

**EFIMIA D. KARAKANTZA**  
**ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF ANCIENT GREEK LITERATURE**  
**DEPARTMENT OF PHILOLOGY**  
**UNIVERSITY OF PATRAS, GREECE**  
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#### **CURRENT TEACHING AND RESEARCH POSITION**

- Assistant Professor of Ancient Greek Literature, University of Patras.
- Fellow in Ancient Greek Literature.  
Center for Hellenic Studies, Harvard University, in Washington DC.  
Editor of the online and in print publication of the Greek Epic Cycle.

#### **RESEARCH INTERESTS**

- Epic poetry, lyric poetry, attic drama, reception of the *genres*
- Approaches to Greek myths
- Construction of the notion of gender in archaic and classical poetry
- Sophoclean drama and the ideology of the *polis*

#### **EDUCATION**

- 1986: Aristoteleion University of Thessaloniki, Department of Classics
- 1993: University of Reading, U. K., Department of Classics. Degree of Doctor of Philosophy.
- 1990-1991 (spring semester): École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales, Paris. Seminars on ancient Greek tragedy and myths with P. Vidal-Naquet and Nicole Loraux.
- 1996-1997: University of Texas at Austin, postdoctoral research.

#### **SCHOLARSHIPS**

- 1991-1992: University of Reading, UK. Scholarship granted during the last year of my PhD research on the basis of academic achievement.

- 2010-2011: University of Harvard (Center for Hellenic Studies in Washington DC) Fellowship during the fall semester (September through February).

## **ACADEMIC CAREER**

- 2010-2011: Center for Hellenic Studies (Washington DC), Fellow in Ancient Greek Literature.
- 2007- present: University of Patras, Department of Philology
- 2000-2009: Hellenic Open University
- 2003-2006: Research Center for the Greek Language, Thessaloniki – Athens
- 2004-2005: Aristoteleion University of Thessaloniki, Department of History and Archaeology
- 1997-2000: University of Patras, Department of Philology
- 1998-1999: University of Thessaly, Department of History, Archaeology and Social Anthropology (IAKA).

## **OTHER ACADEMIC ACTIVITY**

- Member of the scientific Committee of the Center for the Study of Myth and Religion in Greek and Roman Antiquity. Department of Philology, University of Patras.
- Member of the board of editors of the e-journal *Electra*. Department of Philology, University of Patras.
- Coordinator of the project [Kyklos](#), an educational and research project on the Greek Epic Cycle. The Center for Hellenic Studies, University of Harvard.

## **PUBLICATIONS**

### **A. DOCTORAL THESIS**

1. *Homo Heroicus. Prometheus, Herakles and Philoktetes. A Structural and Semantic Analysis of their Mythologies*, University of Reading, UK, 1993.

## B. BOOKS

2. *Ancient Greek Myths. The discourse of the 20<sup>th</sup> century on their nature and interpretation.* Athens: 2004. (in Greek)  
(as editor)
3. Classics@, issue 6, 2010, *Reflecting on the Greek Epic Cycle* (on the site of the CHS).
4. E. D. Karakantza (ed), *The Greek Epic Cycle*, on-line and in-print edition with the Center for Hellenic Studies in Washington DC (Harvard University) (forthcoming)  
(as co-editor)
5. M. Christopoulos, E. D. Karakantza, O. Levaniouk (eds), *Light and Darkness in Myth and Religion in Greek Antiquity*, Lexington Books, Lanham MD, 2010.

## C. PAPERS IN JOURNALS, PROCEEDINGS, AND CHAPTERS IN COLLECTIVE VOLUMES

6. «*Odysseia* or *Penelopeia*? An assessment of Penelope's character and position in the *Odyssey*», *MÉTIS, Revue d' anthropologie du monde grec ancient*, 12 (1997), 161-179  
<http://www.persee.fr/web/revues/home/prescript/revue/metis>
7. «The sexual servitude of Odysseus; An interpretative approach to Kirke and Kalypso episodes in the *Odyssey*», *Proceedings of the 11<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Fédération Internationale des Études Classiques (FIEC)* [Kavala, August 1999], Athens 2001, v. I, 468-481.
8. «The semiology of rape; The meeting of Odysseus and Nausikaa in book 6 of the *Odyssey*», *Classics Ireland* 10 (2003), 8-26.  
<http://www.classicsireland.com/2003/karakantza.html>
9. «Five ways of reading the *Odyssey*», *Palimpseston* 18 (2003), 29-53. (in Greek)

10. «Literary rapes revisited. A study in literary conventions and political ideology» *MÈTIS*, Revue d' anthropologie du monde grec ancien, n.s. 2 (2004), 29-45.
11. «From *mythos* to *polis*; mythical narratives in ancient Greek *polis*. Case studies: Sophocles' *Philoctetes*, Euripides' *Bacchae*» *Proceedings of the Symposium on Myth and Logos* (Ikaria, June 2005), Athens 2007, 99-124. (in Greek)
12. *Light and Darkness in Ancient Greek Myth and Religion*, Lexington Books, Lanham MD, 2010, Preface ix-xiii (with M. Christopoulos).
13. «Dark skin and dark deeds; Danaids and Aigyptioi in a culture of light» in M. Christopoulos, E. D. Karakantza, O. Levaniouk (eds) *Light and Darkness in Ancient Greek Myth and Religion*, Lexington Books, Lanham MD, 2010, 14-29.
14. «Eating from the tables of others. Sophocles' *Ajax* and the Greek Epic Cycle» *Classics@* (e-journal of the Center for Hellenic Studies of Harvard University), issue 6, 2010, titled *Reflecting on the Greek Epic Cycle*.  
<http://chs.harvard.edu/wa/pageR?tn=ArticleWrapper&bdc=12&mn=3233>
15. «In quest of the Father in the narratives of origin and movement in *Oedipus Tyrannus*» forthcoming in *MÈTIS*, Revue d' anthropologie du monde grec ancien, n.s. 9 (2011), 149-164.
16. «*To befriend or not to befriend?* A note on lines 678-683 of the deception speech in *Ajax*», forthcoming in *Logeion* 1, 2011.
17. «Throwing out the *menos* with the bath water. The Sophoclean text *vs* Peter Stein's *Electra* (2007)» forthcoming in 2011, A. Bakogianni (ed.) *Dialogues with the Past; Classical Reception Theory and Practice*, vol. I, Institute of Classical Studies, London (Editor in chief: M. Edwards).
18. «*Polis* anatomy. Reflecting on *polis* structures in Sophoclean tragedy», forthcoming in *Classics Ireland*.

19. «Oedipus revisited. Lévi-Strauss or Sophocles?», *Proceedings of the Symposium on Re-reading the work of Claude Lévi-Strauss*, University of Ioannina, 20-21 April, 2010 (forthcoming as a special issue of *Dodone*).

## CONFERENCES

- 1998: «An open reading of book 19 of the *Odyssey*; The Penelope question», Annual Meeting of the *Classical Association of Britain*, University of Wales, at Lampeter, April 1998.
- 1999: «The sexual servitude of Odysseus; An interpretative approach to Kirke and Kalypso episodes in the *Odyssey*», *11<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Fédération Internationale des Études Classiques (FIEC)*, Kavala, Greece, August 1999.
- 2001: «The meeting of Odysseus and Nausikaa in book 6 of the *Odyssey*. A semiotic approach», Annual Meeting of the *Classical Association of Britain*, University of Manchester, April 2001.
- 2002: «The topography of rape in archaic and classical literature» as a member of a panel on: «*Rape; Towards a History?*», Joint Meeting of the *Classical Association of Britain* and the *Classical Association of Scotland*, University of Edinburgh, April 2002.
- 2005: «From *mythos* to *polis*; mythical narratives in ancient Greek *polis*. Case studies: Sophocles' *Philoctetes*, Euripides' *Bacchae*», Symposium on *Myth with Logos*, Ikaria, Greece, June 2005.
- 2007: «Dark skin and dark deeds; Danaides and Aigyptioi in a culture of light» International Conference on *Light and Darkness in Ancient Greek and Roman Mythology and Religion*, University of Patras, July 2007.
- 2008: «*Electra's menos*; Sophocles vs Stein in the 2007 production of *Electra* by the National Theatre of Greece», International Conference on the Reception of ancient Greek and Roman drama, Institute of Classical Studies, London, June 2008.

- 2010: «Oedipus revisited. Lévi-Stauss or Sophocles?», Symposium on *Re-reading the work of Claude Lévi-Strauss*. University of Ioannina, 20-21 April, 2010.
- 2010: «Eating from the tables of others. Sophocles and the Greek Epic Cycle», The Greek Epic Cycle Conference, co-organized by Harvard University and the University of Patras, Ancient Olympia, 9-10 July, 2010.

### LECTURES / PRESENTATIONS

- 1991: University of Wales at Aberystwyth, UK.  
*«Ancient Greek and Modern Greece»*
- 1997: University of Texas at Austin, USA.  
*«What does Penelope know?»*
- 1997: College Year in Athens.  
*« Psychoanalysis and Greek Mythology»*
- 2000: National University of Athens, School of Education.  
*«Odysseus and Penelope; a study of the reversal of the traditional relationship of the sexes in Homer»*
- 2001: Aristoteleion University of Thessaloniki, School of Theology.  
*«The presence and interpretation of nature in Sophocles' Philoctetes and Euripides' Hippolytos».*
- 2002: University of Copenhagen, Odense and Århus (Denmark) at the Departments of Classics.  
*«Literary Rapes revisited. Narrative techniques and political ideology in ancient Greek literature ».*
- 2002: University of Thessaly, Polytechnic School, Department of Architecture  
*«The topography of rape and its manipulation in the ideological discourse of the Greek polis».*
- 2006: Center for Inter-cultural Studies, Athens

«*Religion in ancient Greek poleis*»

- 2008: University of Illinois at Chicago, and University of Ohio at Athens, USA.

«*On Oedipus and the win(k)ling of his eye. Ancient evidence and modern approaches to Oedipus myth*»

<http://www.uic.edu/las/clas/confrences.html>

<http://www.classics.ohiou.edu/?p=166>

- 2008: Association of Classical Teachers of Patras.

«*Homeric Epic Songs: A Presentation of book 6 of the Iliad, and book 5 of the Odyssey*»

- 2010: Rothman Distinguished Lectures in Classics, University of Florida at Gainesville, 29 November.

«*Sophocles' Ajax: An Unfit Hero*» or (on second thought) «*Ajax the Best of the Achaeans*».