"Plato Academy - Development of Knowledge and Innovative Ideas"

3rd Foreigners’ Fellowships Programme
Academic Year October 2014 - September 2015

ATHENS 2015
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The underlying purpose of this project is to create links between the present day and the spirit and significance of the Academy of Plato as a place of research and learning, a place where not only philosophers, orators and politicians, but also ordinary members of the public, came together to learn, to debate, to reason and to explore new ideas. The intention is to make this a place for discussion of the problems of our own age, a place dedicated not only to knowledge and political thought, but also to the development of the personality and the encouragement of active citizenship. At the same time the project also seeks to highlight local history and its importance to the present day, while showcasing the archaeological site and laying out specially planned itineraries or ‘trails’ dedicated to the approach of knowledge and the cultivation of contemporary citizenship. The Athens of Plato and Aristotle, of the Academy and the Lyceum – this is a city which seeks to combine thought and action, theory and practice.

The project is organized around two distinctive and complementary thematic areas:

- Development of knowledge and innovative ideas
- The Citizen and Society

and is co-funded by the European Union (European Social Fund) and from national resources through the Operational Programme “Education and Lifelong Learning” (Greece, NSRF 2007 - 2013).

The specific objectives of the project involve:

- highlighting the history of Athens and forging links between that history and the life of the contemporary city;
• promoting the value of the humanities and emphasizing their importance in our national development;
• demonstrating the power of the past in creating our future.

The project will seek among others:
• To familiarize schoolchildren and adults with the discipline of philosophy – as a means of developing their ability to think critically, of cultivating the personality and of playing an active part in social and cultural life;
• To promote philosophy and philosophical debate as a means of clarifying significant issues facing the contemporary world;
• To provide further education for graduates of our philosophical schools, and life-long learning for adult citizens, in the area of the humanities, with particular emphasis on ethics, political philosophy, the philosophy of art and science, the social sciences, law, history and language;
• To assist foreign postgraduate students, doctoral candidates and post-doctoral researchers wishing to conduct research at postgraduate, doctoral or post-doctoral level in Greece;
• To assist in the development of joint actions, exchanges and collaborations between Greek and foreign educational institutions;
• To exploit alternative methods of learning based on academic and educational programmes in the arts and involving the active participation of the students.

The project is a joint initiative by a number of institutions namely the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, the Onassis Cultural Centre of the Alexander S.Onassis Foundation, the Foundation of the Hellenic World and the Foundation for Youth and Lifelong Learning.
This programme is intended to support foreign postgraduate students, Ph.D. candidates and post-doctoral researchers (Ph.D. holders) wishing to attend courses or conduct research at doctoral or post-doctoral level in Greece, particularly in the following disciplines: philology (classical – modern Greek), linguistics, history (ancient or modern), history of art, archaeology, philosophy, political science, social theory and sociology, international and European studies, visual arts, theatre, arts management, museum studies. It aims at promoting Greek language, history and culture abroad, thereby creating and encouraging ties of friendship and cooperation between members of the foreign academic community and their Greek counterparts.

The programme is open to a) Persons of non Greek descent, b) Persons of Greek descent or nationality (second generation and on) who have obtained a degree outside of Greece and are permanently residing outside of Greece for more than fifteen years, c) Greeks – to be considered only in the event that there are insufficient candidates in categories ‘a’ and ‘b’ above to match the number of scholarships available, d) Non-Greek post-doctoral researchers.

During the 3 years of the programme’s operation, 6 research grants and 30 educational scholarships have been awarded.

The selection of scholarships or research grant recipients is based on the positive reviews of the Academic Advisors Committees of the Alexander S. Onassis Foundation and is validated by the Foundation’s Board of Directors as well as the Onassis Alexander S. Onassis Foundation Cultural Centre Non-Profit Organization.

Programme of research grants and educational scholarships (2012 - 2015)
Barbara Care was born in Italy. She received her B.A., M.A. and “Diploma di Specializzazione” in Classical Archaeology at the University of Turin, where she earned her PhD devoted to the study of archaeological evidence and material culture related to the Greek site of Francavilla, Sicily (2008). Her academic qualifications include also a certificate in Archaeological Land Surveying, received from the Polytechnic University of Turin (2004). From 2007 to 2011 she has been engaged in the international research project “L’enfant et la mort dans l’Antiquité: des pratiques funéraires aux identités sociales”, promoted by the ANR, as member of the Equipe partenaire n°1 directed by Prof. A. Hermary, Aix-Marseille University - Centre Camille Jullian. From 2010 to 2011 she was Project Supervisor of the research project “Museo e Area Archeologica di Locri Epizefiri”, conducted by the University of Turin in collaboration with the Archaeological Superintendence of Calabria and intended for field activities in the Greek colony of Locri Epizefiri. In 2013 she has been awarded a grant by the Alexander S. Onassis Public Benefit Foundation, within the framework of 18th Foreigners’ Fellowships Programme. Currently she is a Post Doctoral Researcher and “Cultore” of Classical Archaeology at the University of Turin. As member of the excavation and research team led by the Chair of Classical Archaeology, she is engaged as Archaeological Fieldwork Supervisor in excavations on Greek sites in Sicily and Magna Graecia as well as in Roman sites in Northern Italy; she has been entrusted with the study of different categories

Her academic interests include the analysis of ancient ceramic materials (Classical and Hellenistic pottery), archaeology of funerary practices (with particular interest to child-related rites and goods), history of ancient toys and games.
of finds for the forthcoming publications. She is also collaborating with the University of Milan for contributing in the *Lexicon of Ancient Ludonyms and Ludic Activities*.

**Title of Research Project**  
*Messages from the grave: on the role of astragali within Greek funerary contexts.*

**Summary of Research Project**  
Her research concerns the occurrence of astragali – small bones from the hind legs of mammals known to have been used as pieces in many ancient games – and aims at investigating their use as grave offerings in Greek funerary contexts. The study focuses on the integration of the different kinds of traditional sources - namely textual and iconographical materials - with a systematic and contextual analysis of archaeological records, normally neglected in the debate concerning this topic. Focal point of discussion is verifying the traditional reading, widely reproduced in archaeological literature, that still interprets these items as pertaining to children material culture and usually leads to considering them *a priori* as funerary offerings conceived for youngsters (deposited as memories of a game appreciated by the child during life or for amusement in the afterlife). This study is part of a wider project aimed to shed light on actual purposes of knucklebones and ritual behaviours involving these materials in the ancient Greek world (focusing even on sacred contexts). Her research includes also the analysis of bone materials and astragali metal replicas.

### Publications:

Ada Caruso was born in Cosenza (Italy). She received her B.A. in Classical Philology in 1999 from La Sapienza University *summa cum laude* as well as a Postgraduate Diploma of Specialization in Classical Archaeology in 2005. She holds a PhD in Classical Archaeology (University La Sapienza of Rome, 2010); and had several Post – PhD positions between 2011-2013 (Italian Archaeological School of Athens; DAINST of Rome; Norwegian Institute of Athens). Thanks to an interdisciplinary approach, she faces complex archaeological and historical problems along several centuries, dealing with heterogeneous topographical and architectural contexts. In the last period she examined subjects quite neglected, like the topography, the architecture, the archeological context of Greek *mouseia*; the cultural context and location of Pythagoras’ school in Magna Graecia; the location of the Alexandrian *mouseion*; the archaeology of Hellenistic philosophical schools.

**Title of Research Project**

**Summary of Research Project**
More specifically, Ada Caruso is aiming at identifying the venues which would most likely have been used for activities, such as lessons and conferences, during the so-called ‘Second Sophistic era’ in Athens. The examination started from written *testimonia*, such as the rhetoricians Himerius,
Libanius and Themistius, who can provide interesting indications on the issue, since they all operated in Athens. Regarding professorship in particular, further information can be drawn from Philostratus and Eunapius’s biographies. Epigraphic texts are significant sources as well, especially honorary inscriptions for sophists, rhetoricians and intellectuals, coming from various places in the city. On the basis of such literary and epigraphic data, she discusses both, the new buildings constructed for performing intellectual activities and the buildings already existing, in order to show how they changed in accordance with the needs of new cultural performances. She intends to offer an overview of the ‘cultural topography’ of Athens in the period of 1st – 5th c. AD, showing that the venues for intellectual activities were more numerous than previously held, as they included other premises in addition to theatres and odeia.
Stella Alexiou was born in Larnaca (Cyprus) in 1985. She received her B.A. in Classical Studies from the University of Crete (2007) and her Master of Science in Educational Research Methods from the University of Leicester (2008). She is currently a PhD Candidate at the University of Cyprus under the supervision of Professor Michalis Pieris. She worked as a Special Scientist at the Department of Byzantine and Modern Greek Studies (Faculty of Letters) at the University of Cyprus (2011, 2013). She also worked as a Supervisor at the Research Centre of the University of Cyprus (2014). She presented a series of seminars on popular culture at the Free Zenonean University of Larnaca (Larnaca – House of Arts) in collaboration with the University of Cyprus (2013).

**Title of Research Project**

_The poet-reader: Contribution to archival literary sources of C. P. Cavafy._

**Summary of Research Project**

The aim of the above PhD project is to examine the figure of the poet-reader in Cavafy’s poetry, which was first introduced as a term in studies on Cavafy’s work in 1983 by D. N. Maronitis. Cavafy was a methodical reader, as it is evident by his personal library and _Dictionary of Quotations_. The research mainly focuses on the classical, byzantine and medieval sources that Cavafy read and elaborated into his poetry. This thesis employs a close reading method regarding Cavafy’s poetry in the context of an under-researched archival material.

Her research interests include the following: the work of C. P. Cavafy; Modern Greek Literature; Cyprus Literature and Folklore; Pedagogy; the effects of fairytales to children.
And our children’s children will be reading them with the same emotion and warmth


On line: http://www.ediamme.edc.uoc.gr/index.php?id=150,0,0,1,0,0


Online: http://www.eens.org/?page_id=3593#ziel09-7


Folk culture and Childhood: The adult’s role in the context of family and education, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens Pedagogical Department D.E. – Sector of Anthropological Studies Laboratory of Social Sciences Conference’s topic: Childhood: Sociological, Cultural, Historical and Pedagogical dimensions, Athens – Department of teaching 11-14 April 2013, Conference Notes (in a special digitized cd), 570 – 575.


Online: http://www.pek.org.cy/Proceedings_2012/syxrona_themata.html
Helena Domínguez del Triunfo was born in Spain in 1987. She received her B.A. in History in 2010 by the Complutense University of Madrid (Spain). In 2011 she obtained a M.A. in History and Sciences of Antiquity in Complutense and Autonomous Universities of Madrid (Spain). In 2013 she received her M.Sc. in Physical Anthropology, with specialization in archaeological remains in the Complutense, Autonomous and Alcalá de Henares Universities (Madrid, Spain). Currently, she is a PhD candidate in the Department of Ancient History at the University Complutense of Madrid, in a co-direction with the National Hellenic Research Foundation (Greece), where she develops a project about History and Archaeology of Greco-Persian relations in Antiquity. Besides working on her dissertation, between 2006 and 2012 she has participated in different archaeological campaigns both in Spain and abroad (Greece, Turkmenistan), as well as in several courses, seminars and conferences in the field of Ancient Languages, Ancient History and Archaeology. In 2013 she received a scholarship for postgraduate studies by the Alexander S. Onassis Public Benefit Foundation (2013-2014), a second one in 2014 within the framework of the project “Plato Academy-Development of knowledge and innovative ideas” (2014-2015) and, recently, another one by La Caixa Foundation (2015-2017) for PhD studies in the United States, where she will continue and finish her dissertation as a Research Scholar in the University of Pennsylvania. She has also received other scholarships for the study of Greek and

Her research interests include the following areas: Ancient History and Archaeology of Greece and the Classical World, Ancient History and Archaeology of the Achaemenid/Persian world, Ancient History and Archaeology of Western Asia Minor, relations between East and West in Antiquity (Classical and Eastern worlds).
German languages. She is fluent in English and Greek and has an intermediate level in German and French.

Title of Research Project
The western limits of the Achaemenid Empire. The northern Aegean during the period of Persian rule.

Summary of Research Project
Helena Domínguez’s research project deals with the historical and archaeological study of the Achaemenid Persian Empire (6th-4th centuries B.C.), mainly in its expansion and interaction with the westernmost territories of it. This empire, based in the present Iran, involved a crucial change in the History of the Near and Middle East and the West as it reached Europe. The study focuses on the area of northern Greece (where the Ancient Macedonia and Thrace were) and the western part of the present Turkey, where Persian administration was implanted from the 6th century B.C. Her intention is to study the social processes of integration in Antiquity between the Persian conquerors and the populations of these areas, where indigenous peoples, kingdoms with different grades of economic development and Greek cities settled. These processes can be studied through ancient sources, epigraphical testimonies and all kind of archaeological evidence that can be traced as indicative of Persian presence; all of this displays features of interaction, acculturation and hybridity between local and foreign (oriental) cultures. Moreover, she intends to research how these areas functioned in the sphere of the Achaemenid Empire at different levels, such as administrative, social, economical and cultural.

Articles
Violencia y conflicto político-religioso en el acceso al trono de Darío I (Violence and political-religious conflict in the accession to power of Darius), in Revista ARYS 11, 2013, p. 65-91 ISSN: 1575-166X.


Intercambios y relaciones comerciales en el Asia Menor acheménida (Exchange and trade relations in the achaemenid Asia Minor) M.S. Milán and M.C. del Cerro (eds.), Economías, comercio y relaciones internacionales. IV Jornadas de Investigación en Historia Antigua, Madrid, Universidad Autónoma de Madrid, 2013, p. 351-374.


Clara Granger was born in Firminy (France) in 1988. She is a PhD candidate of Languages, History and Civilizations of Ancient Worlds at Lyon II Lumière University, attached to Hisoma laboratory of the Maison de l’Orient et de la Méditerranée. She holds two M.A. degrees in History of Art (2010 and 2011). From 2006 till 2009 she did a License of History of Art and Archaeology and a License of Law at Lyon II Lumière University.

Her thesis is about “Supernatural entities couple and pairs in Greece during the archaic period and the classical years. Heracles and his associated characters in Greek imagination” under the supervision of Prof. Nicolas Richer.

From 2012 to 2014, she taught History of Art (Introduction to Roman Art, Greek architecture) and Ancient History (Greek history and litterature) at Jean Moulin Lyon III University. In 2007 she worked in the Musée d’art et d’industrie in Saint-Étienne and from 2009 to 2011 in an Auction House.

**Title of Research Project**  
*Supernatural entities couple and pairs in Greece during the archaic period and the classical years. Heracles and his associated characters in Greek imagination.*
Summary of Research Project

The aim of her research is to collect all of the representations of Heracles on ceramics between the 8th and 5th century before Christ. There is a very large amount of depictions since it is the most represented hero and figure of the Greek mythology on the painted vases. Moreover, Heracles appears on other types of Art, as on the metopes of the temple of Zeus at Olympia which will be served as a comparison.

The mythology concerning this hero is very diverse and dense and the figures we encounter are also varied; gods, goddesses, humans, animals, monsters. He is almost always associated with characters who appear in literary sources (Hesiod, Pausanias, Plutarch and others) and in iconographic sources.

The purpose of her thesis is, on the one hand, to try to find and to understand the reasons Heracles is frequently associated with these characters, especially Athena, Hermès, Dionysos and Iolaos. And on the other hand it is to examine why some exploits of the hero are linked with some others on both sides of the same vase.
Priit-Hendrik Kaldma was born in Tallinn (Estonia) in 1985. He studied History of Culture in the University of Tallinn (B.A. 2007), History of Art in the University of Tallinn (M.A. 2010), Anthropology and History of Archaic Greek Culture in the École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales (M.A. 2012).

In 2012 he started his doctoral studies of History in the University of Tallinn. He is fluent in Estonian (mother tongue), English, French and Greek. He has worked as an assistant specialist in the archaeological excavations in the island of Kos and Athens (2006 – 2007); as a student tutor and advisor for different academic assemblies (2006 –2011); as a trainee in different Museums of Art and History in Estonia (2007– 2009), in the Musée du Louvre and Bibliothèque Nationale de France (2009); and lately as a cultural guide, teacher and independent translator.

Title of Research Project

The cultic and political formation of Archaic Attica in the VI century BC.

Summary of Research Project

The topic of his PhD thesis is directly linked to History, Archaeology, Epigraphy and Art History of Archaic Athens. He has investigated the archaeological sites of Attica and surroundings, studied at the closed archives and libraries. His observations concentrated on different cultural, political and religious aspects of the VI century BC Peisistratic Athens.
His focus was on research and writing scientific articles. Two articles have been sent to editors and another scientific article will be finished soon. Each of them functions as an autonomous chapter in his thesis. He has also found and gathered a very rich material for further research.
Meri Kumbe was born in Tirana (Albania). She studied piano from the early childhood and took her diploma in 2003. She continued her studies in Musicology at the Academy of Arts of Tirana and concluded them with a “Gold Medal” for excellence studies. She received her B.A. in 2009, her M.A. in Byzantine Musicology and Psaltic Art (2012) from the Theological School of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki. Since March 2012 she is a PhD candidate in Byzantine Musicology at the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens.

From 2009 till date Meri Kumbe works as Lecturer at the University of Arts in Tirana Albania. She teaches Paleography of music and History of the musical instruments. She has participated in several research programs in collaboration with Aegean University, European University Institute, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, etc. She worked also as director of many cultural festivals in Greece and abroad.

Her research results have been presented in numerous conferences in several European Countries.

**Title of Research Project**

*The psaltic art in Albania from the beginning of the 20th century until nowadays.*

**Summary of Research Project**

Six centuries after the fall of the Byzantine Empire, the vestiges of traditional byzantine music in Albania can be found today in a very small collection of musical manuscripts of
the National Archive of the country. These manuscripts testify the existence of the psaltic art in the Albania today from the early christian area. The multidimensional historical events have considerably influenced, among others, the development of byzantine music. The psaltic tradition during the 20th century has been developed by following its own independent course. The PhD research aims to present the historical development of the byzantine music in Albania during the 20th and 21st century, having as a reference the biggest historical events of the country such as: the independence of Albania in 1912, the foundation of the Albanian Autocephalous Orthodox Church, the prohibition of the religion for more than 20 years during the period of the dictator Hoxha and the democracy system from 1990 till date. These events have played a determinant role in the development of the byzantine music and in the creation of the Albanian Orthodox Church music tradition. Besides the historic part, this research project will bring into light unknown musical scores and many unknown until today composers’ and chanters’ names and work.
Sergios Menelaou was born in Cyprus in 1989. He holds a first degree (B.A.) in History and Archaeology from the University of Cyprus, Department of History and Archaeology (2008-2012) and an MSc degree in Archaeological Materials from the University of Sheffield, Department of Archaeology (2013), both of which has completed with Distinction. He is currently continuing at the University of Sheffield as a PhD candidate. During his Postgraduate studies (MSc) he has been the recipient of 'The Scholarship in Memory of Dinos Leventis' grant given by the Greek Archaeological Committee (UK) in settlement of his MSc tuition fees (2012-2013), as well as the 'State Scholarships Foundation' grant for postgraduate studies (2012-2013).

After completion of the MSc he has been awarded a Petrography Internship by the Institute for Aegean Prehistory, Study Center for East Crete (April-May 2014). He has participated in various archaeological projects in Cyprus (Palaepaphos-Hadjiabdoulla, Palaepaphos-Laona, House of Orpheus-Nea Paphos) and Greece (Heraion-Samos, Kalapodi/Abbai-Atalante), conducted by the University of Cyprus and the German Archaeological Institute of Athens. He has been an active member of the excavation project at Heraion since 2009 and a field assistant since 2011, and his research focuses on the Early Bronze Age Aegean culture.
and society as evidenced through the archaeological record.

**Title of Research Project**

*Pottery production, consumption, and distribution at Heraion on Samos, Greece during the Early Bronze Age (ca. 3200/3000-2000 BC).*

**Summary of Research Project**

Menelaou’s research project investigates the technological processes and socio-cultural developments that took place during the Aegean Early Bronze Age at the island settlement of Heraion on Samos, from the perspective of an integrated ceramic analysis. The Heraion constitutes the largest proto-urban settlement in the eastern Aegean and, despite its strategic geographical position between the central Aegean and Asia Minor, it has been generally neglected within scholarship. Recent excavations (2009-2013) at this important site provided the opportunity to study unpublished pottery from domestic contexts of the 3rd millennium BC, with the aim to track changes in the ceramic production system over time, to examine the provenance of possible imports and the inter-site circulation of the pottery, and in extension to illuminate aspects of the social and economic organisation of the settlement. A series of different techniques will be employed, including the contextual, typological, petrographic and chemical analysis.
Mihail Mitrea was born in Sibiu (Romania) in 1985. He is a PhD candidate in the Department of Medieval Studies at the Central European University (CEU), Budapest, working on late Byzantine hagiography and theology under the supervision of Professor Niels Gaul. Mihail earned a BA in Classical Philology from the Babeș-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca, a BA in Theology from the “1 Decembre 1918” University, Alba Iulia, Romania, and an MA (with distinction) in Comparative History–Interdisciplinary Medieval Studies from CEU with a thesis on the little-known fourteenth-century Constantinopolitan schoolmaster Maximos Neamonites and his hitherto unedited letter-collection. In the academic year 2014/2015 he pursued his PhD research project at the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki under the supervision of Professor Symeon Paschalidis. In the fall of 2014 Mihail received a teaching fellowship sponsored by the Center for Eastern Mediterranean Studies at CEU to teach intensive tutorial courses and reading seminars on “Greek Palaeography and Byzantine Manuscript Studies” at Matenadaran Mesrop Mashtots Institute for Ancient Manuscripts and Scientific Research, Yerevan, Armenia and at Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University, Georgia. In April 2015 he was invited to give a lecture on his current research at the Department of Byzantine and Modern Greek Studies and the Department of History and Archaeology at the University of Cyprus. For the upcoming academic year, 2015/2016, Mihail has been awarded a CEU
Research Grant for conducting research at the Johannes Gutenberg University of Mainz under the supervision of Professor Johannes Pahlitzsch.

**Title of Research Project**

_Hesychasm and Hagiography in Late Byzantium: The Hagiographical Oeuvre of Patriarch Philotheos Kokkinos (ca. 1300–1377/8)._ 

**Summary of Research Project**

Mihail’s research project concerns late Byzantine hagiography. It will offer the first systematic historical contextualization and literary analysis of the contemporary saints’ lives written by the Constantinopolitan Patriarch Philotheos Kokkinos (ca. 1300–1377/8). Moreover, it attempts to investigate the role of hagiographical discourse in fourteenth-century Byzantine politics and theology. During the twelve-month postgraduate research scholarship in Greece, he analyzed the manuscript tradition of Kokkinos’ hitherto unedited discourse (logos) on All Saints (BHG 1617g) for which he also prepared a draft critical edition. Moreover, he examined the image of the emperor (especially John VI Kantakouzenos) in Kokkinos’ vitae. Furthermore, he investigated, contextualized and analyzed the Christian–Muslim and Byzantine–Latin religious and cultural encounters in the saints’ lives written by Philotheos Kokkinos. Finally, he analyzed Gregory Palamas’ encomiastic Logos on St. Peter of Athos (BHG 1506)—a metaphrasis of an earlier vita (BHG 1505)—based on which he will publish an article with the Byzantine and Modern Greek Studies (BMGS) journal.

**Articles**


_A Late Byzantine πεπαιδευμένος: Maximos Neamonites and his Letter Collection_, Jahrbuch der Österreichischen Byzantinistik 64 (2014): 197–223.


_Forthcoming_ 


‘Old wine in new bottles’? Gregory Palamas’ Logos on St. Peter of Athos (BHG 1506), Byzantine and Modern Greek Studies (forthcoming).
Nikoloz Shamugia is a PhD candidate at the Scuola Normale Superiore di Pisa (Italy). He was born in Tbilisi (Georgia) in 1984, where he studied Classics at the Ivane Javakhishvili State University. He has been winner of the Presidential Grant for Young Scientists offered by the Shota Rustaveli National Science Foundation. After graduating from the university with a master’s diploma, he worked as a research assistant at the Institute of Classical, Byzantine and Modern Greek Studies in Tbilisi. He also worked as a teacher of ancient Greek and Latin at the Language Centre of the Ivane Javakhishvili State University of Tbilisi, as well as a teacher of Ancient Greek at the Gymnasium St. Ilia the Righteous of Tbilisi. Nikoloz Shamugia successfully combines scientific and translation activities. He has prepared a Georgian commented translation of the Theogony by Hesiod, which was published in 2013. He has also translated into Georgian a variety of texts from Classical and modern Greek, Italian and English literature. His Italian translations of Galaktion Tabidze’s three poems have been published in the Italian journal of comparative poetry “Semicerchio: Rivista di poesia comparata” (# 50, 2014).

His research interests include ancient Greek mythology, Archaic and Classical Greek poetry and prose, Greek vases, bronzes, sculptures, Near Eastern influences on Greek art, and Greek papyrology.
Title of Research Project
*Centaurs in Early Greek Literature and Art (from 900 B.C. to 480 B.C.).*

Summary of Research Project
The project studies the vast and wide-ranging corpus of ancient Greek literary and artistic oeuvres preserving to us the Centaur myth. Its focus is on three important sides of the Centaur’s mythology:

- The battle of the Centaurs and the Lapiths without the involvement of the hero Caeneus (evidence: various literary passages and ca. 30 representations on vases, reliefs, terracotta statuettes, and gems);
- The myth of Chiron (evidence: various literary oeuvres, especially Pindaric Odes, and ca. 36 artefacts);
- The myth of Pholus (evidence: a number of literary passages and ca. 24 artefacts).

The research goals of the project are to:

- Subdivide the surviving literary and artistic material about the three topics in thematic groups and subgroups according to their subject matter;
- Examine the oeuvres of each group and subgroup chronologically;
- Define preferences and variations in schemes, composition, and subject;
- Define developments and innovations the three topics underwent in early Greek art and literature.

Commented translation:

Book

Articles
(Forthcoming)


About the Essence of Liber and Libera in Roman Mythology, in *Caucasian and Near Eastern Studies* 13, 2009, pp. 228-238.
Murat Eser was born in Istanbul (Turkey) in 1989. He holds a first degree (B.A.) in History from the University of Istanbul, Faculty of Letters, Department of History (2007-2012). He is currently a postgraduate student at the Istanbul University, Institute of Social Sciences (History of Turkish Republic) and he is working on his thesis under the supervision of the Associate Prof. Fatih Mehmet Sancaktar from Istanbul University and Lector Spyridon Ploumidis from Athens University. During the periods 2007-2011 and 2013-2014, he was awarded scholarship from the Turkish Government.

The period 2013 – 2014 continued his studies at the University of Athens, Faculty of History and Archaeology as an Erasmus student.

In 2014 he received a scholarship within the framework of the project “Plato Academy-Development of knowledge and innovative ideas”. He has also attended (02/06/2014 – 10/07/2014) the THYESPA Program (Summer School for Greek Language) of the University of Athens.

He worked for İstanbul University as a researcher on Greek newspaper in Greece.

He has also translated a number of Greek newspapers into Turkish mostly in the period of Balkan Wars. He did also research during his MA studies in Istanbul University about Balkan Studies.

His research interests include the following areas:
- late period of Ottoman State,
- Balkan studies, relationship between Greece and Turkey,
- minority rights in Turkey (Greeks), Greek press in Turkey,
- influence of Greek press in Greek foreign policy, policy of Great Powers on Turkish - Greek relationships
and Foreign Policy of Turkey on Balkans under the supervisor of Prof. Dr Ali Arslan and Asso. Prof. Fatih Mehmet Sancaktar. He has also participated in the 1st Congress of Balkan History and Immigration in Balkans (5-7 December 2012) and in the “Assessment at Different Levels of “the Other” and “Us” Perception in Turco-Greek Relationship” organized by University of Istanbul (01 February 2013). He is fluent on Turkish (mother tongue) and has very good knowledge of Ottoman and English. He also has very good knowledge of Modern Greek Language. He has attended Greek language courses of Athens University for 2 years (level C1).

**Title of Research Project**

*The Effect of Eleftherios K. Venizelos on Turkey – Greece Relations (1909-1915).*

**Summary of Research Project**

Eleftherios Venizelos and his policy is the center of his thesis. More specifically, he studies the difference of Greek foreign policy after Eleftherios Venizelos. First goal of his thesis is to describe Greek foreign policy until 1909, Military Movement of Gudi and the invitation of Eleftherios Venizelos by the military league.

Secondly he attempts to compare Greek foreign policy during the administration of Eleftherios Venizelos with previous years; his reforms and their results in Greece and the effect of his reforms in the international relationships of Greece. He also attempts to explain economic reforms and investment of Greek army. When E. Venizelos became prime minister of Greece first of all he tried to create one country with goals and demands. These years Greece had huge economic problems and unstable internal policy. The thesis aims to study how Venizelos managed to deal with all these problems and how much he succeeded.

Murat Esser’s thesis is entirely based on Greek sources. It is believed that it is one of the few or may be the unique MA thesis in Turkish on Modern Greek History and particularly the period of Eleftherios K. Venizelos which is entirely based on Greek sources.
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**Title of Research Project**

_Greece’s Development Assistance to the Palestinian Authority: Aims, Goals, and Means._

**Summary of Research Project**

Her thesis deals with the linkage between development assistance and foreign policy. Greece has participated in an actively offered development assistance to other countries and particularly to Palestine. While foreign aid can come in many forms, the development assistance – as opposed to humanitarian assistance- has more politicized characteristics. In her work, she brings to the surface the foreign policy factor and its interrelation with the practice of development assistance from one country to another. The practice of Greece’s development assistance shifted from a bilateral to a multilateral one - according to the global trends in the end of the 20th century- affecting its foreign policy.

Her research interest span in the following areas: international relations, Middle East politics, intercultural mediation, peace and conflict and post-colonialism.
The project has been co-funded by the European Union (European Social Fund) and from national resources in the context of the operation "Academy of Plato - Development of Knowledge and Innovative Ideas" within the framework of the Operational Programme "Education and Lifelong Learning" (Greece, NSRF 2007 - 2013).