



# HELLENIC STUDIES PROGRAM AND HELLENIC HERITAGE FOUNDATION CHAIR OF MODERN GREEK HISTORY YORK UNIVERSITY NEWSLETTER, 2014-2015

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Dear colleagues, students, and friends,

This Newsletter proudly records many accomplishments of our students and Faculty, between September 2014 and December 2015.

Hellenic Studies combines learning about the Ancient Greek world with Greek History and Language in the modern period. Established in 2002 with the generous support of the Hellenic Heritage Foundation and York University, the Program offers courses on Ancient and Modern Greece and promotes the field of Modern Greek Studies, especially History, Language and Literature, by organizing lectures and conferences. The program and the Chair in Modern Greek History support Faculty and student scholarly activities, as well as cultural events in the city of Toronto, in Canada and in Greece.

York University offers a full undergraduate degree program (BA Honours, BA, BA Minor) in Hellenic Studies. This program is ideally suited for students who wish to pursue a teaching

or research career in Hellenic / Modern Greek Studies, History or Literature or who wish to undertake a career in education, journalism, law, business, by combining a major in Hellenic Studies with another degree.

The Program of Hellenic Studies offers a comprehensive instruction in Modern Greek language at the elementary, intermediate and advanced levels. The third - advanced - level is devoted to the study of Greek literature and film as well as language. Students in Hellenic Studies can choose a range of courses from other programs, such as Humanities and European Studies, excel in another European language or combine their degree with a different program.

Graduates acquire a thorough knowledge of the Ancient world and Modern Greek History and Language, within a comparative European and Mediterranean perspective. The Program encourages the interdisciplinary study and Hellenic Studies graduates gain from courses in History, Arts, Philosophy, European Studies and Mediterranean History. Students have the opportunity and are encouraged to study in Greece, advance their language skills and experience Greek everyday life in exchange programs with Greek Universities. The recent Summer course that started in summer 2015 provides a unique experience to study in Greece for a month and think and learn about the recent history of the country, experience Greek life, including the ongoing developments that affect the country's economy and society.

Thanks to the generous support of the Hellenic Heritage Foundation and York University there are funding opportunities both at the graduate and undergraduate level. The seven undergraduate scholarships for students in Hellenic Studies courses show the existing commitment of the Hellenic Heritage Foundation and York University to promote the program of Hellenic Studies. The three existing HHF and York Graduate Fellowships in Modern Greek History ensure the viability and expansion of the graduate program in History and Modern Greek Studies.

The Program in Hellenic Studies and the HHF Chair of Modern Greek History provide students with an interdisciplinary understanding of the language, literature, history, politics and culture of classical and modern Greece. Through a wide range of courses, students will understand the historical experiences of Classical, Medieval, Modern and Contemporary Greece. York will also give students the opportunity to study in Greece during the summer.

The HHF Chair and the Faculty of the Hellenic Studies Program promote outreach and community activities, engage in a range of broad education functions, including primary and secondary education of Greek-Canadian children and promote the training of teachers of Greek language in association with the Faculty of Education. Above all research and publications in the field of Hellenic and Modern Greek Studies and continue building the archive for the history of Greeks in Canada, the Greek Canadian History Project, with newspapers, journal articles, and other materials of interest to studies of migrant and diaspora communities.

**Research and resources. The Vitopoulos collection.**

The enrichment of the York library with resources to facilitate research and teaching right now is a pressing need. Michalis Vitopoulos, Professor of Modern Greek for more than twenty years in Toronto and York specifically has donated his precious book collection, volumes of History and Literature, pamphlets, magazines and newspapers from the 1960s onwards that can provide a unique research and teaching resource to those interested in the history of Greek immigration to Toronto but also to the study of Modern Greek History and Literature.

Equally important is the collection of video recordings of events in the Greek community since the 1960s. Organizing the collection and management of these resources can be a challenge but with the necessary support from the Faculty and the Library the collection can become a foundation and a resource that will attract more researchers in the future and will contribute towards establishing at York a Centre for the study of Greek migration and Diaspora.

## SUMMER COURSE 2015

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### **Students travel to Greece, witness history in the making**

Sixteen York University students spent a month in Athens this summer to study Greek history and witness an historical moment in the making.

The course *Greece: A Modern History, from 1800 to the present* is one of two courses the History Department offered overseas this summer. It was the first time this course was taught abroad, and was led by history Professor Sakis Gekas.



Sixteen York U students studied abroad in Greece this summer as part of a history course. Here, they are pictured at the 1896 Olympics Stadium in Athens

For four weeks, students from various degree programs learned Greek history while experiencing the country; as part of the course curriculum they toured the country to visit islands including Mykonos, Crete and Santorini, and ancient sites in Athens, Delphi and Knossos.

They also visited Nafplio, the country's first capital city in the 1820s.

"One of the most rewarding experiences that distinguishes the course from the 'usual' teaching we offer on campus is the opportunity to visit museums, historical archives, public buildings and statues that make history much more tangible and exciting," said Gekas. "Some of the sites we visited were the National History Museum, the Museum of the City of Athens, the Bank of Piraeus Historical Archives, the Jewish Museum of Greece, the Benaki Museum and the Centre for the Study of Minor Asia Greeks."

Students also had the opportunity to visit the Acropolis Museum, the Archaeological Museum and the Acropolis and the Parthenon.

While abroad, the class also lived history in the making. Their visit coincided with a time of unprecedented economic events, a bank closure and rare political developments such as the referendum of July 5. The referendum measured the public's support of bailout conditions to address the country's government debt crisis, and resulted in a majority rejection of the proposal.

"Such dramatic developments – the economic crisis, but also the recent refugee humanitarian crisis – made this a unique educational experience for our students who learned about the political and economic condition of Greece today as the country struggles to find its pace amidst a continuing recession and rapid political change," said Gekas.

The six-week course – which ran two weeks at York U, four weeks in Greece – also took the students to the Clara Thomas Archives and the Greek Canadian History Project.

“Greece is a country I have been fascinated with since I was a kid, and actually experiencing Greek culture and history first-hand for a month this summer was beyond words,” said student Sierra Maier-Niemi. “I am profoundly grateful to have had this opportunity.”

The course would not have been possible without the support of the York International Office, The Faculty of Liberal Arts and Professional Studies, the Department of History and the Hellenic Heritage Foundation Chair in Modern Greek History, said Gekas.

<http://yfile.news.yorku.ca/2015/09/09/students-travel-to-greece-witness-history-in-the-making/>

## GREEK CANADIAN HISTORY PROJECT

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The Greek Canadian History Project (GCHP) at York University is an initiative designed and committed to identifying, acquiring, digitizing, preserving, and providing access to primary source materials that reflect the experiences of Canada’s Greek immigrants and their descendants. The collected sources, currently in the hands of private individuals and organizations in the Greek-Canadian community, are placed in the care of the Clara Thomas Archives & Special Collections of York University Libraries. The Project’s stewards are Dr. Athanasios (Sakis) Gekas, HHF Chair of Modern Greek History at York University, and Christopher Grafos, Ph.D. Candidate in History, York University. We also want to thank Kali Petropoulos, a York History graduate and McMaster History MA, for her commitment, enthusiasm and support in managing various aspects of the project including communications and the social media platform of the Project.

The GCHP continues to grow as a repository for information accessible for current and future research in broad thematic fields such as social, cultural, and economic life of Greeks in Canada. We invite individuals to contribute collections of papers, diaries, photographs, books, pamphlets, audio, video, and other materials that will be valuable for research of the Greek Canadian past. Our goal is to promote the value of personal collections, which are often perceived to have little value beyond the life of an individual. The project will serve to accentuate the value of ‘ordinary’ Greek-Canadians and the importance of preserving their memory and has also established partnerships with Greek-Canadian community organizations and individuals to preserve the institutional and associational history of Greeks in Canada.

The GCHP is fundamental in illuminating the history and events that have shaped the experiences of Greek immigrants in Canada. Our efforts continue to create an infrastructure for the recovery, acquisition, preservation, and accessibility of vital primary source material that documents the experience of Greeks in the Canadian mosaic.

- GCHP Presents Memory and Migration: A Photo Exhibition. Broadview Espresso Café, August 1 – 31, 2015



The images selected for this exhibit were chosen to illustrate elements of public life of Greek Canadians in Toronto. Moments of family reunification, public protest, mass religious gatherings, and cultural celebration are documented through the lens of a documentary photographer – an outsider looking in. The images were also chosen because of their ability to highlight moments of the Greek immigrant past that have begun to fade from the city's collective memory. The event captured the attention of Torontonians to such a degree that it was covered by the East York Mirror, Ellinikos Typos (a Greek language newspaper), and Odyssey TV, a media outlet for Greece and Greeks in the diaspora.

- A Night to Remember Manos Loizos: Highlights of the 1981 Toronto Tour, Avli Restaurant, Danforth Street, June 7, 2015



On Sunday, June 7, 2015 George Papadatos, who was visiting Toronto after his significant donation to the GCHP in December 2014, put on a wonderful event in collaboration with the GCHP in order to commemorate the 1981 North American tour of composer, Manos Loizos.

- Toronto District School Board Inaugural Greek Heritage Month: GCHP Keynote



The Greek Canadian History Project was invited to the First Annual Greek Heritage Month Festival celebrated by the Toronto District School Board. Christopher Grafos, Co-Director of the GCHP, gave the keynote address at the event. The presentation included a selection of materials collected as part of the project and highlighted some important historical events related to the Greek immigrant experience.



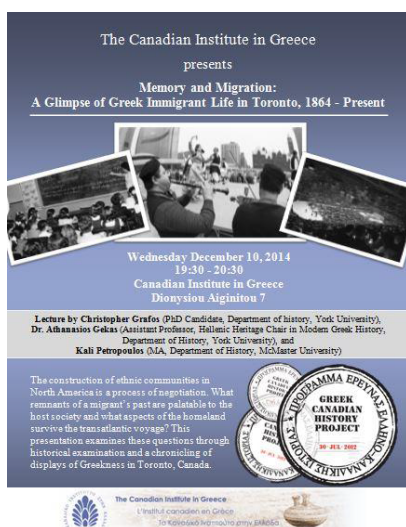
- *Symposium: The Greek Diaspora: Greek and Canadian Perspectives*, held at Aristotle University of Thessaloniki in cooperation with York University, Toronto, Canada, Thessaloniki, 6-7 December 2014



The Greek Canadian History Project (GCHP) was recently hosted for presentations at the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki and the Canadian Institute in Greece (Athens). The presentations offered insight into the origins of the GCHP and reflected upon some of the GCHP's Toronto Telegram collection, which vividly captures the entanglement of Greek and Canadian history through the lives of immigrants. The Thessaloniki leg of the visit to Greece was highlighted by a two-day symposium, titled "The Greek Diaspora: Greek and Canadian Perspectives," which included a keynote lecture by Professor Sakis Gekas, Assistant Professor, Hellenic Heritage Foundation Chair in Modern Greek History, York University. Audience attendance throughout the event was very strong. The opening addresses, by the speakers listed below, emphasized the importance of exchanging ideas across international boundaries. The Greek Canadian History Project's lecture, "The Making of an Archive: Finding a Home for the History of Greeks in Canada," given by Professor Gekas, Christopher Grafos, Ph.D. Candidate, Department of History, York University, and Kali Petropoulos, GCHP PR Coordinator, was followed by a vibrant discussion between panelists and the audience. Comments and questions towards the presenters were underscored by interest and support for the GCHP's mandate and a desire for further dissemination of immigrant histories.



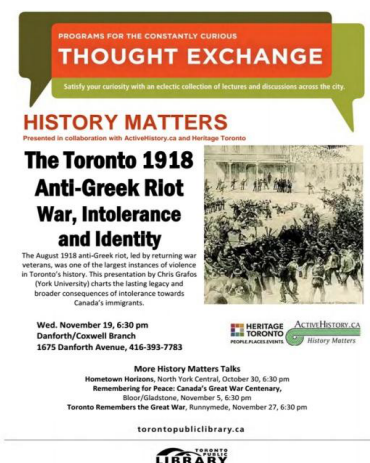
- *A Glimpse into Greek Immigrant Life in Toronto - 1864 – Present*  
Canadian Institute in Greece, Athens, Greece, December 2014



While in Athens, the GCHP was invited to speak at the Canadian Institute in Greece (CIG). Professor David Rupp, Director of the CIG, began the evening with a few opening remarks that introduced the audience to the GCHP speakers. The lecture, titled “Memory and Migration: A Glimpse of Greek Immigrant Life in Toronto, 1864 – Present,” spawned an interesting discussion about the cross-pollination of people, ideas, and culture between Canada and Greece and was concluded by a lively reception.

- *History Matters: The Toronto 1918 Anti-Greek Riot War, Intolerance and Identity.*

Danforth/Coxwell Branch, Toronto Public Library, November 19, 2014



The presentation by Christopher Grafos took place in collaboration with ActiveHistory.ca and Heritage Toronto.

- *Memory and Migration: A History of Greek Immigrants in Toronto, 1864-2014*, Toronto City Hall, May 10-15, 2014



The opening of the exhibition kicked off Greek Heritage Week in Toronto and attracted more than 150 people (over 500 people signed the guestbook throughout the week).

The exhibit celebrated 150 years of Greeks in Toronto, and included photographs documenting the community's Independence Day parade, a massive Greek Orthodox Easter service at Maple Leaf Gardens from 1960, the opening of the city's first Greek Orthodox Church and an image of Toronto's first documented Greek immigrant –Dr. Petros Constantinidis – who arrived in the city in 1864 and became one of Toronto's first operating surgeons. The historical display also included newspaper clippings, books, documents and brochures. This display is the culmination of a decades' long collection belonging to Greek Torontonians Michael Mouratidis.

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# First Annual Greek Heritage Month Festival



Celebrating Culture: Classic to Contemporary



Saturday March 28, 2015

11:00 am - 3:00 pm

East York Collegiate Institute  
650 Cosburn Ave., East York, ON

Parents, Students, Educators and Community Members  
Come Celebrate with Us!!

This event is FREE.  
Light Lunch Provided. Free Parking.  
For more information Contact 416-396-6605



The Greek Canadian History Project was invited to the First Annual Greek Heritage Month Festival celebrated by the Toronto District School Board. The event took place at East York Collegiate Institute on Saturday, March 28, 2015, 11:00am – 3:00pm.

Christopher Grafos, Co-Director of the GCHP, gave the keynote address at the event. The presentation included a selection of the materials collected as part of the project and highlight some important historical events related to the Greek immigrant experience.

The GCHP would like to thank the Greek Heritage Month Steering Committee and the Equity and Inclusive Schools Department for this special opportunity.

# Announcement of New Donation

The **Greek Canadian History Project** (GCHP) recently acquired a new collection of materials donated by Mr. George Papadatos. While Mr. Papadatos currently lives in Athens, he lived in Toronto for approximately fifteen years. During his tenure in the city, Mr. Papadatos was involved in various cultural, political, social work, and educational activities; each associated with aspects of Greek issues in Canada.

The collection consists of letters, posters, photographs, books, newspapers, cassettes and more. Some notable aspects of the collection include visits to Canada by Manos Loizos, Christos Leontis, presentations on the cultural and political climate of Greece and Canada's Greek community from the 1970s and 1980s, in addition to other fruitful resources that reflect some historical nuances of Greek immigrant life in Toronto.

The GCHP would like to thank Mr. Papadatos for supporting the mandate of the project and for helping to enrich the historical record of the ties that bind Greek and Canadian life through the voice of the immigrant. The GCHP remains committed to identifying and preserving historical records that contribute to a broad understanding of the Greek immigrant narrative in Canada.

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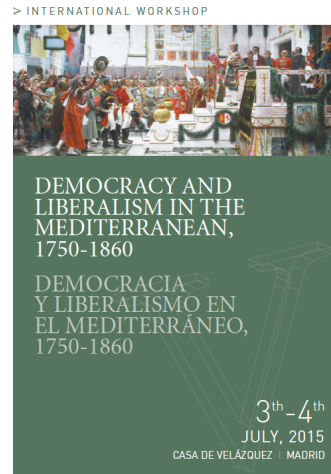
# HHF Chair Sakis Gekas public lectures, seminars and conference presentations

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- *Η Ιστορία της αποικιοκρατίας στην Ανατολική Μεσόγειο* [The history of colonialism in the Eastern Mediterranean], Panmacedonian Association, 9 December 2015.
- *From Trauma to Change*, Armenian, Chaldean, Greek and the Jewish Genocides Lectures, Vanier College, York University, 19<sup>th</sup> November, 2015,

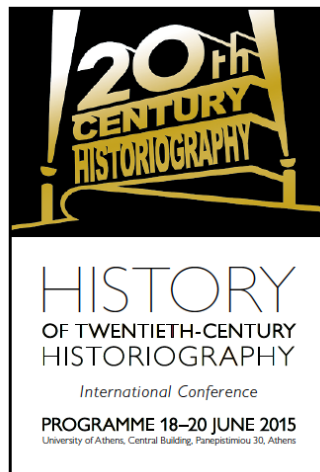


- *History in the making. Twelve months of research and politics in Greece*, October 20, 2015, 5:00 PM Senior Common Room 010 Vanier College, York University
- *The history of migration in Canada, 1890s-1970s*  
Summer Seminar on Nationalism, Religion and Violence, Thessaloniki, International Hellenic University, 8 July 2015.
- *Mediterranean Liberalism in Practice. Reformists, Radicals and the quest for a democratic State in the Ionian Islands under British rule (1815-1864)*. International Workshop on Liberalism and Democracy in the Mediterranean, 1789-1860s Madrid, Casa de Velasquez, 3-4 July 2015



- *The absence/presence of anticolonial and postcolonial discourses in Greek historiography*

History of Twentieth-Century Historiography, International Conference, 18-20 June 2015, Athens



- *British colonialism in the Ionian Islands (1815-1864) and its importance for Greek history*, University of Crete, Rethymno, 24 April 2015
- *How big and how clientelist a state? Public Administration and the judicial system in the Ionian State and the Greek Kingdom until 1864*  
Institute of Historical Research / National Research Foundation, Athens, 6 April 2015
- *British colonialism in the Ionian Islands (1815-1864) and the historiography of Mediterranean Islands*  
3rd Workshop in Economic History, Bank of Cyprus Historical Archives, Nicosia, 28 March 2015

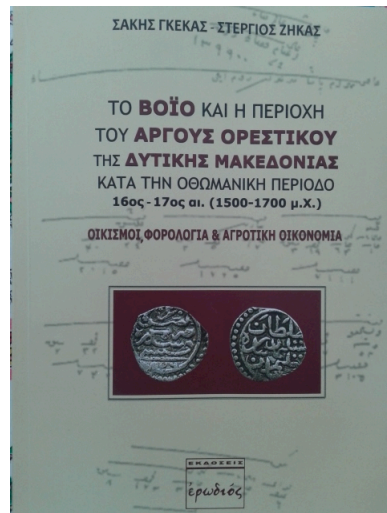
- *Mobility, Innovation and the tragic life of Marinos Harbouris between Kefalonia, St Petersburg and Paris (1729-1782)*

Mobility and Innovation in the Mediterranean and Beyond in the 18th and 19th centuries: creativity and (re)invention of people on the move, Université Paris-Est Créteil 20-21 March 2015.

- *'A peculiar people (not) properly governed'. State building in the Ionian Islands under British rule (1815-1864)*

Upper House Seminar, British School At Athens, 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2015.

- Book presentation, Sakis Gekas and Stergios Zikas, *Voio and the region of Argos Orestiko in Western Macedonia during the Ottoman period 16<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> c (1500-1700). Villages, Taxation and Agricultural Economy*. Office of the Macedonian Associations, Thessaloniki, 11 November 2015




- Sakis Gekas served as the Chair of the Program Committee for the Modern Greek Studies Association Symposium in George State University, Atlanta, 15-17 November 2015.
- Chris Grafos, also a member of the Modern Greek Studies Association Executive Board, presented his paper to the Symposium.



# Events organized by the Hellenic Studies Program and the HHF Chair

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- **Evangelos Kyriakidis, University of Kent, Director, Initiative for Heritage Conservation, "The nature of an archaeological site: Filioremos, a mountain-top sanctuary of Minoan Crete" *Macedonian Cultural Center* 16 November 2015**



**PUBLIC LECTURE**  
 The Consul General of Greece in Toronto  
 Mr Alexandros Ioannidis  
 cordially invites you to the inaugural lecture of the  
*"From Heritage to Recovery" Lecture Series*

**"The nature of an archaeological site:  
 Filioremos, a mountain-top sanctuary of Minoan Crete"**  
 By  
**Dr Evangelos Kyriakidis**  
 University of Kent  
 Director, Initiative for Heritage Conservation


**Monday, 16 November 2015  
 6:30 - 7:30 PM**

*Macedonian Cultural Center*  
 406 Danforth Avenue  
 Toronto, Ontario  
 M4K 1P3

**Evangelos Kyriakidis**  
 A Senior Lecturer in Aegean Prehistory and Leventis Senior Research Scholar in Heritage Management at the University of Kent, Evangelos is the director of the Initiative for Heritage Conservation. A fellow of the society of Antiquaries of London and of the Archaeological Society of Athens, he was trained in UCL and Cambridge on Archaeology, Linguistics and Anthropology. He is interested in Minoan iconography, religion, ritual, scripts and administration, as well as heritage management.

Please **RSVP** by 12 November.

Questions? Contact +1.416.515.0133, ext 227 or [toronto@mfa.gr](mailto:toronto@mfa.gr)



- **«Ένταση στην Ανατολική Μεσόγειο: Ιστορική αναδρομή και πολιτιτικές προεκτάσεις ενός διαχρονικού προβλήματος» [‘Tension in the Eastern Mediterranean; historical perspective and political ramifications of a chronic problem’], 9 December , 2015, Panmacedonian Association, Toronto**
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- ***“Kisses to the children”*** documentary screening with Director Vassilis Loules. In partnership with the Center for Jewish Studies, part of the Holocaust Education Week. **29 October, 2015**, Price Family Cinema, Accolade East Building

Five Greek-Jewish children who were saved by Greek families during the German occupation, five 'hidden children', who lived in total silence, tell their stories. Stories of terror, anguish and confusion but also stories of salvation and carefree childhood in the arms of strangers. The movie focuses on these persons, revealing secret aspects of their lives and invaluable personal documents. It also depicts the life of Greek-Jewish communities before the War, complemented with rare images of occupied Greece from archival material, as well as amateur films by German soldiers and illegal footage shot by Greek patriots. The director, Mr. Loules, was present for a discussion both before the film and after the screening for discussion.

- ***Lela Karayannis: the Fragrance of a Heroine***, documentary screening with Director Vassilis Loules, at Greek Community Schools at George S. Henry Academy Toronto and Eastern Commerce Collegiate Institute, **31 October, 2015**.

The screening was part of the year's credit school curriculum and the film on Lela Karayannis, the heroine of the Greek resistance during the Nazi Occupation (1941-1944), was shown to around 200 credit school students. Before the screening Mr Loules and Professor Gekas gave a brief presentation (15-20 minutes). Then students watched the documentary (30 minutes) and after the screening a brief Q&A session with Mr Loules and the students about the documentary followed. Students were given a written response activity related to the documentary for homework to prepare them for the screening. This was the first time in recent years that such historical documentaries were shown to Greek Canadian school children, offering them a different approach to the recent Greek past.

- ***"Greece's Momentous Year: The Radical Left in and out of Government"***, Michalis Spourdalakis, Professor of Political Science, Dean of Law School, University of Athens. In partnership with Professor Leo Panitch, Canada Research Chair, Department of Political Science **November 2, 2015** Verney Room, 6th floor South, Ross Building, York University, Keele Campus
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## Research Fellowships in Modern Greek History at the History Department

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- Professor Veli Aydin, Research Fellow of TUBITAK (The Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey), 14 October 2015 – 31 August 2016
- Dr Olsi Jazexhi, Postdoctoral Fellow March 15, 2014 to March 14, 2015.

## Funding Opportunities for York University and Exchange Students in Hellenic Studies, History and related disciplines.

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**Congratulations to students receiving the following scholarships for excelling in Hellenic Studies courses**

*Dr. Dimitrios Oreopoulos Undergraduate Scholarship in Hellenic Studies*

**Camilla Acosta Varela**

Faculty of Liberal Arts and Professional Studies, B.A., Hons. Dbl. Maj. History & International Development Studies  
Year 3

*Justice Andromache Karakatsanis Undergraduate Scholarship in Hellenic Studies*

**Nicholas Stribopoulos**

Faculty of Liberal Arts and Professional Studies, B.A., Hons. History  
Year 4

*The Chris Tarnaris Memorial Scholarship*

**Theodore Tsilfidis**

Faculty of Liberal Arts and Professional Studies, B.A., Hons. Law and Society  
Year 3

*The Jimmy the Greek Scholarship***Stephanie Tassopoulos**

Faculty of Health, B.A., Hons. Psychology

Year 4

*The Olympia and Spyros Thomas Scholarship***Sandy Dief**

Faculty of Liberal Arts and Professional Studies, B.A., Hons. Maj/Min History &amp; Psychology

Year 4

*The John Alexopoulos Memorial Scholarship***Douglas Mackenzie**

Faculty of Liberal Arts and Professional Studies, B.A., Hons. Classical Studies

Year 4

*The Dagonas Family Scholarship***Steven Campbell**

Schulich School of Business, B.B.A., Spec. Hons. Administrative Studies (General)

Year 3

**The Stavros Niarchos Foundation Scholarships**

2015-2016

International Visiting Research Trainee: George Stremplis, Hellenic Studies Program  
Affiliate, Program of Study: Masters of Ethical Philosophy and Bioethics

# Hellenic Heritage Foundation Graduate Fellowships in Modern Greek History

## **The Hellenic Heritage Foundation International Graduate Fellowship in Modern Greek History**

We invite applications for the HHF Fellowship in Modern Greek History to support an International Masters or PhD student enrolled in the Graduate Program in History, specializing in Modern Greek History.

### **Hellenic Heritage Foundation Graduate Fellowship in Modern Greek History**

#### **Overview**

The Hellenic Heritage Foundation Graduate Fellowship 2010 in Modern Greek History will be awarded to a graduate student in the Graduate Program in History whose research focuses on modern Greek history. To encourage exchange and study abroad opportunities, priority may be given to support existing exchange agreements with Greek universities. Recipients must have a minimum “A-” average (GPA 8.00), be Canadian citizens, permanent residents or protected persons, residents of Ontario and must demonstrate financial need.

#### **Value and Duration**

- Up to 2 awards of up to \$12,500
  - The value and number of award(s) in any given year will depend on the rate of distribution from the endowment fund and the number of recipients selected
- Non-renewable

#### **Eligibility**

- Master’s or doctoral
- Canadian citizens, permanent residents and/or protected persons who are residents of Ontario
- Selection criteria includes:
  - Research in modern Greek history
  - Academic accomplishments
  - Financial need
  - Student must exhibit an outstanding academic record (minimum A-average)