



**CYPRUS ACADEMY  
OF SCIENCES, LETTERS  
AND ARTS**

## **INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE**

Nicosia, 19–20 March 2025

Bank of Cyprus Cultural Foundation (Faneromenis 80, Nicosia 1011)

### **RALLYING THE PAST:**

#### **CLASSICS, PROPAGANDA, AND MANIPULATION IN THE GREEK TOTALITARIAN REGIMES OF THE 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY**

Organizers: Kyriakos Demetriou and  
Andreas Serafim

Supporting institution: Centre for  
Hellenic Studies at King's College  
London

Host institution: Cyprus Academy of  
Sciences, Letters, and Arts

Keynote speaker: Gonda Van Steen,  
King's College London

**THE CONFERENCE IS DEDICATED TO THE MEMORY OF PAUL WOODRUFF, A  
PHILOSOPHER, PROFESSOR AT THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN, AND LOVER  
OF GREECE**

### **PROGRAMME**

#### **WEDNESDAY, 19 MARCH 2025**

09:00-09:50

**Registration**

09:50-10:00

**Welcome speech by the Mayor of Nicosia, Mr CHARALAMBOS PROUNTZOS**

10:00-10:10

**Welcome speech by the President of the Cyprus Academy of Sciences, Letters, and  
Arts, Professor ACHILLES C. EMILIANIDES**



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10:10-10:30

**Introduction by the conference organizers, Professor KYRIAKOS DEMETRIOU (Cyprus Academy of Sciences, Letters, and Arts/University of Cyprus) and Dr ANDREAS SERAFIM (University of Cyprus)**

10:30-11:30

**Keynote lecture**

Chair: ACHILLES C. EMILIANIDES (Cyprus Academy of Sciences, Letters, and Arts)

**Speaker: GONDA VAN STEEN (King's College London)**

*Theatre and Censorship under the Greek Military Dictatorship, 1967-1974*

11:30-12:00

**Break**

12:00-13:30

**PANEL 1: IDEOLOGY, LITERATURE, AND ART**

Chair: KYRIAKOS DEMETRIOU (Cyprus Academy of Sciences, Letters, and Arts/University of Cyprus)

Speakers:

**ALEXANDER KAZAMIAS (Member of the Hellenic Parliament/Coventry University)**

*From Elite to Vulgar Anticommunism: The Reception of the Classical Past Under the Greek Colonels, 1967-1974 (12:00-12:30)*

**ANNA COOPEY (University of St Andrews)**

*Anti-Metaxan Classics: A Critical Mythical Method in Kazantzakis' Melissa, 1937 (12:30-13:00)*

**ALEXANDROS BAZOUKIS (Cyprus Ministry of Education, Sport, and Youth)**

*Defending "Decadent" Eras: Rodis Roufos' Apology for Late Antiquity Against the Reactionism of the Colonels (13:00-13:30)*

13:30-14:00

**Discussion**



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14:00-15:00

**Lunch**

15:00-15:30

**Meeting with the Mayor of Nicosia**

15:30-17:30

**Excursion to Nicosia: Green Line and the archaeological sites of the old town.  
DEMETRIOS MICHAELIDES (Cyprus Academy of Sciences, Letters, and  
Arts/University of Cyprus)**

19:30

**Conference Dinner**

**THURSDAY, 20 MARCH 2025**

10:30-13:00

**PANEL 2: EDUCATION AND LANGUAGE**

Chair: ANDREAS SERAFIM (University of Cyprus)

Speakers:

**VASSILIOS P. VERTOUDAKIS (National and Kapodistrian University of Athens)**

*The Ideological Position of the Metaxas Regime towards Antiquity and Classical  
Studies at Greek Universities, 1936–1941* (10:30-11:00)

**GEORGE PARASKEVIOTIS (Democritus University of Thrace)**

*Echoes of Rome: Latin in the Service of Greek Totalitarian Ideology* (11:00-11:30)

**STRATOS MYROGIANNIS (Hellenic Open University)**

*Inventing National(ist) Pride: History Textbooks During the 1930s* (11:30-12:00)

**PHILIPPOS KARAFERIAS (University of Grenoble-Alpes)**

*Tormenting the Greek Language: National Identity, Linguistic Heritage, and the  
“Descendants of Socrates”* (12:00-12:30)



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12:30-13:00

**Discussion**

13:00-14:30

**Lunch**

14:30-16:00

**PANEL 3: THE ANCIENTS AND THE CONTEMPORARIES**

Chair: EUPHROSYNE RIZOPOULOU-EGOUMENIDOU (Cyprus Academy of Sciences, Letters, and Arts/University of Cyprus)

Speakers:

**YIANNIS STAMOS (University of Birmingham)**

*Backwards into Tomorrow: The Minoans and the Third Hellenic Civilization* (14:30-15:00)

**EMMANOUIL G. CHALKIADAKIS (University of Crete)**

*Truth and Paradox: The Reception of the Greek Antiquity and the Utilization of Orthodox Christianity by the Ioannis Metaxas' Regime* (15:00-15:30 – [Online](#))

**DIMITRIOS K. APOSTOLOPOULOS (Academy of Athens)**

*The Relationship of the Metaxas Regime with Hitler's Germany and the Legacy of the Ancient Greek Culture* (15:30-16:00)

16:00-16:30

**Discussion**

16:30-17:00

**Reception**

**END OF THE CONFERENCE**



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Paul Woodruff, the scholar and Hellenist to whom the conference is dedicated, was an inspiring philosopher, a devoted teacher, a prolific researcher, and a mentor who kept the light of education bright in the hearts and minds of future generations.

### **Short biographical note**

Paul Woodruff attended Princeton University, from which he graduated in 1965 with a degree in Classics. His studies then led him to Merton College at Oxford University as a Marshall Scholar, where he earned a Bachelor's degree in Literae Humaniores in 1968. Inspired by the Socratic belief in the rule of law, he served in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War from 1969 to 1971, where he attained the rank of Captain. Upon his return to the United States, he again attended Princeton University, where he earned his doctorate in philosophy under Gregory Vlastos. Woodruff joined the Department of Philosophy at the University of Texas at Austin in 1973 and retired in 2022. He also served as Chair of the Department. He directed the Plan II Honors Program from 1991 until 2006, when University President William C. Powers appointed Paul Woodruff as the first Dean of Undergraduate Studies. Woodruff later published an essay in the Washington Post describing his philosophy of life in the face of death caused by bronchiectasis. He died of this disease on 23 September 2023 at the age of 80. He published 16 books, translations, and edited volumes as part of a large portfolio of other publications on philosophy and classics.