



HELLENIC LINK–MIDWEST
A SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL LINK WITH GREECE
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The Contributions of Greeks of Egypt to Homeland & Adopted Country

On Sunday, October 18, 2020, at 3:00 pm, Hellenic Link–Midwest presents professor Alexander Kitroeff in a lecture titled "*The Contributions of Greeks of Egypt to Homeland & Adopted Country*". This lecture is supported by the Hellenic Foundation, Chicago. The support of the Foundation is greatly appreciated. Because of the pandemic, this lecture will be delivered online. Information on how to join the lecture will be provided separately by email and regular mail.

From the early nineteenth century through to the 1960s, the Greeks formed the largest, most economically powerful, and geographically and socially diverse of all European communities in Egypt. Although they benefited from the privileges extended to foreigners and the control exercised by Britain, they enjoyed a special relationship with Egypt and the Egyptians, and saw themselves as contributors to the country's modernization.

Alexander Kitroeff, Professor of History at Haverford College, demonstrates how this community contributed to Egypt while also maintaining its identity and ties to the homeland, based on his recently published book *The Greeks and the Making of Modern Egypt*. The Greeks forged ties with the local population and the other European residents and played a central role in the development of Egypt's principal economic sector, cotton cultivation and export and pioneered a range of other economic activities, and also helped the opening and running of the Suez Canal. They also maintained a strong attachment to Greece through their contributions to the pursuit of the Great Idea and other projects and the establishment of many schools and cultural institutions including the Benaki Museum in Athens. Finally, the wealthy Greeks of Egypt funded a network of churches, schools and ethnic associations and newspapers that fostered the development of Greek culture and produced major intellectual figures such as the poet C.P. Cavafy.

Alexander Kitroeff is Professor of History at Haverford College in Pennsylvania where he has taught since 1996. He was born in Athens and received his doctorate in Modern History from Oxford University. He is author of *The Greeks in Egypt, 1919-1937: Ethnicity & Class*; *Griegos en América* [The Greeks in the Americas]; *Wrestling with the Ancients: Modern Greek Identity and the Olympics*; *Hellas, Europe Panathinaikos! 100 Chronia Hellenike Istoría* [Greece, Europe, Panathinaikos! 100 years of Greek history]; *The Greeks and the Making of Modern Egypt, and Greek Orthodoxy in America: A Modern History* (forthcoming). He has collaborated with film director Maria Iliou as historical advisor in several documentaries including "*The Journey: the Greek Dream in America*" and "*Smyrna 1922–the Destruction of a Cosmopolitan City*." Their most recent film, "*Athens Between East & West, 1821-1896*" which is the first of a five-part series, premiered in February 2020 at the Benaki Museum in Athens.

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