

The year 2012-13 at Cambridge

Students

Four students took Part II of the Modern and Medieval Languages Tripos offering all, or most, of their papers in Modern Greek. Stefani Vekinis was among the few candidates awarded a starred First (Distinction). Grace Bayley, Callum Humphries and Lucy Kitching all achieved Upper Seconds. Adam Gibbins (see also below) took Paper Gr. 7, “The history and structure of Modern Greek”, and achieved a First in Part II of the Linguistics Tripos.

The Catherine Grigoriou-Theocarakis Prize for excellence in Modern Greek Studies was awarded to Stefani Vekinis.

Seven students took Paper Gr. 3, “Introduction to Modern Greek language and culture”, as candidates for either Part IB of the MML Tripos or Part II of the Classical Tripos. Two of the classicists, Mark Darling and Papatya Sutcliffe, graduated with Firsts.

Two candidates passed the examinations for the Diploma in Modern Greek: Tim Ellison and Adam Gibbins were awarded marks of Distinction. Four candidates were successful in the examinations for the Certificate in Modern Greek; two of them, Timur Çetin and Andreas Televantos, passed with Distinction.

Timur Çetin and Adam Gibbins were awarded scholarships by the Greek Ministry of Education, Religion, Culture and Sport, to attend the IMXA summer school in Thessaloniki.

Semele Assinder submitted her thesis in November 2012 and was approved for the PhD degree in March 2013. The title of her dissertation is: “Greece in British women’s writing, 1866-1915”. She spent the period October 2012 to April 2013 at the British School at Athens, where she held the Macmillan-Rodewald Studentship. In April 2013 she was co-organizer of a conference in Cambridge (see below).

Teaching staff

As in previous years, Dr Regina Karousou-Fokas taught the language part of the paper “Introduction to Modern Greek language and culture”. She also taught Part II Translation into Greek, and co-taught “The history and structure of Modern Greek” with Professor Holton. Dr Liana Giannakopoulou and Ms Semele Assinder made valuable contributions to the teaching of prescribed texts and topics for the “Introduction” paper. Dr Giannakopoulou also shared the teaching of the paper “Greek literature, history and thought, since 1900” and co-ordinated a new paper on “Text and culture”. Dr Evangelia Ronga taught courses for the Certificate and Diploma in Modern Greek.

Visiting speakers programme

During the Michaelmas Term 2012 there were four lectures by invited speakers on a variety of topics:

- 25 October. Professor Marc Lauxtermann (Exeter College, Oxford):
Guns and grammars, or the remarkable adventures of Romanos Nikiforou
- 8 November. Dr Anthony Hirst (The Durrell School of Corfu): *Gods refusing to die: from Plutarch to Pound, via Wilde, Cavafy, Palamas and Seferis*
- 15 November. Professor Stephanos Pasmazoglou (Panteio University, Athens): *Aspects of the Greek Crisis and their articulation within the European context*
- 22 November. Dr Polina Tambakaki (King’s College London): *Language and music, national identity and Orthodoxy: “The Destitute Dervish” by Alexandros Papadiamantis*

In the Lent and Easter Terms a special series of six lectures was arranged to mark the 300th anniversary of the first edition of the Cretan romance *Erotokritos*, written by Vitsentzos Kornaros (1553-1613/14). All the speakers hold Cambridge doctorates:

- 7 February. Dr Marina Rodosthenous (University of Nicosia): *Erotokritos and the Cypriot Canzoniere*

- 14 February. Dr Tina Lendari (University of Athens): *Beauty and desire in Erotokritos*
- 21 February. Dr Tasoula Markomihelaki-Mintzas (University of Thessaloniki): *The poetics of plants in Erotokritos and Panoria*
- 28 February. Dr Tassos A. Kaplanis (University of Cyprus): *From text to image: Erotokritos illustrated (18th-20th centuries)*
- 7 March. Dr Natalia Deliyannaki: *Kornaros's Erofilei*
- 3 May. Dr Alfred Vincent (University of Sydney): *Myth-history: Venice, Crete and Erotokritos*

Alumni Dinner

A dinner for former students of Modern Greek and guests took place at Selwyn College, Cambridge, on Saturday 18 May 2013. The guest of honour was the current British Ambassador in Athens, His Excellency Mr John Kittmer, who studied Classics at Christ's College from 1985 to 1988.

Conference on women's writing

The Modern Greek Section, in collaboration with the Society for Modern Greek Studies, held a one-day conference in Cambridge on 12 April 2013, with the title: "Greece and Britain in women's literary imagination, 1913-2013". The keynote address was given by Dr Vassiliki Kolocotroni (University of Glasgow), and the other speakers were: Semele Assinder, Thodoris Chiotis, Kelli Daskala, Professor Deirdre David, Rowena Fowler, Eleni Papargyriou, Laura Vivanco and Sofka Zinovieff. A Round Table discussion was chaired by Professor Roderick Beaton. During the concluding reception Efrosini Camatsos presented her book, based on her Cambridge PhD, *The female "I" in Modern Greek prose fiction 1924-1962: A literary development of freeing the female voice* (Edwin Mellen 2013). The conference was held in association with the Hellenic Foundation for Culture, and the organizers were Eleni Papargyriou, Semele Assinder and David Holton.

Activities of members of the Modern Greek Section

Dr Liana Giannakopoulou, Affiliated Lecturer, was co-organizer of an evening dedicated to the travel writing of Patrick Leigh

Fermor, held at King's College London in November 2012, in collaboration with the Society for Modern Greek Studies. She also organized and introduced a Greek poetry reading event, in February 2013, in the context of the exhibition "In search of Classical Greece: Travel drawings of Edward Dodwell and Simone Pomardi, 1805-1806", at the British Museum. In May 2013 Dr Giannakopoulou was the invited speaker at the Annual General Meeting of Amitiés Gréco-Suisses, where she gave a lecture, in French, on "Perceptions of the Parthenon in poetry".

Professor David Holton attended a conference entitled "Διά ανθύμῃσιν καιροῦ και τόπου: Λογοτεχνικές αποτυπώσεις του κόσμου της Κύπρου" at the University of Cyprus in October 2012. He presented a paper on "The role of translation in early Cypriot literature". In November 2012 he gave a paper in Oxford entitled "Kazantzakis in the groves of academe: his visit to Britain in 1946". As Chairman of the Society for Modern Greek Studies he took part in various Society events in the course of the year. A conference paper from 2006 has appeared, belatedly:

"The Cambridge Grammar of Medieval Greek Project: aims, scope, research questions", in: G. K. Mavromatis and N. Agiotis (eds.), *Πρώιμη νεοελληνική δημόδης γραμματεία: Γλώσσα, παράδοση και ποιητική* [Πρακτικά του 6ου Διεθνούς Συνεδρίου Neograeca Medii Aevi] (Heraklion: Vikelaia Dimotiki Vivliothiki 2012), pp. 263-70

Marjolijne Janssen was reappointed as Research Associate on the Grammar of Medieval and Early Modern Greek project, for the period from November 2012 to September 2013. She has published:

"Perfectly absent: the emergence of the Modern Greek perfect in Early Modern Greek", *Byzantine and Modern Greek Studies* 37 (2013) 245-60

(with Marc Lauxtermann), "Το παράπονο του δασκάλου: Ο Πτωχο-πρόδρομος και η βυζαντινή γραμματική παράδοση", in: Isabel García Gálves and Olga Omatos Sáenz (eds.), *Tolmiros skaraneas. Homenaje al profesor Kostas A. Dimadis / Τολμηρός σκαπανέας. Αφιέρωμα στον καθηγητή Κώστα Α. Δημάδη* (Vitoria-Gasteiz: Sociedad Hispánica de Estudios Neogriegos 2011-12), pp. 27-43

Dr Regina Karousou-Fokas, Affiliated Lecturer, gave a presentation at a workshop on “Languages in the community”, organized as part of the Cambridge University Festival of Ideas. At the workshop, which took place in November 2012, a team of Cambridge researchers and representatives from local communities spoke about issues arising in bilingualism and bilingual education and presented community schools.

The future of Modern Greek Studies at Cambridge

The last students admitted to the Faculty of Modern and Medieval Languages to read Modern Greek as one of their two main languages graduated in the summer of 2013. David Holton retired as Professor of Modern Greek on 1 October 2013. No appointment has been made to a lectureship in Modern Greek, and it is unlikely that a post will be made available unless additional funding is secured, to supplement the existing Lewis-Gibson endowment. However, at least for the next two years, it will still be possible for modern linguists and classicists to choose the Tripos paper “Introduction to Modern Greek language and culture”, taught by Dr Regina Karousou-Fokas and Dr Liana Giannakopoulou. In 2013-14 there are 19 students taking this paper.

Efforts will continue to be made to engage with potential donors and, from time to time, the Modern Greek Section will organize public events and endeavour to promote the subject as widely as possible.