

THE GREEK AMERICAN STUDIES RESOURCE PORTAL 2020 UPDATE

AUTOBIOGRAPHY-MEMOIR-BIOGRAPHY

Autobiographies, Memoirs, Biographies

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Many immigrant groups have come to the United States. Often, their cultures have “melted” into American culture. In other cases, or sometimes simultaneously, they keep their traditions, and assimilate American culture into their own. Often, many documents and artifacts of their history are lost, especially if there is no effort to archive, organize and keep them in a safe place. Many Greek American cultural artifacts are being lost. Hardships and accomplishments of ancestors may be forgotten forever. This is an exploratory, qualitative research of Greek-American archives in the United States. This is a preliminary report, which includes interviews of people involved in the effort to archive Greek American cultural documents and artifacts. The purpose of the interviews is to see if there is an organized national effort to collect and maintain Greek American archives, and to explore the reasons why there is or is not such an effort. A small comparison of Greek-American and other ethnic groups’ archival efforts will be presented. This research includes efforts of Greek Americans to archive their own history in this country, and excludes efforts of archiving information on Greek cultural or of solely religious material.

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EDUCATION

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GLOBALIZATION, TRANSNATIONALISM, DIASPORA

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GREEK AMERICAN STUDIES

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Harrisburg's urban reformers promised better housing and living conditions for all the city's residents, but the demolition of the Old Eighth Ward and the construction of more expensive housing between 1910 and 1930 made it harder for new Greek immigrants to make a living and a home in the city. This article compares demographic and geospatial data for Greek immigrant communities in Harrisburg and neighboring Lancaster to highlight the different challenges and opportunities of Greek communities during the era of City Beautiful.

GREEK ORTHODOXY

Δημακόπουλος, Γιώργος και Αριστοτέλης Παπανικολάου. «Συστημικός ρατσισμός και η λάθος πλευρά της ιστορίας». *Δημόσια Ορθοδοξία*, 4 Ιουνίου 2020, <https://publicorthodoxy.org/el/2020/06/04/ορθοδοξία-συστημικός-ρατσισμός-και-η/> (πρόσβαση, 24 Ιουνίου, 2020).

Πιπέρης Νικόλαος, και Σταύρος Πιπέρης. «Πλήρης και Απόλυτη Στήριξη.» Απάντηση στο Κείμενο για την 'Λάθος Πλευρά της Ιστορίας'. *Δημόσια Ορθοδοξία*, 24 Ιουνίου 2020, <https://publicorthodoxy.org/el/2020/06/24/piperis-greek/> (πρόσβαση, 24 Ιουνίου, 2020).

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Giakoumis, Peter S. *Forgotten Heroes of The Balkan Wars: Greek Americans and Philhellenes of 1912-1913*. Independently Published, 2020.

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Τουργέλη, Γιώτα. «Οι Μπρούκληδες: Έλληνες μετανάστες στην Αμερική και μετασχηματισμοί στις κοινότητες καταγωγής, 1890–1940». Εθνικό Κέντρο Κοινωνικών Ερευνών, 2020, διαθέσιμο εδώ, <http://ebooks.epublishing.ekt.gr/index.php/ekke/catalog/book/43>.

This historical study examines the role that Greek immigrants in the United States played in the economic, social and cultural transformation of their communities of origin between the late 19th century and the outbreak of World War II. It highlights the ways and the means through which, as well as the sectors in and the extent to which, rural populations in Greek villages communicated with their migrant communities and were also influenced by their transatlantic mobility and by economic, material and cultural flows. Drawing on the growing academic literature on “transnational social fields” and “social remittances” it describes the transnational social space which was created between Greek agrarian provinces and American cities through translocal contacts and transborder exchanges maintained by migrants and non-migrants and facilitated by social networks, hometown associations and the technology of the era. The book analyzes systematically the economic, social and cultural impacts of migration in their home communities as well as in the urban cities in which many of the returnees settled. At the same time, it explores the power asymmetries that largely determined the scope of transformations, the negotiation strategies and the ruptures that occurred in the transnational field connecting migrants with non-migrants.

Reviews

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IDENTITY & IMMIGRATION

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While diversity is considered a condition for just and thriving neighborhoods and cities, planners often face challenges in creating and maintaining such neighborhoods, ensuring they remain inclusive. This article examines the social relationships of an aging ethnic

enclave undergoing diversification through influxes of immigrants and young professionals. Field research conducted in Greektown in Baltimore revealed “symbolic relationships” across diverse resident groups that were derived from previous group experiences, cultural heritage, and self-identification. These inter-group symbolic relationships can serve as a foundation for the coexistence of diverse groups of residents and have the potential to foster collaboration among such groups.

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ORAL HISTORY

“Seven Cities, Seven Stories: Community, Labor, Experiences of Immigrants from the Former Ottoman Empire”

Introduction to the series: <https://youtu.be/QqYA8fIcRTg>

This video introduces the OGUS series "Seven Cities, Seven Stories: Community, Labor, Experiences of Immigrants from the Former Ottoman Empire." Using Adobe Spark software, this series will feature the experiences of immigrants who settled in seven US cities between 1900 - 1940.

Jersey City: <https://spark.adobe.com/page/UaIyVsEgLxprK/>

Somerville: <https://spark.adobe.com/page/v2kdJDLrVwDue/>

Cleveland: <https://spark.adobe.com/page/ZEJtoVTW5fWTp/>

Los Angeles: <https://spark.adobe.com/page/Ff89dJSCuj82U/>

Tacoma: <https://spark.adobe.com/page/TnOuT7wM47dd2/>

Savannah: <https://spark.adobe.com/page/W6LA46QrmMnNS/>

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POLITICS AND ETHNICITY

Barron, James H. *The Greek Connection: The Life of Elias Demetracopoulos and the Untold Story of Watergate*. Melville House, 2020.

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Karakatsanis, Leonidas. Review of *Greece and the American Embrace: Greek Foreign Policy Towards Turkey, the US, and the Western Alliance* by Christos Kassimeris and *Anti-Americanism in Greece 1947-1989* by Zenovia Lialoute (Ζηνοβία Λιαλούτη, *Ο Αντιαμερικανισμός στην Ελλάδα 1947-1989*). *Ergon: Greek/American Arts and Letters*, 16 May 2020, <https://ergon.scienzine.com/article/books/christos-kassimeris-zenovia-lialoute>.

SOCIOLOGY

Reviews

Pula, James S. Review of *Greek Americans: Struggle and Success* by Peter C. Moskos and Charles C. Moskos. *Ergon: Greek/American Arts and Letters*, 11 June 2020, <https://ergon.scienzine.com/article/books/greek-americans-struggle-and-success>.

Tricarico, Donald. Review of *The Vanishing Greek Americans: A Crisis of Identity* by Alice Scourby, *Ergon: Greek/American Arts and Letters*, 11 Nov 2020, <https://ergon.scienzine.com/article/books/the-vanishing-greek-americans>.

THEATER

Delikonstantinidou, Aikaterini. "Socrates Now or the Apology Project: From Greek Roots to Transnational Routes." *Ex-centric Narratives: Journal of Anglophone Literature, Culture and Media*, issue 4, 2020, <https://ejournals.lib.auth.gr/ExCentric/article/view/7292>.

Since the 1980s, Greek American theatre practitioners have been making their presence increasingly felt in the theatre and performing arts landscape of the United States (U.S.). Their work evinces that Greek American theatre has come a long way from the Modern

Greek Diaspora theatre, which began in Chicago at the end of the nineteenth century and flourished in several U.S. cities during the interwar period. The motives, springboards, and driving forces of contemporary Greek American theatre are markedly different from those underpinning the work of early agents of Greek American theatre in the U.S., whether individual practitioners, troupes, or companies. The aim now is not to serve the ethnic imperatives of cultivating the Greek language, spreading Greek culture, and staying in close contact with the ancestral roots. Instead of serving the centripetal forces of Greek history and tradition, as well as the idea(l)s of ethnic identity and belonging, the latest works of Greek American theatre artists are animated by the centrifugal energy of the desire for a reconfigured transnational and transcultural selfhood. Their commitments lie more squarely than ever before with extroversion, movement, mixture, and interaction. The present paper discusses Yannis Simonides' *Socrates Now* (or *The Apology Project*) as an illustrative example of the new directions Greek American theatre has embarked upon in the last few decades. It places special emphasis on what this work reveals about the emerging trends in Greek American theatre's reception of the Greek classics—the latter being the erstwhile core of Greek American theatrical activity in the U.S. We argue that Simonides' *Socrates Now* offers an alternative understanding of Greek American theatre and (its) classical reception praxis by acting upon the will to assemble a viable and generative, performing and performable, Greekness from heterogeneous formal and conceptual elements, in line with an ethic that we shall call, after Vassilis Lambropoulos (2016), transcompositional.

TRANSNATIONALISM

Dounia, Margarita. "Transnational Practices and Emotional Belonging among Early 20th-Century Greek Migrants in the United States." *Genealogy*, vol. 4, no. 90, 2020, pp.1–20.

Kourelis, Kostis. "Three Elenis: Archaeologies of the Greek American Village Home." *Journal of Modern Greek Studies*, vol. 38, no.1, 2020, pp. 85–108.

Greek migration to the United States in the period 1890–1924 produced two interdependent domestic environments, the Greek towns of urban America and the remittance villages of rural Greece. Both spaces experienced decline, abandonment, and demolition during the mid-twentieth century, which erased a unique spatial duality maintained across continents by material goods. With the progressive passing of Greek American lived memories, archaeology must take on the challenge of reconstructing the immigrant lifeworlds that are now a century old. Using the family histories of three contemporary Greek Americans, we explore how village houses can illuminate the bridging of transnational distances. We study the house careers of three Elenis from the Peloponnese, Epirus, and Central Greece. Each case study explores the materialities of a relationship between today's Greek Americans and their lost familial domestic relics.