

GRADUATE STUDENT CONFERENCE ABSTRACTS

1. **Aleksandar Jovanovic**
Hellenic Studies Program, Simon Fraser University

“By Deeds not Fiction: Courting the Public with Public Infrastructure in Laskarid Asia Minor”

In this paper I explore Laskarid investment in existing and new infrastructure that aimed to maintain the imperial family’s status and power in post-1204 Asia Minor. Through a close reading of the *Synopsis Chronike*, in which Theodore Skoutariotes engages with the empire’s infrastructure, I examine the significance of new or renovated buildings within Asia Minor’s urban landscapes and consider their place in Laskarid self-promotion within the Roman community. I dedicate special attention to buildings that served as spaces for public assembly, where the imperial family sought to influence members of the polity. I argue that in their effort to limit the power of notables and aristocratic families, which sought to impose limits on the Laskarid imperium, the imperial family made itself visible through public architecture. In doing so, the Laskarids confirmed the loyalty of the Romans while attempting to control the notables by framing their sociopolitical position within conspicuous imperially-funded monumentality.

2. **Alexander Grammatikos**
Department of English, Carleton University

“There’s No Place Like Homeland: Victimized Greek Women, The Greek War of Independence, and the Limits of European Philhellenism”

In March 1821, Greeks declared their independence from the Ottoman Empire. While European liberals rejoiced, the conservative superpowers of Europe remained unmoved. For them, post-Napoleonic Europe required political stability, which included stifling any and all national uprisings. Despite Europe’s official position, however, the Greeks were not without their British supporters. In my paper, I focus on three British works—Percy Bysshe Shelley's *Hellas* (1822), Catherine Godwin's *Reine Canziani* (1825), and Felicia Hemans's “The Bride of the Greek Isle” (1825)—that depicted oppressed Greek women under Ottoman rule in order both to encourage Britons to support Greek independence and, importantly, to question the limits of European philhellenism.

On a purely visceral level, the decision by Shelley, Godwin, and Hemans to use captive Greek women to generate support for the Greek War of Independence was a smart one, as the Ottoman Empire’s alleged mistreatment of Greek women was seen as one of the major justifications for intervention by countries like Britain in Greek-Ottoman affairs. However, as I argue, Shelley, Godwin, and Hemans all move beyond the discourse of captive women as victims of a despotic East and present female captives in their works to ask pressing questions of their fellows Britons about their own positions vis-à-vis the Greek War of Independence. Ultimately, by featuring captive Greek women in their works, Shelley, Godwin, and Hemans use womanhood and femininity as

critical lenses through which to question Britain's (and Europe's) humanitarian, democratic, and liberal values, as well as to test the limits of a Greek nationalism constructed, and liberation obtained, through European philhellenism.

3. Leonidas Mylonakis
University of California, San Diego

“Anarchy in the Archipelago: Piracy during the 1897 Greco-Turkish War”

This paper shows how the Greek and Ottoman states perceived and reacted to wartime piracy at the fin de siècle by focusing on the 1897 Greco-Ottoman war. I begin by assessing the condition of both navies and states at the start of the conflict. Rather than discussing the naval battles between the respective fleets, I focus primarily on two incidences when unidentified Greek ships raided the Ottoman Aegean coastline after the truce had been concluded but before the peace treaty was finalized. Both cases are discussed in documents found in the *Başbakanlık Osmanlı Arşivi* (Y.MTV) and were referenced in Greek-British correspondence and intelligence reports. During its retreat from Thessaly, the Greek army opened up prisons to allow brigands to hamper Ottoman attempts to administer the occupied territories. The appearance of Greek pirate ships in Ottoman waters after a decade of their absence suggests that this was consistent with Greek efforts to challenge Ottoman security capabilities during the cease fire by generating criminal activity. I argue that the pirate raids gave Greece more weight during negotiations by challenging the empire's ability to enforce order. At the same time, by subjecting Aegean and Macedonian Greeks to violence at the hands of raiders from the kingdom, these raids weakened Greece's long-term goal of inspiring Ottoman Greeks to rebel. I end by contextualizing piracy's position in relation to the irregular warfare on land that became common in late nineteenth-century Macedonia.

4. Kalliopi Kefalas
University of California, San Diego

“The Smoking Gun (or Lack Thereof): Weapon Laws and Enforcement in Crete from Halepa to Autonomy”

In this paper, I examine the vision the Cretan Assembly under the Ottoman Empire and the Great Powers had for the island's progress, legal reform, and policing from 1878 to 1905 and how the vision for an orderly society was carried out. Laws on the use of various weapons serve as a clear example of the state's ignorance of violent crimes and simultaneous unsuccessful attempts to monopolize violence. Using criminal casebooks, police reports, correspondence of the Greek Foreign Minister Stefanos Dragoumis with officers of the Cretan gendarmerie, and newspapers, I argue that while the Cretan Assembly and, later, European protecting powers, strove to implement reforms that were supposed to be solutions to seemingly pressing issues, in practice these attempts translated to sudden, top-down changes that fomented discontent precisely because the state did not understand what these problems were. The Cretan government's initial connection of violent crime to the carrying of firearms and later enforcement of laws concerning the bearing of all types of weapons including knives showed inefficiencies in enforcement and partially explains the

prevalence of violent self-help justice. While the vision for reform quite drastically changed between the Halepa period (1878-1889) and the early autonomous period (1898-1905), the population's various responses to enforcement of old and new firearms laws signaled persistent disapproval of the various governing apparatuses and methods of the state.

5. **Christin Zurbach**

Department of History, University of California – Berkeley

“This City Will Always Pursue You’: Alexandrian Greeks in Perspective”

This project examines how Greeks in Alexandria related to forces of change in 1908-1909 in the Ottoman Empire and (formerly Ottoman) Greece. For the Empire, it was the Young Turk revolution in which Sultan Abdulhamid II was forced to revive the short-lived 1876 constitution due to the Committee of Union and Progress’s (CUP, a.k.a. the Young Turks) pressure. This second constitutional era, however, was also short-lived since in 1909 a counter-coup attempting to restore Abdulhamid II’s absolute power resulted in his deposition, greater power for the CUP, and a more limited version of constitutional rule. Meanwhile Greece, a kingdom since 1831, experienced its own 1909 military coup that also incited an era of constitutional reforms and launched into power Eleftherios Venizelos, who continued to battle the monarchy, push for a Greek republic, and pursue irredentist policies in the coming decades. Rather than examining reactions to these changes by Greeks in Greece or Ottoman Asia Minor, this project writes the large Greek population in Alexandria, a Greek “diaspora” still connected legally to the Ottoman empire and linguistically to Greece, back into this story of crisis and constitutionalism. Egypt was a British protectorate still under (albeit removed) Ottoman sovereignty, and Alexandria a city with a deeply-rooted Greek community. Close reading of Greek publications in Alexandria like *Phos*, *Aigyptos*, *Tachydromos*, and *Anatole* in the period reveals how this community saw itself in relationship to “Greeks” elsewhere, at a time in which national and political identities were emerging and changing in dramatic ways.

6. **Panagiotis Delis**

Hellenic Studies Program, Simon Fraser University

“Aspects of Violence during the Balkan Wars of 1912-13: The Role of Civilians”

In this paper I would like to briefly present the main characteristics that led to the extremely high levels of violence against civilians during the Balkan Wars of 1912-13. My main argument is that a number of studies have approached violence against civilians during the Balkan Wars as a traditional example of ethnic cleansing. Although ethnic cleansing was present during these conflicts, it presented some distinctive characteristics. The shifting of boundaries between what was considered criminal behavior provided an opportunity for a variety of groups to apply violence for several of reasons. Thus, the investigation of the role of combatants and their incentives of committing violent acts should be conducted in conjunction with the agency of the local people. As I will support in this presentation, the main reason that led to the extended level of violence against civilians was the combination of two historical occurrences: the brutalization from the experience of combat and the recent historical background of Rumeli. The complex human geography of the

region and the legacy of the late Ottoman Empire were the necessary premises that generated these dynamics. Although elements of modern warfare such as mass conscription, modern technology and atrocity propaganda played a specific role, these were not enough to spark a circle of violence without the specific nature of these communities and the role of intimacy.

7. Dr. James Horncastle
Hellenic Studies Program, Simon Fraser University

“Splitting Hairs: The Macedonian Question in the Tito-Stalin Split”

Few events in the Cold War had realpolitik implications as the Tito-Stalin split in the summer of 1948. Stalin’s adjournment of Tito 1948 was the first major crack in perceived monolithic entity of internationalism communism and helped give rise to the Non-Aligned Movement. The causes of the Tito-Stalin split are manifold, but historians typically focus on Tito and the Yugoslav Communist Party’s increasingly independent actions in the Balkans, especially since they relate to their interventions in Albanian and Bulgarian politics. What historians do not consider, however, is the role that the Macedonian Question played in facilitating the split.

This paper argues that Yugoslavia’s involvement in the Greek Civil War, brought on by its need to appease Macedonian nationalists within its borders, brought about the Tito-Stalin split. Stalin, during this period, pressured Yugoslavia to end its activities in Greece due to its potential to bring about Western intervention in the still coalescing Eastern Bloc. Tito, however, was unable to halt such practices due to his need to appease nationalists within his borders. Understanding the contours of the Macedonian Question in 1948, therefore, is pivotal to understanding the emergence of the Tito-Stalin split.

8. William Archer
California State University, Sacramento

“Greek collaborators and the Nazi regime: Wartime collaboration and postwar absolution”

During the Second World War, a select group of unapologetic collaborators aided and abetted the Nazi regime throughout the wartime occupation of Greece. Motivated by self-interest, anti-Semitism, or a combination thereof, these collaborators profited significantly by a variety of means. Some assisted the Germans in co-opting Greek industry, while others helped suppress the Greek resistance movement, or exploited Greece’s Jewish population. Despite their wartime activities, none of these individuals were brought to justice. This paper will show that these collaborators were protected in the postwar era by powerful political connections or self-imposed exiles, as demonstrated in archival documentation, and not only survived following the liberation of Greece, but flourished free from prosecution. Additionally, while some worked quietly behind the scenes and remained largely out of the public eye, other, more high-profile collaborators, went on to influence the course and direction of Greek politics well beyond the postwar period. I argue that the end result for all of these men, regardless of station or visibility, was the avoidance of any substantial measure of accountability for their wartime activities and assistance to the Nazi regime.