports the delivery of Greek language courses in the Department of World Languages and Literatures, following the merger between the Department of Humanities and the Hellenic Studies Program. The SNF New Media Lab continues to provide support for the SSHRC-funded First Nations Language Revitalization project by assisting with the development and publishing of courses and applications using technology similar to Staellinika. In addition, the SNF New Media Lab maintains various legacy mobile projects, including the Greek Jewish Legacy apps, the Greek apps (culture), the SFU Artwork Project and the SSHRC / Tutor dedicated mobile client.

Sally Huang, the SNF New Media Lab's China outreach coordinator, has been facilitating activities with the SNF Centre for Hellenic Studies' partners in China. The SNF New Media Lab provides technical and logistical support to institutions in China offering online Greek language courses for their students. Student enrollment in Greek language courses totalled 3,886 at the end of summer in 2020. In the spring, the Lab started working with Nankai University on "Blended Learning of Modern Greek level 1", a for-credit course hosted on the Zhihuishu learning platform in China. Meanwhile, Sally is at work planning online presentations and activities with the SNF Centre for Hellenic Studies's partners for the coming academic year.

FOURTH ANNUAL EDWARD AND EMILY MCWHINNEY MEMORIAL LECTURE



Despite being cancelled in the early days of the pandemic, the lecture titled “Charismatic Leadership and Its Discontents: The Case of Greece,” was successfully delivered on October 19th, 2020.

The rescheduled and reimagined fourth annual Edward and Emily McWhinney Memorial Lecture eventually took place in an online format. Though many longed for the in-person experience and connection normally felt in past years at the event’s traditional venue, SFU’s historic Segal building in downtown Vancouver, this year’s



Virtual lecture (Lauren Gilbert)

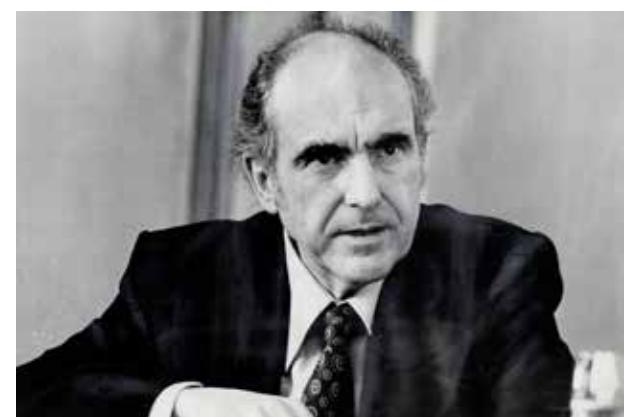
lecture was not to be missed. In fact, the online format enabled the Centre to expand its reach beyond the local community, with audience members tuning in from across the United States.

This year’s speaker was associate professor of Political Science and International Affairs Harris Mylonas from George Washington University’s Elliott School of International Affairs. Mylonas’ research interests focus on the process of nation and state-building, diaspora policies and political development. His work informs policy development on diverse populations, including national minorities, immigrants, diasporas, and refugees. He is also the incoming editor-in-chief of Nationalities Papers and Vice President of the Association for the Study of Nationalities.

The topic of this year’s lecture was on the charismatic leadership styles that defined the careers of two of Greece’s former leaders, four-time prime minister Constantine Karamanlis (1907-98), who also served as president of the Hellenic Republic, and two-time prime minister Andreas Papandreou (1919-96). Mylonas argued that in addition to the decline of the patronage contract, the legacies of the charismatic leadership that defined these two politicians later contributed to the severity of the political transformation of Greece’s party system.

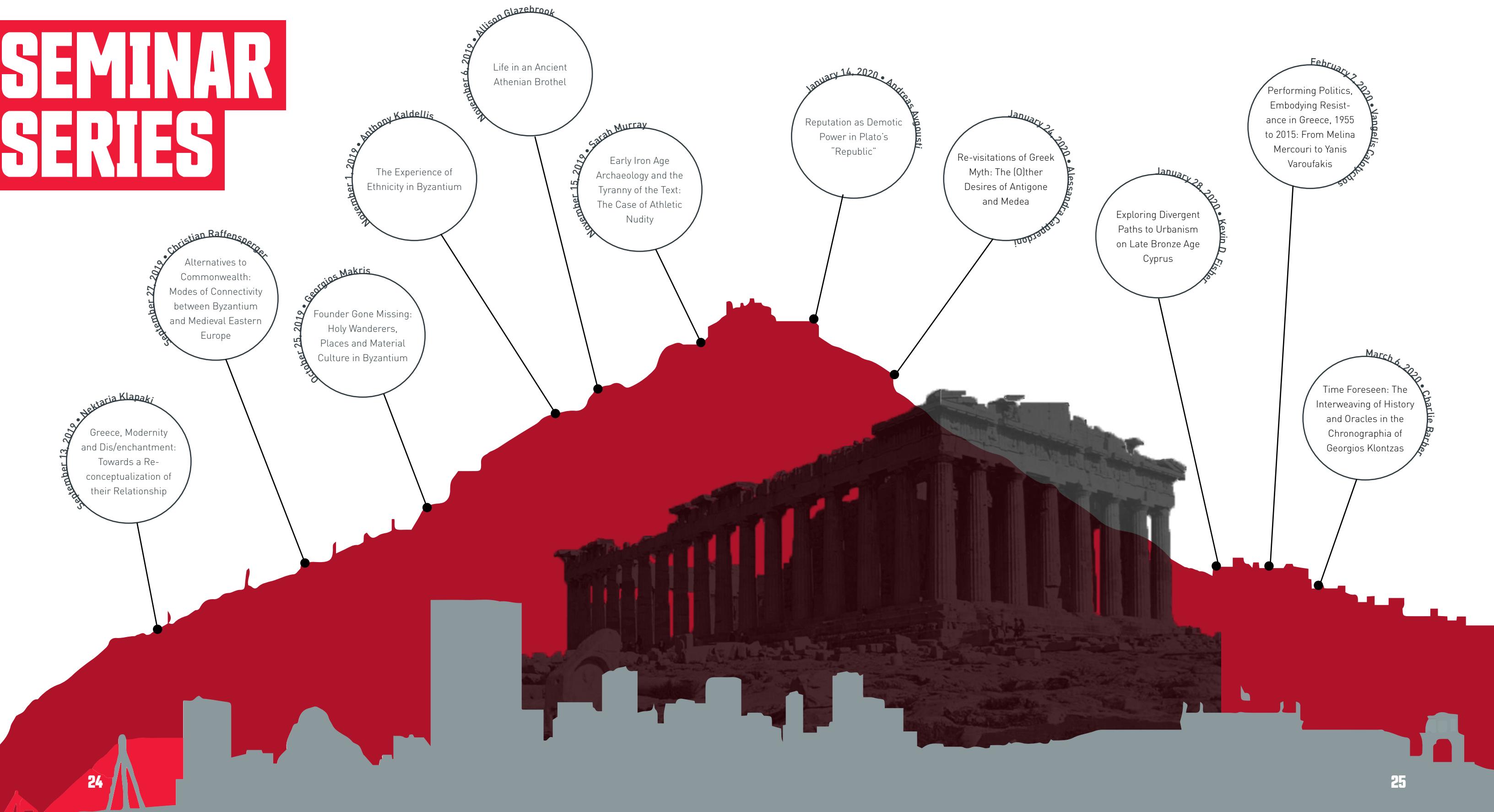
In addition to his lecture, Harris Mylonas graciously offered to participate in a second event that allowed the Centre to screen his recently released documentary, “Searching for Andreas: Political Leadership in Times of Crisis”. The film was an official selection of the Thessaloniki 2018 Doc Festival, and allowed graduate students and fellow scholars greater insight into the life of Greece’s former prime minister.

This year’s event was organized by assistant professor James Horncastle, the current holder of the Edward and Emily McWhinney Professorship in International Relations. Every year, the SNF Centre for Hellenic Studies hosts the lecture in honour of its late friends, Edward and Emily McWhinney, who spent their lives committed to academic excellence and public service, focusing on contemporary issues in international relations. Edward and Emily were also early supporters of Hellenic studies at Simon Fraser University. In 2017, the Edward and Emily McWhinney Memorial Lecture was established in their honour.



Andreas Papandreou (York University)

SEMINAR SERIES



POLITICAL ANIMALS

EXPLORATIONS OF THE POLITICAL ACROSS THE AGES

By Lauren Gilbert



The second annual “Island Sessions”, a gathering of international scholars exploring themes in Hellenism, was catapulted to Zoom in April 2020 instead of Molyvos, on the Aegean island of Lesvos.

While the change of venue was a disappointment to many, who looked forward to the free-flowing discussions that an in-person event afforded, presenters made the most of it. Papers were recorded and viewed in advance, and panels convened online to discuss recurring themes and to offer critiques and insights. Challenges were overcome and the event was carried off without issue.

Participants were asked to explore the theme of political animals, specifically thinking about the terms, expressions, book titles and spatial concepts that emerged during the years of Greece’s recent economic, social and political crisis to frame different aspects of the political. In essence, papers explored politics through the lenses of rhetoric, writing, space, materiality, economics, rationality and irrationality, imagination and gender. In total, twelve papers were delivered from both established and emerging scholars based in Canada, the U.S., the U.K., Serbia and Greece.

Current and former SNF Centre for Hellenic Studies graduate student members, Aleksandar Jovanović, Jovana Andelković and Tiffany VanWinkoop were among the presenters whose papers focused on exploring different facets of the political animal in

Byzantine history. Jovanović, who recently received his PhD in history, analyzed three Greek letters by the Holy Roman emperor Frederick II Hohenstaufen to the Eastern Roman emperor Ioannes III Batatzes in 1250 to understand how Italian politics operated outside of the traditional sphere of Byzantine influence. Doctoral student Andelković surveyed 10th and 11th century letter collections, tracing thematic and textual regularities to identify a distinctive genre, one that functions as a recognizable entity and relies on the systemic nature of a specific literary tradition. MA student VanWinkoop’s paper explored the ways in which the ritualized ceremonial calendar may have facilitated a political dialogue between the emperor and his subjects through the example of Michael V’s (c. 1015-1042) failed attempt to sideline Empress Zoe. Each paper demonstrated and delivered an impressive interpretation of the event’s theme.

The event was organized by SNF Centre for Hellenic Studies Director, professor Dimitris Krallis, associate professor of Social Philosophy in the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens and Director of the Philosophy, Politics, Economy Research Laboratory, George N. Politis, and the Director and Programme Proposer of the BA and BSc in Economics at Goldsmith at the University of London, Costis Repapis.

Both the panels and individually recorded papers remain available on the SNF Centre for Hellenic Studies’ website.

www.sfu.ca/hellenic-studies/programs/island-sessions

FACULTY UPDATES



DIMITRIS KRALLIS

In 2020, Dimitris Krallis was fully engaged in administrative work, dedicating much of his time steering the integration of the Hellenic Studies Program, which he directed until May of last year, into SFU's Department of Humanities. He has continued in his role as director of the Stavros Niarchos Foundation Centre for Hellenic Studies, and in collaboration with his colleagues has sought to maintain rich programming in the midst of the pandemic. As part of that programming, he hosted this past year's Island Sessions symposium online from SFU, called Political Animals: Explorations of the Political Across the Ages. Here he presented a paper titled "Army commanders as managers of demotic power in Byzantium: Debate, persuasion, and politics among the genos stratiotikon."

This year also saw the publication of his article "The Social Views of Michael Attaleiates," which is featured in *Social Change in Town and Country in Eleventh-Century Byzantium*, a volume edited by Dr. James Howard-Johnston and published by Oxford University Press. Over the summer he co-translated his second monograph in Greek. It is to be published by Αλεξάνδρεια editions in Athens in the fall of 2021 under the title: *Bίος και πολιτεία ενός Βυζαντίνου Μανδαρίνου: Το Βυζάντιο ιδωμένο αλλιώς*. As he looks to the beginning of his upcoming sabbatical year (September of 2021), he is setting the groundwork for a new research project on cities as elements of political instability in middle Byzantium and is looking forward



to what the post-pandemic world might bring. Meanwhile he is still reading on bureaucracies, Chinese officialdom, and notions of impersonal governance for a long-time coming paper on Byzantine officials, which he plans to finish in the coming year.

EIRINI KOTSOVILI

During the academic year 2019–2020, Eirini Kotsovili and colleagues from SFU's Department of Humanities — namely, James Horncastle and Alessandra Capperdoni — founded the Memory and Trauma through History and Culture research group, with the goal to connect members of the broader academic community who are conducting similar research through symposia, panel discussions and workshops. She continued her research on twentieth-century identity and politics, revised an article for submission, and prepared a book review for the *Journal of Modern Greek Studies* which will be published later in 2021.

Kotsovili joined the steering committee for the Institute for the Humanities at SFU and was invited to join the SFU's Department of World Languages and Literatures as an associate member. She served as a member of several committees in the Hellenic Studies Program and then later on in the Department of Humanities. She also participated as a member of the Rhodes Scholarship Application Adjudication Committee. In terms of teaching, she proceeded to integrate best practices for blended learning in all her courses after receiving training at SFU's Centre for Educational Excellence (seminars and workshops). The academic year concluded with a nomination for SFU's 2020 Excellence in Teaching Award.

EVDOXIOS DOXIADIS

Evdoxios Doxiadis was on sabbatical for the majority of 2020 and unfortunately could not travel due to COVID-19 restrictions. However, he did successfully publish his article, "'Ουσ ο Θεος Συνεζεύκεν, Ανθρόπος με Χορίζετο': State, Church, and Divorce from the Ottoman Empire to the Modern Greek State" as a special issue in the Austrian peer-reviewed journal of gender history: *L'Homme*. Doxiadis' 2018 monograph, *State, Nationalism, and the Jewish Communities of Modern Greece*, and edited volume *Living under Austerity* were also released in paperback.

JAMES HORNCastle

James Horncastle had a productive 2019-2020. He helped facilitate the publication of *Between Two Fires: Neutral Countries as Clandestine Battlefields during the Second World War and the Cold War, 1939-1962*. Furthermore, two of his articles, "Clandestine 'Comrades': The Comintern, Tito and the Underground Communist Party of Yugoslavia, 1939-1941," and "Turning off the Tap: the 1999 Bombing Campaign of Kosovo and the Securitization of Water" appeared in edited volumes. He also reviewed *Greek-Serbian Relations in the Age of Nation-Building* for the *Journal of Modern Greek Studies*.

In addition, along with Eirini Kotsovili and Alessandra Capperdoni, Horncastle organized two events as part of the ongoing series Memory and Trauma through History and Culture. Horncastle also gave two papers remotely, "Greece, Nationalism, and Migration: An Ongoing Paradox" and "Destroying a movement, building a nation: The events of 1924 and the founding of IMRO (United)" at conferences based in Norway and Romania, respectively. James is currently researching the relationship between refugees and conflict in the Balkans, specifically as it relates to the Macedonian Question. Using the development of Macedonian identity in the Balkans during the 20th century, James will draw insights into how national movements can emerge free of an existing nation-state.

SABRINA HIGGINS

Over the past year, Sabrina Higgins continued to devote her time to building a robust and viable classical archaeology program across the departments of archaeology and humanities, while also maintaining a strong research and teaching profile. In September 2020 she received a SSHRC Insight development Grant for a research project entitled "The Early Cult of the Virgin and the Hegemony of the Text", which will culminate in August 2022 with the submission of two articles resulting from the project. The first article, entitled "Mary, the Apocrypha and the Construction of a Visual Identity in Late Antique Egypt" will be submitted to the *Journal of Early Christian Studies*, and the second, "Localizing Mary: The Physical Evidence for the Early Cult of the Virgin in the Eastern Mediterranean" will be published as part of an edited volume entitled *The Virgin Beyond Borders*, co-edited

with National Hellenic Research Foundation researcher Niki Tsironi. This edited volume will be the direct result of a conference Higgins and Tsironi are holding in Greece in March 2022. Higgins will also continue to work on The Digital Mary Project, an open-source online database of all the extant material culture relating to the Cult of the Virgin Mary, which was part of a Digital Humanities Innovation Lab Grant she received in 2018.

In 2020 she was part of a team of six Canadian archaeologists and historians that launched an open-source digital humanities project, entitled Peopling the Past (www.peoplingthepast.com). This website hosts podcasts, videos and blog posts (all created and managed by the team) that brings educational content to the public, focusing on the real lives of ancient peoples in the Mediterranean. Since its launch in September 2020, they have won three major international and national awards for their work, including the Canadian Social Knowledge Institute – Emerging Open Scholarship Award (Honorable Mention), the Women's Classical Caucus Public Scholarship Award, and a Classics Everywhere Grant.

DAVID MIRHADY

As well as becoming chair of the merged (with the Hellenic Studies Program) Department of Humanities in the summer of 2020, David has recently been working in all three of his research areas: law, rhetoric, and philosophy. Conferences have been put on hold during the pandemic. His paper on commercial law in Athens appeared in the summer of 2020 in *Colonial Adventures: Commercial Law and Practice in the Making*, edited by Serge Dauchy et al. His paper on “The Torture of Prometheus” was submitted for a book entitled *Witnesses and Evidence*, to be published under the aegis of the Royal Holloway Centre for Oratory and Rhetoric in the next year, and he is working on a follow-up paper on Dolon, a figure in Book 10 of the Iliad. In rhetoric he is working on a paper on “Formal instruction in Fourth-Century Athens: Schools and Handbooks” for the *Cambridge History of Rhetoric* edited by Harvey Yunis. This paper is closely connected to a website he manages www.sfu.ca/anewradermacher, an ongoing source collection for the study of early Greek rhetoric and rhetoricians. He is also at work on a paper on “The techne of Isocrates” for a conference to be held at the Belgian School at Athens on “Isocrates between Plato and Aristotle”. The conference was originally planned for March this year, but was postponed to October. In philosophy he is editing a book *Clearchus of Soloi, Texts, Translation, and Discussion* on one of the minor members of Aristotle’s school.





JOVANA ANĐELKOVIĆ

The year 2020 started off with great ambitions and little warning of what was about to happen to not only our academic plans, but our entire lives. With that enthusiastic charge, Jovana embarked on a research trip geared towards investigating various pedagogical means and institutional policies set up for the purpose of conveying Byzantine history to elementary and high-school students in the Balkans. After managing to gather necessary data from the National Library of Serbia and the Ministry of Education, she continued towards North Macedonia, where the pandemic cut her trip short. Research materials were subsequently systematized, analyzed and presented in a public talk provided by the SNF Centre for Hellenic Studies at SFU.

The valuable knowledge about the varied reception of Byzantium, as well as numerous educational strategies, made for an excellent framework for designing and conducting an

Athenian Hippodrome (Raul Croes)

online workshop for young learners entitled What is Byzantium, organized in collaboration with the Hellenic Canadian Congress of B.C. The project communicated the medieval Hellenic past to children between 6 and 12 years of age, through hands-on materials, games and activities. In parallel to this, as work on her thesis required unavoidable regrouping, she continued developing a research question that started budding early on during her PhD program and matured in this year's Island Sessions webinar in her presentation on letter collections in the mid-Byzantine period. While we are entering another unpredictable academic cycle, she is looking forward to exploring questions of political dissidence in medieval Roman epistolography and how these subversive writings shaped the political consciousness of Greek-speaking Romans we call the Byzantines.

ANDREAS AVGOUTI

Andreas arrived in Vancouver in September 2019 to begin his position as the inaugural Hellenisms Past and Present, Local and Global Postdoctoral Fellow. That September, two book reviews he wrote over the summer were published in the journals *Classical Philology* and the *Review of Politics*. In October, he presented his research on Plato's dialogue *Theaetetus* at the annual meeting of the Association for Political Theory at UC-Irvine in Orange County, California and in November, he presented his new work on Isocrates' Cyprian Orations at the annual meeting of the Northeastern Political Science Association (NPSA) in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Andreas' Isocrates research was nominated for the Best Faculty Paper Award at the NPSA conference. In January 2020, he presented his work on Plato's Republic at the SNF Centre for Hellenic Studies Seminar Series. In March 2020, he went on a nine-month parental leave, during which he resubmitted his book manuscript, *Recovering Reputation: Plato and Demotic Power*, for publication with Oxford University Press. At the SNF Centre for Hellenic Studies, Andreas joined in several social and academic events and collaborated with graduate students in a reading group, entitled Persuasion in Ancient Greek Thought, that he initiated. Andreas resumed his post at the SNF Centre for Hellenic Studies in January 2021.

STEVAN BOZANICH

Stevan spent Fall 2019 in the western Balkans researching his dissertation in Belgrade, Zagreb, Sarajevo and Podgorica (see Volume 7 of the Agora, pp 22-23). Stevan also successfully defended his prospectus, virtually, something that

foreshadowed future world events. In November, he had an entry entitled "Post-war Turmoil and Violence (Yugoslavia)" published in *1914-1918 Online, International Encyclopedia of the First World War*. He continued to TA for history's "The Second World War: The World at War" course and added "The Making of the British Isles" in spring 2020 and "History of Greek Civilization" in summer 2020. Like many other colleagues, much of his conference season was cancelled or rescheduled "indefinitely" due to the pandemic. This freed up some time to focus on sifting through his research from the autumn and attending virtual talks and lectures that he otherwise wouldn't have been able to attend. Throughout the summer, he prepared to teach his first course in history called "Rebellion and Revolution: Topics in the Theory and Practice of Revolution" in the fall of 2020. Stevan is thankful to have the support of both Hellenic studies and history, as well as the Centre for Education Excellence, all of whom helped him prepare for teaching on his own. The year 2020 brought unique experiences – both positive and negative – and will definitely be a year to remember.

AURORA CAMAÑO

In the 2019 / 2020 academic year Aurora completed the third year of her PhD in the Department of Archaeology at SFU. The first half of the academic year was focused on the completion of her written comprehensive field statements in preparation for candidacy. In January of 2020 she was hired as a sessional instructor to design and facilitate a new special topics course on Byzantine art and archaeology at SFU. One of only a small handful of Byzantine archaeology courses taught at the undergraduate level in Canada, this course provided a thematic survey of Byzantine art, architecture and archaeology using a series of case studies and hands-on workshops that explored the cultural traditions and lived experiences of those who lived within the Byzantine Empire. The course emphasized the identification and analysis of material remains to access the period's social history and contextualize Byzantium's relationship within the wider medieval world. Aurora additionally taught some classes in Roman art and archaeology, including a late Roman numismatics workshop. In May of 2020 she gave a virtual paper on architectures of forced migration at the Society of Architectural Historians' annual meeting. Original plans to join the Vayotz Dzor Fortress Landscape Project in Armenia in June 2020 was postponed. With the cancelations of international excavations and academic library closures due to the COVID-19 pandemic, she took leave for the summer term – returning to

her programme in the fall of 2020.

METE OGÜZ

In the fall of 2019, Mete was finishing up his last directed reading with associate professor Kuehn on Ottoman History and closed with him passing the comprehensive field exams of his PhD program. During this trip towards PhD candidacy, he also had the great pleasure of being a TA for the course Hist 130, "Introduction to Global History", which was both great fun and a valuable experience. He gained insights from associate professor Luke Clossey's pedagogical approach, which will enrich his future teaching career. In 2020, he presented at two conferences: The Athens Institute for Education and Research 3rd Annual Conference on Classical and Byzantine Studies, and The 46th Annual Byzantine Studies Conference (BSC 2020). Here he presented aspects of his recent work on how the peasantry functioned as a literary topoi in Middle Byzantine literature.

One of his papers, titled "An Analysis of the Socio-Economic Viewpoints within the Writings of Patriarchs Athanasios I and Philotheos Kokkinos", was published in the 22nd volume of the Past Imperfect Journal of the University of Alberta. In 2020, despite being unable to return to Canada because of the Covid-19 pandemic, he prepared for his upcoming PhD prospectus defence, while also working as a (virtual) teaching assistant for the course Hist 106, "The Making of Modern Europe" under the guidance of associate professor Paul Garfinkel from the Department of History.

NEAL PAYNE

In 2019 / 2020 Neal completed the second and final year of his master's degree in the Department of Archaeology. His SSHRC-funded thesis, titled "The Archaeological Foodscape of Roman Kent and Essex", investigates the material manifestations of Roman colonialism in Britain using archaeobotanical and zooarchaeological data through both occurrence and network analysis. In November 2019, Neal undertook a research trip to England, this trip was generously funded by the SNF Centre for Hellenic Studies. His fall semester was dedicated to data collection for his thesis, with writing and editing happening throughout the following spring and summer semesters. Beyond his own research, he also spent his fall working as a TA in an archaeology course on Neanderthals and his spring as a TM in a course on Greek history. Unfortunately, both presentations he had scheduled for spring 2020, one a poster for the Society of American Archaeology

and the other for the SNF Centre for Hellenic Studies' own seminar series, were cancelled due to COVID 19. Neal's year concluded with the successful defence of his master's thesis in August 2020.

GORAN SANEV

Goran Sanev began his coursework in 2020 as a doctoral student working under the supervision of Sabrina Higgins. Apart from studying, Sanev spent his time co-directing excavation projects in Negotino and Golemo Gradište, Konjuh, in North Macedonia. His professional interest lies in classical archaeology, with a focus on ancient Greek pottery and its trade / exports in the north Aegean and the central Balkan region, including demographics, urbanism and trade routes in Ancient Macedonia and Paeonia during the Archaic and the Classical periods.

TIFFANY VANWINKOOP

The 2019 / 2020 academic year brought many exciting opportunities, both in the classroom and in Tiffany's own research. It began with being awarded a SSHRC CGS Master's Scholarship and a presentation at the 45th Annual Byzantine Studies Conference in Madison, Wisconsin. There, she delivered a paper on Michael V and the Easter ceremonial calendar of 1042. This was an excellent opportunity to meet and network with other Byzantine scholars and Tiffany was grateful for her fellow SFU attendees. After this presentation, much of her fall and spring semesters were dedicated to completing MA coursework and French language classes. Tiffany also had the opportunity to be a tutor marker for two classes run by Hellenic studies, "Rome: From Republic to Empire" and "Alexander the Great and the Quest for World Empire." She was also able to work with assistant professor Georgios Makris from the University of British Columbia in a directed readings course focused on Byzantine art and archaeology. Finally, over six weeks in the summer she attended an intensive introductory ancient Greek course hosted virtually by McGill University. She also shared some of her early research findings at the SNF Centre for Hellenic Studies' Island Sessions, in a presentation titled "Ritual Geographies and Ceremonial Time: The Book of Ceremonies as a Blueprint for Political Action."



GRADUATE EXPERIENCES & PERSPECTIVES

By Tiffany VanWinkoop and Neal Payne

TIFFANY VANWINKOOP

In a year when the word “unprecedented” became commonplace, I find myself in the unusual position of feeling remarkably grounded. Not in my own life situation, of course. I am a graduate student, a position which, in recent decades, has become synonymous with both economic instability and uncertain career prospects. These words as I type them appear on the screen, which has now become my only real connection to the outside world; my classroom, my workspace and my Friday night connection with friends. Each passing day brings its own monotonous routine, marked by the certainty that today will be identical to the day before and an understanding that everything can change in an instant. I know that each new week will bring a barrage of student questions, instructors emailing about experiencing technical snafus, and departmental deadlines no one intends to meet. Piled on top is the fresh round of COVID-19 restrictions. And yet, as I note above, I find myself strangely grounded, giving myself over to my favourite evening activity: immersing myself in Byzantium.

One of the strange things about studying the pre-modern world is the disconnect that is often felt between object of study and the present-day experience. I study tenth century Byzantine court ceremonies, a rare phrase which actually rings more archaic than it sounds. My research focuses on the *The Book of Ceremonies* (*BoC*), a kind of protocol “cook-book” that would direct the different components necessary to produce a well-ordered ceremonial performance, including religious festivities such as Easter and Christmas, and secular occasions, such as the coronation of a new emperor. Its author, the studious Konstantinos VII Porphyrogennetos thought it imperative to pass on to his son these proscriptions which would in his estimation produce a well-ordered court reflecting the order of heaven. I began this research in 2017, when the titled officials and places mentioned in the *BoC* were unknowns. The disconnect between past and present seemed unbridgeable, and countless hours were poured into attempting to establish some sort of baseline of knowledge. How can one create modern comparisons to try and ground oneself when you are entering uncharted territory?

Of course, I would do myself and my colleagues a complete disservice by portraying research in this manner, for my own journey through Byzantium has been anything but solitary. Even though my entire foray into Byzantine studies was unexpected; my original trajectory was a bachelor’s in health sciences, then medical school, and my ambition was to

become a coroner, but Dimitris Krallis’ storytelling drew me in. In his undergraduate classes, he wove fascinating stories of this “Byzantium”, a land where fundamentally rational and deeply Christian Romans struggled and succeeded in creating some semblance of order across centuries. Along the way I stumbled across the other wanderers of this strange land, graduate students Jovana Andelković and Cahit Mete Oguz, and the now-graduated Aleksandar Jovanović. As I joined their ranks, moving from undergraduate to graduate studies, they welcomed me with open arms. They helped me navigate a wide variety of topics: Byzantine ethnicity and apocalyptic images in the fifteenth century, to atomic memory in rural America and Black history in Vancouver. These colleagues, turned friends, taught me all the nuances of university bureaucracy and imparted invaluable advice about the world of academia: what it means to phrase a question as “more of a comment,” how to provide proper support and boundaries to undergraduate students, and how to have an informed opinion about Foucault that will satisfy modernists and pre-modernists alike.

I am indebted to these fellow travelers for connecting me to the wider academic community beyond the walls of SFU. The first such experience was in the halcyon days of international travel, when I travelled to Madison, Wisconsin in October 2019 for the Byzantine Studies Conference. This was my first exposure with the wider field of Byzantium, and, while we had held practice sessions and mock question and answer periods back in Burnaby, I was both surprised and honored that, when my presentation ended, a significant number of hands shot up in the audience. Attendees were interested in my work and were willing to provide thoughtful advice to improve my research: two things I did not even imagine could occur. It was fascinating to meet others who were equally engrossed by this not-so-foreign world, where casual conversations about saints’ lives occurred between appetizers, and military tactics were routinely argued over dessert. Over the course of the three days, I was also able to meet the host of the conference, professor Leonora Neville, someone whose written work I had come to respect, and whose enthusiasm for this Roman world was obvious to anyone present. I left the conference processing all this new information, able to now put faces to author bylines and having a better understanding of what sort of academic world my own research might one day inhabit.

When March 2020 hit, “unexpected” took on a new meaning. “Social distancing”, “Zoom”, “remote instruction” were all terms that became integrated into everyday vocabulary

Tiffany VanWinkoop (Dale Northey)

almost overnight. I distinctly remember my last in-person conversation with professor Krallis at SFU that month, thinking that Fall 2020 may bring in-person days again, and wondering what sort of seminars we could put on when we naively assumed that things would return to “normal.” It was during this time that my research took on a new comfort. All of a sudden, a world seeking ways to manifest cosmic order by performing these small acts of everyday ritual did not seem so strange. I found myself desperately clinging to constants to weather the storm of the first few months of pandemic life. So when on June 1st, then-President Donald Trump ordered that peaceful protestors be forcibly removed from Lafayette Square so that he could process with his officials from the White House to St. John’s Episcopal Church for a disastrous photo op, I found the scene strangely familiar. A



Tiffany VanWinkoop (Dale Northey)

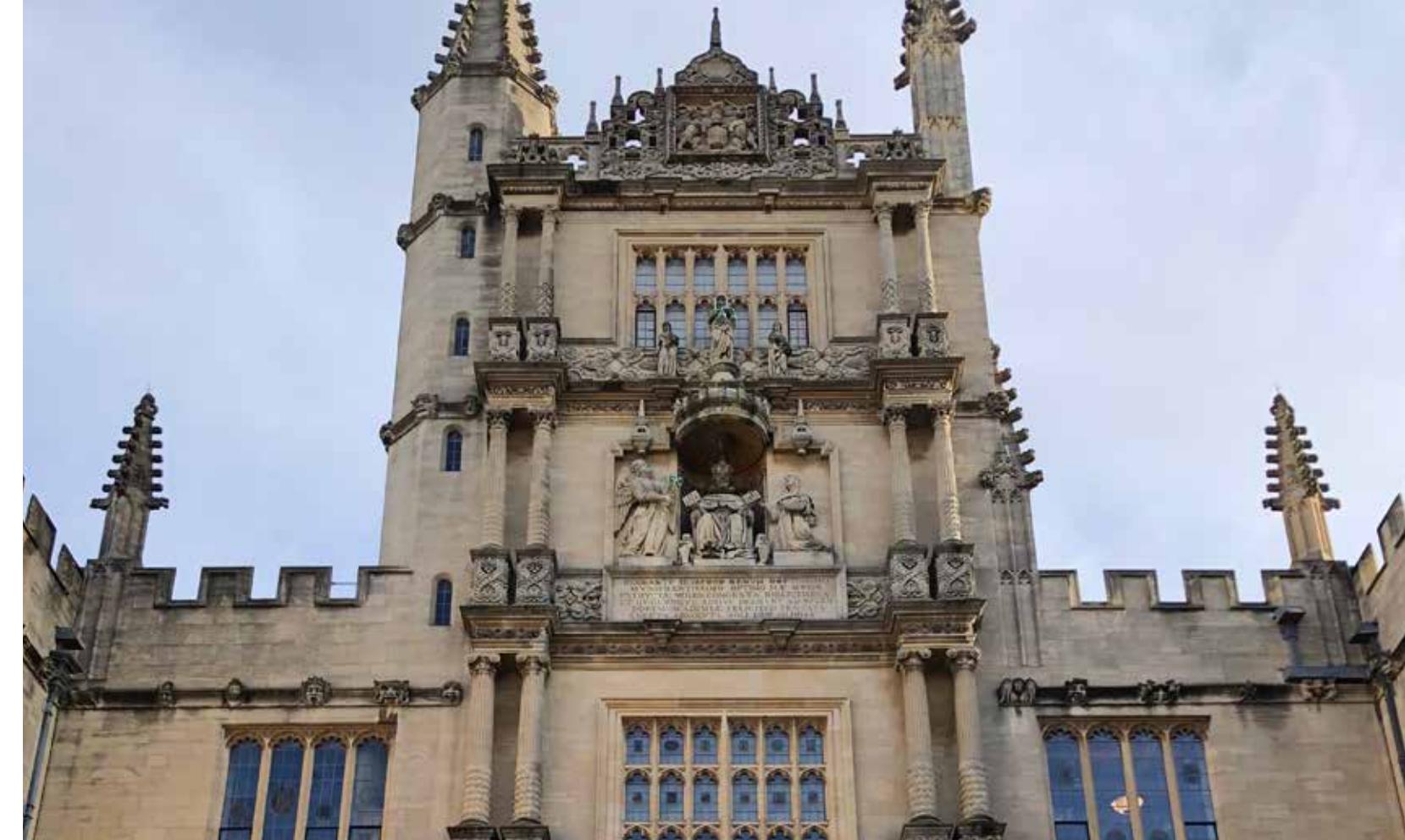
leader dealing with crisis by projecting an image of competent, ordered rule had been the intended message of so many ceremonial processions across the Byzantine capital. Replace the Bible with a golden cross, and even Konstantinos VII himself would have to nod in acknowledgement: game recognizes game. Thinking back to our own Canadian example of the tragic Snowbirds crash in May 2020 during the cross-Canada “Operation Inspiration” flyovers, I was reminded of the mutability of these ceremonial actions. What is meant as a hopeful gesture so quickly can turn to tragedy. That spring, ceremonies were taking a prominent role in public life.

As my research progressed, so too did these international connections, all now happening in the virtual world of Zoom with which we are now all too familiar. While the barrier of a screen was certainly a challenge to overcome at first, it served as a blessing in disguise in many ways. Not only was

I able to participate in the SNF Centre for Hellenic Studies’ Island Sessions in June 2020, we were able to have audience members and participants across all of North America and Europe, something which would have been impossible had it occurred as scheduled on the island of Lesvos in Greece. The same could be said for other initiatives which began popping up among Byzantinists. While many doors closed in the case of lockdown restrictions, other windows opened into the worlds of other colleagues through virtual connections. Through the collaborative powers of Dimitris Krallis and Sharon Gerstel, director of the UCLA SNF Centre for the Study of Hellenic Culture, a small cross-disciplinary seminar group was formed in December 2020. This became a monthly or bimonthly meeting of West Coast Byzantinists, where graduate students and faculty discussed research and interesting Byzantine tidbits, a space where we ask questions and develop ideas in the laid back presence of peers and mentors. I had the opportunity to discuss my own research in this space in December, and appreciated the perspectives of art history and archaeology, which I would not have considered on my own. I also joined the inaugural iteration of the Graduate Student Committee of the Byzantine Studies Association of North America, a committee dedicated to building community and opportunities for graduate students across the continent.

In early February, the next phase of the unexpected master’s was determined, as I received word that I had been accepted for doctoral studies at UW Madison to study with professor Neville. Once more I was surprised by the journey on which Byzantium appeared to be taking me. I had never anticipated a master’s, let alone a doctoral project. It is a true testament to the vibrant histories of Byzantium, that truly engaging and exciting scholarship continues to emerge across North America, even as the general study of humanities seems to be in decline. If Byzantium can teach its modern readers any lesson, it is one of resiliency. This medieval community, on the surface has been interpreted as unchanging and hidebound, yet now discover its dynamism, both cultural and political. Such vibrancy ensured a millennium-long existence.

Professor Krallis once gave me a copy of his co-translated history of Michael Attaleiates. While he rolled his eyes when I asked that he sign it, he humored me anyway and signed his name with a short inscription. “For Tiffany — who should know when to be done with Byzantium.” That day will come, but not before the next leg in this unexpected journey, where and whenever that may take me.



NEAL PAYNE

A major challenge encountered when undertaking archaeological research of the Classical world at a Canadian institution is the limited access to specialist research materials produced at the local and regional levels by commercial and governmental agencies. For me, this came in the form of limited access to archaeological excavation reports from Roman sites in the British counties of Kent and Essex. My master’s research involved the collection and re-interpretation of plant and animal remains identified in the excavations from



Above: Neal Payne (Dale Northey); Top: Oxford University (Neal Payne)

this region. While some of the needed excavation data could be collected from online databases, and a limited amount through SFU’s library, access to a significant number of these excavation reports remained elusive. However, my research was not hindered by this limitation, as the SNF Centre for Hellenic Studies generously provided me with funding to undertake a research trip to Britain, affording me the opportunity to expand my project through the integration of otherwise inaccessible data.

In early November 2019, I travelled to Britain and spent two weeks immersed in the archaeology of the island’s Roman conquest. I spent my trip researching the results of archaeological excavations of Roman Britain retained at three libraries. My trip began in London, where I spent the majority of my time at the British Library, working my way through a sizable list of excavation reports. While in London I also spent a day in the British Museum’s library of Anthropology, working through a stack of excavation monographs and learning to operate a microfiche machine to accommodate older reports. On two occasions when I finished my day’s materials early, I was able to briefly explore the British Museum, seeing firsthand many of the artifacts I had studied throughout my time as an undergraduate at SFU.

Following my time in London, I took the train to Oxford and spent four days in the basement of the University's Sackler library. After working my way through my predetermined list of archaeological site reports, I spent the final days of my trip browsing the Sackler stacks, finding a number of sites that would have otherwise remained buried in regional journals.

Coincidentally, I spent one of my days working through a stack of monographs in the room named after Sir Francis Haverfield, one of the central figures in Romano-British archaeology, whose lingering disciplinary influence influenced my research project. As with London, I was able to allot a few hours to browsing the classical collections at the Ashmolean Museum and made a brief stop one afternoon at the University's Museum of Natural History.

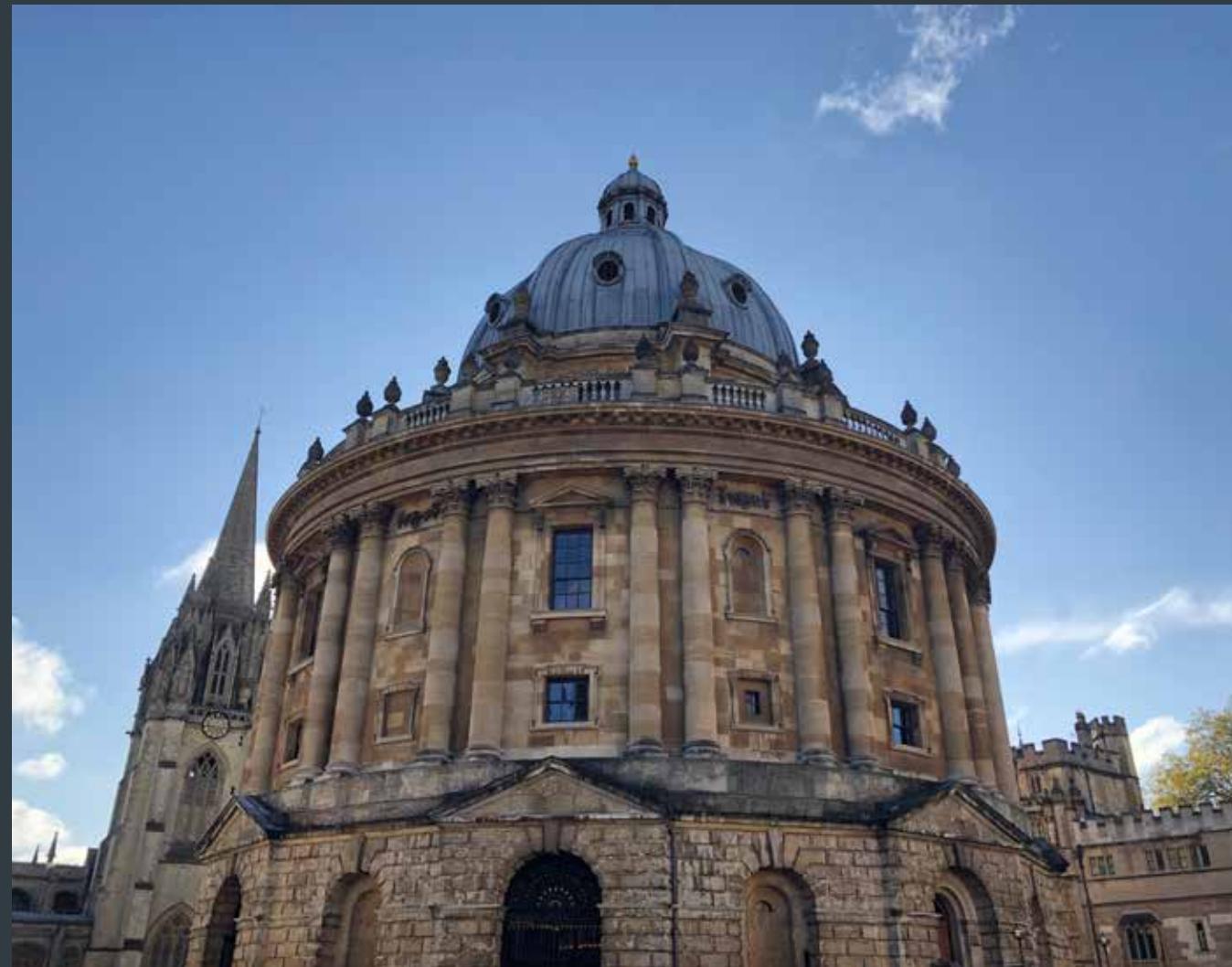
Throughout the course of my research trip, my project's dataset doubled. Though, perhaps more importantly, this trip

was vital in enabling the inclusion of excavation reports that provided greater detail than their overly-succinct equivalents posted onto government databases by commercial archaeological companies. This research trip enhanced my research's significance and made important contributions to my thesis, which I successfully defended in August 2020.

I am grateful to the SNF Centre for Hellenic Studies for providing me with an opportunity to enhance my research, and assistant professor Sabrina Higgins for encouraging me to apply to undertake this research trip.



Bottom facing: University of Oxford (Neal Payne); Left: British Museum Roman ceramic collection (Neal Payne); Below: London (Neal Payne).



UNDERGRADUATE EXPERIENCES & PERSPECTIVES

By Juliette Halliday



Hellenic Studies has a way of finding you when you least expect it.

It was my second year at SFU as a communications student when I first had a class on the fifth floor of the Academic Quadrangle; a small classroom where you can hear the convocation bagpipes played in October and watch the rain dance across the reflection pond. As I walked into “Greek Art and Archeology”, trying to recall the difference between a Corinthian and Ionic column, I felt a bubbling sense of excitement. Without knowing it, this was somewhere I needed to be. Weaving through the Bronze Age to the High Classical period, this comprehensive course covered everything from Cycladic pottery to Athenian architecture. By December, we had memorized the golden ratio of Greek temples, the social significance of the polis, and the perfect symmetry of Polykleitos’ male nude – the eternal Doryphorus.

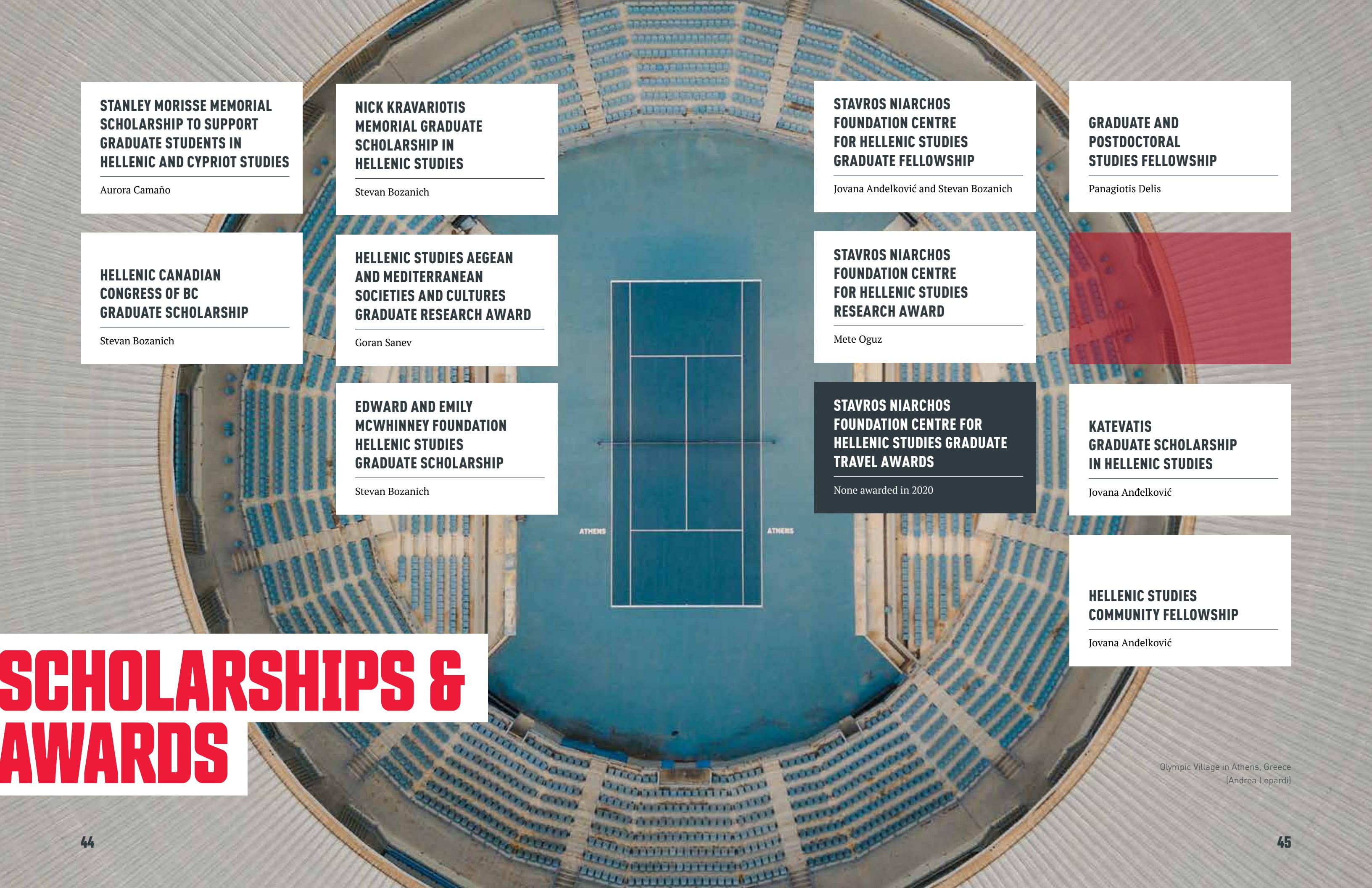
On the last day of class, hoping this would not be the end of my brief affair with the ancient world, assistant professor Higgins encouraged me to submit my term paper to the Classical Association of Canada’s Junior Essay Contest. Entitled “Minoan Palatial Interaction: Power or Peers” this paper brought my research across the Aegean to the island of Crete. I became immersed in painted pottery and palatial planning. I was fascinated with how fragments of the past could speak to power and regional identity. Grateful for assistant professor Higgins’ support, I placed third in the contest and later won the Angela Hutchinson prize recognizing high academic achievement in any discipline on Hellenic themes.

A year later, and a floor higher, I found myself in the 11th century, making the acquaintance of judge and historian Michael Attaleiates. Surrounded by a dozen eager students, HS 460 “Themes in Byzantine History” unravelled a pivotal period of the empire through the medium of biography. Here, professor Krallis presented the life and works of an imperial judge; taking us through his coastal home of Attaleia, his bustling Constantinopolitan neighbourhood and rising position in the high courts. I began to wonder about the similarities between us and them – the people of the past, who at once felt so distant and somehow, so close. In another course, driven online by the pandemic, we set our sights on the capital itself. Dreamt by Osman as a diamond “in a ring of universal empire,” Constantinople came alive with monks and merchants, bathhouses and bakeries. From the Byzantine era, through to the Ottomans and the modern Turkish nation, we examined a path of continuity and change. We saw how

the idea of a place can be kept alive in memory and narratives of nostalgia woven together by those who once walked its streets. We also read about the spread of sickness and plagues, both ancient and modern. And once again, the city felt a little closer.

As my degree progressed, I continued to flirt with Hellenic studies, taking a course every semester alongside my communication classes. Eventually, I had to admit my admiration. The pull I had felt for the past few years drew me to solidify my commitment. I decided to apply at SFU to do a masters in humanities, focusing on Hellenic studies. After developing a love of art studying art history classes in high school, it was important for me to incorporate an aesthetic dimension into my research. This fall, I hope to embark on an MA project that will examine female agency and identity as reflected in the law and visual culture of Late Antiquity. During this period, emperor Justinian compiled existing laws and imperial pronouncements from the previous four centuries into a vast compendium. This corpus shaped the legal contours of Byzantine society and informed lawmaking into the 15th century. Today, it is rich material for mapping relations and understanding the freedoms and limitations created by Roman law.

I realize it may seem odd to turn away from a degree focused on current affairs and plunge into the early centuries AD. While studying the past can appear dislocated from present concerns, I believe there is great power in knowing those who came before us and the shoulders we stand on. The thread of history connects this moment to every moment before it, and there is so much we can learn about ourselves by looking to our past. As for the future, Hellenic studies offers many directions for interdisciplinary work and engagement with different departments. There is a wide array of career opportunities in law, cultural affairs, archival work and further academic study. As I take another turn on my own personal odyssey, I am excited for the future and grateful for that first class on the fifth floor which sparked a lasting interest in the Hellenic world.



SCHOLARSHIPS & AWARDS

STANLEY MORISSE MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP TO SUPPORT GRADUATE STUDENTS IN HELLENIC AND CYPRIOT STUDIES

Aurora Camáñ

NICK KRAVARIOTIS MEMORIAL GRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP IN HELLENIC STUDIES

Stevan Bozanich

HELLENIC CANADIAN CONGRESS OF BC GRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP

Stevan Bozanich

HELLENIC STUDIES AEGEAN AND MEDITERRANEAN SOCIETIES AND CULTURES GRADUATE RESEARCH AWARD

Goran Sanev

EDWARD AND EMILY MCWHINNEY FOUNDATION HELLENIC STUDIES GRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP

Stevan Bozanich

STAVROS NIARCHOS FOUNDATION CENTRE FOR HELLENIC STUDIES GRADUATE FELLOWSHIP

Jovana Andelković and Stevan Bozanich

GRADUATE AND POSTDOCTORAL STUDIES FELLOWSHIP

Panagiotis Delis

STAVROS NIARCHOS FOUNDATION CENTRE FOR HELLENIC STUDIES RESEARCH AWARD

Mete Oguz

STAVROS NIARCHOS FOUNDATION CENTRE FOR HELLENIC STUDIES GRADUATE TRAVEL AWARDS

None awarded in 2020

KATEVATIS GRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP IN HELLENIC STUDIES

Jovana Andelković

HELLENIC STUDIES COMMUNITY FELLOWSHIP

Jovana Andelković

Olympic Village in Athens, Greece
(Andrea Lepardi)

PEOPLE

FACULTY

EVDOXIOS DOXIADIS

Modern Greek History

NICHOLAS HEDLEY

Geography

SABRINA HIGGINS*

Classical Archaeology

JAMES HORNCastle*

Modern Balkan History

EIRINI KOTSOVILI*

Modern Greek Literature

DIMITRIS KRALLIS*

Byzantine History

DAVID MIRHADY*

Ancient Greek Rhetoric and Law

PANAYIOTIS PAPPAS

Linguistics

MICHAEL RICHARDS

Archaeology

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University of Patras

JULIAN BROOKS

Douglas College

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MARNIE MCGREGOR

Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy

TERESA SHAWCROSS

Princeton University

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STEVAN BOZANICH

Modern Greek History

AURORA CAMAÑO

Classical Archaeology

PANAGIOTIS DELIS

Modern Greek History

METE OGUZ

Byzantine History

NEAL PAYNE

Classical Archaeology

GORAN SANEV

Classical Archaeology

TIFFANY VANWINKOOP

Byzantine History

SNF NEW MEDIA LAB

DIONYSIOS ARKADIANOS

Research Coordinator and Staellinika Lead

COSTA DEDEGIKAS

Technology Director and Creative Director

SALLY HUANG

China Outreach Coordinator

POLYCHRONIS KAMPYLIS

Lead Software Engineer

KONSTANTINOS KONTOS

iOS/OS X Engineer

TASOS SKIKOS

Online Course Developer and Technical Support

STAFF

LAUREN GILBERT

Administrative Coordinator

DIMITRIS KRALLIS

Director

The SNF Centre for Hellenic Studies was established in 2011 at Simon Fraser University through a large grant by the Stavros Niarchos Foundation (SNF). Situated atop Burnaby Mountain, just east of downtown Vancouver, the Centre is a major site for Hellenic studies in North America and is committed to the advocacy and study of Hellenism.

The Centre supports the Department of Humanities 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.

STAVROS NIARCHOS FOUNDATION CENTRE FOR HELLENIC STUDIES

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