

The years 2009-11 at Cambridge

Students

In 2010 Richard Thompson graduated with a First in Part II of the Modern and Medieval Languages Tripos. He offered the two language papers and the oral in Modern Greek, a year abroad dissertation on the Language Question, and an optional dissertation on the writer Kostas Tachtsis, together with papers in Linguistics. Richard, who also achieved a First in Modern Greek in Part IA and a First in Part IB, was awarded the first Catherine Grigoriou-Theocarakis Prize for excellence in Modern Greek Studies (see below).

Matthew Jones was awarded a II.1 in Part IB. Three students took Part IA in Modern Greek: Grace Bayley, Lucy Kitching and Callum Humphries. Jesper Carlson was successful in the examination for the Certificate in Modern Greek and Katherine Poseidon for the Diploma.

Ten students took the paper “Introduction to Modern Greek language and culture” as part of their 2010 Tripos examinations: four were candidates for the Modern and Medieval Languages Tripos, five for the Classical Tripos, and one for the Education Tripos.

At postgraduate level, Stratos Myrogiannis and Foteini Lika were approved for the PhD during 2010. Stratos’s dissertation is on “The emergence of a Greek identity (1700-1821)”. Foteini’s dissertation is entitled: “History, fiction and satire in Roidis’s *Pope Joan*”. Semele Assinder began research for a PhD on “Greece in British women’s writing, 1866-1915” in October 2009. Eleni Lampaki, who was awarded the A. G. Leventis Foundation Studentship, began her doctoral research on a study of the manuscripts and printed tradition of the Cretan tragedy *Erofilii*.

Andria Andreou and Xiaofan Amy Li took the Modern Greek module in the Lent Term 2010, as part of the MPhil in European Literature and Culture. The course, “Myth and history in Modern Greek literature”, was co-ordinated by Dr Teresa Shawcross.

In 2010-11 there were no first-year undergraduates, as admissions to study Modern Greek for the Modern and Medieval Languages Tripos have been suspended. Second-year students Grace Bayley, Lucy Kitching and Callum Humphries were successful in Part IB and will spend their year abroad studying in Athens. The 2011 Catherine Grigoriou-Theocarakis Prize was awarded to Callum Humphries, who achieved a high II.1.

Three students took “Introduction to Modern Greek language and culture”, two from Classics and one from MML. One of the classicists, Katie Taffler, achieved a First overall in Part II of the Classical Tripos.

Teaching staff

In 2009-10 Dr Regina Karousou-Fokas taught the full range of courses in Modern Greek language. Mr Nikos Papadogiannis gave lecture courses on “Introduction to Modern Greek history” and “Topics in Modern Greek history”. Further teaching in language and literature was given by Dr Liana Giannakopoulou, Ms Foteini Lika, Dr Anthony Hirst, Mr Stratos Myrogiannis, Dr Teresa Shawcross and Dr Notis Toufexis.

In 2010-11 we welcomed a new language teacher seconded by the Greek Ministry of Education, Lifelong Learning and Religious Affairs, Dr Evangelia Ronga. Dr Ronga, who has a PhD in Marine Biology from the University of Liverpool, undertook a wide range of language teaching. Additional language teaching was given by Dr Regina Karousou-Fokas, thanks to a grant from the Alexander S. Onassis Public Benefit Foundation. Dr Karousou-Fokas also co-taught the paper on “The history and structure of Modern Greek”, with Professor Holton. Additional teaching was provided by Dr Nikos Papadogiannis (Topics in Modern Greek history) and Dr Liana Giannakopoulou (Seferis and other topics). Dr Giannakopoulou’s teaching contribution was recognised with the title of Affiliated Lecturer.

Visiting speakers

The 2009-10 programme of lectures by invited speakers was as follows:

- 22 October. Professor Dimitris Tziouvas (University of Birmingham): *Post-classical memories: Modern Greek attitudes to Antiquity*
- 5 November. Dr Sheila Lecoœur (Imperial College London): *Mixed memories of occupation: The social impact of the Italian occupation of the Greek island of Syros, 1941-43*
- 12 November. Professor Peter Mackridge (St Cross College, Oxford): *The language question, diglossia and the origin of "Common Modern Greek"*
- 26 November. Sir Michael Llewellyn Smith: *Personality, family and charisma: the case of Venizelos*
- 29 April. Dr Eleni Yannakaki (University of Oxford): *Autobiography revisited: the recent rise of life-writing in Greece*
- 6 May. Dr Yannis Hamilakis (University of Southampton): *Dreaming ruins: antiquity, materiality and national imagination in Greece*

In 2010-11 this established series of lectures on Modern Greek themes ran for the thirtieth consecutive year. The programme was as follows:

- 14 October. Professor Steven Bowman (University of Cincinnati): *The agony of Greek Jews in World War II*
- 28 October. Professor David Ricks (King's College London): *Cavafy and the nineties*
- 18 November. Professor Amalia Moser (University of Athens): *The hidden logic of Greek tense and aspect*
- 25 November. Dr Philip Carabott (King's College London): *State, society and the religious "other" in nineteenth-century Greece*
- 27 January. Dr Eleni Papargyriou (King's College London): *Cavafy, photography and fetish*
- 17 February. Dr Renee Hirschon (St Peter's College, Oxford): *Creating a culture of uncertainty: time and resistance in Greek social life*

- 3 March. Dr Dimitris Papanikolaou (St Cross College, Oxford): *In search of the lost semi-colon: Greek poetry set to music (and how to read it)*
- 5 May. The writer Panos Karnezis introduced extracts from his work and answered questions
- 12 May. Dr Spyros Economides (London School of Economics): *Does Greece have a foreign policy?*

Graduate Seminar

The Graduate Seminar met on eight occasions during 2009-10 and heard papers by the following members and guest speakers: Andria Andreou, Semele Assinder, Rita Emmanouilidou (UCLA), Petros Karatsareas, Eleni Lampaki (two papers), Amy Li, and Christiana Mygdali (Oxford). During 2010-11 papers were given by Semele Assinder, Eleni Lampaki, Florentia Riga (University of Athens) and Dr Alfred Vincent (University of Sydney).

Alumni matters

Following the success of the Reunion Dinner for former students of Modern Greek, held at Selwyn College in May 2009, an informal gathering of alumni took place in London on 14 July 2011 and further such events are planned for 2011-12. Alumni are requested to provide the Modern Greek Section with their contact details, in order to receive invitations and regular updates.

Fundraising for Modern Greek

The future availability of Modern Greek at Cambridge remains uncertain. Admissions for the MML Tripos have been suspended, although certain undergraduate papers and MPhil options will continue to be available until 2013. The Modern Greek Section is working closely with the University's Development Office, and with the full support of the Faculty, to secure funding for one or two fully endowed teaching posts.

The Catherine Grigoriou-Theocarakis Fund and Prize

In 2009 the University was pleased to accept a generous benefaction of £100,000 from Dr Nikolaos Theocarakis, in memory of

his late wife Catherine Grigoriou-Theocarakis. Both Dr Theocarakis and his wife studied at Cambridge. Catherine, who died in 2009, was a member of Girton College. After studying French and Linguistics at the University of Athens, she came to Cambridge to take a postgraduate course in Strategic Studies and was awarded the MPhil in 1987. She was an exceptionally talented linguist and an accomplished poet in both Greek and English.

The Fund is intended to support the advancement of Modern Greek Studies, over a period of four to five years. This very welcome gift is being used primarily to support short-term teaching and research needs (including the Grammar of Medieval Greek), as well as funding travel and research grants for students. Part of the fund has been ring-fenced to establish a permanent undergraduate prize, to be awarded annually for excellence in Modern Greek Studies. The first recipient of the Catherine Grigoriou-Theocarakis Prize, in 2010, was Richard Thompson, of Churchill College. The 2011 prize was awarded to Callum Humphries, of Gonville and Caius College.

Activities of members of the Modern Greek Section

Professor David Holton gave lectures at King's College London (January 2010) and the University of Birmingham (March 2010). He was an invited participant in a conference on "The Greek language and language education", organized by Ministry of Education, in Thessaloniki (June 2010). He also chaired and introduced a special event on "The Siege of Candia (1648-1669): Art and life in 17th-century Crete" at King's College London in March 2011. Later that month he was one of the speakers at the annual "Voices from Greece" event at the University of East Anglia, which this year focused on Odysseas Elytis. He chaired the opening plenary session at the conference "Re-imagining the Past: Antiquity and Modern Greek Culture", at the University of Birmingham in June 2011. He has been elected Chairman of the Society for Modern Greek Studies for three years, from 1 January 2012. He has published:

(With Io Manolessou) “Medieval and Early Modern Greek”, in: E. G. Bakker (ed.), *A Companion to the Ancient Greek language* (Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell 2010), pp. 539-63

“What is Medieval Greek? Some thoughts of a grammarian”, *Scandinavian Journal of Modern Greek Studies* 4 (2010) 29-43

“The first Modern Greek printed book: *Apokopos* (1509)”, *The Anglo-Hellenic Review* 42 (Autumn 2010) 16-19

Ms Marjolijne Janssen has come to the end of her contract as Research Associate for the Grammar of Medieval Greek, but will continue to work on the project. She gave a paper on the language and metre of the *Ptochoprodromic Poems* at King’s College London in November 2009. In September 2010 she was elected Vice-President of the European Society for Modern Greek Studies for a period of four years.

Dr Liana Giannakopoulou, Affiliated Lecturer, has published *Ο Παρθενώνας στην ποίηση: μια ανθολογία* (Athens: ELIA 2009), and has other articles in press.