EFIMIA D. KARAKANTZA

TENURED ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF ANCIENT GREEK LITERATURE DEPARTMENT OF PHILOLOGY UNIVERSITY OF PATRAS, GREECE

karakantza@upatras.gr

ASSOCIATE IN ANCIENT GREEK LITERATURE CENTER FOR HELLENIC STUDIES TRUSTIES FOR HARVARD UNIVERSITY

ekarakant@chs.harvard.edu

CURRENT ACADEMIC POSITION

• Assistant Professor of Ancient Greek Literature, University of Patras.

RESEARCH INTERESTS

- Epic poetry, lyric poetry, attic drama, reception of the *genres*
- Approaches to Greek myths
- Construction of the notion of gender in archaic and classical poetry
- Sophoclean drama and the ideology of the polis
- Reception of the Attic Drama (see the Jocasta project below in "Academic Projects")

EDUCATION

- 1986: Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Department of Classics.
- 1993: University of Reading, U. K., Department of Classics. Degree of Doctor of Philosophy. Title of the doctoral thesis: Homo Heroicus. Prometheus, Herakles and Philoktetes. A Structural and Semantic Analysis of their Mythologies.
- 1990-1991 (spring semester): École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales,
 Paris. Seminars on ancient Greek tragedy and myths with P. Vidal-Naquet and Nicole Loraux.

SCHOLARSHIPS

• 1991-1992: University of Reading, UK. Scholarship granted during the last year of my PhD research on the basis of academic achievement.

- 2010-2011: University of Harvard (Center for Hellenic Studies in Washington DC). Residential Fellowship during the fall semester (September through February).
- 2016 (5–11 December): University of Harvard (Center for Hellenic Studies in Washington DC). Visiting Scholar Grant.

ACADEMIC CAREER

- 2007- present: University of Patras, Department of Philology
- 2000-2009, 2011 present: Hellenic Open University
- 2010-2011: Center for Hellenic Studies (Washington DC), Fellow in Ancient Greek Literature.
- 2003-2006: Research Center for the Greek Language, Thessaloniki Athens
- 2004-2005: Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Department of History and Archaeology
- 1997-2000: University of Patras, Department of Philology
- 1998-1999: University of Thessaly, Department of History, Archaeology and Social Anthropology (IAKA).

ACADEMIC PROJECTS

• Co-founder and Director of Jocasta (http://jocasta.upatras.gr/) that is a multilateral research project which aims to promote Classical Reception in Greece as part of an intertwined world. It explores Classical Reception through a variety of media ranging from literature to theatre and film to materialized configurations of everyday experience and through a plurality of approaches ranging from Philosophy to Cultural and Social Studies to Performative arts and Science-driven discourses, thus foregrounding interdisciplinary research.

Based at the University of Patras, Greece, Jocasta has a threefold aim:

To build **a Network** which facilitates the dialogue between the academic and the artistic *milieu*.

To host **an Archive and a Database** for the documentation, preservation and research of Modern Greek cinematic, theatrical, literary and multimedia receptions of classics in the 21st century.

To launch a **Research Center** for the study of Classics in the Future.

• Director and coordinator of the project Kyklos, a graduate research program on the Greek Epic Cycle. The Center for Hellenic Studies, University of Harvard. The program consists of graduate students, under the supervision of scholars from their home institutions, producing essays on aspects of the corpus of the Greek Epic Cycle. Once a year the Center for Hellenic Studies hosts a virtual conference, during which students are joined to present their work. Records of these dialogues are then published on the CHS site as annual issues of Kyklos@Classics@.

ACADEMIC BODIES

- Member of the scientific Committee of the Center for the Study of Myth and Religion in Greek and Roman Antiquity. Department of Philology, University of Patras.
- Member of the board of editors of the e-journal *Electra*. Department of Philology, University of Patras.

PUBLICATIONS

A. BOOKS

- 1. Ancient Greek Myths. The discourse of the 20th century on their nature and interpretation. Athens: 2004. (in Greek)
- 2. Who Am I? (Mis)Identity and the Polis in Oedipus Tyrannus, Hellenic Studies Series 86, CHS, Harvard University Press (expected date of publication June 2019)
- 3. (in progress) *Antigone*. For the *Gods and Heroes in the Ancient World* series by Routledge, London (under contract).

(as co-editor)

4. M. Christopoulos, E. D. Karakantza, O. Levaniouk (eds), *Light and Darkness in Myth and Religion in Greek Antiquity*, Lexington Books, Lanham MD, 2010.

B. JOURNALS (special issues)

(as editor)

- 5. Classics@, issue 6, 2010, Reflecting on the Greek Epic Cycle (on the site of the CHS).
- 6. Kyklos@Classics@, issue 1, 2013 (on the site of the CHS).
- 7. Kyklos@Classics@, issue 2, 2014 (on the site of the CHS).

C. PAPERS IN PEER-REVIEWED JOURNALS, PROCEEDINGS, AND CHAPTERS IN COLLECTIVE VOLUMES

- 8. *«Odysseia* or *Penelopeia?* An assessment of Penelope's character and position in the *Odyssey*», *MÈTIS*, Revue d' anthropologie du monde grec ancient, (1997), 12:161-179
 - http://www.persee.fr/web/revues/home/prescript/revue/metis
- 9. «The sexual servitude of Odysseus; An interpretative approach to Kirke and Kalypso episodes in the Odyssey», Proceedings of the 11th Conference of the Fédération International des Études Classiques (FIEC) [Kavala, August 1999], Athens 2001, v. I, 468-481.
- 10. «The semiology of rape; The meeting of Odysseus and Nausikaa in book 6 of the *Odyssey*», *Classics Ireland* (2003), 10:8-26.
 - http://www.classicsireland.com/2003/karakantza.html
- 11. «Five ways of reading the Odyssey», Palimpsiston (2003), 18:29-53. (in Greek)
- 12. «Literary rapes revisited. A study in literary conventions and political ideology» MÈTIS, Revue d'anthropologie du monde grec ancient, (2004), n.s. 2:29-45.
- 13. «From mythos to polis; mythical narratives in ancient Greek polis. Case studies: Sophocles' Philoctetes, Euripides' Bacchae» Proceedings of the Symposium on Myth and Logos (Ikaria, June 2005), Athens 2007, 99-124. (in Greek)

- 14. *Light and Darkness in Ancient Greek Myth and Religion*, Lexington Books, Lanham MD, 2010, Preface ix-xiii (with M. Christopoulos).
- 15. «Dark skin and dark deeds; Danaids and Aigyptioi in a culture of light» in M. Christopoulos, E. D. Karakantza, O. Levaniouk (eds) *Light and Darkness in Ancient Greek Myth and Religion*, Lexington Books, Lanham MD, 2010, 14-29.
- 16. «Eating from the tables of others. Sophocles' *Ajax* and the Greek Epic Cycle» *Classics*@ (e-journal of the Center for Hellenic Studies of Harvard University), issue 6, 2010, titled *Reflecting on the Greek Epic Cycle*. http://chs.harvard.edu/wa/pageR?tn=ArticleWrapper&bdc=12&mn=3233
- 17. «In quest of the Father in the narratives of origin and movement in *Oedipus Tyrannus*» MÈTIS, Revue d'anthropologie du monde grec ancient, (2011), n.s. 9:149-164.
- 18. «To befriend or not to befriend? A note on lines 678-683 of the deception speech in Ajax», Logeion (2011), 1:41-47.

 http://www.logeion.upatras.gr/
- 19. «Polis anatomy. Reflecting on polis structures in Sophoclean tragedy», Classics Ireland (2011), 18:21-55.
- 20. «Throwing out the menos with the bath water. The Sophoclean text vs Peter Stein's Electra (2007)», A. Bakogianni (ed.) Dialogues with the Past; Classical Reception Theory and Practice, vol. I, Bulletin of the Institute of Classical Studies (BICS), London 2013, 61-78.
- 21. «Who is liable for blame? Patroclus' death in book 16 of the *Iliad*», Proceedings of the 12th International Symposium on the *Odyssey* with the general title *Crime and Punishment in Homeric and Archaic Epic*, eds M. Χριστόπουλος & Μ. Παΐζη (Ithaca, 3-7 September, 2013), Εκδόσεις του Κέντρου Οδυσσειακών Σπουδών, Ιθάκη 2014, 121-140.
- 22. "Dying Becomes Her. Posthumanism in Sophocles' *Antigone* in the Light of László Nemes' *Son of Saul.*" *Logeion* 7 (2017), 21-41.

(in progress – papers)

- 23. "Beauty and the Beast: An Interpretation of Sophocles' *Trachiniae*"
- 24. «Antigone Goes to School. Georgina Kakoudaki's production of the Sophoclean play (2014) for teenage audience.»
- 25. "Sophocles' Ajax as the Iliadic Achilles in the Extreme"

CONFERENCES

- 1998: «An open reading of book 19 of the *Odyssey*; The Penelope question», Annual Meeting of the *Classical Association of Britain*, University of Wales, at Lampeter, April 1998.
- 1999: «The sexual servitude of Odysseus; An interpretative approach to Kirke and Kalypso episodes in the *Odyssey*», 11th *Conference of the Fédération Internationale des Études Classiques (FIEC)*, Kavala, Greece, August 1999.
- 2001: «The meeting of Odysseus and Nausikaa in book 6 of the *Odyssey*. A semiotic approach», Annual Meeting of the *Classical Association of Britain*, University of Manchester, April 2001.
- 2002: «The topography of rape in archaic and classical literature» as a member of a panel on: «Rape; Towards a History?», Joint Meeting of the Classical Association of Britain and the Classical Association of Scotland, University of Edinburgh, April 2002.
- 2005: «From *mythos* to *polis*; mythical narratives in ancient Greek *polis*. Case studies: Sophocles' *Philoctetes*, Euripides' *Bacchae*», Symposium on *Myth with Logos*, Ikaria, Greece, June 2005.
- 2007: «Dark skin and dark deeds; Danaides and Aigyptioi in a culture of light»
 International Conference on Light and Darkness in Ancient Greek and Roman
 Mythology and Religion, University of Patras, July 2007.
- 2008: «Electra's *menos*; Sophocles *vs* Stein in the 2007 production of *Electra* by the National Theatre of Greece», International Conference on the Reception of ancient Greek and Roman drama, Institute of Classical Studies, London, June 2008.
- 2010: «Oedipus revisited. Lévi-Stauss or Sophocles?», Symposium on Rereading the work of Claude Lévi-Strauss. University of Ioannina, 20-21 April, 2010.
- 2010: «Eating from the tables of others. Sophocles and the Greek Epic Cycle»,
 The Greek Epic Cycle Conference, co-organized by Harvard University and
 the University of Patras, Ancient Olympia, 9-10 July, 2010.

- 2013: «Liable for blame? Patroclus' death in book 16 of the *Iliad*», The 12th International Symposium on the *Odyssey* with the general title *Crime and Punishment in Homeric and Archaic Epic*, Ithaca, 3-7 September, 2013.
- 2015: "The Conflation of Time and Space in Sophocles' *Ajax*", International Conference on "Time and Space in Greek Myth and Religion," 3rd 6th July 2015, University of Patras.
- 2016: "Dying Becomes Her. Posthumanism in Sophocles' Antigone in the Light of László Nemes' Son of Saul. 10-12 June 2016, International Conference on "Classical Reception and the Human," Jocasta Classical Reception Greece, University of Patras.
- 2017: "Preserving Odysseus' 'Sperm of Life' in Book 5 of the *Odyssey*" in the 13th International Symposium on the *Odyssey* with the general title: *The Upper and the Under World in Homeric and Archaic Epic*, Ithaca, 25-29 August, 2017.

LECTURES / PRESENTATIONS

- 1991: University of Wales at Aberystwyth, UK. «Ancient Greek and Modern Greece»
- 1997: University of Texas at Austin, USA. «What does Penelope know?»
- 1997: College Year in Athens.
 « Psychoanalysis and Greek Mythology»
- 2000: National University of Athens, School of Education.
 «Odysseus and Penelope; a study of the reversal of the traditional relationship of the sexes in Homer»
- 2001: Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, School of Theology.
 «The presence and interpretation of nature in Sophocles' Philoctetes and Euripides' Hippolytos».
- 2002: University of Copenhagen, Odense and Århus (Denmark) at the Departments of Classics.

 «Literary Rapes revisited. Narrative techniques and political ideology in ancient Greek literature ».

- 2002: University of Thessaly, Polytechnic School, Department of Architecture «The topography of rape and its manipulation in the ideological discourse of the Greek polis».
- 2006: Center for Inter-cultural Studies, Athens
 «Religion in ancient Greek poleis»
- 2008: University of Illinois at Chicago, and University of Ohio at Athens, USA. «On Oedipus and the win(k)ling of his eye. Ancient evidence and modern approaches to Oedipus myth»
- 2008: Association of Classical Teachers of Patras.
 «Homeric Epic Songs: A Presentation of book 6 of the Iliad, and book 5 of the Odyssey»
- 2010: Rothman Distinguished Lectures in Classics, University of Florida at Gainesville, 29 November.
 «Sophocles' Ajax: An Unfit Hero» or (on second thought) «Ajax the Best of the Achaeans».
- 2013: Center for Hellenic Studies (Greece), Harvard University, 27 March, Kranidi, Argolis. Respondent to the Lecture by Professor Ioannis Petropoulos titled: «Theory and Practice in the Study of Myths. The Case of Polyphemus the Cyclops».
- 2016: Municipal Library of Metamorphosis, Athens. "Thousand and One Interpretations of Sophocles' *Antigone*."
- 2016 (11-29): University of Florida at Gainesville, "Burying the Dead in a Posthumanistic World. Sophocles' Antigone in the Light of László Nemes' Son of Soul.
- 2016 (12-2): University of Saint Joseph, Philadelphia, "Burying the Dead in a Posthumanistic World. Sophocles' Antigone in the Light of László Nemes' Son of Saul."
- 2017 (March): Central Public Library of Larissa "Constantine Coumas",
 "Antigone in postmodern philosophy and criticim".
 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zmmkCSrJVuw&t=179s
- 2017 (June): Plenary Session of the Postgraduate Colloquium of the English Department, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens: "Burying the

- Dead in a Posthumanistic World. Sophocles' *Antigone* (442 BCE) in the Light of László Nemes' *Son of Saul* (2016 CE)".
- 2017: 9-13 July 6th International Scholars Symposium 'Sports, Society, and Culture' Ancient Olympia: "In Athletics We Remember; The Phaeacians Games and the (Re)Construction of Odysseus Lost Identity in Book 8 of the Odyssey"
- 2017: 14 July Lyceum of Epidaurus (ancient Epidaurus) "Who is the Outsider in the 'Arrival of the Outsider'? Greek Tragedy and the Xenos".
- 2018: Hvidovre Gymnasium & HF, Copenhangen, Denmark: "Identity and Oedipus the King"