



THE CIRCLE OF HELLENIC ACADEMICS IN BOSTON

We will be greatly honored by your presence at the following inaugural lecture

Literature as Cultural Politics: C. P. Cavafy's Diasporic Hellenism

by Professor Panagiotis Roilos
Harvard University

DATE: October 16, 2014
TIME: 6:30 p.m.
PLACE: Granoff Music Center, **TUFTS University**
20 Talbot Avenue, Medford, MA 02155
Wine, cheese and crackers to follow the lecture and discussion

SYNOPSIS



Living and writing on the margins of the Greek-speaking world, C. P. Cavafy — arguably the most influential representative of Greek “world literature”—constructed an idiosyncratic, highly sophisticated, and subversive aesthetic and ideological edifice. This lecture focuses on the ways in which his reinterpretation of Hellenic culture may be viewed in terms of a cultural political project that was greatly influenced by his overall diasporic perspective on the historical past and the political present.

Biographical Sketch



Panagiotis Roilos is the George Seferis Professor of Modern Greek Studies and of Comparative Literature, and Faculty Associate of the Weatherhead Center for International Affairs at Harvard University, where he has established and co-chairs the Seminar on Cultural Politics. He is the author and editor of eight books, including *C. P. Cavafy: The Economics of Metonymy* (2009), *Amphoteroglossia: A Poetics of the Twelfth-Century Medieval Greek Novel* (Cambridge, Mass., 2005), and *Towards a Ritual Poetics* (Athens, 2003; co-author; Greek edition of the book, trans. by Manos Skouras and with a preface by Marcel Detienne entitled "For an Anthropological Approach," 2005; Italian edition, 2014). His major publications also include the books *Greek Ritual Poetics* (co-editor; 2005), *Imagination and Logos: Essays on C.P. Cavafy* (editor; 2010), *Medieval Greek Storytelling: Fictionality and Narrative in Byzantium* (editor; 2014). His current book projects include the monographs *Abducting Athena: Cultural Politics and the Reception of Greek Antiquity in Nazi Germany* and *Byzantine Imaginaries: A Cognitive Anthropology of Medieval Greek Phantasia*.

The Circle of Hellenic Academics in Boston was established in January of 2014 and aims to: Sponsor educational and intellectual events; Network with graduate and undergraduate students of Hellenic descent; Establish and administer a scholarship and awards program, and Interact with institutions and organizations, which share the same goals and purposes

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