



# Leros Humanism Seminars

July 3-6, 2023

Τα Σεμινάρια της Λέρου

**Chrithoni's Paradise, Leros**

A series of yearly intellectual and pedagogical encounters taking place on Leros in the first week of July. The seminars will explore the possibilities for humanism as an emancipatory project for our times, without affording ethical or moral primacy to either human or non-human beings. Central to the series are the questions of what makes humans human, the responsibility that humans have toward each other and to the surrounding world, and how the exclusion of humans by humans is fundamentally anti-human.

<https://leros-humanism-seminars.com>

### *Organizers and Contact*

[Neni Panourgia](#), Justice in Education Initiative, Columbia University, [np255@columbia.edu](mailto:np255@columbia.edu)

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INITIATIVE FOR  
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## Public Program

### Seminar Panels

**Monday, 3 July, morning**

**Introductory panel, 10:00- 10:30 am**

Neni Panourgιά, Stathis Gourgouris, Theodoros Megaloeconomou, Nikos Panayiotopoulos

**1. Legalities and Illegalities, 10:30 am-12:30 pm**

Bernard Harcourt, Athena Athanasiou

Respondent: Jamel West

**2. Confinements and the Commons, 12:30-2:30 pm**

Penelope Petsini, Fonda Shen

Respondent: Nitous Anthousi

*Break 2:30- 6:00*

**Monday, 3 July, afternoon**

**3. Sexualities and Boundaries, 6:30-8:30 pm**

Elena Tzelepis, Katerina Stefatos, Stathis Gourgouris

Respondent: Jake Lasky

**Tuesday, 4 July, morning**

**1. Borders and Crossings 10:00-12:00 am**

Dimitris Papadopoulos, Aamir Mufti, Ioanna Laliotou

Respondent: Chloe Howe Haralambous

**2. Catastrophic Environments, 12:00-2:00 pm**

Adriana Garriga-Lopez, Zissis Kotionis

Respondent: André Pettman

*Break 2:00 - 6:00 pm*



**Tuesday, July 4, afternoon**

**3. Infrastructures, Textures and Architectures, 6:00-8:00 pm**

Kevin Bone, Saloni Mathur, Phoebe Giannisi

Respondent: Suleiman Hodali

**Workshops**

**Wednesday, July 5, Morning**

**1. Confined Education 10:00-11:00 am**

Eileen Gillooly, Neni Panourgía

**2. Confined Arts 11:00-2:00 pm**

Mia Ruyter and Marissa Gutierrez, Georgia Sarigiannidou and Panayiotis Papadopoulos Represented by Socrates Papadopoulos

**Wednesday, July 5, Afternoon**

**3. Anti-catastrophic environments 6:00-8:00 pm**

Eugenia Bone, Xanthippi Paschalidou

**4. Music and Tight Spaces Jamming workshop at “ARTEMIS” 8:00- 9:30 pm**

*Two additional workshops, one on traditional dance and one on traditional song will be run by “ARTEMIS” (<https://lerosisland.gr/en/listings/cultural-and-educational-association-artemis/>).*



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Leros Humanism Seminars Τα Σεμινάρια της Λέρου

**Participants 2023**

***Columbia University***

[Neni Panourgia](#), Hellenic Studies Program and Justice-in-Education Initiative  
[Stathis Gourgouris](#), English and Comparative Literature, ICLS, and Hellenic Studies Program  
[Ivan Calaff](#), Justice in Education Initiative  
[Eileen Gillooly](#), Justice in Education Initiative  
[Bernard Harcourt](#), Columbia Center for Contemporary Critical Thought  
[Marissa Gutierrez-Vicario](#), Columbia Center for Contemporary Critical Thought  
[Mia Ruyter](#), Justice in Education Initiative  
[Fonda Shen](#), Columbia Center for Contemporary Critical Thought

***Cooper Union***

[Kevin Bone](#), School of Architecture

***FAU- Florida Atlantic University***

[Adriana Garriga-Lopez](#), Anthropology

***Panteion University***

[Athena Athanasiou](#), Anthropology  
[Penelope Petsini](#), Political Science and History

***Rhode Island School of Design (RISD)***

[Katerina Stefatos](#), History, Philosophy, and the Social Sciences  
[Dimitris Papadopoulos](#), Teaching and Learning Lab

***University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA)***

[Aamir Mufti](#), Comparative Literature  
[Saloni Mathur](#), Art History

***University of Thessaly (UTH)***

[Phoebe Giannisi](#), Architecture  
[Zissis Kotionis](#), Architecture  
[Ioanna Laliotou](#), IAKA/History  
[Elena Tzelepi](#), IAKA, Anthropology

***Non-University-based scholars and artists***

[Eugenia Bone](#), Food and Science Writer  
[Theodoros Megaloeconomou](#), Psychiatrist  
[Nikos Panayiotopoulos](#), Photographer  
[Panagiotis Papadopoulos](#), Former political prisoner  
[Georgia Sarigiannidou](#), Former political prisoner  
Socrates Papadopoulos, Set design construction  
Xanthippi Pashalidou, MD, Medical acupuncture IBCLC <https://www.pxanthippi.gr/>

***Graduate Students***

[Chloé Howe Haralambous](#), Social Sciences Research Council  
[Suleiman Hodali](#), Comparative Literature, UCLA  
Jake Lasky, Florida Atlantic University  
[André Luke Pettman](#), Department of French, Columbia University  
Jamel West, Florida Atlantic University  
[Nitous Anthousi](#), Université de Paris 1, <https://alliance.columbia.edu/people/nitous-anthousi>



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Leros Humanism Seminars Τα Σεμινάρια της Λέρου

*The 2023 Seminars are presented by*  
**Columbia University**

**The Institute for the Study of Religion, Culture, and Public Life**  
with the

**Program in Hellenic Studies**

**Justice Forum**

*Justice-in-Education Initiative*, Society of Fellows and the Heyman Center for the Humanities

**Initiative for a Just Society**  
**Columbia Center for Contemporary Critical Thought**  
Columbia Law School

with support from

Florida Atlantic University

The General State Archives, Local Historical Archive of Leros

Panteion University

University of California, Los Angeles

University of Thessaly

Center for Culture, Education and Development of Leros

“Artemis”

Prefecture of Southern Aegean



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*LSH/ΣΑ*  
Leros Humanism Seminars Τα Σεμινάρια της Λέρου

**Project Description**

The *Leros Humanism Seminars (LSH/ΣΑ)* are a series of yearly intellectual encounters which take place on the island of Leros in the first week of July. Starting with the inaugural event in the week of July 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2023, the seminars seek to bring together scholars, college students, and post-graduates from Greece and abroad; artists; activists; and interested local population, in order to (re)consider collectively the multifarious premises of the human as individual and as social living-being while engaging different discourses and practices of conflict, communication, and coexistence.

We are putting this Seminar Series together as a tribute to the magical island of Leros, an island that has given to so many of us reasons for stochastic reflection. It has pushed our limits of comfortable thought and has challenged the conceptual certainties of place, space, existence, the human being, confinement, order/disorder, the familiar/strange, and the amplitudes and limits of belonging, to name just a few. It has done so in perfect resonance with its physical environment, which is nothing short of sublime.

The broad objective of the seminars is to field anew the question of “what is human” and how what is human is determined in numerous registers of history and life by reconceptualizing humanism away and against its established and unexamined presumptions. Topics and domains of inquiry, to be explored presently and in the coming years, include:

*Boundaries and borders*

*Borderlands and crossings*

*Catastrophic environments*

*Colonialisms in the “metacolon”*

*Confinements and the commons*

*Critical arts and anti-arts*

*Education and pedagogy*

*Genders and sexualities*

*Islands and isolations*

*Legality and illegality*

*Structures and infrastructures*

*Textures and architectures*



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Standing in the midst of these domains, the seminars will seek to problematize, interrogate, affirm, and posit anew specific questions that look backwards in history and forward in the present-future to test the capacity of humanist practices: How does the humanism of the anti-colonial era address the dehumanization of populations in the present? Can human beings assimilate technologies in an ontological sense, as posthumanists claim? Can we think about the human as living being determined by politics, beyond the Aristotelian political animal? How can human being as an ontological condition continue to stand in the context of anthropological (racial, sexual, cultural) difference? Can we think about the human as the non-ontological cornerstone of the social? Can we, or should we, revisit “species-being?” In the following years each one of these topics will be the framework of each year’s seminar.

The seminars will be conducted in a two-fold structure:

1. Three roundtables on each day Monday, July 3 and Tuesday, July 4. Each roundtable will be an interaction among participants from different disciplines, actions, and registers. There will be no concurrent sessions. There will be a 3-hour break in the middle of each day for personal leisure and exploration, taking advantage of the beauty of this unique island. We imagine that the intellectual encounters of the conference will continue off stage in these settings.
2. The third day the seminars will shift into a day-long workshop for graduate students and faculty run by volunteers from the seminars. *The purpose of these intensive sessions will be explicitly pedagogical and student-focused beyond the typical parameters of the Anglo-American academy.*



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