

LSH/ΣΑ
Leros Humanism Seminars Τα Σεμινάρια της Λέρου



Leros
July 3-6 2023

The *Leros Humanism Seminars*
LSH/ΣΑ

A series of yearly intellectual and pedagogical encounters taking place on Leros in the first week of July. The seminars will explore the possibilities for humanism as an emancipatory project for our times, without affording ethical or moral primacy to either human or non-human beings. Central are the questions of what makes humans human, the responsibility that humans have towards each other and to the surrounding world, and how the exclusion of humans by humans is fundamentally anti-human.

Organizers and Contact

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 COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY
Program in Hellenic Studies



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The 2023 Seminars are presented by

Columbia University

The Institute for the Study of Religion, Culture, and Public Life

with

Program in Hellenic Studies

Justice Forum

Justice-in-Education Initiative, Society of Fellows and the Heyman Center for the Humanities

Initiative for a Just Society

Columbia Center for Contemporary Critical Thought

Columbia Law School

with support from

Florida Atlantic University

The General State Archives, Local Historical Archive of Leros

Panteion University

University of California, Los Angeles

University of Thessaly

Cultural and Educational Association “Artemis” of Leros



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AT COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

 COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY
Program in Hellenic Studies



Project Description

The *Leros Humanism Seminars/LSH/ΣΑ* are a series of yearly intellectual encounters to take place on the island of Leros in the first week of July. Starting with the inaugural event in the week of July 3rd, 2023, the seminars seek to bring together scholars, artists, and activists along with college students and post-graduates (from Greece and abroad), as well as interested local population, in order to (re)consider collectively the multifarious premises of the human as individual and as social living-being while engaging different discourses and practices of conflict, communication, and coexistence.

We are putting this Seminar Series on Leros together as a minimum tribute to this magical island that has given to so many of us so many reasons for stochastic reflection, has pushed our limits of comfortable thought, and has challenged the conceptual certainties of what is a place, what is space, what is existence, what is the human being, what is confinement, what is order and what disorder, who is familiar and who is a stranger, what are the amplitudes and the limits of belonging, just to name a few. And it has done so in perfect dissonance with its physical environment which is nothing short of sublime.

The broad object of the seminars is to field anew the question of “what is human” and how “what is human” is determined in numerous registers of history and life by reconceptualizing humanism away and against its established and unexamined presumptions. Topics and domains of inquiry, to be explored presently and in the coming years, include:

Boundaries and borders

Borderlands and crossings

Catastrophic environments

Colonialisms in the “metacolony”

Confinements and the commons

Critical arts and anti-arts

Education and pedagogy

Genders and sexualities

Legality and illegality

Structures and Infrastructures

Textures and architectures



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Standing in the midst of these domains, the seminars will seek to problematize, interrogate, affirm, and posit anew specific questions that look backwards in history and forward in the present-future that test the capacity of humanist practices: How does the humanism of the anti-colonial era address the dehumanization of populations in the present? Can human beings assimilate technologies in an ontological sense, as posthumanists claim? Can we think about the human as living-being determined by politics, beyond the Aristotelian political animal? How can human-being as an ontological condition continue to stand in the context of anthropological (racial, sexual, cultural) difference? Can we think about the human as the non-ontological cornerstone of the social? Can we, or should we, revisit “species-being?” In the following years each one of these topics will be the framework of each year’s seminar.

The seminars will be conducted in a two-fold structure:

1. During the first two days of the seminar cycle we will hold three roundtables each day. Each roundtable will be an interaction among participants from different disciplines, actions, and registers. There will be no concurrent sessions. There will be a 3-hour break in the middle of each day for personal leisure and exploration, taking advantage of the beauty of this unique island. We imagine that the intellectual encounters of the conference will very well continue off stage in these settings.
2. The third day the seminars will shift into a day-long workshop for graduate students and faculty run by volunteers from the seminars on topics proposed by the workshop faculty. *The purpose of these intensive sessions will be explicitly pedagogical and student-focused beyond the typical parameters of the Anglo-American academy.*



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Participants 2023

Columbia University

[Ivan Calaff](#), Justice in Education Initiative
[Eileen Gillooly](#), Justice in Education Initiative
[Bernard Harcourt](#), Columbia Center for Contemporary Critical Thought
[Marissa Gutierrez-Vicario](#), Columbia Center for Contemporary Critical Thought
[Mia Ruyter](#), Justice in Education Initiative
[Fonda Shen](#), Columbia Center for Contemporary Critical Thought
[Nadia Urbinati](#), Political Science

Cooper Union

[Kevin Bone](#), School of Architecture

FAU- Florida Atlantic University

[Adriana Garriga-Lopez](#), Anthropology

Panteion University

[Athena Athanasiou](#), Anthropology
[Penelope Petsini](#), Political Science and History

Rhode Island School of Design (RISDI)

[Katerina Stefatos](#), History, Philosophy, and the Social Sciences
[Dimitris Papadopoulos](#), Teaching and Learning Lab

University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA)

[Amir Mufti](#), Comparative Literature
[Saloni Mathur](#), Art History

University of Thessaly (UTH)

[Phoebe Giannisi](#), Architecture
[Zisis Kotionis](#), Architecture
[Ioanna Laliotou](#), IAKA/History
[Elena Tzelepi](#), IAKA, Anthropology

Non-University-based scholars and artists

[Eugenia Bone](#), Food and Science Writer
[Theodoros Megaloeconomou](#), Psychiatrist
[Nikos Panayiotopoulos](#), Photographer
[Panagiotis Papadopoulos](#), Former political prisoner
[Georgia Sarigiannidou](#), Former political prisoner

Graduate Students

[Chloé Howe Haralambous](#), Social Sciences Research Council
[Suleiman Hodali](#), Comparative Literature, UCLA
Jake Lasky, Florida Atlantic University
[André Luke Pettman](#), Department of French, Columbia University
[Haider Shahbaz](#), Comparative Literature, UCLA
Jamel West, Florida Atlantic University



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