

ANNOUNCEMENT

PROGRAM ADJUSTMENT

4th Cycle of ETHNOGRAFEIN Online Educational Seminars (2023-2024)

"Borders and boundaries revisited: Anthropological perspectives and public engagement"



Performance oikade (Aleksandros Plomaritis)
[provided by Dr. Christina Grammatikopoulou]

The seminars of the 4th Cycle of Ethnografein (2023-2024) that were scheduled for March 11 and April 1, 2024 will not take place and the lecture schedule is adjusted as follows:

8 April 2024

"The Georgian-Russian Border: Perspectives from the Periphery"

Florian Muehlfried

Professor for social anthropology at Ilia State University (Georgia)

15 April 2024

***"NEA MOΔA-HOBA MOΔA-NEW FASHION:
Materialities, cultural performances and crosslocations
on the border between Greece and North Macedonia"***

Ioannis Manos

Associate Professor, Department of Balkan, Slavic and Oriental Studies, University of Macedonia

22 April 2024

"Actions from below and exit from the Cypriot liminality"

Pafsanias Karathanasis

PhD in Social Anthropology

Abstracts - CVs

8/4/2024 Florian Muehlfried: The Georgian-Russian Border: Perspectives from the Periphery

In my presentation, I will trace the transformation of the border between Georgia and Russia from soft to hard based on the example of the Georgian highland region Tusheti. After the breakdown of the Soviet Union, the border region was managed flexibly and “from below”. This was followed by an internationalisation of border guarding and attempts to its spiritual fortification. These three phases of border guarding can be related to three different models of the state, and of being a citizen.

Florian Mühlfried is a Professor of Social Anthropology at Ilia State University. His publications include the monographs *Mistrust: A Global Perspective* (2019) and *Being a State and States of Being in Highland Georgia* (2014), the edited volume *Mistrust: Ethnographic Approximations* (2018), as well as the co-edited volumes *Sacred Places, Emerging Spaces: Religious Pluralism in the Post-Soviet Caucasus* (2018) and *Exploring the Edge of Empire: Soviet Era Anthropology in the Caucasus and Central Asia* (2011).

15/4/202 Ioannis Manos: ΝΕΑ ΜΟΔΑ-ΝΟΒΑ ΜΟΔΑ-NEW FASHION: Materialities, cultural performances and crosslocations on the border between Greece and North Macedonia

The regions of Florina (Φλώρινα) and Bitola (Битола), situated along the border between Greece and North Macedonia, constitute border locations where various and simultaneous economic, political, cultural, and social processes coincide. Amidst these processes, hegemonic discourses with different temporalities collide, various social practices with significant material implications are articulated, and multiple communities are constructed, signified, and experienced. These processes manifest across multiple fields of action and interact with each other or coexist concurrently in the same geographical space without necessarily being interlinked. This presentation uses the Florina and Bitola frontier region to explore the interplay between cultural performances and geopolitical borders.

This borderland is approached as a crosslocation, where different classificatory logics and asymmetric forms of power compete to impose their meanings on the significance and value of a place. While the two regions are politically and economically separated by distinct border regimes, including those between nation-states, EU boundaries, and the Schengen zone, they are also geographically, culturally, and historically interconnected. The presentation draws upon ethnographic material to discuss how border populations dynamically and actively produce varied experiences of the place through cultural performances, including language, dance, song, and music.

Ioannis Manos (imanos@uom.edu.gr) is an Associate Professor of Social Anthropology of the Balkans at the Department of Balkan, Slavic and Oriental Studies, University of Macedonia, Thessaloniki, Greece. He studied History and Archaeology at the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki and Social Anthropology in Hamburg, Germany and Sussex, Great Britain. He holds a Certificate in Social Research Methods from the Graduate School of Social Sciences of the University of Sussex. He has worked as a Full Time Visiting Research Fellow at the Sussex European Institute. He is the Europe regional editor of the journal *Teaching Anthropology* (Royal Anthropological Institute, London). He is also a founding member of the academic network on Anthropology and the Balkans "Border Crossings", a member of the Advisory Board and co-editor of its publication series. His research interests focus on SE Europe and include borders and border regions, dance and music as performative aspects of culture, nationalism and ethnicity, politics of culture and difference, migration, human and minority rights, educational structures and processes, the teaching of anthropology and the epistemology and methodology of research. His publications include chapters and articles in Greek and English edited volumes, journals and conference proceedings, and co-editing of Greek and English edited volumes.

22/4/2024 Pafsanias Karathanasis : *Actions from below and exit from the Cypriot liminality*

The presentation draws on my ongoing research experience in the divided Cypriot capital, which aspires to add a piece to our understanding of the otherwise complex Cyprus Problem. Focusing on the Cypriot division, and on the boundaries that it creates, it examines the ways in which social subjects attempt to cope with the official restrictions. These can be social, political or geographical, but they are also expressed as restrictions to the development of the imagination for a different future. Following contemporary anthropological approaches to the concept of liminality, the analysis begins from the old town of Nicosia, a liminal urban space - next to the Green Line - and attempts to place the processes taking place there in a broader context of analysis of Cypriot society within the conditions created by the controlled reconnection of the two sides after 2003. Drawing on a spatial analysis of political and cultural activities situated in the geographical and symbolic in-between, it attempts to approach the continuation of Cypriot division as the maintenance of an uncertain and precarious in-between state and proposes an interpretation of these activities as examples of efforts aimed at exiting the prolonged Cypriot liminality; efforts, that is, aimed at 'life in Cyprus without the Cyprus Problem', even if its official solution never comes.

Pafsanias Karathanasis holds a PhD in Social Anthropology from the University of the Aegean. His research interests include the anthropology of space and cities, visual culture, and political anthropology. Specifically, he is concerned with urban cultures and contested spaces in cities and border areas. He has conducted research on urban practices such as street art, public art, and activism, and has conducted participant observation with political and artistic groups active in Athens, and in the borderscapes of Mytilene and Nicosia. His articles have been published in academic journals and edited volumes, and he has participated in international conferences in Greece and abroad, and in the organization and scientific curation of panel discussions at conferences and festivals. He has collaborated as a postdoctoral researcher with the University of the Aegean, Panteion University, and the University of Amsterdam, as a lecturer with the University of Macedonia, as a coordinator of academic and educational activities with the Athens Ethnographic Film Festival-Ethnofest and he is a member of the Board of Directors of the Association of Social Anthropologists of Greece-SKAE.