



HELLENIC LINK–MIDWEST Newsletter

A CULTURAL AND SCIENTIFIC LINK WITH GREECE

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Upcoming Events

Greece in the 1930s: Prelude to New Crises

On Sunday, April 22, 2012, Hellenic Link–Midwest presents Professor Emeritus Victor Papacosma, in a lecture titled “*Greece in the 1930s: Prelude to New Crises*”. The event will take place at 3 pm at the Four Points Sheraton Hotel, 10249 West Irving Park Road at Schiller Park (southeast corner of Irving Park Road and Mannheim Road). Admission is free for HLM members and \$5 for non-members.

This presentation will offer commentary on the critical decade leading up to Greece’s involvement in World War II. Political, social, and economic recovery from the disastrous defeat at the hands of the Turks in 1922 and the influx of more than one million refugees was made more difficult because of the bitter legacy of national division (*εθνικός διχασμός*) spawned during World War I. The Venizelist-Constantinist split morphed into Republican-Royalist divisions perpetuated by activist military interventions in 1922, 1923, 1925, and 1926. With a chronically poor economy, Greece found its problems compounded by the global Depression of the 1930s and chronic political division. Democratic institutions in Greece, albeit shaky, still held, although the pattern in Central and Eastern Europe saw liberal, parliamentary institutions succumb to various forms of rightist authoritarianism. However, abortive military revolts in 1933 and 1935 signaled the end of the Republic and the resurgence of the Royalists with the return of King George II in November 1935. The political stalemate in the wake of the inconclusive election of late January 1936 led to the fall of parliamentary institutions with the imposition of a rigid dictatorship under Ioannis Metaxas. The concluding section will attempt to describe the controversial aspects of this dictatorship and its leader up to the Italian invasion of Greece in October 1940—and the emergence of a new succession of crises for the Greek nation.

S. Victor Papacosma is Professor Emeritus of History and Director Emeritus of the Lemnitzer Center for NATO and European Union Studies at Kent State University. He received his A.B. from Bowdoin College and his M.A. and Ph.D. from Indiana University. He has published extensively on Balkan issues, particularly on twentieth-century and contemporary Greek politics and security issues. Among his publications are *The Military in Greek Politics: The 1909 Coup d’État*, which also appeared in Greek translation, and nine coedited

volumes of Lemnitzer Center Conference Proceedings. He has served as an officer of the Modern Greek Studies Association and is currently its Executive Director.

Truth, (Non)veridicality, and the Grammar of Greek

On Sunday, May 6 2012, Hellenic Link–Midwest presents Anastasia Giannakidou, professor of linguistics at the University of Chicago, in a lecture titled “*Truth, (Non)veridicality, and the Grammar of Greek*”. The event will take place at 3 pm at the Four Points Sheraton Hotel, 10249 West Irving Park Road at Schiller Park (southeast corner of Irving Park Road and Mannheim Road). Admission is free for HLM members and \$5 for non-members.

The notion of truth (*αλήθεια*) is a central one in the philosophical study of meaning. It characterizes the possible value of declarative sentences such as "All men are mortal" or "Socrates is a philosopher" which are typically expressed in the indicative mood. Non-indicative sentences, such as the subjunctive, the imperative or the optative do not have truth values, but are rather associated with satisfaction conditions which are assessed by the individual that uses them. In the long history of the Greek language—starting with the first extensive writings in Homeric Greek—we find a systematic marking of a person's certainty about the truth of a sentence that manifests itself primarily as mood (indicative, subjunctive, infinitive). If a person is certain about the truth of a sentence, we call this sentence veridical; if not, we call it non-veridical. In this talk, we will discuss examples illustrating the pervasive impact of the veridicality distinction on the Greek grammar, including not just the distribution of mood, but also the distribution of indefinite pronouns such as *κανένας*, *οποιοσδήποτε*, and *κάποιος*, and culminating in the choice of two negations: *ου* (*δεν*)—Greek is among the very few Indo-European languages that retained this two negator distinction of proto-Indo-European. We will also see that the analysis of nonveridicality in Greek extends successfully to capture similar phenomena in English, e.g. the distribution of the word *any*—as well as typologically unrelated languages such as Korean, Chinese, and Basque. We will discuss these connections, and draw conclusions about fundamental properties of human grammars, and the instrumental role Greek plays in uncovering them.

Anastasia Giannakidou is a professor of linguistics at the University of Chicago. She studied Linguistics at the

Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece, and received an MA in philosophy of language at the same University. She received her PhD, at the University of Groningen in the Netherlands. Before joining the University of Chicago she taught at the University of Cyprus, and the University of Amsterdam.

Anastasia is the author of two books on the phenomena of “Polarity” and “Quantification” and the author of numerous articles in various topics in syntax, semantics and the philosophy of language. In her work, Anastasia shows that the study of Greek is instrumental in revealing a number of fundamental properties of human grammar, which would otherwise remain unnoticed, if we looked at English only.

She is a long-time collaborator in the language and gesture Laboratory at the department of Psychology at the University of Chicago, and is actively involved in the language processing Laboratory at the department of Linguistics. Anastasia and her students also run experiments in Greece, in collaboration with the University of Thessaloniki and University of Thrace.

In Brief

Unemployment soars to record levels

The statistics service ELSTAT reported on March 8, 2012 that the overall unemployment rate in Greece rose to 21 percent, twice that in the euro zone. Young workers were particularly hit. Unemployment in this age group rose to 51.1 percent, twice that three years ago.

Budget cuts imposed by the European Union and the International Monetary Fund have caused a wave of corporate closures and bankruptcies.

Greece's economy is estimated to have shrunk by a 20% since 2008. A record 1,033,507 people were without work in December, 41 percent more than in the same month a year ago, while the number of those employed dropped to a record low of 3,899,319.

Pressured by the Troika (International Monetary Fund, European Union and European Central Bank), Greece last month slashed its minimum monthly wage by about 20% to about 580 euros (\$760), gross. Even though, German finance minister Wolfgang Schaeuble said that this was still higher than in other debt-laden countries like Spain.

The average jobless rate in the 17 countries sharing the euro rose slightly in December to a seasonally adjusted 10.6 percent, from 10.5 percent in November.

Austerity's Ugliness

Excerpts from a *New York Times* article by *Nicholas D. Kristoff*, March 7, 2012:

Europe declared war on Keynes, and Keynes is winning.

In the United States, Republicans lambast President Obama's stimulus package as a failure and insist on bone-crunching budget-cutting. If you want to know how well that works, come visit Europe — especially Greece.

Yes, Greece needed a wake-up whack and economic reform, but Republican-style austerity knocked the patient unconscious. Contrast the still-shrinking economies of Europe with the stirrings of recovery in the United States, and you feel lucky to be an American and a beneficiary of President Obama's stimulus.

It's stunning here in Athens to see many traffic lights not working, to see beggars pawing through garbage for food, to see blackened ruins of shops burned in rioting. I was even greeted by a homeless man who spoke impeccable British-accented English.

Yet instead of structural reforms or improved tax collection, what has changed in Greece, so far, has mostly been slashed budgets. And, as in the rest of Europe, austerity in the middle of recession has made matters worse—just as John Maynard Keynes predicted.

Granted, there are no easy solutions for Greece, but this path doesn't seem to be working. “It might end up as a social revolution,” Kambouroglou said grimly. That's too pessimistic, but my hunch is that the latest rescue package will fail (except that it will buy time, perhaps its purpose) and that Greece eventually may leave the euro zone. In any case, the rescue packages seem more about saving French and German banks than saving Greece.

Countless Greeks are giving up on their homeland and emigrating to northern Europe or Australia. Gloom is as thick as a morning fog on the Peloponnesus.

“The state has ceased functioning,” editorialized an Athens newspaper, *The Kathimerini*.

That's an exaggeration, but schools, hospitals and social services are devastated. Staff at some halfway houses for the mentally ill haven't been paid for six months, and electricity has been cut off. “And it'll get worse,” predicted Dr. Cistos Panettas, the chief psychiatrist of the Psychiatric Hospital of Attica.

One of the earliest recorded economic crises in the Western world came in Athens in the 5th century B.C. Fortunately; Athens was then led by the great Pericles, an early Keynesian who did not respond by slashing budgets.

Instead, he ordered a public works initiative and built the Parthenon. I dropped by the Parthenon the other day, seeking inspiration, and a guide, Miranda-Maria Skiniti, was incisive about the lessons: “We need Pericles today.”

There's ageless wisdom there for Greeks, Europeans — and Americans.

Appeal for Humanitarian Aid

Doctors of the World–Greece is a medical-humanitarian NGO (non-governmental organization) that has been active for more than 20 years. The Organization has launched several missions throughout the world and has developed many domestic programs that provide medical care and other services to marginalized populations lacking access to health services. The recent severe financial conditions in Greece have led the Organization to the conclusion that activities within the country have to be intensified to meet the massive needs that have been created.

Doctors of the World–Greece provide free medical services in its facilities in Athens, Thessaloniki, Perama and Chania, and distributes food and goods for those who are in need, especially children suffering from malnutrition that are often now rushed to the Organization's Open Polyclinics.

Doctors of the World – Greece is calling all those who want to support its efforts, to show their solidarity to those in need. Those living in Greece can provide “in kind” contributions such as: Food Supplies: Milk (cans), baby milk-food, dry food (pasta, rice, pulses), oil.

Medical Supplies: Antibiotics, children’s vaccinations, consumables (bandages, syringes, etc).

Supporters living abroad are asked for their financial assistance for the purchase of essential medical and food supplies.

Bank deposits can be made at: National Bank of Greece:

Account No.: 141/29611217, IBAN:

GR2701101410000014129611217, or

Alpha Bank: Account No.: 199-00-2002-002401,

IBAN: GR0601401990199002002002401, or

Winbank (easy pay system):

<https://www.easypay.gr/paymentshome.asp?lang=2>

After the donation, please call 01130 210 321 3150, or email at info@mdmgreece.gr to receive your receipt.

From Our History

The History of the Greek Loans

Translation of an article by George Romaios, published in Greek in the newspaper “TA NEA” on June 14. George Romaios is a journalist and historian (recently issued and circulated the first two volumes of “The Adventures of Parliamentarism in Greece between 1844–1940”).

(Continuation from previous issue)

The Liberal Party won 99 seats in the parliament and its main opposition, the Popular Party, 95. Venizelos brought back the proposal for a coalition government “to cease the political competition and create a climate conducive to taking radical measures, no matter how unpopular, as dictated by the circumstances, without being discredited by party rivalry.”

Tsaldaris rejected the proposal describing the coalition government “completely inconsistent with our parliamentary constitution.” After 15 days of consultations and two meetings of the political leaders with President Zaimis, they all agreed to support a government under P. Tsaldaris. Venizelos had a private meeting with Tsaldaris, to whom he said that the Liberals would grant their confidence vote to his government and would vote for the imposition of new taxes and spending cuts!

The national interest was placed above partisan interests, even in a period where the gaps of national division and the constitutional issue had not been closed.

As in our days, during the Trikoupis era one would hear proposals for default. An interesting excerpt from the debate in Parliament in January 1893: The opposition representative Athanasios Eftaxias, reacting strongly to a suggestion for default, said: “To this day, nations that resorted to bankruptcy were nations with no national traditions, no national mission, no future ... Do you want Greece, with its tradition of national pride to be compared to those? I do hope, gentlemen, that if someone would dare again to bring forward herein this awful proposal, the House as one body would revolt and shut the mouth of the ungodly, the profane one, who would express again such an insult against the Fatherland.”

One MP cut him off and accused him of “nationalist demagoguery.” Then, Eftaxias replied: “Demagoguery of the worst kind is when someone pursues to agitate and nurture the People’s basest and most vulgar instincts, when he tells to the People: Once you borrow other people’s money go ahead and embezzle them, become forgetful of your obligations to lenders, become forgetful of your duties. ”

And a riposte in the newspaper «Παλιγγενεσία», (“Rebirth”) said: “You who are monopolizing the title of the ‘patriot’ are crying out against bankruptcy ... Nothing easier than one acting grand and proud and shouting, without credit and without bankruptcy ... Drop the patriotic flares about “the disgrace of the homeland” and “the dishonorable bankruptcy” and “the traitor supporters of bankruptcy” and other such empty verbiage ... Such “traitors” benefit the fatherland rather than the hot-air patriots.

From the Riches of Our Cultural Heritage

Poetry by Lia Siomou

ON THE CHESAPEAKE SHORES

Abandoned little house on the Chesapeake shores
The wind blowing through the wooden, rotten shutters
The sea breeze softly blending with the dust
Covering the few furniture pieces remaining.
Innocent dreams of our youth still filling the deserted
rooms.

Abandoned little house under the tall pines
Whispering to the wind memories
Somehow forgotten in the deep past.
Cherished memories of children voices
Words of love, laughter and joy.

Forgotten, forgotten or not?
Just faded by the years, diminished
Under shadows of sorrow or despair.

Come to me dreams of youth
Still breathing alive as long as my heart beats.
Words spoken, promises given
All faded but not forgotten

Whispering still in the empty rooms
Traveling far over the deep waters
Under the moon dust of the sweet summer night
Far, to reach my solitude.

Come to me innocent dreams of youth
Console this empty nest with the
warmth of your memories.
Listen; listen to the whispers my abandoned heart.
Remember the scent of the abundance of honeysuckle
Under the loved pines, walk the paths covered
With thick layers of pine needles
And broken pieces of sea shells.

The heavy summer rains seeping in
Soaking the red sandy earth
The sun rays gleaming gloriously through the pines
Glorifying the wet land.

Winds from the Chesapeake
Bring me back the white seagulls
White and innocent like our dreams.
Glorious sun rays after the rain
Find your ways through the broken shutters
Raise the dust and the shadows of the past
Blend with the mind, bring alive
The sweet, forgotten memories.
Winds of the Chesapeake swirl swirl
Dance with me in this emptiness of desertion

Remember, remember my heart
The innocent dreams of youth.

Αδειανό μικρό μου σπίτι στις ακτές του Chesapeake
Με τον άνεμο να κτυπά αλύπητα τα ξύλινα τα παραθύρια
Την αύρα της θάλασσας να σμίγει απαλά με την σκόνη
που χρόνια καλύπτει τ' απομένοντα λιγοστά έπιπλα
Και με τ' αγνά της νεότητας μας όνειρα να τριγυρνούν
αόρατα
στ' άδεια της εστίας της πρώτης μας δώματα.

Εγκαταλελειμένο της νεότητας μας σπίτι
κάτω απ τα πανύψηλα του Νότου τα πεύκα
που ψιθυρίζουν αναμνήσεις στον άνεμο
αναμνήσεις λησμονημένες, κάπως σβυσμένες
στην ομίχλη του παρελθόντος.
Θύμισες αγαπημένες από φωνές παιδιών
από λόγια αγάπης, γέλοια, πολύτιμες χαρές
Λησμονημένες άραγε της περασμένης ζωής αναμνήσεις;
Μάλλον όχι, μάλλον αμυδρές, χλωμές απ' τα χρόνια που
διάβηκαν

Κάπως μπλεγμένες με σκιές θλίψης, πικρίας
Ελάτε σε μένα της νεότητας μου όνειρα
που ζείτε στον νου όσο η καρδιά μου χτυπά
Λόγια ειπωμένα, υποσχέσεις δοσμένες
όλα αμυδρά μα για μένα αξέχαστα

Με τους ξιθυρισμούς σας γεμίστε
τα άδεια τα δώματα, με την πνοή σας ταξιδέψτε μακριά,
πάνω απ' τα νερά τα βαθειά
κάτω απ' την φεγγαρόσκινη
της γλυκειάς νύχτας του καλοκαιριού
Μακριά, ναρθείτε κοντά μου
την πικρή μοναξιά μου να βρείτε

Κοντά μου ελάτε αγνά της νεότητας μου όνειρα
νανουρίστε με, στην άδεια τωρινή μου φωλιά
με την θαλπωρή, την ζεστασιά που κρατάτε.
Ακουσε, τους ψιθύρους άκουσε μοναχική μου καρδιά
Θυμίσου το άρωμα απ την αφθονία του αγιοκλήματος
κάτω απ τ' αγαπημένα του Νότου τα πεύκα
Πάρε τα μονοπάτια που πευκοβελόνες καλύπταν
και τα σπασμένα, λυωμένα κελύφη
των οστρακιών του Chesapeake

Οι βαριές βροχές των καλοκαιρινών ημερών
να εισδύουν βαθειά, να μουσκεύουν την κόκκινη
αμμώδη γη

Οι ηλιακτίνες θαμβωτικές να διαπερνούν μέσ' απ τις
βελόνες των πεύκων

ν'αγκαλιάζουν σε δόξα την μουσκεμένη γη

Ανέμοι φερμένοι απ τον Chesapeake
φέρτε μου πίσω τους άσπρους μου γλάρους
λευκούς, αγνούς σαν τα πρώτα μου όνειρα
Δοξαστικές του ήλιου ακτίνες μετά την βροχή
βρείτε τον δρόμο σας μεσ' απ'τα σάπια του πρώτου
σπιτιού παραθύρια

την σκόνη, τις σκιές του παρελθόντος σηκώστε
Μπείτε στον νου μου, και ζωντανές τις γλυκές αναμνήσεις
μου φέρτε

Ανέμοι του Chesapeake, στριφογυρίστε
στον νου μου στροβίλους γυρίστε, χορέψτε μαζί μου
στο άδειο της τωρινής εγκατάλειψης

Θυμίσου, θυμίσου καρδιά μου
τ' άσπια όνειρα της νεότητας