



CENTER FOR HELLENIC STUDIES

NEWSLETTER

Fall 2024 - Spring 2025

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The Center for Hellenic Studies serves as a hub of initiatives and activities focused on Hellenic language, history, society and culture. Through the comprehensive study of Greece, Cyprus and Hellenism, the Center aspires to foster in-depth knowledge of Hellenic civilization and promote its values and ideals. It also aims at forming strong bonds between the University and the Greek-American communities of Long Island and New York and at establishing connections and interactions with educational and academic institutions in the US, in Greece and Cyprus.



Another active year for the Center for Hellenic Studies at Stony Brook University (SBU). Our program, course offerings and students interested in Hellenic Studies continue to grow! Excitedly, we welcomed two new faculty members: Tsantes Professor Dr. Simos Zenios and Lecturer Angeliki Asprouli, who expanded the expertise and activities of our Center. Three students graduated with a minor in Hellenic Studies (Thoren Giannuzzi, AnnaMaria Skoufis, and Ryan Tran). Two students, Thoren Giannuzzi and Eleftherios Apollon Zoumpanidopoulos, were the first recipients of the Evangelos and Foteini Tsirka Scholarship in Hellenic Studies.

Throughout the year, we enjoyed insightful and exciting lectures: 2024 marked 50 years from two major events in modern Greek history: the invasion of Cyprus, and the restoration of democracy in Greece. Renown journalists from Greece discussed these anniversaries focusing on the historical and political landscape around the two events! We were delighted to welcome the new Consul General of Greece in New York, Ambassador Ifigenia Kanara, as well as Ms Rona Panteli, the political coordinator of the permanent mission of Cyprus to the UN. Importantly, this year saw increased collaboration between our Center and the Institute for Globalization Studies, which resulted in lectures around our common interests.

We were able to host on campus another Hellenic Film Weekend, in collaboration with the Hellenic Film Society USA, which was attended by students, faculty, and the community. We are grateful for all the support we received from our friends: all the people who supported the Center for Hellenic Studies during SBU's Giving Day, the AHEPA chapter of Port Jefferson for offering the AHEPA 319 Bobby Gemelas Scholarship to students from our program documenting the journey of Greek-American and Cypriot-American immigrants. We are also grateful to the Consulate of New York for generously supporting our work.

We are grateful for the continuous support and generosity of Mr. Peter Tsantes and Dr. Eleni Bacola-Ciacco. The third year of the Summer Abroad program in Athens was completed under the leadership of Dr. Maria Athanasopoulou (supported by the great efforts and organization by Ms. Efie Spentzos, Ms. Mariam Isack, and Ms. Margaret Hartofilis) and support from the Athenians Society of New York. Two students, Mary Ghajar and Alexa Zuckerman, received Peter V. Tsantes Family Endowed Scholarship to Study Abroad in Greece towards their expenses for the trip.

We are in the second year of our collaboration with the Medical School at the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, which involves exchange of medical students between the two schools: three of the SBU medical students are going to Thessaloniki for a month to study there under the guidance of Greek faculty members, and six Greek medical students came to SBU to spend 6 to 8 weeks in the medical school here. Moreover, two faculty from the University will visit SBU to give lectures and collaborate with faculty at SBU. A scholarship exchange with the University of Athens is in the works!!

All these activities with our students and our friends helped conclude a successful 2024-2025 academic year. We are excited for the future! Thank you to all.

Stella E. Tsirka, PhD

Lecture on Greece's “Metapolitefsi”

Greek journalist Pavlos A. Tsimas (SKAI TV/Radio, TA NEA) talked about “Metapolitefsi: From Junta to Democracy as Transition and as Political Era – Light and Shadows”, exploring the political and social dimensions of Greece's transition to democracy.

‘Metapolitefsi’ (From Junta to Democracy) as transition and as political era - Light and shadows

(Η μεταπολίτευση ως μετάβαση και ως πολιτική εποχή.
Φως και σκιές)

Mr. Pavlos A. Tsimas
Journalist
SKAI TV and Radio; TA NEA



Pavlos A. Tsimas is a journalist, radio and TV host at SKAI TV channel and radio station, and columnist at the daily newspaper “TA NEA”.

He studied Law at the University of Athens and practiced as a lawyer, before turning to journalism in 1980. He started as a political editor at the newspaper “Rizospastis”, he served as editor in chief at “902” radio station, “Proti” newspaper and “Taxydromos” magazine, before joining TA NEA, in 1991 .

In 1987 he participated at the launching of the first independent Greek radio station “Athens 9,84” and has been faithful to the radio ever since. In 1993 he started a career in television, with a daily current affairs program on SKAI TV. In the following years, he presented a series of documentaries and political talk shows for Mega TV and the national broadcaster ERT. He was a member of interrogating panels in a number of pre-electoral debates. In 2014 he returned to SKAI TV.

He is an author of two books (“*A crisis diary*” and “*A political history of Greek TV*”).

He was honored with the Botsi Foundation award in 1988.

Thursday, October 10, 2024 - 4.00pm

via Zoom (Meeting ID: 936 5968 6973 Passcode: 037941)



Stony Brook University
College of Arts and Sciences

Perspectives on Democracy: A 50-Year Reflection

The Center for Hellenic Studies and the Institute for Globalization Studies hosted Professor Kostis Kornetis, who delivered a thought-provoking lecture titled "Perspectives on Democracy: 50 Years since the Southern European Transitions: A Comparative Approach", exploring the similarities and differences of the democratic transitions in Greece, Spain, and Portugal, which took place fifty years ago.

The Center for Hellenic Studies and
the Institute for Globalization Studies Present

Fall 2024 Lecture Series: Perspectives on Democracy 50 Years since the Southern European Democratic Transitions: A Comparative Approach

Fifty years after the transitions to democracy in Greece, Spain, and Portugal, the legacy of those pivotal moments continues to provoke reflection. What lessons can be drawn from the diverse democratic paths forged in these nations? How has the political heritage of those intense times shaped the present? While once celebrated as anchors and springboards for progress, these transitions have, over time, come to be seen as burdens and traps, particularly in the wake of the Great Recession (2009-2015). This talk explores how the memory of these democratic transitions has evolved, tracing why they continue to stir strong emotional responses.



Professor Kostis Kornetis teaches contemporary history at the Autonomous University of Madrid (UAM). He has taught at Brown University, New York University, and the University of Sheffield, and was a CONEX-Marie Curie Experienced Fellow at Carlos III, Madrid, and Santander Fellow in Iberian Studies at St Antony's College, Oxford. His latest book "A Collective Biography of Southern European Democratization: The Age of Transitions" is forthcoming with Oxford University Press.

Monday, October 21

4:00 PM

Poetry Center

Humanities, 2001

Light refreshments will be served

Register Here:



Co-sponsored by the Center for Changing Systems of Power (CCSP)
and the Dept. of Hispanic Languages & Literature

OXI Day Celebration by the Greek & Cypriot Student Association and the Center for Hellenic Studies

The Greek and Cypriot Student Association marked Greek OXI Day, a celebration that included a presentation on the events of the day, poems, songs and traditional dances. Faculty, students, and members of the Greek community came together to honor this historic day, reflecting on its significance while celebrating Greek heritage and resilience.



Lecture on the Invasion of Cyprus

Investigative journalist Alexis Papachelas, Executive Editor of Kathimerini, offered his views and answered audience questions focused on “The Invasion of Cyprus: 50 Years Later.” Held on November 12, 2024, the event reflected on the historical and political impact of the 1974 invasion and its lasting consequences.

The Invasion of Cyprus: 50 years later

A Conversation with Mr. Alexis Papachelas
Investigative Journalist
Executive Editor of Kathimerini



Alexis Papachelas has a BA in History and Economics from Bard College and a Master's degree in International Affairs from Columbia University. He currently serves as editor in chief of the Greek daily “Kathimerini” and a leading commentator on Skai TV. Mr. Papachelas is the author of several books: *The Rape of Greek Democracy: The American Factor 1947-1967*, *November 17, Konstantinos Mitsotakis: In his own words*, and in 2021 *Dark Room-1974 Cyprus tragedy* for Skai TV.

Join us Tuesday, November 12th at noon!

Zoom Meeting ID: 997 1236 1124

Passcode: 636731

Lecture on Cyprus 50 Years On: Prospects for a Settlement and the UN's Role

Ms. Rona-Marie Panteli, Political Coordinator at the Permanent Mission of Cyprus to the United Nations, led a discussion on “Cyprus 50 Years On: Prospects for a Settlement and the Role of the UN.” Held on November 22, 2024, the event examined ongoing diplomatic efforts and the UN's role in resolving the Cyprus issue.

Cyprus 50 years on: Prospects for a settlement and the role of the UN

Ms Rona-Marie Panteli
Political Coordinator
Permanent Mission of Cyprus to the United Nations



Rona-Marie Panteli is currently the Political Coordinator at the Permanent Mission of Cyprus to the United Nations. Her primary focus is on Cyprus and the Middle East. Having joined the civil service in 2004, she previously served in Brussels, New Delhi and Washington DC.

Rona holds a Master's degree in Politics and Administration from the College of Europe in Bruges, Belgium. She is bilingual in English and Greek and speaks French, Spanish and German.

Join us Friday, November 22nd at 4pm
Zoom Meeting ID: 990 8767 8867
Passcode: 708187

Lecture on Adamantios Korais and Revolutionary Violence c. 1800

The Center for Hellenic Studies was pleased to host a lecture introducing to the Greek community Dr. Simos Zenios, Peter V. Tsantes Endowed Professor in Hellenic Studies. Dr. Zenios explored the ideas of power and revolutionary violence through the work of Adamantios Korais, a major figure of the Greek Enlightenment. Dr. Zenios highlighted how Korais, a witness to the French Revolution and a diasporic intellectual, shaped the ideal of revolution in Greek-speaking Southern Europe through his writings.

Ideas of Power: Adamantios Korais and Revolutionary Violence c. 1800

Dr. Simos Zenios
Assistant Professor

Peter V. Tsantes Endowed Professor in Hellenic Studies

Since the late eighteenth century, Greek intellectuals and writers didn't just advocate for revolution against the Ottoman Empire — they imagined it. In their works, they explored the goals, agents, and methods of that revolution, grappling with questions that still resonate today: When can violence be a force of liberation? Who has the right to wield it, and where do its limits lie? This lecture delves into these debates through the work of Adamantios Korais, the major figure of the Greek Enlightenment. A witness to the French Revolution, a diasporic intellectual, and a radical author, Korais helped shape the idea of revolution in Greek-speaking Southern Europe. Through his writings, we will explore how literature and culture express a new understanding of revolutionary violence, integral to the intellectual and political ferment of the time.



Simos Zenios joined Stony Brook University as Peter V. Tsantes Endowed Assistant Professor in Hellenic Studies in 2024. He holds a Ph.D. in Comparative Literature and he previously taught Modern Greek language, literature, and culture at UCLA. His research interests include the literature and intellectual history in European Enlightenment and Romanticism, literary and critical theory, and classical receptions. He has published on such topics as the literature of the Greek Revolution, philhellenism and imperialism, Enlightenment rhetoric, Greek modernism, and early modern Cypriot lyric poetry.

Join us Wednesday, February 12th at 3.30 pm
Poetry Center, 2nd floor, Humanities Building
Zoom Meeting ID: 923 7945 4973
Passcode: 477228



Hellenic Film Weekend 2025

The Center, in collaboration with the Hellenic Film Society USA, hosted Hellenic Film Weekend 2025 at the Wang Theater of Stony Brook University. The program featured four films including “The Murderess”, “Yannis Spanos: Behind the Marquee”, “The Promotion”, and “Athens Midnight Radio”. The movies served as a platform for conversation between the students, faculty and the wider Greek community.

HELLENIC FILM WEEKEND 2025

A collaborative effort with the Hellenic Film Society USA

Films are shown with English subtitles



Saturday February 22, 1pm

YANNIS SPANOS: BEHIND THE MARQUEE

Direction: Aris Dorizas 2023 / 118 mins

This tune-filled documentary traces the life of Yannis Spanos from Kyoto to Paris to Athens and captures the legacy of the prolific composer who died suddenly in 2019 at the age of 85. Low profile and adverse to self promotion, Spanos felt that his music speaks for him. Many of his memorable songs are performed here by a veritable who's who in Greek popular music.



Saturday February 22, 3.15pm

THE PROMOTION (ΕΞΕΛΙΞΗ)

Direction, screenplay: Periklis Choursoglou 2023 / 99 mins

Cast: Alexandros Logothetis, Vasilis Kolovos, Eleni Gerasimidou, Dimitris Naziris, Vangelio Andreadaki

Named to a higher rank, a professor invites his father to travel with him from Athens to Thessaloniki to attend the university's promotion ceremony. The trip provides an opportunity for father and son to sharpen their connection by reliving past experiences and memories. 2024 Hellenic Film Academy Award: Best Supporting Actor (V. Kolovos)



Sunday, February 23, 1pm

MURDERESS (ΦΟΝΙΣΣΑ)

Direction: Eva Nathena *Screenplay:* Katerina Bei, Based on the classic novel by Alexandros Papadiamantis 2023 / 97 mins

Cast: Karyofyllia Karabeti, Maria Protoppapa, Penelope Tsilika, Elena Topalidou, Dimitris Imellos, Christos Stergioglou, Giannis Tsortekis

Driven to despair over women's oppressive living conditions in her island community circa 1900, a midwife finds a violent solution to confront the evils of a male-oriented society. Seeing herself as a savior of sorts, she takes the lives of young girls to spare them from a future of hardship and servitude.



Sunday, February 23, 3.15pm

ATHENS MIDNIGHT RADIO (ΝΥΧΤΕΡΙΝΟΣ ΕΚΦΩΝΗΤΗΣ)

Direction, screenplay: Renos Haralambidis 2024 / 75 mins

Cast: Renos Haralambidis, Eleftheria Stamou, Margarita Amarantidi, Maria Zervou

On the evening of his fiftieth birthday, a former evzone, now a midnight radio announcer, decides to use the air waves to locate the woman he loved and lost years ago. Always on the cutting edge as a director, Charalambidis has made an enchantingly poetic film, a meditation on aging, an ode to romance and to Athens, the city he loves.

Entrance is Free

Donations to the Center for Hellenic Studies are welcome

Wang Theater - Stony Brook University



Stony Brook University
College of Arts and Sciences

Conversation with the Consul General of Greece

Mrs. Iphigenia Kanara, Consul General of Greece in New York joined us for a comprehensive conversation on all things Greek! Drawing on her distinguished diplomatic career in London, Boston, Brussels, and Moscow, Mrs. Kanara shared insights on Greek foreign affairs, international relations, and her role representing Greece in the United States.



A comprehensive conversation with the Consul General Mrs. Iphigenia Kanara Εφ' όλης της ύλης



Iphigenia Kanara, Minister Plenipotentiary (Second Class), is the Consul General of Greece in New York since 2024. Previously, she served as Deputy Head of Mission at the Greek Embassy in London, Consul General in Boston, and held key roles in the Greek Ministry of Foreign Affairs, including Director of the Secretary General's Cabinet.

Mrs Kanara has also served on the Permanent Representation of Greece to the European Union in Brussels, and was the Political Counselor of the Embassy of Greece in Moscow. She holds an MSc from the London School of Economics, an MA from the University of Macedonia, and was a fellow at Harvard's Weatherhead Center for International Affairs. She speaks English, French, and Spanish.

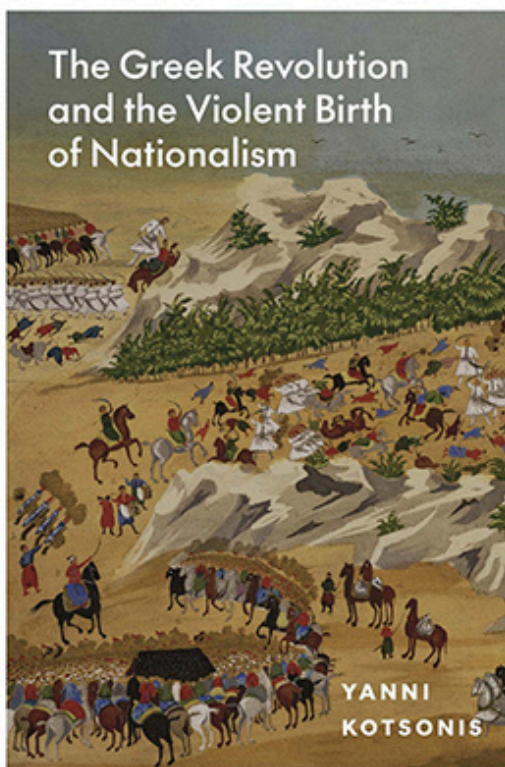
Join us Thursday, March 6th at 4 pm
Poetry Center, 2nd floor, Humanities Building

Lecture on the Greek Revolution and the Violent Birth of Nationalism

The last event of the academic year was a lecture by Yanni Kotsonis, Professor of History & Russian & Slavic Studies at NYU, who discussed concepts explored in his book, *The Greek Revolution and the Violent Birth of Nationalism*.



Imperial Mosaic and Nation-State: The Greek Revolution and the Violent Birth of Nationalism



Yanni Kotsonis

Professor of History &
Russian & Slavic Studies at NYU



The 1821 Greek Revolution was the first nationalist revolution and produced the first ethno-national state. The place that became Greece was an imperial Ottoman land of multiple languages, dialects, confessions, and regionalisms, all leading an uncertain and violent existence as the sultan's power declined. This region became an imperial crossroads. European powers arrived from the north and west and further destabilized the region. They also gave its inhabitants a sense of direction: a new thing called 'the nation', mass mobilized, comprising only the Christians, and in line with the Europe of the Holy Alliance. What followed was total war, the disappearance of Islam, and the blessings of the European powers. Greece became a Balkan model and the framework for modern Turkey 100 years later.

Event supported by the Department of History.

Wednesday, April 23rd | 3:30PM
Wang Center, Lecture Hall 2



RSVP HERE

Cosponsored by the INSTITUTE FOR GLOBALIZATION STUDIES

The AHEPA 319 Bobby Gemelas Scholarship 2025

THE JOURNEY OF GREEK- AND CYPRIOT-AMERICAN IMMIGRANTS ESSAY COMPETITION

The AHEPA chapter of Port Jefferson supported the essay competition focusing on documenting the journey of Greek-American and Cypriot-American immigrants who arrived in New York and who settled on Long Island, NY.

These AHEPA-sponsored awards are called the 'AHEPA 319 Bobby Gemelas Scholarship' in honor the late Bobby Gemelas, a great supporter of Hellenism and the Greek-American heritage.

The two winners of the competition for 2025 are:

- Anna Kokoris
- Eleftherios Boudouris



The students who won the scholarship, Anna Kokoris and Eleftherios Boudouris, expressed their gratitude for the AHEPA 319 Bobby Gemelas scholarship, and commented on the impactful experience interviewing the Greek immigrants and working with them as they formed their commentary on the current immigration environment.

STUDY ABROAD

Summer Abroad in Greece 2025

The Center for Hellenic Studies and the International Academic Programs at Stony Brook University recently concluded another successful summer abroad program. Students were able to immerse themselves in Greek language, history, and culture while exploring Athens, Nafplio, Olympia and the beautiful islands of Aegina, and Spetses. The Program ran from May 27 to June 22, 2025.

Two participating students, Mary Ghajar and Alexa Zuckerman, received Peter V. Tsantes Family Endowed Scholarship to Study Abroad in Greece towards their expenses for the trip.



We are grateful to the Tsantes Family and the Athenians' Society of New York for their continuous support of the Summer in Greece Program.



CENTER FOR HELLENIC STUDIES

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