



HELLENIC LINK–MIDWEST
A SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL LINK WITH GREECE
ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΟΣ ΕΠΙΣΤΗΜΟΝΙΚΟΣ ΚΑΙ ΠΟΛΙΤΙΣΤΙΚΟΣ ΣΥΝΔΕΣΜΟΣ
P.O. Box 3, Park Ridge, IL 60068-0003
Phone 630-790-2939
www.helleniclinkmidwest.org
[Hellenic Link Midwest on FaceBook](#)

The Rediscovery of the Hellenic Idea in the late Byzantine Empire and Early Modern Europe

On Sunday, April 18, 2021 at 3:00 pm, Hellenic Link–Midwest presents Dr. Nikos Nikoloudis, in an online presentation titled “*The Rediscovery of the Hellenic Idea in the late Byzantine Empire and Early Modern Europe*”. Please click the link below to join the webinar:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83079609863>

The Webinar ID is 830 7960 9863. Further information on how to join this webinar lecture is provided on page 2.

The ancient Greek world was conquered by the Romans and assimilated politically and socially in the Roman Empire. However, Greek culture (literature, philosophy, science) continued to flourish, especially in the eastern parts of the Empire, where the majority of the population continued to speak Greek. Latin culture declined rapidly in the Eastern Roman Empire during the 7th century, as a result of the rise of the Arab Chaliphate and the subsequent loss of extensive territories that left it essentially with Asia Minor and the Southern Balkans. It was in these areas, as a result of successive struggles against the Arabs, that the rediscovery of Byzantium’s Hellenic roots was initiated. The process continued in subsequent years under the influence of the Great Schism of the Churches (1054) and the Crusades that created a sharp divide between Byzantines and Westerners. In the 14th and 15th centuries Byzantine scholars studied ancient Greek culture in depth and some (Plethon’s circle) openly identified themselves as descendants of ancient Greeks. The fall of Byzantium hindered the dissemination of such ideas among the inhabitants of former Byzantine lands. However, the growing admiration in Western Europe for ancient Greek artistic and intellectual achievements during the Renaissance—largely an outcome of the settlement of Byzantine scholars there, after 1453—resulted in a greater appreciation of ancient Greece and a more systematic study of its achievements. This development also benefitted ordinary Greeks by demonstrating to them their “forgotten” legacy. This process was particularly evident in Venice, home of a large Greek community, as a result of which the Cretan Renaissance was the first “modern” demonstration of the long continuation of Greek culture. Subsequently, the Hellenic idea was explored by European aristocrats through the “Grand Tour”, undertaken both for an in-situ study of ancient Greek culture and the collection of ancient “souvenirs”. The Enlightenment and the French Revolution gave birth to Neoclassicism creating the definitive circumstances for a complete understanding among ordinary Greeks of their strong ties to their ancient heritage in the last pre-revolutionary years.

Doctor Nicholas Nikoloudis received his Doctoral degree at the Department (currently Center) of Byzantine and Modern Greek Studies, at King’s College, London. Subsequently taught History courses at the CYA (College Year in Athens), the Athens School for Tourist Guides and the YWCA, as well at postgraduate seminars at ATINER (Athens Institute for Education and Research). His areas of research interest are, geographically, Greece (medieval and modern), Southeastern Europe, the Middle East and the Mediterranean, and thematically, military and sociopolitical history. He has served as Editor-in-Chief of *Historica Themata (Historical Themes)*, has co-authored two textbooks for the Hellenic Open University, and has published thirteen books and many articles.

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DETAILED INSTRUCTIONS FOR JOINING HLM'S ONLINE LECTURE ON APRIL 18, 2021 AT 3:00 PM ON EITHER ZOOM OR FACEBOOK.

1) If you already have the Zoom application ("Zoom Client") installed on your machine, then you go through the following steps:

A. Click on the webinar link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83079609863>

A small "Launch Application" screen will appear. The screen will show the following: "Choose Other Application" and "Open Link" and "Cancel"

B. Click "Open Link"

A new screen will appear asking for your **email and name**.

If the system asks you to also provide the **Webinar ID**, enter the following: **830 7960 9863**

C. Once you enter the required information, click "Join Webinar"

Once you have joined the webinar, familiarize yourself with the set of buttons above or below the screen. One in particular, the "Q&A" button allows you to type questions for the speaker during or after the presentation.

2) If you don't have the Zoom application installed, clicking the above link will take you through an installation process first but since that is rather complicated, we recommend that you install Zoom first on your PC, laptop or tablet.

To **install Zoom** go to the following link:

<https://zoom.us/support/download>

Opening that link points to a download file (see down arrow pointing to the .exe file at the bottom of your screen) that you will have to accept (click on the "Keep" button) and then open (click on the file name) in order to download the Zoom client **IF YOU ARE WORKING ON A PC OR LAPTOP**.

IF YOU ARE WORKING ON A TABLET, the same page provides a link to **Apple Store** (button named "Download in App Store") for installation on iPad or to **Google Play** (for tablets other than iPad: in that case click on the "Download in Google Play" button)

Once you succeed installing Zoom (we recommend doing that before the event) then you can proceed with steps A, B, and C in the previous paragraph (1), right before the webinar, in order to attend.

3) If Zoom installation fails, either because you are running an old machine with an operating system that does not support Zoom (e.g. Windows Vista or any Windows OS earlier than Windows 7) or an earlier version of your browser, then you can instead attend the lecture that will also be **broadcast live on Facebook**. For that, please go to the Hellenic Link-Midwest Facebook page at the following link:

<https://www.facebook.com/helleniclinkmidwest>

at the scheduled time of the event and scroll down as needed until you see the live broadcast underway (it may be at the very top). In order to ask questions on Facebook enter them as a comment in the Comments section underneath or next to the live screen.