

Prof. Roderick Beaton

**Emeritus Koraes Professor of Modern Greek and Byzantine History,
Language and Literature, King's College London**



Roderick Beaton grew up in Edinburgh and studied English Literature at Peterhouse, Cambridge, before turning to Modern Greek as the subject of his doctorate, also at Cambridge – and at the British School at Athens. After a three-year postdoctoral fellowship at the University of Birmingham he embarked on a long career at King's College London, first as Lecturer in Modern Greek Language and Literature (1981-88), later as Koraes Professor of Modern Greek and Byzantine History, Language and Literature (1988-2018), and since then as Emeritus Koraes Professor. From 2012 to 2018 he also served as Director of the Centre for Hellenic Studies at King's, and from September to December 2021 as A.G. Leventis Visiting Professor in Greek at the University of Edinburgh.

Roderick is the author of many books and articles about aspects of the Greek-speaking world from the twelfth century to the present day, including *An Introduction to Modern Greek Literature* (1994); *George Seferis: Waiting for the Angel. A Biography* (2003); *Byron's War: Romantic Rebellion, Greek Revolution* (2013); and *Greece: Biography of a Modern Nation* (2019, now a Penguin paperback). All four of these books won the prestigious Runciman Award (through the Anglo-Hellenic League) for best book on the Hellenic world. His latest book, *The Greeks: A Global History*, offers an overview of Greek history from the Bronze Age to the 200th anniversary of the Greek Revolution in 2021. This book will be presented at the colloquium.

Roderick is a Fellow of the British Academy (FBA, 2013), a Fellow of King's College (FKC, 2018), Commander of the Order of Honour of the Hellenic Republic (2019), and (from 2022 to 2026) Chair of Council at the British School of Athens.



Philhellenism and Greek Identity Formation in Literature, the Arts, and Scholarship

*In honour of Roderick Beaton,
Emeritus Koraes Professor of Modern Greek and Byzantine
History, Language and Literature, King's College London*



18 May 2023
British School at Athens



Programme

9:30-9:40am: Gonda Van Steen, Welcome and opening remarks

9.40-10:40am: Panel 1: Echoes of the Greek Revolution

10:40-11:00am: Questions over coffee

11.00am-12:00pm: Panel 2: Versions of Philhellenism

12:00-12:20pm: Questions

12:20-2:00pm: Lunch

2:00-2:40pm: Panel 3: Days of Modern Greek Literature

2:40-3:00pm: Questions over coffee

3:00-4:50pm: Panel 3: Re-Inventing Greekness

4:50-5:00pm: Questions

5:00-5:30pm: Roderick Beaton, concluding remarks

5:30-7:30pm: Reception



Maria Nikolopoulou belongs to the Laboratory and Teaching Staff of the Department of Philology at the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens. She studied Classics at the same university and subsequently obtained an MA and a PhD degree in Modern Greek Literature from the Department of Modern Greek Studies at King's. She was a Regional Associate Fellow of the Nexus Project 'How to Think about the Balkans', run by the Centre for Advanced Study, Sofia (2002), and a Fellow in the research project 'Women's Literary and Artistic Activity in Greek Literary and Art Periodicals: 1900-1940', run by the Athens School of Fine Arts (2005-7). She was a Fellow in Comparative Cultural Studies of Harvard University's Center for Hellenic Studies in Greece (2020-2021). She has taught European and Modern Greek Literature at the University of Patras and at the Greek Open University as an associate lecturer. Her research interests include the reception of women's writing, the role of literature in the construction of memory of historical events, the role of periodicals in the history of ideas and the post-war avant-garde.

Sarah Ekdawi is a Faculty Research Fellow at the University of Oxford and the Reviews Editor of *Byzantine and Modern Greek Studies*. She was among Roderick's first students at KCL, where she wrote her BA dissertation on Cavafy's erotic poems while Roderick was working on his seminal article on the historical poems. Following a bizarre graduation ceremony at the Albert Hall, which involved bowing or curtsying to a man representing Princess Anne, teacher and student engaged in a humorous debate about the uses of degrees in Modern Greek. Neither of them imagined it would eventually lead to an honorary doctorate and visiting professorship in Thailand. Between the London and Bangkok chapters of her life, Ekdawi followed a more conventional career path, gaining a D.Phil. at Oxford in 1991, with a thesis entitled 'The Poetic Practice of Anghelos Sikelianos', and going on to become a postdoctoral research fellow and visiting lecturer at the Queen's University of Belfast. Her publications include studies of Cavafy, Sikelianos, Ritsos, sixteenth century Cypriot sonnets and the Byzantine heroic romance of Digenis Akrites. She is also a qualified technical translator and practising literary translator.

Nikos Falagkas is an Associate Lecturer at the Hellenic Open University. He has published on private diaries and life writing, George Seferis, the Modern Greek short story, twentieth-century Greek novels and literary disability studies. His PhD thesis on the Modern Greek private diary was supervised by Professor Roderick Beaton.

Sophia Voulgari is Associate Professor of Modern Greek Literature at the Department of Greek Letters, Democritus University of Thrace. She studied at the Department of Philology, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (1985-1989), and received her PhD from King's College London (1996). Her thesis *Between and Beyond Genre(s): The Poetic Prose of Andreas Embirikos, E. Ch. Gonatas and Nanos Valaoritis* was supervised by Roderick Beaton. She has taught Modern Greek Language and Literature at the University of Hamburg (1997-2000) and the University of Munich (Erasmus Exchange Program, 2009 & 2018). Her fields of research are Greek modernist poetry and prose, borderline and hybrid texts, genre theory, theory of literature, comparative literature. She has worked extensively on Nanos Valaoritis, E. Ch. Gonatas, Giorgos Heimonas, Nikos Kachtitsis and Manolis Anagnostakis. She has published a book on G. Heimonas (2015) and is preparing one on Anagnostakis.

Eva Kokkinidi was first an undergraduate student of Roderick Beaton, while he taught a course on Kazantzakis at the University of Crete along with Emeriti Professors Peter Bien and Stamatis Philippidis in 2007, as part of the celebrations marking the 50th anniversary of Kazantzakis' death. After her graduation as Class Valedictorian from the University of Crete, she pursued an MA and PhD degree at King's College London. Her PhD thesis, 'The Modern Greek Literary Tradition in the Major Novels of Nikos Kazantzakis' (2016), was supervised by Professor Beaton. Her research and studies have been awarded grants and have been funded by the Greek State Scholarships Foundation, the Lilian Voudouri Foundation, and the Schilizzi Foundation. Since 2017, she has been editing books at Crete University Press (Foundation for Research and Technology-Hellas) and teaching in Secondary Education.

Joshua Barley is a freelance translator and writer. He read Classics at Oxford and Modern Greek at King's College London, under Professors Beaton and Ricks. Since his graduation he has published several novels in translation, including Ilias Venezis' *Serenity* (Aiora Press, 2019). His translations (with David Connolly) of the poetry of Michalis Ganas were published as *A Greek Ballad* by Yale University Press in 2019 and shortlisted for the Runciman Award. In August 2022 he published (with Aiora Press) the first translations of the modern Greek folk songs in over a century. He lives between Athens and Zagori, Epirus.

Nektaria Klapaki is a Lecturer in the Hellenic Studies Program at the University of Washington's Henry M. Jackson School of International Studies where she is also a faculty affiliate in the Comparative Religion Program. She was trained both in Classics and Modern Greek Studies in Greece (B.A. in Classics, University of Crete) and the UK (M.A. and Ph.D. in Modern Greek Studies, King's College, London). While an undergraduate, she came to King's as an Erasmus exchange student, where she did her PhD under the supervision of Roderick Beaton. She has published, both in English and Greek, on various facets of nineteenth- and twentieth-century Greek literature. Her publications have appeared in the *Classical Receptions Journal*; *Journal of Modern Hellenism*; *Journal of Modern Greek Studies*, and several collective volumes. She is currently serving as Arts & Humanities Associate Editor of the *Journal of Modern Greek Studies*, and as a Member of the Modern Greek Studies Association Executive Board.

4:00-4:20pm: Questions

4:20-4:30pm: Short break and technical set-up for Zoom session

4:30-4:50pm: **Nektaria Klapaki**, 'The Cult of the Insurgent Greek Nation in Kalvos's Odes' (online)

The insurgent Greek nation features under different guises in Kalvos's *Odes* (1824, 1826): as Liberty ('The Ocean', 'To Psara') and Victory ('To Victory') but also as Glory ('To Glory') and Virtue ('To Glory'). In these odes, Kalvos employs the rhetorical trope of allegory, which is combined in some cases with the trope of divine epiphany, to represent the insurgent Greek nation in the form of allegorical female figures who resemble ancient Greek goddesses and occasionally manifest themselves to the Greek insurgents, especially in contexts of crisis. While critical discussion of these odes has read Kalvos's use of allegory and divine epiphany as instances of a neoclassical poetics, this paper argues that the use of these two tropes also points in the direction of the cult of the insurgent Greek nation in line with the discourse of nation cult informing the *Odes*.

Speaker Biographies

David Ricks is Professor Emeritus of Modern Greek and Comparative Literature, King's College London, and Honorary Senior Research Fellow, University of Birmingham. He first came to King's to write a doctoral thesis, on what would today be called classical reception, under the supervision of Roderick Beaton. The two later worked in harness from 1989 to 2018, supervising between them some forty doctoral students in the fields of modern Greek literature and culture. David Ricks is, with Ingela Nilsson (Uppsala), Editor of *Byzantine and Modern Greek Studies*. Encouraged by the Beatonian breadth of outlook, he has published on many phases of poetry in Greek, from *Digenes Akrites* and *Erotokritos* in earlier periods to Nasos Vayenas and Michalis Ganas today.

Maria Karaiskou is an assistant professor of Modern Greek Literature in the Department of Preschool Education at the University of Crete. She studied modern Greek literature in the Department of Philology at the same university and continued her studies in the Department of Byzantine and Modern Greek Studies at King's College London, where she first obtained an MA (1996) and then a PhD degree (2002). Her PhD on the formation of the modern Greek short story between 1880–1920 was supervised by Professor Roderick Beaton. Her research interests revolve around modern Greek prose fiction, poetry and criticism of the nineteenth and early twentieth century, genre theory, comparative literature, and children's literature.

Nicoletta Hadjipavlou is an independent researcher of the modern Greek poetry and literature of Cyprus and of teaching Greek as a foreign language. She is currently teaching in secondary education in Cyprus and is also the Coordinator of Modern Greek at the American Academy Nicosia. She first started as an undergraduate student of Roderick Beaton in 2006 and wrote a thesis on Nikos Kavvadias under his supervision. She then pursued an MA and PhD in Modern Greek at King's College London. Her PhD thesis, "'This too will pass': Constructing the Idea of Empire in the Modern Greek Poetry of Cyprus (1878-2004)", was supervised by Roderick Beaton (2015). As a PhD student she received the Leventis Foundation Educational Grant for three consecutive years and presented her work at numerous international conferences. During the academic year 2018-2019 she was a Casual Lecturer at the University of Cambridge and taught Cavafy and Seferis as part of the 'Introduction to Modern Greek Literature and Culture' module.

Michalis Sotiropoulos is the 1821 Fellow in Modern Greek Studies at the British School at Athens, and the principal investigator of the BSA research project Unpublished Archives of British Philhellenism during the Greek Revolution of 1821. He has held postdoctoral and teaching positions at Queen Mary, University of London, Princeton University, the University of Athens, and the Democritus University of Thrace. His research interests lie in the intellectual history of the long nineteenth century, with an emphasis on the Mediterranean and the processes (revolts, revolutions, secessions, unifications, constitution-making and state-building) that changed the political culture and eventually the geopolitical map of the region. He has published widely on these issues. His book, *Liberalism after the Revolution: The Intellectual Foundations of the Greek state, c. 1830-1880*, was recently published by Cambridge University Press.

Georgia Farinou-Malamatari is Professor Emerita of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki. She studied Classics, Byzantine and Modern Greek Literature at the University of Athens and received her PhD at King's College London, where she holds a visiting appointment. Her research interests are in 19th and 20th-century Greek prose in a theoretical (narratology, reception theory and Bakhtin) and comparative framework. She has published several studies in periodicals and dedicatory volumes and she published or edited books on Xenopoulos, Psycharis, Beratis, Vassilikos and mainly Alexandros Papadiamantis.

Panel 1: Echoes of the Greek Revolution

Chair: Eleni Yannakakis (novelist)

Questions for all four speakers follow at the end of the session

9:40-10:00am: **David Ricks**, 'Haunted by Missolonghi: Two Poets Rewrite Their Homeland'

Missolonghi is for Greeks sacred ground, and for Greek poets ground guarded always by the shade of Solomos and *The Free Besieged*, not to mention a host of lesser poems—and haunted, too, of course, by the figure of Byron. How much more so for those poets who have grown up in this small provincial town with its imposing role in Greek national sentiment. This paper explores how two near-contemporaries from Missolonghi sought in their maturity ways to recreate the place in poems which take a more oblique stance in relation to history and to the poet's vocation. The paper will compare a collection by a poet taking time off from being national poet in a straightforward sense (Kostis Palamas [1859-1943], *Οι καημοί της λιμνοθάλασσας* [1912]) with a rather different collection inspired by Missolonghi, the work of an artful poet of minor ambitions (Miltiadis Malakasis (1869-1943), *Τα Μεσολογγίτικα* [1920]).

10:00-10:20am: **Maria Karaiskou**, 'Lord Byron's Fictional Reflections in Modern Greek Prose Fiction'

The portrait of Lord Byron in the context of modern Greek poetry has attracted adequate critical attention, but the versions of Byron emerging from modern Greek prose fiction have largely remained unexplored. This paper attempts to illustrate this neglected area by focusing on two prose texts of the Greek nineteenth century, St. Xenos' emblematic *Ηρωίς της ελληνικής επανάστασεως* (1861) and K. Ramfos' short story «Διήγημα» (1859), and, in addition, on two novels of the twenty-first century, I. Zourgos' *Αηδονόπιτα* (2008) and K. Akrivos' *Πότε διάβολος πότε άγγελος* (2021). The paper will explore the elements that constitute the fictional myth of Byron in relation to its respective constructions in modern Greek poetry, the arts (painting) as well as the historical discourse. At the same time the comparison and contrast between the two pairs of fictional narratives will highlight not only the intertextual dialogue between them but also how Byron's image has been developed from the period of the first post-revolutionary decades to our modern era of reconsideration of the historical past (and revision of the myths it passed on to us).

10:20-10:40am: **Nicoletta Hadjipavlou**, 'Representations of the 9th of July 1821 Events in Cyprus in the Work of Four Seminal Cypriot Poets'

When the Greek War of Independence broke out on March 25, 1821, in Greece, a number of Cypriots secretly left the island, which was also under Ottoman rule, to fight in Greece. On the island, proclamations and leaflets in favour of the War of Independence were circulated to the people. The pasha on the island, Kuchuk Mehmet, reacted to the Cypriots' support to the Greek war by confiscating weapons and secret leaflets and arresting many eminent Cypriots, among them Archbishop Kyprianos of Cyprus. On 9 July 1821, Archbishop Kyprianos, his bishops, and other leading figures were sentenced to death by hanging, and the execution took place shortly after.

This paper explores how four seminal Cypriot poets, Vassilis Michaelides (1849-1917), Demetris Lipertis (1866-1933), Kyriacos Charalambides (b.1940), and Niki Marangou (1948-2013), represent aspects of the July 9 events in their work. It aims to compare the appropriation of these events by those poets who experienced Ottoman rule on the island first-hand and were raised in the aftermath of the events with those who did not directly experience Ottoman rule, but view the events through the lens of other memorable events in the recent history of the island: their experience of British rule on the island (1878-1960) and the Turkish Invasion of 1974.

Panel 2: Versions of Philhellenism

Chair: Maria Margaritis (journalist and critic)

11:00-11:20am: **Michalis Sotiropoulos**, 'The Greek Revolution of 1821 and the Many Faces of British Philhellenism'

Historians have long discussed the British responses to the Greek Revolution, as well as the contribution of the British Philhellenes to the successful outcome of the Greek Revolution. This paper will reassess British Philhellenism by drawing on the research project Unpublished Archives of British Philhellenism during the Greek Revolution of 1821, currently undertaken by the British School at Athens in collaboration with the National Library of Greece and generously funded by the Stavros Niarchos Foundation. Its aim is to complicate our understanding of the phenomenon, by revisiting some age-old questions such as: What motivated the British Philhellenes to mobilize in favour of the Greeks? What different political visions and ideas did they articulate? How do these visions relate to the wider 19th-century context of colonialism and empire?

11:20-11:40am: **Georgia Farinou-Malamatari**, "Philhellenism and After: Greece in E.F. Benson's Life and Work"

The paper will examine the relations of the prolific writer E. F. Benson (1867-1940) with Greece during his stay in the country in the 1890s as an archaeologist, honorary secretary of a refugee committee, newspaper correspondent, and novelist (who wrote two 'historical' novels on the Greek War of Independence). It focuses on the motives and reception (in England and Greece) of Benson's literary output related to Greece and on the country's representation in his subsequent (auto)biographical reminiscences, which stem from evolving political and historical contexts.

11:40am-12:00 noon: **Maria Nikolopoulou**, 'Translating Modern Greek Fiction and the Koraeas Chair: The English translation of *Life in the Tomb* by Stratis Myrivilis in the Interwar Period'

The presentation will focus on the early 1930s attempt to publish Stratis Myrivilis' *Life in the Tomb* in English. This effort is connected to the wave of war books published in the 1920s and the success of *All Quiet on the Western Front* in 1929. After the 1930 edition of Myrivilis' book, Penelope Delta acted as a mediator and motivated the prominent translator Alexandros Pallis to fund and promote the translation. Myrivilis' book was deemed better than that of Erich Maria Remarque, although Delta had mentioned that the criticism against the army and the church and the references to the soldiers' repressed sexuality should be toned down. The translator was F. H. Marshall, Koraeas Professor, who also took on the duty to contact publishing houses. The translation was a shortened version of the original. The manuscript does not exist in the archives, apart from a chapter titled 'The Deserters'. But Pallis was unable to fund the translation and publication of the book. Myrivilis paid Marshall himself. The attempts by Pallis and Marshall to find a publisher failed, because the Great Depression had affected book sales and 'the interest in war books ha[d] materially diminished', as mentioned by a representative of Putnam Publishers.

The aborted attempt at publication and the existing correspondence with the publishing houses make a compelling case study for the reception of foreign literature in Britain; for translation as cultural adaptation; for the role of classicists, neohellenists, and the Greek communities as cultural mediators; for the attempt to promote Modern Greek literature through international political and cultural trends and the role of literature in cultural diplomacy.

Panel 3: Days of Modern Greek Literature

Chair: **Loizos Kapsalis** (Special Scientist, Research (SSR) at the Department of Social and Political Sciences, University of Cyprus)

2:00-2:20pm: **Sarah Ekdawi**, 'The Sixtieth Year of his Life: Cavafy Confronts Mortality and Posterity'

Cavafy is often said to have had two 'watershed' years: 1903 and 1911. In 1903, he reached the age of 40 and conducted a 'scrutiny' and purge of his work, culminating in a first printed collection (*Poems* 1904). In 1911, aged 48, he is generally believed to have found his mature voice. I shall argue that there was a third significant year, 1923, in which Cavafy radically altered his working practice as he set about preparing for his death and for his afterlife as a major European poet.

2:20-2:40pm: **Nikos Falagkas**, 'George Seferis, the Rower and the Angel: Biographies of a Poet'

In 1951 George Seferis had famously protested against the citation by the critic Timos Malanos of letters he had sent him. Seventy years later the constant interest in Seferis' life had led to the publication of more than fifteen volumes of his correspondence, eleven volumes of his diaries and two biographies: one in French in 1985 by Denis Kohler and the other in English in 2003 by Roderick Beaton, which was translated into Greek and became a bestseller. The two biographies highlight different periods of Seferis' life and propose rather complementary views, especially on Seferis' years of formation. A comparison between them shows how the two alternative narratives are largely shaped by the choice of different excerpts from the poet's essays, letters, diaries and from archival material.

Panel 4: Re-Inventing Greekness

Chair: **David Ricks** (King's College London)

3:00-3:20pm: **Sophia Voulgari**, 'Miracles and Tragedies: Re-inventing Greekness in Times of Crisis'

This paper will provide a critical overview of the conceptualizations of Greek history and modern Greek identity during the financial crisis and amidst the Covid-19 pandemic, focusing on Yiannis Kiourtsakis' recent book *The Miracle and the Tragedy* (2020), and the ways in which it echoes Seferis' cultural programme of a 'Greek Greekness'. The critical conditions of the last decade have created a state of emergency that has in turn necessitated a re-examination of Greek culture and its relation to Europe, a need to retrace the evolution of the modern Greek state as a hybrid entity, oscillating between the miracle and the tragedy..

3:40-4:00pm: **Joshua Barley**, 'Translating Greek Folk Songs'

This paper looks at the translation of Greek *dimotika tragoudia* (folk songs) from a historical, theoretical and practical perspective. I will begin with a discussion of some of the 19th-century English translations, notably those of Charles Brinsley Sheridan (1825) and Lucy Garnett (1896), considering how their approach was shaped by historical as much as aesthetic factors. I will then look at modern theory surrounding translation of folk song, drawing on K. Emmerich's *Literary Translation and the Making of Originals* (2017), before concluding with some personal reflections on translating folk songs for my recent publication *Greek Folk Songs* (Aiora Press 2022).

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