

The year 2011-12 at Cambridge

Students

Although there were no candidates taking Modern Greek language papers in Part II of Modern and Medieval Languages Tripos in 2012, a number of students offered scheduled papers in Modern Greek, several with conspicuous success. Three students took Paper Gr. 7, “The history and structure of Modern Greek”. One of them, Katherine Hodgson, was awarded a starred First in Part II of the Linguistics Tripos.

Seven students took Paper Gr. 3, “Introduction to Modern Greek language and culture”, five as candidates for Part II of the Classical Tripos and two for Part IB of the MML Tripos. Four of the classicists graduated with Firsts: Marina Constanti, Rosalind Cowan, Evie Monnington-Taylor and James Wakeley; and Robert Castledine was awarded a First in Part IB of the MML Tripos.

Three candidates took the examinations for the Certificate in Modern Greek. Tim Ellison and Adam Gibbins passed with marks of Distinction.

Grace Bayley, Callum Humphries and Lucy Kitching spent their year abroad in Athens, attending lectures at the University of Athens and working on their year abroad projects. They return to Cambridge for their Part II year in 2012-13.

PhD students Semele Assinder and Eleni Lampaki are in the closing stages of their research. Semele has been awarded the Macmillan-Rodewald Studentship at the British School at Athens for 2012-13. Eleni has been appointed as a secondary-school teacher by the Greek Ministry of Education.

Teaching staff

Dr Regina Karousou-Fokas taught the language part of the paper “Introduction to Modern Greek language and culture” and also co-taught the paper on “The history and structure of Modern Greek”, with Professor Holton. Dr Liana Giannakopoulou made a major contribution to the teaching of prescribed texts and topics for the

“Introduction” paper. Dr Evangelia Ronga taught the Certificate in Modern Greek, and courses for beginners. Ms Semele Assinder taught translation from Greek for the Certificate course in the Lent Term.

Visiting speakers

The 2011-12 programme of lectures by invited speakers was as follows:

- 20 October. Dr James Ker-Lindsay (London School of Economics):
Does a Cyprus solution still matter?
- 3 November. Dr Pantelis Michelakis (University of Bristol): *Greek tragedy and film genre: the cases of Michael Cacoyannis and Woody Allen*
- 17 November. Professor Roderick Beaton (King’s College London):
Byron’s war: the politics of the Greek Revolution (1823-1824)
- 24 November. Professor Margaret Kenna (Swansea University):
Picturing Anafi as it was? Photographs and memories
- 2 February. Dr Anastasia Bakogianni (The Open University): *Electra as modern Greek survivor: the reception of the tragic heroine in the poetry of Yannis Ritsos*
- 16 February. Dr Alexander Kazamias (Coventry University): *The Ancients and the Cold War: the political use of the classical past in post-Civil War Greece*
- 1 March. Dr Klearchos A. Kyriakides (University of Hertfordshire):
Pleading for justice, voicing dissent and dancing around the law in post-1922 Greece
- 8 March. Professor Maria Kakavoulia (Panteion University, Athens):
Second-person narrative in 19th- and 20th-century Greek literature
- 3 May. Professor Robert Holland (Institute of Commonwealth Studies, University of London): *The End of an Affair: the unravelling of the Anglo-Greek tie, 1940-1953*

Graduate Seminar

The Graduate Seminar held four meetings in the course of the year. Semele Assinder and Eleni Lampaki acted as convenors, and

papers were given by: Daniel Macarthur-Seal, Eleni Lampaki, Dr Ioanna Sitaridou, and Liz Cohen.

Alumni events

On 12 July 2012 we held an informal gathering in London for former students of Modern Greek. It was interesting to note the range of careers being followed by those present: in universities (teaching, research, administration), school-teaching, the civil service, the law (solicitors and barristers), banking, strategic planning, translating, publishing, and consultancy. An alumni dinner in Cambridge is being planned for Saturday 18 May 2013. Further information will be available from Professor Holton (dwh11@cam.ac.uk).

Visiting scholars

Dr Kostas Yiavis spent three months in Cambridge, from February to April 2012, during his tenure of a Humboldt Research Fellowship, for which he was attached to the University of Hamburg. Dr Maria Athanasopoulou, Lecturer in Modern Greek literature and theory of literature in the School of Drama, University of Thessaloniki, spent the month of July in Cambridge for research purposes.

Publications by former students

Many of our PhD graduates pursue academic careers and of course publish regularly in their particular fields. It is noteworthy that, during the current academic year, three books have been published by former students of the Modern Greek Section, all based wholly or partly on their Cambridge PhD:

Maria Athanasopoulou, *Το ελληνικό σονέτο (1895-1936): Μια μελέτη ποιητικής* (Thessaloniki: University Studio Press 2011)

Tassos A. Kaplanis, *Ioakeim Kyprios' Struggle. A narrative poem on the 'Cretan War' of 1645-1669. Editio princeps* (Nicosia: Cyprus Research Centre 2012)

Stratos Myrogiannis, *The emergence of a Greek identity (1700-1821)* (Newcastle upon Tyne: Cambridge Scholars Publishing 2012)

Activities of members of the Modern Greek Section

Dr Liana Giannakopoulou, Affiliated Lecturer, has been elected Secretary of the Society for Modern Greek Studies, for three years from 1 January 2013. She has published:

“Mapping the symbol of the statue in Ritsos’ short poems”, *Byzantine and Modern Greek Studies* 36.1 (2012) 72-90

Professor David Holton visited the University of Crete in December 2011 as a member of the Hellenic Quality Assurance Agency’s external evaluation committee for the Department of Philology. In January 2012 he took part in a conference at the British School of Athens, with a paper on “Kazantzakis in Cambridge”. The theme of the conference was: “Between two worlds: the British Council and Anglo-Greek literary interactions, 1945-1955”. He has published:

“Ξαναδιαβάζοντας τον Ερωτόκριτο”, in: *Ο κόσμος του Ερωτόκριτου και ο Ερωτόκριτος στον κόσμο*. Πρακτικά Διεθνούς Επιστημονικού Συνεδρίου (Σητεία, 31/7-2/8/2009). Επιμέλεια: Τασούλα Μ. Μαρκομιχελάκη (Irakleio: Dimos Siteias 2012), pp. 29-42

(With Peter Mackridge and Irene Philippaki-Warburton) *Greek: a comprehensive grammar*. 2nd edition. Revised by Vassilios Spyropoulos (London: Routledge 2012)

Marjolijne Janssen continues to work on the Grammar of Medieval and Early Modern Greek. She has been elected a member of the Executive Committee of the Society for Modern Greek Studies for two years from 1 January 2013.

Dr Regina Karousou-Fokas, Affiliated Lecturer, was one of the speakers at a seminar on the Learning and teaching of Modern Greek as a Second Language, with particular reference to the theory and practice of teaching vocabulary. The seminar took place in London on 2 March 2012 and was organised by the Education Office of the Greek Embassy and the Cyprus Education Mission in London.