

Revisiting Antiquity

in Modern European Literature and the Arts

ESCL 2026 SYMPOSIUM Athens, 20-21 February 2026

in collaboration with the MA Programme in

‘Creative Writing, Theatre and Culture Industries’, Theatre Studies Dept,
School of Arts, University of the Peloponnese, and

**The National Library of Greece (NLG)- Stavros Niarchos Foundation
Cultural Center (SNFCC)**

PROGRAMME

Friday, 20 February 2026 Room of Multiple Uses, The National Library at SNFCC

9.00- 9.15 Registration - Coffee

Opening of the ESCL/ University of the Peloponnese Symposium

Szuszanna Varga, University of Glasgow, President of ESCL

Angeliki Spiropoulou, University of the Peloponnese, EC Member of ESCL,
Director of the MA in Creative Writing, Theatre & Culture Industries

9.15-11.00 Panel 1: Theatre Reception(s) of Antiquity I

Sergia Adamo, University of Trieste, *Everything is Burning, Re-reading The Women of Troy
in Contemporary European Theatre*

Sophia Tsatsou – Nikolouli, University of Thessaly, *Antigone by Sophocles: Contemporary
Readings and Creative Approaches*

Anthofili Kallergi, University of Ioannina, *The Reception of the Plautine Aulularia in
Molière’s The Miser: Harpagon’s monologue (4.7)*

Gema Dominguez Gonzalez, University of Alcalá, *Ismene Re-Imagined:
The Thucudidean Verion of the Greek Heroine by Natalie Haynes*

11.00-13.30 Panel 2: Literary Resonances of Antiquity

Christos Argyropoulos, University of Athens/Saint Joseph University, *Enemy of Caesarism: Interwar Anxieties and Classical Reception in Robert Graves' I, Claudius and Claudius the God*

Chiara Protani, University of Bologna, *The Unburied Body of Polyneices: Resonances of Classical Theatre in Contemporary Literature*

Rosa Figueredo, Polytechnic University of Guarda: Revisiting Antiquity: Wole Soyinka's version of a Greek classic, *The Bacchae* of Euripides

Mario Meleiro, Polytechnic Institute of Guard, *Revisiting the Classical Vocabulary in Ricardo Reis – Fernando Pessoa*

13.30- 14.00 Coffee break

14.00-15.30 Panel 3: Art Questioning Antiquity

Irene Gerogianni, Athens School of Fine Arts, *Epic as Serial Form: Text, Textile, and Time in Bia Davou's Work*

Vilma Losyté, Université Toulouse - Jean Jaurès, *Revisiting Classical Art: The Venus de Milo as a Symbol of Inclusivity*

Dora Kechagia, University of the Peloponnese, *Nobody's Leda, A Contemporary Glance on the Myth of Leda and the Swan*

Vasilis Stavrou, University of Athens, *Art Imitates History: The Wife of Candaules Re-Imagined*

15.30- 16.30 Lunch break (own arrangements)

16.30 – 17.30 Panel 4: Rewritings of Mythology and the Classical

Mario Bosincu, University of Sassari, *Friedrich Georg Jünger's Remarks on Greek Mythology*

Nikoletta Zampaki, University of Athens, *Botanical Imaginaries in Ancient Greek and Modern Greek Lyric Poetry (20th c)*

Ioanna Papadopoulou, University of the Peloponnese, *Adaptations of Aristophanes' Comedies in Comic Books*

17.30 – 19.00 Panel 5: Rethinking Antiquity through Modernity

Georgia Giannakopoulou, Deree-The American College of Greece, *Modern Antiquity – Building the "Golden Age" Beyond the Battles Between the Ancients and the Moderns*

Manolis Simos, University of Athens, *Michel Foucault and the Ancient Art of Living*

Melania Torok, University College London, *New Woman, New Amazon: Changing Depictions in Classical and Feminist Literature*

Metka Zupančič, University of Alabama, *Hélène Cixous Deconstructing Oresteia in her 1994 Play La Ville Parjure ou le Réveil des Érinyes*

19.00- 20.30 Poetry Reading by **Alicia E. Stallings**, University of Oxford

20.30- 21.00 Wine and nibbles.

21.00 Participant dinner (optional)

Saturday, 21 February 2026, Book Tower, The National Library at SNFCC

9.00 **Registration- Day 2 of the ESCL Symposium/ 2nd Festival of the MA in Creative Writing, Theatre and Culture Industries, University of the Peloponnese.**

9.15- 11.00 Panel 6: Activist and Pedagogical Applications of Antiquity

Rosy Triantafyllia Angelaki, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, *Adaptations of Greek Antiquity in Twentieth-Century European Children's Literature*

Paraskevi Melachroinaki, University of the Peloponnese, *Children's Reception of the Trojan War in Primary School*

Angela Constantinidou, Theatre artist, Open University of Cyprus, *Recontextualizing Greek Tragedy: The Case of Theater of War*

Christina Zoniou, University of the Peloponnese, *From Tragedy to Action: Antigone as Political Technology of Participation*

11.00- 12.30 Panel 7: Antiquity in/and the Performing Arts

Des O'Rawe, Queen's University Belfast, *Modern(ist) Antiquities: Experimental Documentary a Classical Greece*

Katerina Kanelli, University of the Peloponnese, *Hellenism in Contemporary Greek Dance*

Marianna Koukoulakidou, Dancer/ choreographer, *Clytemnestra ... on drags: Gendered Representations and Rewritings of Antiquity in Ancient and Modern Performance*

Afroditi Kairaki, Panteion University/The Hellenic Open University, *'From Ancient Greek Drama to Contemporary Cinema: Trigger Warnings and the Concept of Safe Space'*

12.30- 13.30 Panel 8: Theatre Reception(s) of Antiquity II

Christina A. Oikonomopoulou, University of the Peloponnese, *Heroes and figures of Ancient Greece in plays by Contemporary and Ultra- contemporary European French-speaking playwrights*

Andriana Domouzi, University of Athens, *Euripides Reimagined: Fragment, Myth and the Postmodern in Protesilaus and Laodameia by Haris Sakellariou*

Dora Leontaridou, The Hellenic Open University, *Contemporary Theatre Rewritings of Medea*

13.30- 14.30 Lunch break (own arrangements)

14.30- 16.00 **Opening of the 2nd Festival of MA in Creative Writing, Theatre & Culture Industries**

Play Readings: MA Workshop in Playwriting directed by Akis Dimou (in Greek)

16.00-18.00 **Panel Discussion on Theodore Terzopoulos' s 2024 performance of Oresteia, produced by the National Theatre of Greece, premiered at Epidaurus Theatre**

Speakers: **Eleni Varopoulou**, Theatre Critic Translator of 2024 Oresteia

Savvas Stroumpas, Actor/Director of Zero Point Theatre; Associate Director of 2024 Oresteia

Maria Sikitano, dramaturg of 2024 Oresteia

18.00 **End of ESCL Athens 2026 Symposium/**

18.00-20.00 **2nd Festival of MA in Creative Writing Continued to 22nd Feb (in Greek)**

Staged Plays by Xenia Kalpatzi and Meropi Papastergiou.

Facilitated by playwright Akis Dimou.

Scientific Committee:

Elena Anastasaki, University of Thessaly

Alexandros Efkleidis, Professor, University of the Peloponnese

Richard Hibbitt, University of Leeds, Vice-President of ESCL

Dimitris Kargiotis, University of Ioannina/ Université de Strasbourg

Vassiliki Kolokotroni, University of Glasgow

Apostolos Lambropoulos, Université de Bordeaux-Montaigne

Yannis Leontaris, University of the Peloponnese

Christina Oikonomopoulou, University of the Peloponnese

Ioanna Papadopoulou, University of the Peloponnese

Angeliki Spiropoulou, University of the Peloponnese, EC Member of ESCL

Zsuzsanna Varga, University of Glasgow, President of ESCL

Metka Zupančič, University of Alabama at Tuscaloosa

Organizing Committee:

Semina Gavrilis, University of the Peloponnese

Evie Makariadou, University of the Peloponnese

Syriani Menagia, University of the Peloponnese

Dimitris Notaras, University of the Peloponnese

Despina Papadaki, University of the Peloponnese

Vicky Papalios, University of the Peloponnese

Meropi Papastergiou, University of the Peloponnese

Elias Polychronidis, University of the Peloponnese

Maria Sikitano, University of the Peloponnese

Giota Vamvaka, University of the Peloponnese

Vera Zervogiannaki, University of the Peloponnese

Angeliki Spiropoulou, University of the Peloponnese; Director of the MA Programme