



NEW YORK UNIVERSITY

**The A.S. Onassis Program in Hellenic Studies invites you to
a lecture with
Dimitris Papanikolaou**

**Associate Professor in Modern Greek Studies, University of Oxford
A.S. Onassis Foundation Visiting Scholar**

**“The past as memory, the present as aesthetics, the future as ethics:
C.P.Cavafy in queer time”**



The aim of this lecture is to bring Cavafy's poetry closer to queer theory and the recent discussion on queer time and queer ethics. Starting from an analysis of the poems '27 June 1906, 2 pm.' and 'Since Nine o' Clock', it will be argued that for Cavafy the personal, the ethical and the political intersect, often in ways that have remained unnoticed by critics. The subjective, embodied experience of time past and time present in Cavafy's 'erotic' poems undermines normative concepts of past and present, youth and old age, in the same way that some of his 'historical' poems undermine official and settled accounts of history, making personal stories, erotic histories and en fleshed historiographies intersect. If the past is relived as an understanding of the precariousness of lives and in the form of bodily experienced memory, the present is similarly framed by emotional attachment, affective investment and a constant search for beauty and pleasure. In this way, the future emerges as a potentiality: an issue of contact, of daring to speak out, of mapping affective and ethical commonalities, of looking towards the emergence of a new community.

**Tuesday, April 22, 2014
12:30 p.m., 285 Mercer St., 8th floor**

Light Lunch will be served

RSVP to hellenic.studies@nyu.edu by April 21st, 2014