COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY
Program in Hellenic Studies, Department of Classics
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Acting Director (2004-05): Vangelis Calotychos, 212-854 6988; ec2268@columbia.edu

REPORT 2003-04

Faculty

Karen Van Dyck, Professor, Kimon A. Doukas Chair, Classics
Modern Greek Language and Literature
Areas of interest: 19th and 20th century Greek literature and culture; Greek America and Diaspora culture; Gender Studies; Translation theory.

Peter Bien, Adjunct Visiting Professor, Classics (Spring 2004)
Modern Greek Literature
Areas of interest: 19th and 20th century Greek literature (Kazantzakis); 19th and 20th century English literature (Joyce); Translation

Stathis Gourgouris, Adjunct Visiting Professor, Classics (on leave: 2003-04)
Areas of interest: Literary Theory; Enlightenment and Nationalism; Modernist Poetics; Psychoanalysis; Music and Performance

Marina Kotzamani, Assistant Professor, Classics (on leave: Spring 2004)
Modern Greek Language, Theater, and Cinema
Areas of interest: Modern Greek dramatic literature and film; Performance and reception of the Classics; Theater history; Dramaturgy; Popular theater; Gender studies.

Neni Panourgia, Assistant Professor, Anthropology (on leave: 2003-04)
Areas of interest: Anthropological Theory; History of Anthropology; Anthropology of Medicine; Anthropology and Classics; Ethnographic Writing; Mythologies; Death; the Body; Theory of Subjectivities.

Ioanna Theocharopoulou, Lecturer, Classics (Fall 2003)
Modern Greek Language and Culture
Areas of interest: Architecture and Design History; Popular Culture; Gender Studies

Elena Tzelepis, Lecturer, Classics
Modern Greek Language and Culture
Areas of interest: Continental Philosophy; Psychoanalysis; Aesthetics; Feminist Epistemologies; Philosophy of Language; Ancient Greek Philosophy

New Appointments for Fall 2004
The Program in Hellenic Studies is again appreciative this year for the financial support of the Ministry of Culture of the Hellenic Republic and the Alexander S. Onassis Public Benefit Foundation. Their generous support has funded the junior teaching position in the program while separate funding from the Alexander S. Onassis Public Benefit Foundation has also graciously supported cultural events in the program. Financial assistance from the Greek community of New York City has also enabled us to appoint our first part-time program administrator, Ms. Elizabeth Bulls-Cela, whom we warmly welcome to our program.

We are also pleased to report that, in the summer of 2004, our program alumnus Mr. Kyriakos Tsakopoulos signed over a check for $1 million to initiate a junior professorship in Hellenic Studies that would lead, with additional funding, to the establishment of this position as a Chair in Hellenic Studies. After an international search, the University authorized the hiring of Vangelis Calotychos to this tenure-track line. This generous endowment also inaugurates an annual lecture series titled “Aristotle and the Moderns.” The first lecture will be held in Spring 2005.


Courses 2003-2004

Summer courses:
Modern Greek S1121. Intensive Elementary Modern Greek. - Elena Tzelepis
Modern Greek S1221. Intensive Intermediate Modern Greek - Elena Tzelepis

Fall and Spring courses:
Modern Greek V1101/ V1102. Introduction to Modern Greek Language & Culture. Ioanna Theocharopoulou (Fall) and Elena Tzelepis (Spring)
**Modern Greek V1201/V1202. Intermediate Modern Greek Language & Culture.** Marina Kotzamani (Fall) and Elena Tzelepis (Spring)

**Modern Greek - Comp. Lit V3400. Greek American Culture.** Karen Van Dyck (Fall)
This course introduces students to the rich tradition of literature about and by Greeks in America over the past century, exploring questions of ethnic identity, gender, genre and language. Students examine how contemporary debates in diaspora studies and translation theory can inform each other and how both, in turn, can inform a discussion of the writing of the Greek American experience in histories, novels, poetry, travel literature, performance art and films. Authors include Kazan, Gage, Broumas, Spanidou, Galas, Papandreou, and Petrakis. (Taught in English)

**Modern Greek - Comp. Lit V3150. Modern Greek Theater: Karaghiozis and the Folk Tradition.** Marina Kotzamani (Fall)
This course introduces students to the rich popular tradition of the Greek shadow puppet theater. Focus falls on exploring the theatricality of this genre. Questions to be considered include the relation between convention and innovation in this form, the role of the Karaghiozis player as a performer and the contribution of the audience to the creation of the spectacle. The course also explores how Karaghiozis is related to other forms of shadow puppet and popular theater, such as the Turkish Karagoz and Aristophanes. Discussion will draw on performance-related material such as set and puppet designs, as well as auditory and visual documents from actual productions. (Taught in Greek)

**Modern Greek G4400. Nikos Kazantzakis: Politics of the Spirit.** Peter Bien (Spring)
A detailed study of the career of Nikos Kazantzakis, with emphasis on how political events in Greece and elsewhere in Europe, ca. 1900-1950, affected his career and are reflected in his works. Writings to be considered are “Comedy,” “Day is Breaking,” “The Masterbuilder,” *Spiritual Exercises, Toda Raba, Odyssey, Zorba the Greek, Kapodistrias,” Christ Recrucified, Fratricides, Kapetan Mihalis, The Last Temptation, Report to Greco.*

**Comparative Literature and Society (CPLS) G6100. Translation between Literature and Anthropology.** Karen Van Dyck & Rosalind Morris (Spring)
This course addresses the question of how different conceptions and technologies of translation (as movement, exchange, substitution, and transformation of difference) have developed over the last century in the fields of Literature and Anthropology, and in the spaces between them. Rather than emphasizing how literary translation can be viewed in terms of cultural translation, our focus is on the difficult and culturally specific issues of language that various kinds of real and imagined travel engender. Texts drawn from our specialized areas of Modern Greek and Indonesian Studies.

**Modern Greek V3997. Directed Readings.** Program Faculty.
**Modern Greek V3998. Senior Research Seminar.** Karen Van Dyck
Designed for students writing a senior thesis or doing advanced research on Greek or Greek-American topics.
News of Current Faculty and Research Fellows

Karen Van Dyck has just been promoted to full professor. Her bilingual anthology *A Century of Greek Poetry 1900-2000* (co-edited with Peter Bien, Peter Constantine, and Edmund Keeley) was published by Cosmos in the Spring. A section of her project on Diaspora literature and the language question can be viewed at the Centre for Greek Language website: www.greeklanguage.gr. Along with her responsibilities as director of Hellenic Studies this year, she was also director of undergraduate studies for the Institute for Research on Women and Gender. Roger Bagnall continues to oversee the long-term financial planning of the Program. His current projects include a collection of letters on papyrus written by women, the documents from the excavations at Berenike on the Red Sea coast of Egypt, and a Columbia excavation and archaeological field school in the Dakhleh Oasis of Egypt. Besides his recently published *A Century of Greek Poetry 1900-2000* (co-edited with Peter Constantine, Edmund Keeley, and Karen Van Dyck), Peter Bien also has his *Greek Today: A Course in the Modern Language and Culture*, co-authored by Dimitri John Rassias, Andromache Karanika, and Chrysanthi Yiannakou-Bien (August 2004). Karen Emmerich, PhD candidate in Modern Greek Literature, created and taught an extra credit film and conversation hour for our first and second year language students. Her translations continue to receive critical acclaim. Her work is well represented in the *Century of Greek Poetry* anthology. She was awarded a fellowship for language study in Turkey. Stathis Gourgouris was a National Endowment of the Humanities recipient and Senior Research Fellow at the American School of Classical Studies in Athens. Marina Kotzaman is leaving Columbia University to join the newly founded Theater Department of the University of the Peloponnese at Nafplio in Fall 2004. We wish her every success. Neni Panourgia was in Athens on her Faculty Development Leave conducting fieldwork on the notion of the “dangerous individual” in Greece, especially during the period of 1929-1974 with particular emphasis on the concentration camps on Makronisos and Yaros. She has teamed up with Stephane Charitos, the Language Resource Center director at Columbia, as well as Vassilis Koulopoulos, Angeliki Rovatsou, and Elena Tzelepis, to develop a Channel 13 documentary series on the Greek-American community of NYC. The author Fani Papageorgiou spent the Spring as a Fellow in the Program in Hellenic Studies translating her recent collection of poems into Greek. Joanna Theocharopoulou received a Mellon Dissertation Fellowship in the Humanities for her Ph.D. thesis research on postwar Greek architecture and building practices. Elena Tzelepis is the recipient of a University Fellowship from the New School for Social Research for the academic year 2003-4. Her article “‘Woman,’ Alterity, Non-Truth: Luce Irigaray’s Mimetic Ethics” will appear in the forthcoming issue of *Women in Philosophy*. She is organizing an international conference on “Luce Irigaray and ‘the Greeks’”, to be held in the program and in collaboration with the *Maison Francaise*, in September 2004. For further information, see: www.maisonfrancaise.org/irigaray

News of our Students

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This year we had a bumper crop of senior theses on Greek topics. Elizabeth Kelley wrote “The Edges of Translation: A Consideration of Translation, Originality and Interlinearity in the Works of Cavafy, Vallejo, and Djebar”; Dana Politis, “Pulling the Plug: Roman Catholic and Greek Orthodox Teachings on the Withdrawal of Life Support”; Sophia Robbins, “On the Edges of Documentation: Peripheral Apparitions and the Greek Nation-State”; Yona Stamatis, “Rebetika and the Greek Nation: A Controversy Between East Versus West.” Both Sophia and Yona are continuing their studies, Sophia on a Kelletts Fellowship at Oxford in Refugee Studies and Yona on a graduate fellowship at University of Michigan in ethnomusicology. Anastasia Liberis received a fellowship from the Greek Ministry of Culture to attend the IMXA (Institute for Balkan Studies) 2004 Summer Program in Thessaloniki. Kathryn Yatrakis, the Dean of Students at Columbia College, completed the two-year intensive summer course in Modern Greek. Both the Graduate Students and the Undergraduate Students clubs continue to be an important forum for Greek events and social gatherings.

Events 2003 – 2004

February 19: Thomas W. Laqueur (Professor of History, University of California, Berkeley): “Bodies Visible and Invisible: The Erasure of the Jewish Cemetery in the Life of Modern Thessaloniki.” Sponsored by the Anthropology Department

New Directions in Modern Greek Literary Studies

March 4: Efthymia Rentzou (Sorbonne): “Comparative Avant-gardes: the Greek perspective”

March 10: Vangelis Calotychos (NYU): “Greece and the Balkans: A Cultural Poetics”


March 29: Yiorgos D. Kalogeras (Faculty of American Ethnic & Minority Literature at the English Department, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki) : “Translating Ethnicity
from Fiction to Film: Albert Isaak Bezzerides” (Sponsored by the Onassis Visiting Scholars Program & co-sponsored by the Center for the Study of Ethnicity and Race.)

March 29: Polymnia Athanassiadi (University of Athens): “The Chadaean Oracles: A Late Antique Holy Book.” Sponsored by the Center for the Ancient Mediterranean

April 12: The contemporary artist Zafos Xagoraris discusses his current work. Sponsored by the Architecture, Planning and Preservation Department

April 13–June 12: “Restoring Byzantium: The Kariye Camii in Istanbul and the Byzantine Institute Restoration.” The Miriam and Ira D. Wallach Art Gallery presented an exhibition featuring the scholarly rediscovery and restoration of one of the most impressive Byzantine monuments to survive in the modern city of Istanbul: the church of the Chora Monastery, better known by its Turkish name Kariye Camii. Founded probably as early as the sixth century, rebuilt in the late eleventh and early twelfth century, and splendidly restored by the Byzantine humanist, poet, and later prime minister Theodore Metochites between 1316 and 1321, the church of the Chora Monastery is today considered an ‘icon’ of Late Byzantine art and architecture. Sponsored by the Art History and Archaeology Department

April 16-17: “Restoring Byzantium: A Symposium.” With: Holger Klein (Columbia University), Robert Ousterhout (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign), Paul Magdalino (University of St. Andrews), Sharon Gerstel (University of Maryland at College Park), Robin Cormack (The Courtauld Institute of Art), Caroll Wales (Boston), Guiseppe C. Infranca (Università degli studi di Roma “La Sapienza”). Sponsored by the Art History and Archaeology Department

April 15: Alexander Nehamas (Professor in the Humanities and Comparative Literature, Princeton): “Art, Interpretation and the Rest of Life”. Sponsored by the Philosophy Department

NEW University Seminar in Modern Greek Studies
May 6: Efthymia Rentzou (Sorbonne): “Reading Amorgos by Nicos Gatsos.”