



THE HELLENIC INSTITUTE

10th October 2020

Dear Colleagues, Students and Friends,

This year we celebrate the 200th Anniversary of the outbreak of the Greek War of Independence (1821-2021). On this important occasion a series of events are being organised by the Hellenic Institute as part of the [21 in 21](#) programme of events. These 21 Greek-British encounters represent a wide range of activities, which reflect collaboration across London-based institutions and organisations and aim to engage broad audiences of non-specialists as well as specialists. Organised by a Committee chaired by Dr Gonda Van Steen, Koraës Professor of Modern Greek and Byzantine History, Language and Literature, and Director of Centre for Hellenic Studies at King's College London and supported by the A. G. Leventis Foundation, these events are part of the [Initiative 1821-2021](#), which is placed under the aegis of Greek State and the National Bank of Greece and seeks to bring together scholars and institutions in Greece, Cyprus and countries all over the world with the aim to create a lasting legacy of 1821 and beyond. The Hellenic Institute is contributing with three events to which you are cordially invited. Depending on the measures taken by the UK Government against the pandemic, these events will take place either online or in the venues stated below (you will be receiving details and updated information in due course).


First, the Nineteenth Annual Hellenic Lecture on "The Greek Revolution of 1821 and its Multiple Legacies" by Professor Gonda Van Steen. Since the outbreak of the Greek War of Independence in 1821, the Greek people have celebrated three major anniversaries: the 50th, 100th, and 150th anniversary date of the inception of this revolutionary war that led to sovereign statehood after nearly four centuries of Ottoman rule. These three jubilees, each with their own legacies, have come to represent three different ways of celebrating Greek statehood that have, nonetheless, much in common. They posited a linear progression from Greek antiquity through postclassical, Byzantine, and post-Byzantine (Ottoman) times. The lecture will explore in what ways the celebrations and re-enactments, with their commemorative events and symbolic images, acquired a prescriptive character, which advanced their aim to educate youth in state-promoted nationalism, and to what extent the present 200th anniversary celebrations differ from the three aforementioned ones. The Lecture is scheduled to be held in the [Moore Building Auditorium](#), Royal Holloway, Egham, Surrey on 11 March 2021 at 6.15pm, to be followed by drinks.

Our two other events are panel discussions organised and chaired by Dr Paris Papamichos Chronakis. The first, to be held on 22 April 2021, explores “The Greek Revolution through the Eyes of ‘Others’”, focusing on perceptions of the Greek War of Independence across the Mediterranean Sea during and after the event, including attitudes of Ottoman Muslim officials, Italian revolutionaries, Greek Orthodox Cypriots and Sephardi Jews. Speakers include Dr Antonis Hadjikiakou (Panteion University, Athens), Dr Sukru Ilicak (Research Centre for the Humanities, Athens) and Dr Maurizio Isabella (Queen Mary, University of London). The second panel discussion, to take place on 26 November 2021, is devoted to the Philhellenes. Taking as a point of departure the famous Ionian Academy established by the great Philhellene Frederick North, 5th Earl of Guildford (1766-1827), being the first University established on Greek soil (1824-1827), Professor Richard Clogg and other scholars will explore the history and tradition of the intellectual movements that led to the liberation of the Greeks, including the contribution of the Greek communities in Britain, Europe and Russia. Both events are scheduled to take place at RHUL premises in 11 Bedford Square, London WC1B 3RF (time to be confirmed).

Finally, we are pleased to invite you to the Twelfth Annual Memorial Lecture for Julian Chrysostomides (1928-2008), former Director of the Hellenic Institute, whose legacy as a teacher and scholar guides us in our work. The Memorial Lecture will be delivered online on Saturday 17 October 2020, 4-5pm (London time). Dr Kostas Kalimtzis will explore the theme of “*Scholê* and *Paideia*: Leisure in Liberal Education as a Political End”, from the perspective that the Hellenic philosophical ideal of *scholê* continues to this day to beckon us to actualize our deepest humanity within a commonwealth of friends.

For further information and to express interest or reserve places for these events please contact Paris.Chronakis@rhul.ac.uk and Ch.Dendrinis@rhul.ac.uk.

On behalf of The Hellenic Institute please accept our gratitude for your continued support and our warmest wishes for good health and a fruitful new academic year.



Charalambos Dendrinis
Director, The Hellenic Institute