



HELLENIC LINK-MIDWEST
A SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL LINK WITH GREECE
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The Role of the Americanization Movement and the Ku Klux Klan Revival in Shaping U.S. Greek Identity (1900–1920s)—100 Years Since the Founding of the American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association (AHEPA)

On Sunday, October 9, 2022, at 3:00 pm US Central Daylight Savings Time, Hellenic Link-Midwest presents Yiorgos Anagnostou, Professor and Director of the Modern Greek Program at Ohio State University in an online lecture titled “*The Role of the Americanization Movement and the Ku Klux Klan Revival in Shaping U.S. Greek Identity (1900s-1920s)*”. This lecture is supported by the [Hellenic Foundation, Chicago](#).

Please click the link below to join the webinar: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83359893166>
The Webinar ID is 833 5989 3166. Further information on how to join this webinar lecture is provided on page 2.

This talk explores the ways in which early 20th century Greek immigrants negotiated two powerful cultural and political forces at the time, the Americanization movement, and the nativist/racist movement, led by the Ku Klux Klan. These two forces permeated the fabric of their daily lives, ranging from which part of a city they could live—or even to which city they could live—to where they could seat in theaters, to whom they could date. Both aggressive assimilationism and racism found expression in mainstream media and magazines disparaging immigrants from southeastern Europe—including the Greeks—as inferior and a national threat. Anti-Greek expressions involved mob assaults in Greek neighborhoods (Omaha, Nebraska) and businesses (Toronto). Boycotts enforced by the Klan ruined several immigrant businesses. Both physical and symbolic violence were a norm in some cities.

This presentation situates these experiences within the U.S. system of racial hierarchies at the time and identifies the strategies that the immigrants deployed to cope with the post-World War I escalation of anti-immigrant violence. It will use photos, autobiographies, as well as newspaper and magazine articles and headlines to animate a dramatic and traumatic period for the immigrants. It will also discuss insights from Greek American studies scholarship. It will explore the scarce evidence we have available about the ways in which individual immigrant men and women experienced racism personally and how these phenomena shaped collective immigrant identities. The conclusion will ask: what does it matter to know about these events today? How does this knowledge matter? And what are the implications of these experiences in post 1930s Greek America well into the Civil Rights movement era and beyond.

Yiorgos Anagnostou is the Miltiadis Marinakis Professor of Modern Greek language and culture at The Ohio State University. His interests include diaspora and American ethnic studies, with a focus on Greek America. His published research covers a broad range of subjects, including film, documentary, ethnography, folklore, literature, history, sociology, and public humanities. His work has appeared in *Melus*, *Diaspora*, *Italian American Review*, *Journal of American Folklore*, *Journal of Modern Greek Studies*, *Modern Greek Studies (Australia & New Zealand)*, *Journal of Greek Media and Culture*, and several edited volumes. He is the author of *Contours of White Ethnicity: Popular Ethnography and the Making of Usable Pasts in Greek America* (Ohio University Press, 2009 [Greek translation from Nisos, 2021]). He is a co-editor of *Redirecting Ethnic Singularity: Italian Americans and Greek Americans in Conversation* (Fordham University Press, 2022). Since 2017 he is the editor of the online journal *Ergon: Greek/American Arts and Letters* (<http://ergon.scienzine.com/>).

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DETAILED INSTRUCTIONS FOR JOINING HLM'S ONLINE LECTURE ON OCTOBER 9, 2022 AT 3:00 PM CDT, 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://us06web.zoom.us/j/83359893166>

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: **833 5989 3166**.

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.