The postwar trials of those who had previously collaborated with the occupying forces remained for a long time an unexplored aspect of the Greek 1940s. The relevant judiciary archives show that, contrary to an opinion generally held by specialists, the purge did actually take place in Greece and had even had some of the ordinary characteristics of the purges applied at that time all over the European continent. The different stages of juridification of the ‘collaborators’ question describe how the internal camps were aligned to the two camps of the World War and how they subsequently adapted to the international camps of the Cold War. Hence, the purge can be considered as a component of a civil war, both internal and international. The post-1945 judiciary transitions can be considered as a process of ‘judiciary reconstruction’ of Europe, the largest experience of transitional justice ever applied simultaneously. In this sense, the Greek case might suggest a perspective from the periphery of the Second Thirty Years War in Europe, marked by the end of the old regime elites and political structures and the dissolution of the old empires.

Dimitris Kousouris studied History and Archaeology at the University of Athens (2000) and pursued his graduate studies in the École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales in Paris, where he received a Master’s degree (2003) and a Ph.D. in History (2009). His doctoral dissertation examines the postwar (1944-1949) legal purge of the Greek collaborators as an individual case within the framework of the European post-war nation (re-)building process. He conducted research as a Fellow of the “European Legal Cultures” international project and taught Modern History at the University of Crete (2009-2010).

Monday, October 25, 2010
6:00 p.m.
Scheide Caldwell House, Room 103
Reception to follow