



NEW YORK UNIVERSITY

**A.S. Onassis Program in Hellenic Studies
Hellenic Studies Series 2013-2014: "Transitions"**

**"From Here to Eternity:
Piety and Propaganda After the Fall of Constantinople"**

This talk discusses the dynamic relationship between discursive practices, religious imperatives, and political agendas among the Orthodox Christians in the first decades after the fall of Constantinople to the Ottomans in 1453. A number of texts and artifacts from the period shed light on the ways the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople sought to cultivate a legitimizing ideology for its claimed jurisdiction over the Orthodox peoples of the Ottoman Empire. At the same time, however, these same sources show that the presence of the Orthodox Church even in the remote periphery of the Ottoman world, such as the Danubian principalities, was often incorporated in the propagandistic programs of the local rulers whom it sought to attract into its sphere of influence. We find ourselves at the very beginning of a new phase in a centuries-old synergy between the Constantinopolitan Patriarchate and Orthodox archons who relied on each other in order to consolidate or assert their authority against a series of disruptive forces and delegitimizing factors.

Nikos Panou

Brown University

Respondent: Molly Greene

Princeton, History and Hellenic Studies

Nikos Panou is a Visiting Assistant Professor in the Department of Comparative Literature at Brown University. He received his Ph.D. in Comparative Literature from Harvard University and has been a postdoctoral fellow at the Seeger Center for Hellenic Studies and the Society of Fellows in the Liberal Arts, Princeton University. His current research focuses on the ways power and authority were conceptualized and represented in pre-modern philosophical discourse, with a particular emphasis on moral and political works written from the sixteenth to the eighteenth century. He has written on topics ranging from Byzantine historiography to seventeenth-century satire. Among other things, he has edited a collective volume on conceptions of tyranny from Antiquity to the Renaissance that is forthcoming with Oxford University Press.

**Tuesday, March 25, 2014
6 p.m., 285 Mercer St., 8th floor**

RSVP to hellenic.studies@nyu.edu

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