



School of Economic and Regional Studies
Department of Balkan Slavic and Oriental Studies
Culture-Borders-Gender/LAB

**PERFORMING NATIONAL IDENTITY:
COMMEMORATIONS, INSTITUTIONS, AND RITUALS
Conference for the celebration
of the bicentennial of the 1821 Greek Revolution**

May 21-23, 2021, Thessaloniki, Greece

Co-organized by:

Folklife and Ethnological Museum of Macedonia-Thrace
Department of Balkan, Slavic and Oriental Studies, University of Macedonia
Laboratory for the Study of Culture, Borders and Gender, (Department of BSOS, University of Macedonia)

Department of Music Science and Art, University of Macedonia
Section of Folklore, Department of History and Archaeology, University of Ioannina

Σχόλιο [AM1]: September 24 - 26 (new date)

CALL FOR PAPERS

It is common knowledge in the social sciences that collective identities are neither eternal nor fixed. They are fluid, historically shaped, and object of management and negotiation by collective and individual actors. It is also common ground that national identities have been formed during modernity when the nation-state emerged as an essential and dominant political organization unit.

The outset of the relationship between the nation's collectivity and the state's territoriality is traced in the historical period of the industrial and urban revolution in Europe. However, this relationship is redefined continuously and shapes, historically, the dominant narrative around national identity, national origin, and the way the nation and the modern collective self are constructed.

In Greece, despite the debates and different perspectives, the view of the pre-existing cultural community of Hellenism is commonly accepted, and it is reconstructed on a new ground after the national liberation struggles and the establishment of the modern Greek state.

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The conference explores ways of constructing the community through performative expressions of collective identities, as they become visible in the institutional discourse, public events, rituals, and symbols used by the state and citizens to (re)produce the nation. These are contexts and processes in which experiences of the self, the collective, the national belonging, and the citizen are produced through interactions, hegemonic discourses, experiences of power, symbolic meanings, and embodied practices.

The concept of performance is chosen as the appropriate theoretical and analytical framework to study complex and multilevel forms of social action and different cultural practices that shape, reproduce or even challenge the multiple discourses and embodied ways in which national identity is constructed.

The conference will host presentations (in Greek or English) and discuss the issue of national identity, focusing on institutions' role and various forms of performance in the context of institutional discourse, social interaction, and various bodily practices. Indicative thematic areas are as follows:

- Collective, state, and private institutions (e.g., educational institutions, museums, associations, cultural associations)
- Religion, rituals, celebrations, and symbols
- Communities, borders and boundaries
- Space, architecture, monuments, and memory
- Family, kinship, and gender
- Material culture, nutritional practices, customary life
- Language, arts, dance, music, songs, costumes, sports
- Technology, media, digital and audiovisual culture

The invitation is aimed at social sciences and humanities researchers (Social Anthropology, Folklore, History, Sociology, Cultural Studies, etc.) who employ case studies and critical thinking to highlight the meanings and limitations, and dynamics of national identity performances in contemporary times.

Submission of applications - Information

- Summary of up to 250 words (in Greek or English) with the title of the presentation
- Contact details: name, scientific status, email address
- Conference languages: Greek, English
- **Deadline for the abstract submission: November 30, 2020**

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Eleni Gelani, PhD Candidate in Folklore and Social Anthropology, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki

Scientific Committee

- Vassilis Nitsiakos, Professor of Social Folklore, University of Ioannina
- Fotini Tsimbridou, Professor of Social Anthropology, University of Macedonia
- Eftichia Voutira, Professor of Social Anthropology, University of Macedonia
- Eleni Gavra, Professor of Housing and Cultural Heritage in the Balkans and the Black Sea, University of Macedonia
- Alexandra Ioannidou, Professor of Modern and Contemporary Slavic Literatures and Culture.
- Eleftheria Deltsoy, Associate Professor of Social Anthropology, University of Thessaly
- Ioannis Manos, Associate Professor of Social Anthropology, University of Macedonia
- Stavroula - Villy Fotopoulou, Head of the Directorate of Modern Cultural Heritage, Ministry of Culture
- Marilena Papachristoforou, Associate Professor of Social Anthropology and Folklore, University of Ioannina
- Eleni Kallimopoulou, Assistant Professor of Ethnomusicology, University of Macedonia
- Eleni Sideri, Assistant Professor of Social Anthropology, University of Macedonia
- Stratos Dordanas, Assistant Professor of Modern and Contemporary History, University of Macedonia

Organizational committee

- Vassilis Nitsiakos, Professor of Social Folklore, University of Ioannina
- Ioannis Manos, Associate Professor of Social Anthropology, University of Macedonia
- Eleni Kallimopoulou, Assistant Professor of Ethnomusicology, University of Macedonia
- Ioannis Drinis, Head of the Department of Intangible Cultural Heritage and Intercultural Affairs, Ministry of Culture
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- Eleni Bintsi, Head of FEMM-TH
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- Sotiris Souloukos, PhD Candidate in Religious Studies, AUTH