

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 20th Century

Organizers: Kyriakos Demetriou and Andreas Serafim

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

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

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



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



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)



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 – <u>Online</u>)

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

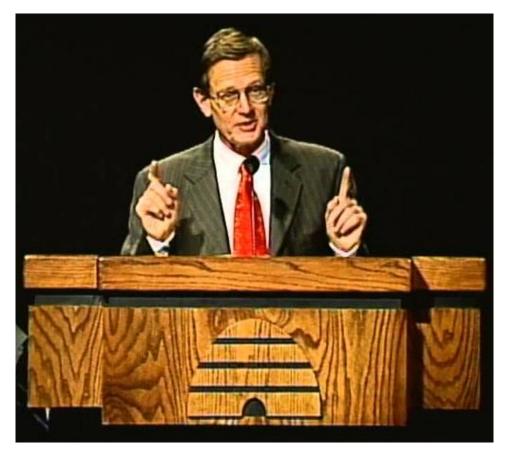
Discussion

16:30-17:00

Reception

END OF THE CONFERENCE





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.