

# Centre for Hellenic Studies

## Newsletter 36

### Director's Note

We have been busy at the Centre for Hellenic Studies, with teaching, tutoring, dissertation supervising, event organizing, and other activities. Our research and impact work is developing at full strength, also in preparation for the 2029 Research Excellence Framework, colloquially called REF 2029. Among the 2025 highlights was our meeting with Greek and Greek-Cypriot alumni/ae in Athens on 20 and 21 May. Some friends and colleagues accompanied me to the University of Patras, which bestowed an honorary doctorate on me on 3 April. My team of *Nostos for Greek Adoptees* was thrilled to announce a crucial policy change in Greece on behalf of the Greek-born adoptees: a new law, issued on 2 May 2025, has opened a manageable pathway for the adopted persons to restore their Greek citizenship. We highlighted this legal breakthrough, which strengthens diaspora relations, at a special CHS panel on 19 November, in the presence of Dr Athanasios Balermpas, Secretary General of Interior. We also proudly announce a couple of new book publications, with more books in the works. The inaugural Matti Egon Fieldtrip to Greece was a big success, and the second one has been scheduled for reading week in late February 2026. Our contacts and partnerships have enriched us in many ways, and we are delighted to have brought Dr John Kittmer on board as a CHS Visiting Professor for the next three years, during which much of his time will be devoted to publication work on Ritsos and Cavafy. CHS continues to liaise actively with partners such as the British School at Athens, the Anglo-Hellenic League, the Society for Modern Greek Studies – UK, the Hellenic Foundation for Culture - UK, and philanthropic organizations in Greece, the Republic of Cyprus, and the worldwide Hellenic diaspora. Another productive collaboration has involved Sissinghurst Castle Garden (National Trust). Several CHS staff members contributed to the special exhibition that opened there on 18 October, called 'Passion and Politics: Sissinghurst and Greece' (on display until 29 March 2026). The exhibition highlights the Greek connections of diplomat Harold Nicolson and his wife, Vita Sackville-West.

We wish you peace and happiness through the holidays and the New Year, and we thank you for your continued support.

Gonda Van Steen, December 2025

### CHS Management Committee

The CHS Management Committee consists of the following members: Dr Pavlos Avlamis, Dr James Corke-Webster, Dr John Kittmer, Dr Tassos Papacostas, Dr Ioannis Papadogiannakis, Dr Emily Pillinger, and Professor Gonda Van Steen.

### International Advisory Board

The Board held its annual meeting on 6 February 2025, the day of the Runciman Lecture. Its external members are Professor Emeritus Paschal M. Kitromilides (University of Athens), Mr Tassos Leventis FKC (Director of the A.G. Leventis Foundation), Professor Richard P. Martin (Stanford University), and Professor Catherine Morgan (University of Oxford). Professor Sir Michael Llewellyn-Smith (former HM Ambassador to Greece and CHS Visiting Professor) attended his last IAB meeting and wishes to devote more time to the publication of the second volume of the life and work of Eleftherios Venizelos. We thank him for the many years of devoted service and will be looking for his replacement on the board.

# Grants, Prizes, and Donations

**The Schilizzi Foundation** has bestowed a generous grant on CHS to host the fourth Schilizzi Social History Workshop, in early summer of 2026. CHS has dedicated its series of social history workshops to Helena Schilizzi, recognizing her mission and her impact on Greece's social progress in the early part of the twentieth century. The third Schilizzi Social History Workshop, held in October 2024, was a performance event centred on the play production of *For Three Refrigerators and a Washing Machine*. The original source text that inspired the play is now available in book form, published as *Adoption Reckonings: For Three Refrigerators and a Washing Machine*, with Anthem Press.

In December 2024, CHS received a 10,000 Euro grant from the government of the **Republic of Cyprus**, through the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sport and Youth. The grant application process was facilitated by the Cyprus High Commission in the UK and Cultural Counsellor Marios Theocharous, to whom CHS is much obliged. The **Greek Embassy London**, too, awarded to CHS a generous amount in support of its activities. We thank Ambassador Ioannis Tsaoasis and Maira Myrogianni, Secretary General for Greeks Abroad and Public Diplomacy at the Greek Ministry of Foreign Affairs, for facilitating the grant-giving.

With a generous donation of £10,000, Anna Muir established the **John Muir PhD Travel Bursary Fund**. This new fund benefits advanced doctoral students who plan to travel to a conference venue where they will be presenting a paper. They also commit to sharing this paper or a summary with John Muir, who is eager to keep abreast of new trends in the field.

The first fully funded visit to Greece for students of the Classics Department, made possible through the generosity of the **Matti Egon Fieldtrip Fund** (established 2024), took place on 30 March – 3 April 2025. The five-day fieldtrip was part of the undergraduate module 'Engaging Greece', taught by Koraes Professor Gonda Van Steen. The Department of Classics is grateful to Mr Nick Comninos, the generous sponsor, for making the 2025 trip with 19 students and also future trips possible. The second Matti Egon Fieldtrip will return to Athens on 21 February 2026 for a six-day trip, and it will again focus on Greek history and culture from ancient through modern times. This group, too, will prepare for the trip by taking the module 'Engaging Greece' prior to its departure.

**The Niki Marangou Translation Prize** is sponsored by Mr Constantis Candounas and was bestowed this year on Afroditi Michalaki, a King's doctoral student who is researching the topic of musicality in Cavafy. The prize of £500 commemorates Niki Marangou, with a focus on her written work. It is awarded annually for a literary translation from Modern Greek into English of extracts



*Picture above:* In spring 2025, King's students visited the exhibition devoted to the poet George Seferis at the Greek Ambassador's residence in London.

from Marangou's publications. The [competition](#) is open to all BA, MA and PhD students currently enrolled in any faculty of any British university.

**The Seventh Niki Marangou Memorial Lecture** was held in London, on 13 March. The featured speaker was **Euphrosyne Doxiadis**, whose topic 'The Eye of the Beholder: From the Fayum Portraits to a Painting in Trafalgar Square', attracted a full house. Doxiadis spoke about the two areas of research to which she has dedicated her life: first, the Fayum portraits, the postclassical Graeco-Roman painted portraits found in the Egyptian deserts; secondly, the master Peter Paul Rubens. She presented the findings of her decades-long attempts to show why the painting called *Samson and Delilah* (inventory number NG6461) is an unacceptable misattribution to the great Flemish artist. She demonstrated, in detail, that the National Gallery painting is a 20th-c. copy of a now lost 17th-c. painting. Doxiadis' lecture and her recent book on the misattribution, as well as her open letter on the site [www.InRubensName.org](http://www.InRubensName.org), prompted a timely feature in [The Guardian](#). A painter by profession and passion, Doxiadis has published the prize-winning book *The Mysterious Fayum Portraits: Faces from Ancient Egypt* (1995, new edn. 2024) and *NG 6461: The Fake National Gallery Rubens* (2025, Eris Press, London and New York). Doxiadis has been artist-in-residence and lecturer at the Aegean Centre for the Fine Arts on Paros from 1990 until today. Her own paintings have seen numerous international solo exhibitions.

**The Eighth Niki Marangou Memorial Lecture** is scheduled to be given in Athens, at the Spiti tis Kyprou, on 21 April 2026. The featured speaker will be Manolis Savvidis on 'Ο ορισμός της ποίησης'.

# Lectures, Workshops, Panel Discussions, and Other Highlights of 2025

Our public events calendar appears [online](#), as does our archive of [past CHS events](#). You will find dedicated pages for each of our forthcoming events. About one month in advance of the event date, we post the Eventbrite link that will allow you to register online for free. Reminders appear on Facebook and are also sent out via email to all who have registered their email address at [chs@kcl.ac.uk](mailto:chs@kcl.ac.uk).

**-20 January, annual Joint BSA-CHS Panel**, BSA and online: 'Poetry between Languages: Writing and Translating Poetry in English and Greek'. Book launch of **David Ricks'** newly published poetry collection *With Signs Following* (Reading: Two Rivers Press, 2024, with an epilogue by A.E. Stallings). The speakers at this hybrid panel session, hosted by the British School at Athens, were Dionysis Kapsalis, Nasos Vayenas, Athina Voyatzoglou, and A.E. Stallings. Professor Sir Roderick Beaton chaired the session and David Ricks himself offered commentary and a broader appreciation.

**-27 January**, Great Hall, a thought-provoking panel discussion on the **gender divide** and its intersections with societal challenges, including gendered violence in the UK. This event spotlighted recent findings published by the Greek thinktank ETERON Institute, serving as a springboard for a broader conversation on the cultural, political, and systemic dimensions of gender inequality. A panel featured Gonda Van Steen (King's), Ioanna Gkoutna (UCL), Irini Moustaki (LSE), Christos Papagiannis (Director, ETERON Institute), and Nikos Erinakis (University of Crete). Moderated by Georgios Samaras (King's), the discussion unpacked urgent issues through diverse academic and practical lenses.

**-6 February**, Great Hall, the **Annual Runciman Lecture**: The 34th lecture in the series was given by Professor **Josephine C. Quinn**, Professor and Chair in Ancient History, Cambridge University, on the topic of 'Anarchy, Democracy, and the City-State'. Professor Quinn drew out intricate relations with other regions in the world to then present the eastern Mediterranean as an area in which democracy was tempered by a fair amount of anarchy—or, as in the 5th-c. BCE Athenian drama competitions, by chance as well as a democratic voting procedure. As is by now a tradition, the lecture was preceded by Orthodox Vespers at the King's Chapel. Professor Stuart Dunn, Head of Humanities, introduced the speaker. Professor Catherine Morgan (Oxford) gave the vote of thanks. The Runciman Lectures have been generously sponsored by the late Matti and Nicholas Egon and the Egon family.

**-12 February**, Great Hall: **Dr Philip Mansel** gave a lecture, co-hosted with the Anglo-Hellenic League and the Levantine Heritage Foundation: 'The "Second Phanar": Constantinople Greeks and Ottoman Sultans, 1821 to

1914.' Dr Mansel discussed how, after the Revolution of 1821, some Greeks continued to serve Ottoman Sultans in such positions as doctors, bankers, architects, photographers, or diplomats. He concluded that many people in the 19th century still preferred multinational empires to nation-states. His lecture was beautifully illustrated. It attracted 120 people, who enjoyed extended discussions and a wine reception.

**-17 March**: CHS collaborated with the Hellenic Institute at Royal Holloway and London's Wiener Holocaust Library to host a book presentation of Professor Emeritus **Tony Molho's new book**, titled *Courage and Compassion: A Jewish Boyhood in German-Occupied Greece* (Berghahn, 2024). Dr Paris Papamichos Chronakis and Professor David Abulafia served as panellists. The talk generated ample discussion and pertinent questions.

**-In mid-June 2025**, CHS collaborated with the Anglo-Hellenic League to bring two events that featured essays, books, and prizes. In partnership with King's CHS and the Department of Classics, the AHL gave out the annual [Katie Lentakis Memorial Fund Award](#) on 12 June 2025. The Lentakis Award ceremony was co-hosted by the Foundation for Platonic Studies, which handed out the third Mary Margaret McCabe Dissertation Prize in Ancient Philosophy. **Elizabeth Blom** won the Lentakis Award with her dissertation titled 'The Nature and Function of Ritual Ecstasy: Ritual Death, Divine Proximity, and Pseudo-apotheosis in Greek Mystery Initiations'.

**Bonita Choda** won the third [Mary Margaret McCabe Dissertation Prize](#), with her essay 'Empedocles: The Four Elements of Matter and the Three Elements of Perception'. The prize was founded in honour of Mary Margaret ('MM') McCabe FBA, Professor of Philosophy Emerita at King's, and former head of the Philosophy Department, in recognition of her inspirational teaching of ancient Greek philosophy, particularly Plato, to generations of students.



The evening featured a lecture by Professor Emeritus **Michael Trapp**, who spoke on the topic of 'A Life of Socrates in Six Scenes'. Some 60 people enjoyed this joyous occasion and the engaging lecture.

*Homer in Athens, 2025*

# Highlights of 2025, continued

-The 13 June **Runciman Award Ceremony**, co-organized with the AHL, was once again generously sponsored by the Athanasios C. Laskaridis Charitable Foundation and the A.G. Leventis Foundation. Professor Stuart Dunn, Executive Dean of King's Humanities, and Professor Kevin Featherstone, Chair of the AHL, welcomed an audience of about 120 people to King's Great Hall. Many tuned in online, too, to learn of this year's award winner and to hear the keynote address given by Professor **Elias Papaioannou** on the topic of 'Uprootedness, Human Capital, and Anatolia Imprints'. On behalf of the panel of judges, author **Sofka Zinovieff** reviewed this year's prize competition, which included many noteworthy volumes. She also announced the winner, **Sasha Dugdale**, for *The Strongbox*. This collection of poems, inspired by Greek myth and modern conditions of war and forced migration, had left all the jury members most impressed. Mrs Maira Myrogianni, General Secretary for Greeks Abroad and Public Diplomacy, handed out the award certificate. Sasha Dugdale gave a moving acceptance speech as 2025 Runciman Award winner. She shared: 'In *The Strongbox*, I sought to explore how Greek myths remain alive and continue to shape our understanding of culture, war, and diversity. I used these myths to examine the impacts and consequences of the modern tragedies we witness.'

Koraes Professor Gonda Van Steen rounded off the evening and invited the audience to a much-appreciated wine reception. A recording of the event is now available on [the AHL website](#).

*Picture on the right:* Dr Rebecca Levitan inspecting one of the Greek antiquities in the gardens of Sissinghurst Castle (with permission to jump over the rope).

*Picture below:* King's alumnus leader Dimitris Lemonakis and Koraes Professor Gonda Van Steen at an alumni/ae reception in Athens, 20 May 2025.



The autumn semester events started on **7 October**, with a lecture co-hosted by CHS and CLAMS and given by Professor **Michael Grünbart** (University of Münster). He covered the topic 'Imperial Legacy and Sacred Memory: Reassessing the Council of Nicaea (325) in Byzantine Context' and explored the enduring influence of the Council of Nicaea on Byzantine conceptions of imperial authority and Christian Orthodoxy. He examined Nicaea's role as a place of memory, the Council's evolving reception, and Constantine the Great's portrayal as a model for later emperors. Thus, he revealed how the Council shaped both religious and political narratives in Byzantium and underscored Constantine's agency in establishing patterns of leadership and legitimacy.



**October 18** saw the opening of an important exhibition at **Sissinghurst Castle Garden** (National Trust). Several CHS and Classics staff members contributed to the making of this [special exhibition](#), called 'Passion and Politics: Sissinghurst and Greece' (on display until 29 March 2026). The exhibition highlights the Greek connections of diplomat Harold Nicolson and his wife, Vita Sackville-West: 'For the first time, diplomat Harold Nicolson's role in the fortunes of post-war Greece takes centre stage in this brand-new exhibition at Sissinghurst. Untold stories, unseen photographs and personal mementoes shine a light on his life, work, and the inspirations behind the design of his iconic home at Sissinghurst'.

# Highlights of 2025, continued

On **17 October**, Professor **Andromache Karanika** (UC Irvine) gave a talk titled 'From Heroines to Saints: Women's Catalogues from Early Greek Epic Poetry and Beyond'. She discussed the listing of female names from early Greek epic literature and beyond—lists that acquire emotional registers as they become part of larger structures in epic poetry. Drawing on comparative and anthropological insights, she demonstrated how and why such enumerations turn into powerful performances that create sacred mental spaces.

**October 28** saw an afternoon dedicated to wartime spying and embroidery, co-organized with King's School of Security Studies. The panel titled 'Cas' Codery, Embroidery and Security' told the extraordinary story of **Major A.T. Casdagli**, a Greek born in Salford, Greater Manchester, who was an M19 agent, a prisoner of war, and an exceptionally skilled embroiderer of subversive messages. He also left a secret war diary, *Prouder than Ever* (Cylax Press), which he wrote during the period of 1940-1945, when he was detained in Nazi Germany. Presenters were **Alexis Penny Casdagli**, daughter of Major A.T. Casdagli, and **Dr Isabella Rosner**, Curator of Textiles and Contextual Studies and Lecturer at the Royal School of Needlework, who authored *Stitching Freedom: Embroidery and Incarceration* (Common Threads Press).

On **17 November**, Professor **Konstantina Karakosta** (University of Patras) delivered a presentation on 'The Conquered Greeks under Ottoman Rule and Transnational Hellenism', in which she examined the diaspora case study of the Moschopolitans—the inhabitants of Moschopolis, in today's southern Albania—and the development of their extensive commercial and entrepreneurial networks in Central Europe.

In an afternoon session on **19 November**, panellists discussed and celebrated the recent policy change for which Professor Van Steen has been advocating on behalf of Greek-born adoptees. They were **Dr Athanasios Balermpas**, Secretary General of Interior, Greek Ministry of Interior; **Dr Georgios Samaras**, Assistant Professor of Public Policy at King's School for Government; **Koraes Professor Gonda Van Steen**, and **Dr Mary Cardaras**, a Greek-born adoptee and Director of The Demos Center of the American College of Greece. The session was called 'Exploring Greece's Past of Forced Adoption and New Paths to Citizenship, Identity and Belonging'. Between the 1950s and 1970s, thousands of Greek children were sent abroad for adoption, often under pressure or without their families' full consent. Many grew up far from their birth culture, unsure or even unaware of their origins. In 2025, the Greek government introduced a new pathway for these adoptees to reclaim their Greek citizenship, acknowledging both their nationality of origin and their wish to reconnect with their roots. This reform reflects

the power of research and advocacy, and it represents a significant change for the Greek diaspora worldwide.

The panel explored these recent developments and reflected on what these stories can teach us about belonging, recognition, and dual identity at a time when global divisions are rife.

This event was a collaboration between King's Faculty of Social Science and Public Policy (Hermione Dadone) and the Faculty of Arts and Humanities. It was enhanced by the in-person presence of Dr Athanasios Balermpas, who helped drive this important policy change, representatives of the Greek Embassy London, journalists, and 80 attendees (standing room only!).



CHS co-hosted an evening with renowned novelist **Sofka Zinovieff**, on **19 November**, collaborating with the Anglo-Hellenic League, to celebrate Zinovieff's latest book, *Stealing Dad*. Dr **John Kittmer** engaged Zinovieff in conversation about her new book, which takes a witty approach to matters of family and funerals.



We rounded off the year with a talk by **Dr Anastasia (Natasha) Lemos**. On **28 November**, she presented on the topic 'Greek and Turkish Literary Encounters in the Late Nineteenth and Early Twentieth Centuries'. This talk represented a part of her broader collaboration with Aikaterini Boura on a book project studying Greek and Turkish literary encounters, which will be published by the Gennadius Library of the American School of Classical Studies at Athens.

# Upcoming Events in Spring 2026

## Save the Dates

- 22 January 2026, River Room (KIN227), 19:00-20.15: Lecture by **Prof. Tomasz Derda and Dr Tomasz Borowski** on “Marea” /Philoxenite: A New Byzantine Town and a Pilgrimage Station in the Hinterland of Alexandria’.

- 26 January and 9 February 2026, 17:00 (UK), 19:00 (GP): Two online panels co-hosted by the CHS-BSA on ‘**Translation and the Magnitude of Historical Figures**’. The first panel will be chaired by Koraes Professor Gonda Van Steen, with in-person presence sponsorship by the Cyprus High Commission in London. The speakers will be Dimitra Kotoula, Andry Christofidou-Antoniadou, Jennifer Kellogg, and Afroditi Athanasopoulou, on topics of **Homer, Lorca and Seferis**. The 9 February panel will be chaired by Professor Emeritus David Ricks, who will host speakers John Stathatos, Vassilis Letsios, and Joshua Barley online, all focusing on **Michalis Ganas and translation**.

- 5 February 2026, Great Hall, Strand, 18:00-19:30: **Annual Runciman Lecture, preceded by Orthodox Vespers in the Chapel starting at 17.15**. The 35th lecture in this series, sponsored by the family of Nicholas and Matti Egon, will be given by **Professor Claudia Rapp**, on the topic of ‘Small Things, Big Stories: Approaching Byzantine Society through Prayer Book Manuscripts. Her abstract reads: Some 80 percent of the population of the Eastern Roman Empire in the Christian Middle Ages lived from agricultural activity in the countryside, but these people are underrepresented in the contemporary written accounts that focus on the imperial court, the privileged, and the educated. A largely untapped source to better understand the rural communities are the prayer books (*euchologia*) that were made for the use of priests. They are being studied in the Vienna Euchologia Project.

**Claudia Rapp**, FBA, is Professor of Byzantine Studies at the University of Vienna, Director of the Institute for Medieval Research at the Austrian Academy of Sciences, and Co-director of the Cluster of Excellence ‘EurAsian Transformations. Resources of the Past and Challenges of Diversity’.

- 12 March 2026, Great Hall, Strand, 18:00-19:30: **11th Rumble Fund Lecture in Classical Art**, with speaker **Sir Grayson Perry**. This 11th Rumble Lecture on ‘Why I Hate Classical Civilisation’ will be presented by CHS and the Department of Classics. Click [here](#) further information about the Rumble Fund and the activities it has supported in the fields of Art and Archaeology.

- 16, 17, and 18 March 2026, Council Room KIN214, Strand, 19:00-20:15: Professor Emerita **Judith Herrin** will deliver three lectures on three consecutive evenings on the topic of ‘Before “East” and “West”’. She will speak about the centrality of Byzantium in the Mediterranean world of early Christendom, through the metropolis

Constantinople, the vital role played by women in its continuity, and the lasting significance of its name.

*Abstract:* Prof. Herrin argues that Rome did not ‘fall’, it moved. In doing so it became something unique in Byzantium. Byzantium was central to the creation of the medieval world in Western Europe as well as Islamic Africa and what we now call the ‘Middle East’. The first lecture focuses on Constantinople (now Istanbul) and its imperial court: a permanent, unmoving capital for over a millennium and a magnet for merchants, pilgrims, and diplomats. Prof. Herrin’s second lecture will show that the structural importance of women in the way Byzantium was ruled—which she calls ‘the imperial feminine’—contributed to its lengthy survival and capacity for change. In the final lecture, ‘I’m more polemical’, she says, ‘about those who want to drop the name Byzantium’, again stressing its unique combination of Greek, Roman, and Christian cultures.

Seating is limited to 60 people, and priority will be given to people who can attend all three lectures. Please contact [gonda.van\\_steen@kcl.ac.uk](mailto:gonda.van_steen@kcl.ac.uk) to reserve your seat for this special occasion.

- 26 March 2026, Bush House Lecture Theatre 1 (BH S1.01), 19:00-20:30: Book launch of **Sir Roderick Beaton’s** latest book: [Europe](#). Copies of the book, issued by Penguin, will be available for purchase and for the author to sign.

- 21 April 2026, Athens, Spiti tis Kyprou, 18:00-20:00: The **Eighth Niki Marangou Memorial Lecture** will be given by **Manolis Savvidis**, on the topic of ‘Ο ορισμός της ποίησης’ (in Greek).

- 18 May 2026, Council Room (KIN214), Strand, 18:00-20:00: **New Scholarship on Cavafy**, TBC.

- **June 2026:** Two events in June will be co-hosted by CHS and the Anglo-Hellenic League. The annual **Runciman Award Ceremony** will take place on **9 June 2026** in King’s Great Hall (19:00-21:00). The annual **Katie Lentakis Memorial Fund Award ceremony and lecture** will be held on **10 June 2026** in the Council Room, KIN214 (18:00-20:00). The Lentakis Award Ceremony will be co-hosted by the Foundation for Platonic Studies, which will be handing out the fourth Mary Margaret McCabe Dissertation Prize in Ancient Philosophy.

Our Lentakis speaker will be Professor **Melissa Lane**, the Class of 1943 Professor of Politics at Princeton University, who will delve into the topic of ‘Plato’s Republic on Motivating (Ecological) Guardianship’. She will draw on Plato’s *Republic* to explore how people can be educated so as to truly care about what is right to do, bringing this perspective to bear on the challenges of ecology.

# Publications and People

## New Book Publications

The collective volume [\*Poetry and Poetics, Greek and Beyond: Essays in Honour of M.S. Silk\*](#), co-edited by Fiona Macintosh and David Ricks, was published on 5 November, as the 24th volume in the series Routledge Publications of the Centre for Hellenic Studies, King's College London. It was followed by the volume [\*The War for Anatolia and the Remaking of International Order: Greece, Turkey and the End of WWI\*](#), co-edited by Georgios Giannakopoulos, Joseph A. Maiolo, and Gonda Van Steen, on 13 November 2025 (London: Bloomsbury).

Additionally, Dr George Giannakopoulos, who is a Visiting Research Fellow at King's CHS and teaches at City St George's, University of London, published [\*The Interpreters: British Internationalism and Empire in Southeastern Europe, 1870-1930\*](#) (Manchester University Press). The book examines how British diplomats, journalists, and intellectuals engaged with Southeastern Europe from the late 19th century to the interwar years. It explores how ideas of internationalism and imperial power shaped debates on national questions, federal solutions, and the management of diversity—drawing instructive parallels with the Irish question and Britain's broader imperial imagination. Professor Ellen Adams published [\*The Minoans\*](#), meant to be an accessible introduction to the ancient culture of Crete.

## People

Koraes Professor Emeritus **Sir Roderick Beaton**, FBA, was appointed by the Council of the British School at Athens to continue as its Chair for a second four-year term. In that role he once again paid several visits to Athens during the course of the year, chaired meetings in person and online, and introduced a number of public engagement events. His book *The Greeks: A Global History* was published in Polish translation, and he took part in a launch event at the University of Warsaw in November 2025. He gave several interviews for Greek media and a Canadian documentary film, and he contributed a paper to the 49th International Byron Conference in Pisa in July. At the start of the year, he received an Honorary Fellowship from Peterhouse, Cambridge, his old College.

**Dr Anastasia Aglaia Lemos** published an article titled 'The Refugees in Turkish Literature or Those Who Were Left in the Margins' (in Greek) in the [\*Annual\*](#) of the Department of Classics and Humanities of the Dimokriteio University of Thrace. A second article, 'With an Eye Turned to the East', was published in *Nea Hestia*. A chapter on the presence of Karamanlides and Karamanlidika in late Ottoman literature will be published in a volume edited by Evangelia Balta. This project studies the much-praised but largely unread *Universal Encyclopedia* (1889-1898) of Semsettin Sami (an ethnic Albanian educated at the Zosimaia School in Ioannina), which offers insights into the late Ottoman intellectual world and that of its Christian minorities.

minorities. Dr Lemos has also been campaigning to prevent the installation of an illegal hydroelectric plant in a protected area of the Pindus National Park.

Through the spring of 2025, **Dr Rebecca Levitan** was based in Athens as a National Endowment for the Humanities Fellow at the American School of Classical Studies. There, she worked on the Naxos Quarry Project, an archaeological project that explores how marble from Naxos played a key role in the development of Greek art and architecture, some 2,600 years ago. Since 2023, Dr Levitan has led, together with the Cycladic Ephorate of Antiquities and the University of Copenhagen, an international team from 7 countries in the detailed, interdisciplinary study of the ancient marble quarries on Naxos. She has also introduced King's students to a wide range of archaeological methods – from sculpture and architectural study to the use of cutting-edge digital tools like lidar, 3D modelling, and geochemistry. Her study resulted in a prominent [\*publication\*](#) in the leading journal *Antiquity*, focusing on how to investigate ancient quarries in the Mediterranean and their importance for understanding the development of art and architecture across the ancient Greek world. Beginning in summer 2026, Dr Levitan will expand the project to focus on a colossal temple located just outside the modern town of Naxos, colloquially known as the Portara. This 6<sup>th</sup>-c. BCE temple has never been fully studied, despite being a most iconic and significant monument in the development of the Ionic architectural order. Dr Levitan's team will undertake a comprehensive interdisciplinary study of this temple and the small island upon which it is located. The project has been designed to involve King's students in all stages of analysis, including traditional archaeological study, 3D reconstructions, and marble provenance analyses. Dr Levitan will link these results to her fieldwork in the quarries themselves, to explore how the island's natural resources helped to shape the Portara's design, which influenced the development and spread of the Ionic architectural order across the ancient Mediterranean.

**Dr Tassos Papacostas** taught various aspects of Byzantium to our undergraduate and graduate students, expanding coverage with a revised module on the art and archaeology of medieval Cyprus. **Prodromos Papanikolaou** and **Ziyao Zhu**, doctoral students whom he co-supervised, were recently awarded their PhD in Byzantine Studies and are now active in Greece and China, respectively (Dr Zhu as Lecturer at Nankai University). In May 2025, Dr Papacostas joined a group of international scholars and doctoral students on a fieldtrip to Cyprus, organised by Warsaw's Jagiellonian University, to study inscriptions diachronically. In October he travelled to Rhodes to present on Cypriot monuments at a workshop convened by the École française d'Athènes, which focused on the contributions of 19th and early 20th-c. French archaeologists who examined the medieval heritage of Rhodes and Cyprus.

# People and Contact Information

Dr Papacostas has also been advising the team that is preparing an online database of Cypriot heraldic monuments, under the auspices of the Sylvia Ioannou Foundation. He joined two large-scale projects as co-investigator: the first (ERC-funded and based at the Academy of Athens) studies Byzantine lead seals; the second, based at the University of Aix-en-Provence, focuses on medieval Paphos.

**Dr Emily Pillinger's** co-edited volume *Music as Classical Reception: Amplifying Antiquity* was released in the Classical Presences series published by Oxford University Press. This volume is the result of a conference held at King's in 2018, which investigated music as a site of classical reception from the early modern rise of opera to contemporary hip-hop. The volume features several chapters by King's scholars. Professor Emeritus Michael Trapp examines the music composed for Professor George Warr's 1883 *Tale of Troy*, a compression of the *Iliad* and the *Odyssey* of Homer into a series of dialogue scenes, songs, and *tableaux vivants*, and performed to raise money for the King's College Lectures to Ladies. Dr Justine McConnell works with the poetry and song of Akala, Kae Tempest, Kendrick Lamar, and Lupe Fiasco, to show how rappers and spoken-word poets operate in a creative space analogous to that of ancient epic bards. She focuses on their performances and their 'sampling' of earlier recordings as well as on their motifs of journeying and homecoming. The volume was co-edited with Miranda Stanyon, now Senior Lecturer at the University of Melbourne, but previously a Lecturer in Comparative Literature at King's.

**Professor Emeritus David Ricks** spoke at two events in March 2025: at 'Bridging Wor(l)ds: The Role of Translation in Greek-British Literary Dialogue' at the Greek Ambassador's residence; and in a three-way conversation with Barbara Graziosi (Princeton) and Ingela Nilsson (Uppsala) on the subject 'Greek Literature: Revolution, Revision, Reading', Swedish Institute, Athens/Princeton Athens Center. He gave a lecture-reading, 'Mortality and Poetry: What the Poets of Modern Greece Tell Us' at the Hellenic American Cultural Foundation, New York, in November 2025. He rotated off the board of the Archive of Performances of Greek and Roman Drama, Oxford, after six enjoyable years.



Picture: Windows onto Athens, courtesy of Mary Cardaras

A selection from his poems, *Σημεία των καιρών*, with Greek versions by Nasos Vayenas en face, appeared early in 2025 (Athens: Sokolis). It was a pleasure to work with King's alumna Fiona Macintosh on *Poetry and Poetics, Greek and Beyond: Essays in honour of M.S. Silk* (Routledge/CHS 2025): this rich volume pays tribute to an outstanding Hellenist and comparatist and much-loved colleague at King's. He also published 'T.K. Papatsonis: Cold War Catholic?' in *Neograeca Bohemica* 24.

In late 2024, Professor Emerita **Charlotte Roueché** spoke at a conference in Ankara commemorating the work of the distinguished epigrapher Stephen Mitchell. In October 2025 she visited China, speaking at Peking University, Shandong University, Fudan and Shanghai Normal. She enjoyed a warm welcome, and real engagement from students and staff interested in pursuing Classical Greek, Roman, and Byzantine Studies. It was a particular pleasure to meet up with King's alumni/ae in China.

On 3 April 2025, Koraes Professor **Gonda Van Steen** received an honorary doctorate from the University of Patras, where the Department of Philology had initiated and unanimously supported her nomination. The award ceremony came as a wonderful finale to the inaugural Matti Egon Fieldtrip to Athens. These student fieldtrips to Greece have been made possible through the generosity of Mr Nick Comninos, Matti Egon's son. Also, Prof. Van Steen put the final touches to a co-edited volume titled *The War for Anatolia and the Remaking of International Order: Greece, Turkey and the End of WWI* (Bloomsbury) and to an archive-inspired theatre play, *Adoptions Reckonings: For Three Refrigerators and a Washing Machine* (Anthem Press). Prof. Van Steen continues to serve as a member of the board of the General State Archives of Greece, and she was Research and Impact Lead of King's Department of Classics in addition to teaching and running CHS. On 2 May 2025, she could celebrate the Greek legislative change for which her team, called Nostos for Greek Adoptees, had long been advocating: a new law not only recognizes the historic adoptions from Greece but also opens a new, manageable path for Greek adoptees to restore the Greek citizenship they once held. The psychological effect of this historic policy reform can hardly be underestimated, as it speaks to diaspora Greeks' questions of identity and belonging.

## CHS Contact Information for 2026

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