



HELLENIC REPUBLIC

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University of Athens**

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Department of History and Philosophy of Science

Newsletter no. 8

January-March 2025

The **Newsletter** of the **Department of History and Philosophy of Science (PHS)** aims to inform about activities of its members of staff and students. The History and Philosophy of Science is an interdisciplinary academic field, which studies science as a complex historical, social, and cultural phenomenon and highlights the philosophical dimensions of its theories and practice. It examines the philosophical, conceptual, and historical approaches to science in general, as well as to a variety of particular research fields, including the humanities and social sciences, natural sciences, psychology and cognitive sciences, life and medical sciences, mathematics and logic, and new technologies. The [faculty members](#) of the Department include some of the world experts in their respective fields, while several of the members lead or collaborate in [international research projects](#). The Department consists of three Divisions: History of Science and Technology, Philosophy and Theory of Science, and Technology, and Cognitive Science. It offers the sole [undergraduate programme](#) of studies on History and Philosophy of Science in Greece and 9 [postgraduate programmes](#) of studies in both Greek and English, which cover a wide range of philosophical topics, the history of science and technology, studies in society, science and technology, digital humanities and augmented textual studies, and cognitive psychology. PHS is among the highest rated of humanities departments in Greece, in terms of international research citations.

Research Projects

- **Co-Design Labs for Just Transitions**

In January, the [Go-JuST](#) project and the research team organized four policy co-creation workshops in the cities of Thessaly, the region selected by the research project as a “**model region**” for the development and implementation of just sustainable socio-technical agri-food transitions. In **Larissa**, **Karditsa**, and **Volos**, farmers, members of agricultural cooperatives, and Local Organizations

for Land Reclamation (TOEV) actively participated in deliberation sessions, which were held under the auspices of the **Region of Thessaly**.

The workshops focused on three critical issues related to the transition towards a more sustainable and just agri-food system:

- Water resources, land use and crops;
- The challenge of crop restructuring and sociotechnical choices;

- Agricultural production and community resilience.



Participants in one of the Labs along with the Principal Investigator, Prof. Stathis Arapostathis

In total, over 180 representatives from various social partners took part, including farmer communities, cooperatives, research institutions, the plant propagation and agri-inputs industry, and agri-food processing. At least 16 co-design and co-development workshops were organized to explore socio-technical pathways for a sustainable future.

Participants not only had the opportunity to evaluate proposed transition scenarios for the agri-food sector but also to co-develop new proposals for sociotechnical futures based on their own needs and

experiences. Discussions highlighted key challenges stemming from participants' long-term experiences while also revealing potential future pathways for addressing current issues. The Go-JuST research team will analyze all collected inputs and proposals to develop a comprehensive final report. This document will be used by the Region of Thessaly in designing a new agricultural model for the area, contributing to the creation of a more sustainable, resilient, and socially just agri-food system.

The project is implemented within the framework of the National Recovery and Resilience Plan "Greece 2.0", funded by the European Union - NextGeneration EU (Implementing Body: Hellenic Foundation for Research and Innovation - ELIDEK).



Participants in one of the Labs

Past Events – Talks

- The **Annual Vasilopita Cutting Ceremony** took place at the New Building of the Department of History and Philosophy of Science on Thursday 6 February. Prof. **Anthony Hatzimoysis**, Chair of the Department, distributed portions of the pie to the Rector of the University of Athens, Prof. **Gerasimos Siasos**, the Member of the Board of



Vasilopita Cutting Ceremony, PHS

Directors, Prof. **Achilleas Chaldaiakis**, the Dean of School of Science, Prof. **Aristeidis Parmakelis**, the Faculty Members, the Members of the Administrative Staff, and numerous undergraduate and postgraduate students.

- Assoc. Professor **Elpida Tzafestas** gave the following talks:

- 1) **“The sociocognitive roots of inequality, Part 1”**, CNR, Roma, **November 2024**
- 2) **“The sociocognitive roots of inequality, Part 2”**, CNR, Roma, **December 2024**
- 3) **“The ways of attraction”**, Università di Napoli, **November 2024**.

- Professor **Chrysostomos Mantzavinos** gave a talk on **“The Constitution of Science”**, at the Department of History and Philosophy of Science of the University of Cambridge on **5 February 2025**.

- Professor **Katerina Ierodiakonou** gave a talk on **“The Stoics on Colours and Colour Perception”** in the framework of the [Edinburgh-Turin Seminars on Stoicism](#) on **27 February 2025**.

- A series of 9 webinars that was organized by the [Go-just](#) project came to a completion. The webinars entitled Go-JuST webinars **Governing Just Sociotechnical Transitions: The quest for fairness, responsibility and sustainability**. The webinars, which are held in collaboration with the UNESCO Chair for Climate Diplomacy and the Meatigation research program, took place once a month with the participation of internationally renowned academics on issues of agri-food, just transitions and environ-

mental justice, among others. The talks were held digitally, in order to ensure the participation of people from different cities, countries and academic institutions, but also to make possible the participation of people who may face mobility or accessibility problems. After the explicit consent of the speakers and participants, the webinars were recorded and videotaped and subsequently were posted on the project’s [YouTube](#) channel.

During the past year, nine (9) webinars were held, with the following participants:

- Silvio Funtowicz**: “Complex political problems: Why Science can’t speak with One Voice”. March 28 2024

- Valeria Siniscalchi**: “From pleasure to morality. The political taste of Slow Food”. April 25 2024

- Graham Dutfield**: “Lifeworld, Landscape and Law: From Territoriality to Rights in Knowledge”. May 23 2024

- Sophie Chao**: “The Promise of Multispecies Justice”. June 6 2024

- Andrea Borghini & Enrico Bonadio**: “Food and Intellectual Property Rights between Exploitation and Empowerment”. June 13 2024

- Stella Tsani**: “Climate action, energy transition and labor markets: Public policies and sectoral implications of just transitions.” October 17 2024

- Alexandra Plakias**: “Cultivating Knowledge: epistemic implications of lab-grown meat”. October 24 2024

- Graham Dutfield**: “What is Ontological Totalitarianism, and Why Does it Matter?": Nature, Science and Indigenous People”. November 29 2024

-**Berris Charnley**: “Seeing the wood for the trees: The Roles of Science, Law and History in colonial-capitalist Australian Forestry Systems, 1880-1940”. December 18 2024.

• On **13 March 2025 at 19.30** took place at **IANOS** (24 Stadiou Street), the presentation of the book by **Elias Kouvelas**, Professor Emeritus at the Medical School of the University of Patras, entitled “**Tracing the paths of the brain and the mind**”, recently published by Kastaniotis editions. The book will be discussed by Prof. **Irini Skaliora**, **Spyros**

Mitrossilis and **Demosthenis Agra-fiotis**. After the presentations there will be a discussion between the discussants, the author, and the audience.



Speakers, Book Presentation at Ianos

Forthcoming Events – Talks

• **Honorary Doctorate Conferment Ceremony of Prof. Martin Carrier**, University of Bielefeld, Germany. **Thursday 20 March 2025, Great Hall, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, 7pm**. The honorary doctorate will be given by the Department of History and Philosophy of Science of the School of Science of the University of Athens. Professor **Chrysostomos Mantzavinos** will talk on the work and personality of the honoured professor. Prof. Carrier talk will then give a talk on “**Science under Attack: Dealing with Failure in Science and with Science Denial**”.

• **Departmental Talk Series: “[Science and Religion](#)”**. Central University Building, Amphitheatre “Ioannis Drakopoulos”, 30 Panepistimiou street, 7-9pm on Tuesdays.

-8 April, **Zenon Tsikrikas** (Universität Tübingen): «“**falsum index sui et veri**”. Μια αντίληψη της αλήθειας στην επιστήμη με θρησκευτική χροιά».

-13 May, **Alexandra Barmpouti** (Oxford Brookes University): «**Το ανθρώπινο σώμα υπό το πρίσμα της χριστιανικής βιοηθικής: Η σχέση της ιατρικής επιστήμης με τη θρησκεία**».

-10 June, **Kostas Tampakis**, (National Hellenic Research Foundation): «**Αθεία και μελέτη της φύσης: Ιστορικές και ιστοριογραφικές προσεγγίσεις**».

• The [Athens Colloquium in Ancient Philosophy](#) is being organised for the second year by **The Athens MA in Ancient Philosophy**, in cooperation with the Research Centre for Greek Philosophy of the Academy of Athens. The talks take place once a month, on **Thursdays at 7 pm**. Each talk lasts between 30 to 40 minutes, followed by an extensive, open, and focused critical discussion, which can last up to 60 minutes.

-20 March, **Pantelis Basakos**: “**The art of judgment**”. The Danish Institute at Athens, [Chairefontos 14](#)

-27 Μαρτίου, **Phillip Mitsis**: “**Plato on Why Philosophers Must Nourish Hate**”.

The Danish Institute at Athens, [Chairefontos 14](#)

-10 April, **Francesca Pentas-suglio**: “**Desiring Reason, Epistemic *Erōs*: The Legacy of Socrates’ Erotics**”. New Building, Department of History and Philosophy of Science.

-15 May, **Federico Maria Petrucci**: “**The Philosophical Outlook of the *Critias***”. The Danish Institute at Athens, [Chairefontos 14](#)

• The **Seminar of the Division of Philosophy and Theory of Science and Technology** hosts a series of lectures as follows (**New Building, PHS, 7pm**):

-18 March, **Marialena Karabatsou**: «**Καντιανός ιδεαλισμός και νόμοι της φύσης**».

- 13 May, **Valantis Stergiou**: «**Περί της αξίας των τυπικών μεθόδων στη φιλοσοφία της επιστήμης**».

• **Logic Seminar (2024-2025)**. The [Inter-institutional Program of Graduate Studies “Logic”](#) will run a monthly seminar, concerning logic in a wide sense. The seminar will be hybrid, i.e., speakers and members of the audience can attend either by physical presence in **room NB2** or through the link <https://uoa.webex.com/meet/cdimitr>.

Talks will be given 18.00-20.00 on Tuesdays, in English or Greek. The preliminary program of the seminar is as follows:

- April 1: **Petros Stefaneas**, NTUA

- May 6: **Yannis Stephanou**, NKUA

- June 3: **Dimitra Christopoulou**, NKUA

Notes. 1. Lecture room NB2 is in the new building of the Department of History and Philosophy of Science (near the main

entrance of the campus of the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens on Oulof Palme street in Ilissia). 2. Titles and short abstracts for lectures will be sent a week in advance. 3. The day and time for lectures may change, depending on the circumstances (e.g., time zone of the speaker).

• We are happy to announce the continuation of the **series of monthly seminars by graduates of the MSc programme in Cognitive Science, which started in 2024**. The seminars are held one **Friday each month**, according to the schedule below, at **6pm, in the new PHS building** (room 2). The series will continue for the entire 2024-25 academic year and the rest of the schedule will be announced in the next newsletter.

-11.4.2025 **Amalia Tsakiri** (2010) “**Levels, Decomposition and Mechanistic Explanation in Biological Systems: the Case of Cognitive Science**”

-16.5.2025 **Tzortzina Paraskevopoulou** (2021) “**Algorithm for electroencephalography and applications**”

• The **Interdisciplinary Research Seminar “*Διεπιδημῶν*”**, which began this academic year, holds monthly meetings to discuss the topic “**State and public health in the shadow of epidemics (19th - 21st century): approaches from history and the research fields of STS and critical medical humanities**”. The aim of the Seminar is to discuss the structures, practices and logics of health governance, (bio-)medical science and technology, social representations and (re)actions and body politics and subje-

ctivity, both in their national and international dimension and in their spatial and temporal development, through the example of Greek public health.

The Seminar is co-organized by the **Research Center for the History of Modern Greece at the Academy of Athens** and the **Department of History and Philosophy of Science at the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens**. The Seminar takes place in the **East Hall of the Academy of Athens** (28 Panepistimiou str.) one **Thursday** each month and lasts two hours (18:00 – 20:00). It is conducted in the Greek language (unless otherwise specified) and no pre-registration is required (see the full program, [here](#)). The co-organizers are **Athanasios Barlagiannis**, Researcher in the Research Center for the History of Modern Greece at the Academy of Athens, and **Katerina Vlantoni**, Assistant Professor in the PHS Department. For the current academic year, the upcoming Seminar meetings are the following:

-Thursday, 3 April 2025: *Ασθενείς στα δεσμά τους: ετεροτοπίες των μολυσματικών ασθενειών στη λογοτεχνία της νεωτερικότητας από τον Θεοτόκη στον Καμύ*, **Katerina Brégianni**, Research Director, Modern Greek History Research Center, Academy of Athens.

-Thursday, 24 April 2025: *Όψεις της δημόσιας υγείας στον 20ό αιώνα*, **Lena**

Korma, Researcher, Modern Greek History Research Center, Academy of Athens.

-Thursday, 8 May 2025: *TBC*, **Marianna Karamanou**, Professor, Director of the

• **Efi Nakopoulou** (Twente University), **Stathis Arapostathis** (NKUA), and Laboratory of History and Ethics of Medicine, School of Medicine, NKUA.

Kornelia Konrad (Twente University) are organizing three sessions as part of the global conference EUSPRI: Forum for Studies of Policies for Research and Innovation. The theme of the sessions is **“Governing and designing emerging energy technologies in a multi-crises world: towards responsible and just futures.”** The conference will take place from **June 11 to 13, 2025** at TU Dortmund University.

• A two-day workshop entitled **“The Epistemology of Dark Matter and Modified Gravity”** will be held on **June 19-20** as part of the European project **“ANDROMEDA”**, under the supervision of Prof. **Theodore Arabatzis** and postdoctoral researcher Dr. **Antonis Antoniou** from our department. The event will take place at the **Historical Archive of the University of Athens** and will feature distinguished scholars from Greece and abroad. Attendance is open to all, however, prior registration is required. More information [here](#).

Graduation Ceremony, Postgraduate Students

• On 11 December 2024, 24 graduates of the anglophone Interdepartmental Master's Program ['Science, Technology, Society - Science and Technology Studies'](#), offered in the last seven years by the Department of History and Philosophy of Science and the Department of Informatics and Telecommunications of NKUA, were sworn in. The diplomas were awarded by the Chair of the Department of History and Philosophy of Science and the Director of the Graduate Program, professors **Antonis Hatzimoisis** and **Aristotle Tympas**.



Graduation Ceremony



Group photograph in front of the New Building of the Department of History and Philosophy of Science

ΔΠΜΣ “Science, Technology, Society – Science and Technology Studies”

• Several students from all around Europe, with support from the Erasmus student exchange program, choose every year to come to the anglophone Interdepartmental Graduate Program [‘Science, Technology, Society – Science and Technology Studies’](#) (Department of History and Philosophy of Science and Department of Informatics and Telecommunications, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens) to write their thesis in the context of the ESST network of universities. This year’s group includes six persons from the Netherlands, Germany, Italy, Scotland and Poland, who are ESST students at the **University of Maastricht**.



Members of the group with the Director of the Graduate Program, Professor Aristotle Tympas, in front of the New Building of the Department of History and Philosophy of Science.

Publications of Members of the Department

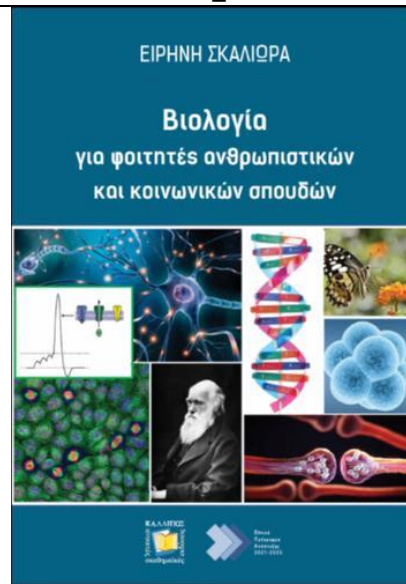
- **Monograph:** Chyrostomos Mantzavinos, [*The Constitution of Science*](#), Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2024, pp. 228.

Abstract: How can science be protected, by whom and at what level? If science is valued positively as the incubator of the most successful solutions to representational problems of reality as well as the basis of the most effective interventions in the natural and social world, then its constitutional foundations must be protected. This book develops a specific normative outlook on science by introducing the idea of a “Constitution of Science”.



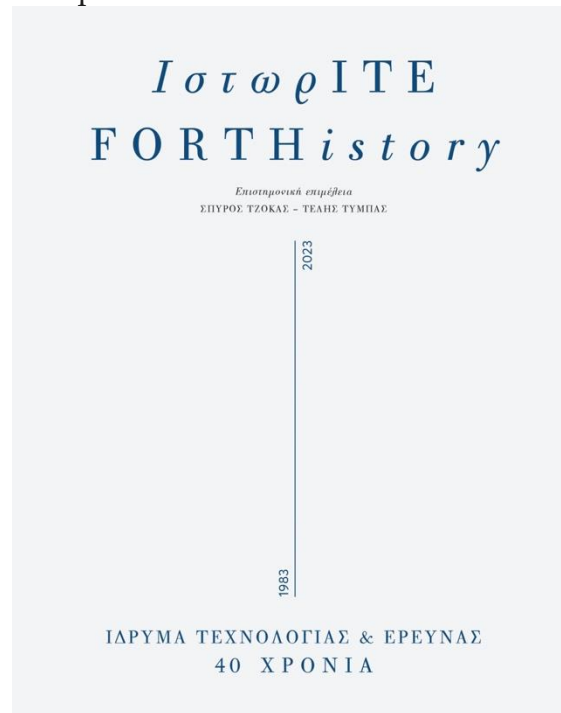
Scientific activities are special kinds of epistemic problem-solving activities unfolding in an institutional context. The scientific enterprise is a social process unfolding within an intricate institutional framework that structures the daily activities of scientists and shapes their outcomes. Those institutions of science which are of the highest generality make up the 'Constitution of Science' and are of fundamental importance for channelling the scientific process effectively.

- **Monograph:** Irini Skaliora, [*Biology for Students in the Humanities and Social Studies*](#), Athens: Kallipos, 2025, pp. 256.



- **Edited Volume:** Tzokas, Spyros and Tympas, Telis (ed.), [*ΙστορΙΤΕ FORTHistory*](#), Heraklion: Crete University Press, 2024, pp. 684.

Abstract: With the key contribution of members of the community of the Department of History and Philosophy of Science of NKUA, a multi-page volume on the history of the Foundation for Research and Technology (FORTH) was published.



A research program that culminated in the writing of a multi-page (684 pages) history of the Technology and Research Foundation (FORTH), a leading research institution in Greece and internationally, was completed with the participation of a multi-member team from the community of the Department of History and Philosophy of Science (PHS). The team included graduates/alumni of PHS and its undergraduate and graduate programs, as well as graduates of the IΦE program of doctoral studies. The volume, which covers the period from 1983 to 2023, was edited by **Spyros Tzokas**, a graduate of the PHS doctoral program, together with the PHS Professor **Aristotle Tympas**, a guest faculty member of the FORTH Institute of Mediterranean Studies, with which IΦE has signed a memorandum of cooperation.

FORTH now consists of 10 institutes, 3 structures and more than 1,600 members in 8 different cities of Greece. For the preparation of this historical study, the FORTH Archive was set up from scratch under the supervision of professor **Gelina Harlaftis**, director of the FORTH Institute of Mediterranean Studies. Through thorough research, with the key role of **Spyros Tzokas**, an archive was formed by material from the FORTH institutes and structures, the personal collections of FORTH founding executives, thousands of relevant publications from the domestic and international press, and, further, interviews with FORTH pioneers and active members of its community. This

voluminous archive offered the basis for this volume, which is the product of a research and writing team of no less than 19 historians.

The volume represents a study of wider importance for understanding the history of research in Greece. This study, which covers a wide range of complex institutions, but, more importantly, particularly demanding research objects, highlights-confirms the ability of the IΦE community to assume in the future a leading role in other ambitious projects of writing the history of the country's science, technology and medicine research and academic institutions.

• **Articles:**

- Drakopoulos, S. 2025. "[The Conceptual Resilience of the Atomistic Individual in Mainstream Economic Rationality](#)," *Review of Political Economy*, vol.37, No.1 pp.1-20.

- Karamatsos, C. and N. Alexis. 2024. "[Mechanising the Greek Tobacco Industry: Worker Knowledge, Protest, and Territorial Expansion, 1890–1925](#)," in A. van Wickeren et al. (eds.), *Tobacco in Global Perspective, 1780–1960*, Cambridge Imperial and Post-Colonial Studies, Chapter 9, 231-58.

- Konstantis, K. 2025. "[The Main Challenges of AI Ethics: Historical Contextualization, Black-Boxing, Social Biases, Labor Invisibility](#)". *Proceedings of the AAAI/ACM Conference on AI, Ethics, and Society*, 7(2), 23-25.

- Manolakaki, E. 2025. "[Contemporary Foundational Accounts of Propositions](#)," in *The Oxford Handbook of Contemporary Philo-sophy of Language*, ed. E. Lepore and U. Stojnić. Oxford: OUP, 114-32.

- Sioumalas-Christodoulou, K. and T. Tympas, "[AI metrics and policymaking: assumptions and challenges in the shaping of AI.](#)" *AI & Society* (2025).
- Tympas, T. «ΠΟΙΗΣΑΣΘΑΙ...ΤΗΝ ΑΡΜΟΖΟΥΣΑΝ ΜΝΗΜΗΝ»: Για την ιστορία των τεχνικών και τεχνολογιών επικοινωνιών. *Σελίδες Ιστορίας Καθημερινής*, Τεύχος 11, Ιανουάριος 2025, 46-55.
- Tzafestas, E.S. "[Modeling the role of attachment in the development of reciprocity and generosity](#)", *Proceedings of the 2024 International Conference on Cognitive Modeling, Tilburg, Netherlands*, July 2024.
- Tzafestas, E.S. "[Perishable material choice indicates symbolic and representational capacities](#)" (Commentary on Duncan N.E. Stibbard-Hawkes' article "Reconsidering the link between past material culture and cognition in light of contemporary hunter-gatherer material use"), *Behavioral and Brain Sciences*, January 2025, 48:e19- Vlantoni, K. (2024). Ινστιτούτο Μοριακής Βιολογίας & Βιοτεχνολογίας (IMBB). In S. Tzokas & T. Tympas (Eds.), *ΙστωρΙΤΕ/FORTHHistory, 1983-2023* (pp. 171-247). Crete University Press. (in Greek)
- Vlantoni, K. (2024). Ινστιτούτο Βιοϊατρικών Ερευνών (IBE). In S. Tzokas & T. Tympas (Eds.), *ΙστωρΙΤΕ/FORTHHistory, 1983-2023* (pp. 433-477). Crete University Press. (in Greek)
- Vlantoni, K. (2024). Ελληνικό Ινστιτούτο Γονιδιωµατικής του Ανθρώπου (ΕΙΓΑ). In S. Tzokas & T. Tympas (Eds.), *ΙστωρΙΤΕ/FORTHHistory, 1983-2023* (pp. 531-533). Crete University Press. (in Greek)

Laboratory of Political and Institutional Theory and the History of Ideas

- The Laboratory has completed one year of operation, during which it organized two significant events. The first was a major conference held in the building of the Greek Parliament (January 2024) on the 1821 Revolutionary Press, with the participation of 45 historians. The second was the major event at the University of Athens (May 2024), on the occasion of the 200th anniversary of Lord Byron's death, which was honored by the President of the Republic and the Ambassador of Great Britain. The University of Athens will be publishing the conference proceedings this year. The Workshop organized three semi-
- Nars with guest professors from Harvard University, London Business School, and the University of Cyprus, as well as six by-invitation-only seminars with leading Greek historians.
- The Laboratory is currently planning three major events for 2025: (a) A workshop on June 19, co-organized with the Book History Laboratory of the Department of Theatre Studies of the University of Athens, on the topic of female writing and especially women's correspondence in the 19th century. (b) A two-day conference to be held at the Greek Parliament in November 2025, at which young historians participating in the Laboratory's research programs

will present their research. (c) An online seminar on the history of modern Hellenism, in which young historians who are members of the Laboratory will give lectures. A permanent monthly workshop is also planned in cooperation with the School of Philosophy of the University of Athens, the Academy of Athens, the National Hellenic Research Foundation and Panteion University.

- The Laboratory has a proven track record of success in securing research projects, often in highly competitive environments. In 2024, it successfully managed Greek, European, and American projects with a combined value exceeding 350,000 euros.

- The Laboratory has been awarded the Modern Greek Studies Association's innovation grant for 2024 for its members' work on the archives of two British military men actively involved in the Greek Revolution.

- This year and for one semester (Feb.-July 2025), the Laboratory is hosting **Margherita Pinzani**, a young Italian historian and PhD candidate at the University of Messina. Her research focuses on the activities in Italy, in the early years of the Greek Revolution, of the Greek liberal intellectual Konstantinos Polychroniadis. Margherita is currently working on her doctorate under the supervision of Professor **Aristides Hatzis**.

- The Laboratory currently has 15 volunteer students from the Department of History & Philosophy of Science. These volunteers have completed the indexing of the 28 volu-

mes of the *Great Hellenic Encyclopedia* on all topics related to the history of modern Hellenism. Three of these volunteers are continuing their studies at the graduate level: **Agapi Chatzopoulou** is pursuing a master's degree in political science and history at Panteion University. **Elena Tzeraki** is pursuing a master's degree in philosophy at KU Leuven, supported by a scholarship from the Lillian Voudouri Foundation. **Emelina Chatzakou** is pursuing a master's degree in political philosophy at the University of Amsterdam, supported by scholarships from the Union of Greek Shipowners and the Foundation for Education and European Culture. Finally, historian **Kalliopi Livadarou** has recently joined the team. She is recording the journal *Historika*.

- Following an agreement with St. Catherine's British School, the Laboratory accepts every summer for internships senior students at the school who plan to start their university studies at prominent universities abroad. In the summer of 2024, a student from China, **Bella Lyu**, who aspires to study political theory at Oxford, completed an internship at the Lab. During her internship, Bella prepared a paper on Wu Zhao, the only female empress in Chinese history.

- Two members of the Laboratory were recently appointed. **Elisavet Tsakanika**, as a member of the Laboratory Teaching Staff at the Department of Sociology at Panteion University, and **Michael Sotiropoulos**, as a Senior Lecturer in Modern Greek studies at the University of Edinburgh. Elisavet and Michalis are the two main associates of Prof. **Hatzis** in

all research projects. **Maria Theotokatou**, a graduate of the Department of History and Philosophy of Science with an M.A. in Modern Greek History from the Department of History, has been hired by the British School of Athens to process the Noel-Baker family archive. She has already worked at the Finlay Archive, also at the British School of Athens.

- Following the research of Prof. **Aristides Hatzis** in public archives and libraries in Great Britain, the USA, Italy and Greece during the period 2023-2024, the Laboratory now has a huge archive on the Greek Revolution (and beyond) with more than 50,000 document images. Once organized, the archive will be available to all researchers and scholars of the period. At the June 19 workshop, Lab staff members **Eleanna Tzeraki** and **Emelina Chatzakou** will present an unknown,

unpublished early 19th-century political theory text written by an English atheist liberal proto-feminist on the causes of the 1820s revolutions in Europe. The text was discovered in the British National Archives by Prof. **Aristides Hatzis**, with whom they are collaborating.

- The **Annual Vasilopita Cutting Ceremony** took place at the Laboratory on **12 February 2025**.



Vasilopita Cutting Ceremony

Alumni News

- **Emelina Despina Chatzakou**, a graduate of the Department of History and Philosophy of Science, continues to build on the academic foundation she acquired during her undergraduate studies by excelling in her Master's program at the University of Amsterdam. Emelina was awarded a second scholarship from the Foundation for Education and European Culture

(she received the first from the Union of Greek Shipowners), recognizing her academic achievements and supporting her goals. She attributes much of her success to the rigorous skills she acquired during her time at the University of Athens. She has just been accepted by the University of Oxford to continue her postgraduate studies on political theory.

Completed Doctoral Theses

- **Alexakis, Sotirios.**

Title: [Technoscientific networks and agricultural policies in Greece: the case](#)

[of seeds and chemical fertilizers in wheat production from 1920 to the present.](#)

Language: Greek

Supervisor: Prof. Stathis Arapostathis

Date: 2024

Abstract: The current study endeavors to undertake a historical reconstruction of Greek wheat production, positing it as a socio-technical system within the realm of agricultural production spanning from the interwar era to contemporary times. The methodological approach is situated within the fields of the History of Science and Technology, and Science and Technology Studies. The focal point of the analytical framework lies in the examination of technoscientific networks as pivotal determinants influencing the trajectory of wheat production in Greece. These technoscientific networks include both material arrangements and infrastructures, as well as historical actors who played a crucial role in shaping specific policies and directions. The dissertation is the first study that exclusively focuses on the history of wheat production in Greece, while simultaneously attempting to broaden the interpretive framework as reflected in the historiography of Greek agriculture.

The analysis follows two pivotal subsystems that determined the directions of the socio-technical system of wheat production: seeds and chemical fertilizers. These constitute critical arenas of interaction among technoscientific networks, ultimately shaping the trajectory of wheat cultivation over the last 100 years. Within this framework, the role of science and technology in shaping and legitimizing relevant policies is examined, along with the terms nego-

tiated for technical choices and the reliability of technologies. Additionally, the study explores how specific social and economic relationships were structured through technopolitics and how certain sociotechnical imaginaries, such as "productivity" and "quality", were constructed. The analysis stresses the critical role of interaction among technoscientific networks in shaping the relationship between farming communities and the environment, as well as material commitments to specific production systems.

• **Mattes, Giorgos.**

Title: [The role of the I.K.Y. programmes in the shaping of the Greek academic community, 1951-1974.](#)

Language: Greek

Supervisor: Prof. Telis Tympas

Date: 2023

Abstract: The State Scholarships Foundation (IKY) is the oldest and most important institution for the support of the studies and the mobility of higher education students, vocational training students and young researchers in Greece. The aim of the research is to study the role of state scholarships in the shaping of the academic community in Greece, in particular within a) the productive system (public and private sector), b) the broader academic and research subsystem (production of scientific knowledge and educational process), and c) the mechanisms of representation (political and public sphere). The dissertation explores the relationship between Political History, Economic History, History of Science and Technology and the History of the Greek Educational System in the period

1951-1974, through the quantitative and qualitative analysis of the IKY data. The primary material comes from the archives of the IKY Yearbooks, the minutes of the IKY Board of Directors and the records of the IKY budgets.

• **Christopoulou, Vasiliki.**

Title: [Methodological Approaches and the Role of Experiment in the Work of Lord Rayleigh](#)

Language: Greek

Supervisor: Prof. Theodore Arabatzis

Date: 2024

Abstract: Lord Rayleigh (1842-1919) was a British physicist who, for about fifty years, dealt with a wide range of classical physics as it was formed in his time, publishing more than 440 scientific articles. Experimentation was integral to Rayleigh's investigations, and precise measurements were at the heart of his experimental practice. Nevertheless, what constitutes accuracy in Rayleigh measurements is a complex issue. Measurement is an activity, and accuracy, beyond a criterion of measurement reliability, is a characteristic linked to a process of

corrections, processing, and discussion of data, which is part of the broader cognitive and social context. In this sense, even in the 'technical core' of measurements, there are historical, social, and cultural dimensions. Therefore, even in measurements, there are alternative scientific practices, and there may be different personal styles of scientists.

It follows from this dissertation that Rayleigh had a personal style with which he approached measurements, accuracy, and errors in his experimental practice. Rayleigh's style concerning accuracy and error is analyzed in the dissertation. However, his approach was not a shared feature for physicists or chemists of the time. Different laboratories and scientists approached accuracy in practice differently, both at the level of teaching and research, while even the concept of accuracy itself varied across space and time. Finally, it is argued that even among British physicists, there was variation in the approach to measurement, accuracy, and error analysis. Thus, there was no national style on this issue.

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