

# Revisiting Antiquity in Modern European Literature and the Arts

## ESCL 2026 SYMPOSIUM Athens, 20-21 February 2026



**ΠΑΝΕΠΙΣΤΗΜΙΟ  
ΠΕΛΟΠΟΝΝΗΣΟΥ**  
University of the Peloponnese

Dept. of Theatre Studies - School of Arts  
MA Creative Writing, Theatre & Culture Industries



ESCL/ SELC European Society of  
Comparative Literature/  
Société Européenne de Littérature  
Comparée

Εθνική Βιβλιοθήκη  
της Ελλάδος



STAVROS  
NIARCHOS  
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CULTURAL  
CENTER

KΕΝΤΡΟ  
ΠΟΛΙΤΙΣΜΟΥ  
ΙΔΡΥΜΑ  
ΣΤΑΥΡΟΣ  
ΝΙΑΡΧΟΣ

## PROGRAMME

**Friday, 20 February 2026** Multifunctional Room II, The National Library of Greece,  
SNFCC

9.00- 9.15 **Registration**

9.15-9.30 **Opening of the ESCL/ University of the Peloponnese Symposium**

**Szuszanna Varga**, University of Glasgow, President of ESCL

**Angeliki Spiropoulou**, University of the Peloponnese, EC Member of ESCL Director of  
the MA in Creative Writing, Theatre & Culture Industries

9.30-10.30 **Panel 1: Theatre Reception(s) of Antiquity I**

**Sergia Adamo**, University of Trieste, *Everything is Burning, Re-reading The Women of Troy in  
Contemporary European Theatre*

**Sophia Tsatsou – Nikolouli**, University of Thessaly, *Antigone by Sophocles: Contemporary  
Readings and Creative Approaches*

**Anthofili Kallergi**, University of Ioannina, *The Reception of the Plautine Aulularia in Molière's  
The Miser: Harpagon's monologue (4.7)*

**Chair: Szuszanna Varga**, University of Glasgow

10.30-13.00 Panel 2: Literary Resonances of Antiquity

**Christos Argyropoulos**, University of Athens/Saint Joseph University, 'Enemy of Caesardom': *Interwar Anxieties and Classical Reception in Robert Graves' I, Claudius and Claudius the God*

**Chiara Protani**, University of Bologna, *The Unburied Body of Polyneices: Resonances of Classical Theatre in Contemporary Literature*

**Rosa Figueredo**, Polytechnic University of Guarda, *Revisiting Antiquity: Wole Soyinka's version of a Greek classic, The Bacchae of Euripides*

**Mario Meleiro**, Polytechnic University of Guarda, *Revisiting the Classical Vocabulary in Ricardo Reis – Fernando Pessoa*

**Chair: Metka Zupančič**, University of Alabama

13.00- 13.30 **Break**

13.30-15.00 Panel 3: Art Questioning Antiquity

**Irene Gerogianni**, Athens School of Fine Arts, *Epic as Serial Form: Text, Textile, and Time in Bia Davou's Work*

**Vilma Losytè**, Université Toulouse - Jean Jaurès, *Revisiting Classical Art: The Venus de Milo as a Symbol of Inclusivity*

**Katerina Stefanaki**, University of Athens, *The Figure of the Minotaur in Early 20<sup>th</sup> C Avant-garde.*

**Dora Kechagia**, University of the Peloponnese, *Nobody's Leda, A Contemporary Glance on the Myth of Leda and the Swan*

**Vasilis Stavrou**, University of Athens, *Art Imitates History: The Wife of Candaules Re-Imagined*

**Chair: Ioanna Papadopoulou**, University of the Peloponnese

15.00- 16.00 **Break**

16.00 – 17.30 Panel 4: Rewritings of Mythology and the Classical

**Mario Bosincu**, University of Sassari, *Friedrich Georg Jünger's Remarks on Greek Mythology*

**Nikoletta Zampaki**, University of Athens, *Botanical Imaginaries in Ancient Greek and Modern Greek Lyric Poetry (20th c)*

**Ioanna Papadopoulou**, University of the Peloponnese & **Charissios Efstratiou**, University of Thrace, *Adaptations of Aristophanes' Comedies in Comic Books*

**Gema Dominguez Gonzalez**, University of Alcalá, *Ismene Re-Imagined: The Thucudidean Version of the Greek Heroine by Natalie Haynes*

**Chair: Irene Gerogianni**, Athens School of Fine Arts

17.30 – 19.00 Panel 5: Rethinking Antiquity through Modernity

**Manolis Simos**, University of Crete, *Michel Foucault and the Ancient Art of Living*

**Georgia Giannakopoulou**, Deree-The American College of Greece, *Modern Antiquity – Building the “Golden Age” Beyond the Battles Between the Ancients and the Moderns*

**Melania Torok**, University College London, *New Woman, New Amazon: Changing Depictions in Classical and Feminist Literature*

**Metka Zupančič**, University of Alabama, *Hélène Cixous Deconstructing Oresteia in her 1994 Play La Ville Parjure ou le Réveil des Érinyes*

**Chair: Des O'Rawe**, Queen's University Belfast

19.00- 20.30 **Poetry Reading by Alicia E. Stallings, University of Oxford.**

**Introduction:** Angeliki Spiropoulou, University of the Peloponnese

20.30- 21.00 **Wine and nibbles.**

**Saturday, 21 February 2026**, Book Tower, The National Library of Greece, SNFCC

9.00 **Registration- Day 2 of the ESCL Symposium/ 2<sup>nd</sup> Festival of the MA in Creative Writing, Theatre and Culture Industries, University of the Peloponnese.**

9.15- 11.00 Panel 6: Activist and Pedagogical Applications of Antiquity

**Rosy-Triantafyllia Angelaki**, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, *Adaptations of Greek Antiquity in Twentieth-Century European Children's Literature*

**Paraskevi Melachroinaki**, University of the Peloponnese, *Children's Reception of the Trojan War in Primary School*

**Angela Constantinidou**, Theatre artist, Open University of Cyprus, *Recontextualizing Greek Tragedy: The Case of Theater of War*

**Christina Zoniou**, University of the Peloponnese, *From Tragedy to Action: Antigone as Political Technology of Participation*

**Chair: Christina A. Oikonomopoulou**, University of the Peloponnese,

11.00- 12.30 Panel 7: Antiquity in/and the Performing Arts

**Des O'Rawe**, Queen's University Belfast, *Modern(ist) Antiquities: Experimental Documentary and Classical Greece*

**Katerina Kanelli**, University of the Peloponnese, *Hellenism in Contemporary Greek Dance*

**Marianna Koukoulekidou**, Dancer/ choreographer, *Clytemnestra ... on drags: Gendered Representations and Rewritings of Antiquity in Ancient and Modern Performance*

**Afroditi Kairaki**, Panteion University/The Hellenic Open University, *'From Ancient Greek Drama to Contemporary Cinema: Trigger Warnings and the Concept of Safe Space'*

**Chair: Alexandros Efkleidis**, University of the Peloponnese

12.30- 13.30 Panel 8: Theatre Reception(s) of Antiquity II

**Christina A. Oikonomopoulou**, University of the Peloponnese, *Heroes and figures of Ancient Greece in plays by Contemporary and Ultra- contemporary European French-speaking playwrights*

**Andriana Domouzi**, University of Athens, *Euripides Reimagined: Fragment, Myth and the Posthuman in Protesilaus and Laodameia by Haris Sakellariou*

**Dora Leontaridou**, The Hellenic Open University, *Contemporary Theatre Rewritings of Medea*

**Chair: Chiara Protani**, University of Bologna

13.30- 14.30 **Break**

14.30- 16.00 **Opening of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Festival of MA in Creative Writing, Theatre & Culture Industries.**

**Play Readings:** MA Workshop in Playwriting directed by Akis Dimou (in Greek)

16.00-17.30 **Discussion of Theodore Terzopoulos' s 2024 performance of *Oresteia*, produced by the National Theatre of Greece, premiered at Epidaurus Theatre**

**Irene Moundraki**, dramaturg of the National Theatre of Greece and the Oresteia 2024

**Savvas Stroumpos**, Actor/Director of Zero Point Theatre; Associate Director of Oresteia 2024

**Maria Sikitano**, dramaturg of Oresteia 2024

17.30- 18.00 **Coffee and snacks**

**End of ESCL Athens 2026 Symposium**

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18.30-20.30 **2<sup>nd</sup> Festival of MA in Creative Writing Continued to 22<sup>nd</sup> Feb (in Greek)**

**Staged Plays by Xenia Kalpatzi and Meropi Papastergiou.**  
by playwright Akis Dimou

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Facilitated

**Scientific Committee:**

Elena Anastasaki, University of Thessaly  
Alexandros Efkleidis, University of the Peloponnese  
Richard Hibbitt, University of Leeds, Vice-President of ESCL  
Dimitris Kargiotis, University of Ioannina/ Université de Strasburg  
Vassiliki Kolokotroni, University of Glasgow  
Apostolos Lampropoulos, Université de Bordeaux-Montaigne  
Yannis Leontaris, University of the Peloponnese  
Christina Oikonomopoulou, University of the Peloponnese  
Ioanna Papadopoulou, University of the Peloponnese  
Angeliki Spiropoulou, University of the Peloponnese, EC Member of ESCL  
Zsuzsanna Varga, University of Glasgow, President of ESCL  
Metka Zupančič, University of Alabama at Tuscaloosa

**Organizing Committee:**

Semina Gavrilī, University of the Peloponnese  
Evie Makariadou, University of the Peloponnese  
Syriani Menagia, University of the Peloponnese  
Dimitris Notaras, University of the Peloponnese  
Despina Papadaki, University of the Peloponnese  
Vicky Papaliosi, University of the Peloponnese  
Meropi Papastergiou, University of the Peloponnese  
Elias Polychronidis, University of the Peloponnese  
Maria Sikitano, University of the Peloponnese  
Giota Vamvaka, University of the Peloponnese  
Vera Zervogiannaki, University of the Peloponnese  
Angeliki Spiropoulou, University of the Peloponnese; Director of the MA Programme