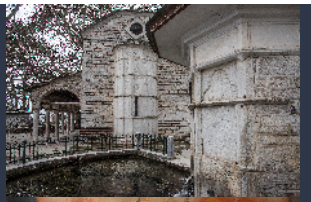

DEMOCRITUS UNIVERSITY OF THRACE
DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY AND ETHNOLOGY

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UNIVERSITY OF VIENNA
DEPARTMENT OF BYZANTINE AND MODERN GREEK STUDIES

BAS
INSTITUTE OF BALKAN STUDIES WITH CENTRE OF THRACOLOGY
BULGARIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE:

"History, Monuments, and Art in Southeastern Europe: From Early Modernity to the Present"

Conference languages: **Greek - English**

Department of History and Ethnology
1 Panagi Tsaldari Street, 69131 Komotini, Greece

Komotini, 16 – 18 May 2025

PROGRAMME

Zoom link: **https://bit.ly/HMA-Conf25**

DEMOCRITUS UNIVERSITY OF THRACE
DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY AND ETHNOLOGY
POSTGRADUATE PROGRAM:
"STUDIES IN LOCAL HISTORY - INTERDISCIPLINARY APPROACHES"

ΙΕΡΑ ΜΗΤΡΟΠΟΛΙΣ
ΜΑΡΩΝΕΙΑΣ ΚΑΙ ΚΟΜΟΤΗΝΗΣ

Friday, 16 May 2025

Conference venue: Auditorium of Old Law School, Department of History and Ethnology – Online parallel via Zoom

All times are Eastern European Summer Time (UTC+3)

Conference Registration: 17:00 – 17:30
Welcome Speeches: 17:30 – 18:00

Opening Session: Dialogues Between the Historical and the Artistic

Session chair:	**Eleonora Naxidou & Ivaylo Nachev**
18:00 – 18:15	**Georgios Chr. Tsigaras**, *Icons from Early Modernity in Xanthi (17th and 18th centuries)*
18:15 – 18:30	**Roumiana Preshlenova**, *Independence and Urban Development in Early Modern Bulgaria*
18:30 – 18:45	**Alkiviadis Charalampidis**, *Constantin Brancusi: Sculpture from Folk Primitivism to the Apex of Avant-garde*
19:30 – 21:00	**Dinner**

Saturday, 17 May 2025

Conference venue: Classroom A, Department of History and Ethnology – Online parallel via Zoom

All times are Eastern European Summer Time (UTC+3)

Conference Check-in: 08:30 – 09:00

1rst Session: The Flow of Artistic Trends Through Time

Session chair:	**Alkiviadis Charalambidis & Konstantinos D. Serafeimidis**
09:00 – 09:15	**Ioanna Stoufi-Poulimenou**, *Between East and West. Artistic trends of monumental post-Byzantine painting in the Ionian islands (15th-18th c.)*
09:15 – 09:30	**Dimitrios Kountourakis**, *An unknown collection of portable icons by the Aenite painter Demetrios Vasileiou in the central region of Evros*
09:30 – 09:45	**Nikoleta Tzani**, *Fragments of Byzantium: Representations of Mount Athos in the American Popular Press*
09:45 – 10:00	**Kalliopi Tzimagiorgi**, *Modernism Extra Muros: Avant-garde Movements in Yugoslavia*
10:00 – 10:15	**Maria Nanou**, *Aspects of the 16th century wall-painting at Mount Pelion (eastern Thessaly, Greece)*
10:15 – 10:30	**Chrysoula Mendrinou**, *Icons of the Metropolitan Church of Saint Nicholas in Alexandroupolis*
10:30 – 11:00	**Discussion**
11:00 – 11:30	**Coffee Break**

2nd Session: Shaping Nations: Movements, Institutions, and Personalities

Session chair:	**Yura Konstantinova & Elmira Vassileva**
11:30 – 11:45	**Ioannis Mpakirtzis**, *Sources about the Ottoman army in the 19th century*
11:45 – 12:00	**Marco Miotto**, *Egypt as a factor of geopolitical changes in Southeastern Europe in the first half of 19th century*
12:00 – 12:15	**Konstantinos Sampanis – Dilara Kaplan**, *"Cosmopolitan" or "safe" spaces? The visibility of the Greek-Orthodox institutions in contemporary Istanbul*
12:15 – 12:30	**Nikolaos Tsouris**, *The Journal 'I Niki': a Sports and Military Review on the Eve of the Balkan Wars*
12:30 – 12:45	**Theodoros Kyrkoudis**, *Nikolaos Fardys, the doctor, the scholar*
12:45 – 13:00	**Dimitrios Feggomytis**, *Post-World War I Nationalist Movements: The Case of Cafer Tayyar (Eğilmez) in Eastern Thrace (1920)*
13:00 – 13:30	**Discussion**
13:30 – 15:30	**Lunch Break**

3rd Session: Faith and Stone: Christian, Jewish and Muslim Monuments Across the Balkans

Session chair:	**Aikaterini Markou & Konstantinos Sampanis**
15:30 – 15:45	**Evangelia Georgitsoyanni**, *Funerary Monuments of Greeks in the Bellu cemetery in Bucharest*
15:45 – 16:00	**Grigor Boykov**, *The convent of Kütüklü Baba in Western Thrace and its architectural patron*
16:00 – 16:15	**Tina Georgieva**, *The Fate of the Russian Monuments in Bulgaria*
16:15 – 16:30	**Elias Messinas**, *The Synagogues of Greece: preserving a lost cultural heritage through technology and story-telling*
16:30 – 16:45	**Artemisia Kourela**, *From Architecture to Social Dynamics: The Quay of Smyrna*
16:45 – 17:00	**Iordanis Arampatzis**, *Burial monuments of the Metropolis of Derkoi (Constantinople) in the late modern period: The case of the Mavrogenion Mausoleum*
17:00 – 17:20	**Discussion**
17:20 – 17:30	**Break**

4th Session: The Secular Landscape of the Balkans: Monuments and Institutions

Session chair:	**Georgios Charizanis & Tina Georgieva**
17:30 – 17:45	**Aikaterini Markou**, *Reassessing the monumental reserve of stone bridges in Thrace in the context of the region's cultural heritage*
17:45 – 18:00	**Yura Konstantinova**, *"Bread Upon the Waters": the building of the first Bulgarian school in Sofia*
18:00 – 18:15	**Ivaylo Nachev**, *The Wandering Monument of the Unknown Soldier in Sofia – Contested Memories, Artistic Interpretations, Changing Ideologies*
18:15 – 18:30	**Evgenia-Petkova Troeva**, *Memorization and Monumentalization of the Medieval Origins of the State in Socialist and Post-Socialist Bulgaria*
18:30 – 18:45	**Elmira Vassileva**, *The Protestant Church in Bansko in local history and memory*
18:45 – 19:00	**Kortesia Mouloudi-Passadaki**, *Metropolitan of Adrianople Polycarp: His contribution to Thracian Hellenism*
19:00 – 19:20	**Discussion**
19:20 – 19:30	**Break**

5nd Session: Historical Itineraries and their Ideologies

Session chair:	**Roumiana Preshlenova & Georgios Salakidis**
19:30- – 19:45	**Dimosthenis Stratigopoulos**, *From Serbia to Wallachia via Bulgaria: The Distinctive Journey of Saint Spyridon the Younger*
19:45 – 20:00	**Georgios Charizanis**, *The policy of the union of the Churches and the anti-union popular sentiment during the Late Byzantine period. Some remarks*
20:00 – 20:15	**Dionysios Tsentikopoulos**, *The ideological controversies of the 18th century in the literary work of Kaisarios Dapontes*
20:15 – 20:30	**Anastasios Deleoglou**, *The perception of the History of John Kinnamos from Paul Magdalino in his work "The Empire of Manuel I Komnenos (1143-1180)" and the importance of the Byzantine historian*
20:30 – 20:45	**Eleni Kiosse**, *The Bulgarian occupation of Drama in the literature of localism*
20:45 – 21:00	**Discussion**

Sunday, 18 May 2025

Conference venue: Classroom A, Department of History and Ethnology – Online parallel via Zoom

All times are Eastern European Summer Time (UTC+3)

Conference Check-in: 08:30 – 09:00

1rst Session: Bound by Borders: Women, Refugees, and Institutions in an Age of Nationalism

Session chair: **Dimosthenis Stratigopoulos & Dionysios Tsentikopoulos**

09:00 – 09:15 **Eleonora Naxidou**, *Territorial Dimensions of Nationalism in the Balkans: The Bulgarian Case*

09:15 – 09:30 **Angel Zlatkov**, *The Macedonian House of Culture in Sofia through the 20th century*

09:30 – 09:45 **Stamatia Fotiadou**, *Refugee Settlement, Archival Documentation and Oral Testimony: A Case Study of the Greek-Bulgarian Population Exchange*

09:45 – 10:00 **Chryssa Kouliaki**, *The Public Image of Women through the Press in Interwar Rhodope: 'For Reasons of Women's Morality*

10:00 – 10:15 **Aikaterini Kiltzanidou**, *Christian Women in Islam: Case Studies of Female Patrons in Orthodox Churches During the Early Ottoman Period in Macedonia*

10:15 – 10:30 **Styliani Balioglou**, *The Significance of Renaming Public Buildings, Monuments, and Streets in Yugoslav Federation during the Post-Tito Period*

10:30 – 10:50 **Discussion**

10:50 – 11:15 **Coffee Break**

2nd Session: Sacred Imagery and Decorative Art: Christian and Muslim Traditions in Early Modernity

Session chair: **Eleni Stoumpou-Katsamouris & Stamatia Fotiadou**

11:15 – 11:30 **Paschalis Androudis**, *The decoration of Yeni Camii at Komotini*

11:30 – 11:45 **Maria Louka**, *The Thracian tomb of Svestari*

11:45 – 12:00 **Michail Asfentagakis**, *Post-byzantine artistic tradition and neohellenic painting: the painter Fotis Kontoglou as a "bridge-builder" of two eras*

12:00 – 12:15 **Maria Vavva**, *Saint Catherine's iconography as the patroness of letters in Cretan art: a theme rooted in a social context?*

12:15 – 12:30 **Panagiota Katopodi**, *The evolution of post-Byzantine iconography in the central Peloponnese through the work of the Pediotes (18th century)*

12:30 – 12:45 **Thomas Zikos**, *Refugee heritages in Nea Moudania, Halkidiki*

12:45 – 13:00 **Fotini Grammenidou**, *Icons of the iconostasis in Archangels' Michael and Gabriel Church in Petrota, Orestiada*

13:00 – 13:15 **Alexandros Papadopoulos**, *Churches of Edirne (16th -20th c.) in the context of modernity*

13:15 – 13:35 **Discussion**

13:35 – 15:30 **Lunch Break**

3rd Session: The Sacred and the Secular: Monumental Expressions Across Traditions

Session chair: **Paschalis Androudis & Maria Nanou**

15:30 – 15:45 **Eleni Stoumpou-Katsamouris**, *Paul Zepdji and the Monuments of Thessaloniki*

15:45 – 16:00 **Magdalini Parcharidou**, *The hagiographer and 'protothitis' of Chaldea Grigorios Symenos and his works at the Church of St George on the hill of Kilkis*

16:00 – 16:15 **Gregory Manopoulos**, *The monuments of Pogoniani in their historical and epigraphical context (14th-17th c.)*

16:15 – 16:30 **Dimitrios Liakos**, *The presence of the Byzantine elite and its Christian partners on Mount Athos (14th-17th centuries): written and archaeological evidence.*

16:30 – 16:45 **Garyfallia Theodoridou**, *The Khatchkar Monument of the Armenian Community of Xanthi*

16:45 – 17:00 **Konstantinos Serafeimidis**, *Churches and relics of refugee settlements in the Municipality of Komotini*

17:00 – 17:15 **Anastasia Linda**, *Example of the transformation of religious monuments under political conditions and their consequences in the early 20th century between the region of Asia Minor and the Greek mainland*

17:15 – 17:30 **Dimitrios Kalpakis**, *The Strymon valley during the Late Byzantine era, as part of the greater athonic space; the case-study of the monastic estates*

17:30 – 18:00 **Discussion**

Closing Session – Concluding Remarks: 18:00 – 18:30