



Leros Humanism Seminars

Τα Σεμινάρια της Λέρου

June 26-28, 2024

Aghia Marina Grammar School and
Crithoni's Paradise

PROGRAM

 COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY
Program in Hellenic Studies



COLUMBIA GLOBAL CENTERS

JIE
THE JUSTICE-IN-EDUCATION INITIATIVE
AT COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY



The Leros Humanism Seminars/Τα Σεμινάρια της Λέρου

Humanism: the incorporation of the human being into its surrounding species-beings in the production of a space of mutual existence and respect.

The **Leros Humanism Seminars /LSH/ΣΛ** are a series of yearly intellectual encounters that take place on the island of Leros and explore the possibilities of humanism as an emancipatory project for our times. Without extending ethical or moral primacy to either human or non-human beings we define humanism as a planetary position on being human within multiple- species environment while cultivating a space of mutual existence and respect. The inaugural event was held in July 2023. In 2024, the seminars will take place between June 26 - 28th with current focus on the intersection of two key problems in the Southeastern Mediterranean: population movements/displacements with environmental calamity.

LHS creates an international community of scholars, artists, activists, professionals, students, and local organizations who reconsider together the multiple premises of the human as individual and social living-being, while re-engaging different discourses and practices of conflict, communication, and coexistence in liminal environments. The seminars seek to bring together scholars, artists, and activists along with college undergraduate, graduate, and post-graduate students (from Greece and abroad), as well as 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.

The broad object 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:

Catastrophic environments Education and pedagogy Boundaries and borders
Legality and illegality Critical arts and anti-arts Textures and architectures
Confinements and the commons Colonialism in the metacolony
Genders and sexualities Borderlands and crossings Islands and Isolations
Structures and Infrastructures Forced mobilities

Standing in the midst of these domains, the seminars seek to problematize, interrogate, affirm, and posit anew specific questions that look backwards in history and forward in the present-future that 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?

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 think about the human as living-being determined by politics, beyond the Aristotelian political animal?

Can we, or should we, revisit “species-being?”

The Seminar Series take place on Leros as a minimum tribute to this magical island that has given to so many of us so many reasons for stochastic reflection, has pushed our limits of comfortable thought, and has challenged the conceptual certainties of what is a place, what is space, what is existence, what is the human being, what is confinement, what is order and what disorder, who is familiar and who is a stranger, what are the amplitudes and the limits of belonging, what are the lives and afterlives of interactions of space, humans, and environment.

The 2024 Seminars are a collaboration of

Columbia University

Department of Classics

Program in Hellenic Studies,

Justice-in-Education Initiative

Justice Forum,

Society of Fellows and the Heyman Center for the Humanities

Columbia Law School

Columbia Center for Contemporary Critical Thought

and

Johns Hopkins University

Global South Humanities Initiative

with support from

The Wright-Ingraham Institute, New York

The General State Archives, Local Historical Archive of Leros

Center for Culture, Education and Development of Leros “Artemis”

Leros Historical Society

University of California, Los Angeles

Panteion University, Athens

Prefecture of Southern Aegean

Program



Tuesday, June 25, 2024

Venue: *Chrithoni's Paradise*

Avant Seminarisme Screening. 7:30pm - 8:30pm

Porto Lago. Ghosts of the Aegean

Documentary by Ioanna Asmeniadou-Phoca

Free and open to the public

Supported by Center for Culture, Education and Development of Leros "Artemis"



Wednesday, June 26, 2024

Venue: Aghia Marina Grammar School

Morning Session

Introductions. 10:00- 10:30 am

Neni Panourgía, Aamir Mufti, Stathis Gourgouris

Panel 1. 10:30am - 12:45pm

Humanisms on the ground

Andreas Kalyvas, New School for Social Research

Alessandra Amin, Johns Hopkins University

Project presentation: Nektaria Glinou, Pierce College

Respondent: Stathis Gourgouris, Columbia University

Panel 2. 1:00pm - 2:30pm

Flows

Rachael Rakes, Curator

Giovanni Giaretta, Visual Artist

Respondent: Saloni Mathur, UCLA

Break 2:30pm - 6:30pm

 **COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY**
Program in Hellenic Studies



COLUMBIA GLOBAL CENTERS

JIE
THE JUSTICE-IN-EDUCATION INITIATIVE
AT COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY



Afternoon Session
Panel 3. 6:30pm - 8:30 pm

***Tosquelles and the Traversing Voices of Eastern Aegean
(Leros—A psycho-acoustic Geography)***

Angela Melitopoulos, Artist

Kerstin Schrödinger, Visual Artist

Respondent: Emily Apter, New York University



Thursday, June 27, 2024
Venue: Aghia Marina Grammar School

Morning Session
Panel 1. 10:30am - 12:30pm

Whence the human?

Emily Apter, NYU

Nikolas Kakkoufa, Columbia University

Respondent: Aamir Mufti, Johns Hopkins

Panel 2. 12:45pm - 2:00pm

Sounds

Nour El-Rayes, Johns Hopkins University

Alkinoos Ioannides, Musician

Break 2:00pm - 6:30pm

Afternoon Session
Panel 3. 6:30pm - 8:30pm

Human and inhuman movements

Manuel Schwab, American University of Cairo

Naveeda Khan, Johns Hopkins University

Respondent: Andreas Kalyvas, NSSR





Friday, June 28, 2024

Venue: Aghia Marina Grammar School

Morning Session

Panel 1. 10:00am - 1:00pm

Graduate students and recent PhDs workshop

Nitouche Anthoussi, Sorbonne

Constantine Lignos, Columbia University

Tereza Mytakou, Trinity University, Dublin

Respondent: Nikolas Kakkoufa, Columbia University

Break 1:00- 6:30

Afternoon Closing Session

Panel 1. 6:30pm - 8:45pm

Humanisms

Stathis Gourgouris, Columbia University

Aamir Mufti, Johns Hopkins University

Neni Panourgiá, Columbia University



Public performance by

Alkinoos Ioannidis

Friday, 28 June, 9:00 pm

Aghia Marina Grammar School

Suggested contribution to “KEPEA Artemis” 10€

 COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY
Program in Hellenic Studies

COLUMBIA GLOBAL CENTERS

JIE
THE JUSTICE-IN-EDUCATION INITIATIVE
AT COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY



Participants

Columbia University

[Stathis Gourgouris](#),
[Nikolas Kakkoufa](#),
[Constantine Lignos](#),
[Neni Panourgiá](#),

Johns Hopkins University

[Alessandra Amin](#)
[Nour El-Reyes](#)
[Naveeda Khan](#)
[Aamir Mufti](#)

University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA)

[Saloni Mathur](#)

The New School for Social Research

[Andreas Kalyvas](#)

New York University

[Emily Apter](#)

American University of Cairo

[Manuel Schwab](#)

Non-University-based scholars and artists

Ioanna Asmeniadiou-Phoca

[Giovani Giarretta](#)

[Nektaria Glinou](#)

[Alkinoos Ioannidis](#)

[Angela Melitopoulos](#)

[Rachael Rakes](#)

[Kerstin Schrödinger](#)

Graduate Students and Recent PhDs

[Nitouche \(Nitous\) Anthousi](#),

[Constantine Lignos](#),

[Tereza Mytakou](#)