

PRINCETON UNIVERSITY

Seeger Center for Hellenic Studies

Workshop

**The Intellectual as National Figure
in Greece in the 1880s**

Georgia Pateridou

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Stanley J. Seeger Visiting Research Fellow, Hellenic Studies

Respondent: Effie Rentzou, French and Italian

This presentation will explore the notion and the role of the intellectual in the Greek literary context at the end of nineteenth century. It will take as examples two dominant figures of the period, Kostis Palamas (1859-1943) and Yannis Psycharis (1854-1929), and explore their aspirations regarding Greek culture and their involvement in the dominant questions of national identity. This choice has been influenced by the following criteria: both figures shared a vision for the development of Greek culture that articulated a specific position regarding the Greek language and the literary trends that were to be adopted from Europe. Through their ideological positions respectively, they played a major part in the intellectual discussions and transformations of the period. In addition, they held contrasting places in the symbolic and political centers of power in Greece (one in the Athenian center, the other as a member of the French Diaspora). The presentation will discuss key excerpts of their work that address the questions of place (topography), language, and the reception of Greek inheritance. The aim is to explore in what ways they formulate and project their cultural plan, and how this reinforces or redirects their role as intellectuals.

Georgia Pateridou studied French Language and Literature at the University of Thessaloniki. She obtained her M.A. in Byzantine and Modern Greek Studies at King's College, London, and her Ph.D. at the University of Birmingham with a dissertation on the literary and critical work of Yannis Psycharis. She currently teaches modern Greek literature at the Department of History and Archaeology, University of Ioannina. She has also taught at the Hellenic Open University European and Modern Greek Literature. She is collaborating in the research project funded by the ESRC, "Remembering Absence: Catastrophe, Displacement, and Identity among Chiotis and the Chiot Diaspora," under the supervision of Nicolas Argenti (Brunel University). Her research interests include European and modern Greek prose fiction of late nineteenth and early twentieth-century, and in particular the literature of the Greek diaspora. She has published in collaboration with the Institute of Modern Greek Studies an unknown novel by Yannis Psycharis (2009). She is also the author of the book: *'In order to come to another exile': Narratives of Place in the Generation of the 1880s* (2012).

Friday, March 1, 2013

1:30 p.m.

Scheide Caldwell House, Room 103

Light refreshments will be served