CV

MICHAEL D. KONARIS

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ACADEMIC POSITIONS

01/2023 – present	**Research Centre for Greek and Latin Literature** **Academy of Athens** Research Fellow
01/2020 – present	**Swedish Archaeological Institute, Athens, Greece** Associate Scholar
01/2019 – 12/2019	**Research Centre for the Humanities, Athens, Greece** Research Fellow
09/2018 – 3/2019	**Open University of Cyprus** Hellenic culture studies Teaching Appointment
02/2018 – 06/2018	**University of Thessaly, Greece** Department of History, Archaeology and Social Anthropology Teaching Appointment
04/2017 – 06/2017	**National Hellenic Research Foundation** Section of Neohellenic Research Onassis Fellow
10/2016 – 03/2017	**Faculty of Classics, Oxford** Academic Visitor
10/2015 – 06/2016	**Corpus Christi College, Oxford** Centre for the Study of Greek and Roman Antiquity Visiting Member
10/2014 – 07/2015	**École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales, Paris** Centre de Recherches Historiques Postdoctoral Fellow

09/2013 – 06/2014 **Princeton University**
Stanley J. Seeger'52 Center for Hellenic Studies
Ted and Elaine Athanassiades Postdoctoral Research Fellow

10/2008 – 07/2013 **Freie Universität, Berlin**
Institut für Religionswissenschaft
Postdoctoral Fellow
Wissenschaftlicher Mitarbeiter

EDUCATION

10/2003 – 07/2009	**Balliol College, Oxford** D.Phil. in Ancient History Dissertation Title: 'The Greek Gods in Nineteenth- and Early Twentieth-Century German and British Scholarship' Supervisor: Prof. Robert Parker
10/2002 – 06/2003	**St-Hugh's College, Oxford** M.St. in Modern History Focus: Nineteenth-century Political and Intellectual History
10/2001 – 06/2002	**Queens' College, Cambridge** M.Phil. in Classics Focus: Greek Religion
10/1996 – 06/2001	**St-Hugh's College, Oxford** B.A. in Literae Humaniores Final Honour School, class I (rank 10) Honour Moderations, class I

LANGUAGES

English
German
French (listening/reading skills)
Mandarin Chinese (HSK 5)
Modern Greek (native)

PUBLICATIONS

I. BOOKS

The Greek Gods in Modern Scholarship. Interpretation and Belief in Nineteenth and Early Twentieth Century Germany and Britain (Oxford University Press, 2016)

II. EDITED VOLUMES

The Multiple Antiquities of Greek Modernity, 19th to the 21st century (École française d'Athènes, 2025), co-edited with Chryssanthi Avlami.

Studies on Greek Gods and Heroes. Interpretations and Appropriations (De Gruyter/Brill, 2026).

III. CONTRIBUTIONS IN COLLECTIVE VOLUMES AND ARTICLES

"German *Altertumswissenschaft* and Greek mythology in the 19th century", in R. Woodard (ed.), *The Cambridge History of World Mythology and Mythography* (CUP, forthcoming 2027).

"'A pure religion of divine words': Eckart Peterich's account of early Greek religion in his *Theologie der Hellenen* (1938) and its modern religious and cultural aims", in C. Gaullier-Bougassas (ed.), *Les nouvelles vies des divinités grecques en Europe* (Brepols, forthcoming 2027).

'"Our Germanic Sister Athena': Athena as a Nordic goddess and her comparison to the Valkyries in the writings of advocates of Nordicism in Germany 1920s-1940s", in M. Konaris (ed.), *Studies on Greek gods and heroes. Interpretations and appropriations* (De Gruyter/Brill, 2026).

"Friedrich Pfister's *Kampf* against Father Wilhelm Schmidt and his 'Catholic School of Ethnology'. Their clash over primitive monotheism and its background in earlier scholarship", in *Anabases* 43, 2026, 167–200.

«Οι απαρχές της επιστημονικής μελέτης της αρχαίας ελληνικής μυθολογίας στην Ελλάδα του 19ου αιώνα» [The beginnings of the modern academic study of ancient Greek mythology in 19th century Greece], in *Η συγκρότηση των ανθρωπιστικών επιστημών στην Ελλάδα κατά τον 19ο αιώνα* [The formation of the humanities as a university discipline in Greece during the 19th century], επιμ. Σ. Ματθαίου [S. Matthaiou (ed.)], EIE [NHRF], 2025, 67–91.

"Representations of Ancient Persia and Asia in Paparrigopoulos' *History of the Hellenic Nation* (1860-74) in light of Grote's *History* of Greece (1846-56) and Droysen's *Geschichte Alexanders des Großen (*1833)", in C. Avlami and M. Konaris (eds), *The Multiple Antiquities of Greek Modernity* (École française d'Athènes, 2025), 89–108.

«Από την κλασική παιδεία στη Σουηδία στην υπεράσπιση της Μεγάλης Ιδέας. Αναδιφώντας τις *Σκανδιναβικές Αναμνήσεις* (1890) του Παύλου Καρολίδη» [From classical education in Sweden to the defence of the Great Idea. Investigating Pavlos Karolidis' *Memories from Scandinavia* (1890)], in *Η Κλασική Φιλολογία στη νεότερη Ελλάδα. Από τα χρόνια του Νεοελληνικού Διαφωτισμού ως τον Β΄ Παγκόσμιο Πόλεμο* [Classical Philology in Modern Greece. From the time of the Neohellenic Enlightenment to the Second World War], επιμ. Β. Βερτουδάκης [V. Vertoudakis (ed.)], University Studio Press, 2025, 109–124.

«Όψεις της Κίνας στη νεοελληνική ιστοριογραφία του 19ου αιώνα: Η "Σινική Αυτοκρατορία" στις *Ιστορίες των ανθρωπίνων πράξεων* (1830-32) του Κωνσταντίνου Κούμα και οι γερμανικές της επιρροές» [also available in German translation: "Darstellungen Chinas in der neugriechischen Geschichtsschreibung des 19.

Jahrhunderts. „Das chinesische Kaiserreich“ in Konstantinos Koumas‘ „Geschichten der menschlichen Taten“ (1830-32) und die deutschen Einflüsse seiner Vermittlung”, Online-Compendium der deutsch-griechischen Verflechtungen 2025: https://comdeg.eu/essay/131155

“A history of changing religious attitudes in Greek antiquity. Martin P. Nilsson’s *Greek piety*”, in J. Wallensten and G. Ekroth (eds), *“The pen fell from my hand when I was in my eighty-sixth year.” Revisiting the work of Martin P. Nilsson* (Skrifter utgivna av Svenska institutet i Athen, 8°, Stockholm 2024), 121–154.

“Transitions, Reversals, Inconsistencies: H.S. Versnel on Myth and Ritual”, in K. Beerden and F. Naerebout (eds), *Coping with Versnel: A Roundtable on Religion and Magic. In Honour of the 80th Birthday of Henk S. Versnel* (Brill 2023), 145–158.

“Idolatrous and Corrupt Heathenism or Precursor of Christianity? Debates about Ancient Greek Religion and Mythology in 19th-Century United States Scholarship”, in *Pixels@Humanities. Research Results 2019* (2022), 1–19.

“Thucydides and the Causes of the Peloponnesian War in 19th-century Historiography: the Case of Konstantinos Paparrigopoulos versus George Grote and Ernst Curtius”, in N. Marinatos and R. Pitt (eds.), *Thucydides the Athenian* (CYA, 2022), 287–305.

“The Sins of Euemeros against Truth and Honesty: Indo-European Comparative Mythology versus Euhemerism in Victorian Britain”, in S. Pugh (ed.), *The Mortal Gods: Euhemerism and its Uses from Antiquity to the Nineteenth Century* (Routledge, 2021), 219–240.

“Myth or History? Ancient Greek Mythology in K. Paparrigopoulos’ *History of the Hellenic Nation* (1860-1874). Controversies, Influences and Implications”, in *Historical Review / La Revue Historique* 16 (2019), 211–234.

«Αρχαία Ελληνική Θρησκεία και Εθνικός Χαρακτήρας στο Έργο του Κωνσταντίνου Παπαρρηγόπουλου», [Ancient Greek Religion and National Character in the Work of Konstantinos Paparrigopoulos] in A. Tabaki and O. Polykandrioti (eds), *Ελληνικότητα και Ετερότητα: Πολιτισμικές Διαμεσολαβήσεις και ‘Εθνικός Χαρακτήρας’ στον 19ο Αιώνα*, [Hellenicity and Otherness: Cultural Transfers and ‘National Character’ in the 19th Century], vol. II, (NHRF, 2016), 267–282.

“Dionysos in Nineteenth-Century Scholarship”, in R. Schlesier (ed.), *A Different God? Dionysos and Ancient Polytheism* (De Gruyter, 2011), 467–478.

“Apollo in Nineteenth-Century Scholarship: the Case of K.O. Müller”, in M. Haysom and J. Wallensten (eds.), *Current Approaches to Religion in Ancient Greece* (Svenska institutet i Athen, 2011), 13–22.

“The Greek Gods in Late Nineteenth- and Early Twentieth-century German and British Scholarship”, in J.N. Bremmer and A. Erskine (eds.), *The Gods of Ancient*

Greece: Identities and Transformations, (Edinburgh University Press, 2010), 483–503.

IV. BOOK REVIEWS

Review of C. Stray/C. Pelling/S. Harrison (eds), *Rediscovering E.R. Dodds: Scholarship, Education, Poetry, and the Paranormal* (Oxford, OUP, 2019) in *The Journal of Hellenic Studies*, Volume 142 , November 2022 , 474–476.

V. ENTRIES IN DICTIONARIES AND ENCYCLOPEDIAS

"Liberalism" in *Lexicon of Migrating Ideas in the Slavic Balkans*, *18th to 21st centuries* (Polish Academy of Sciences 2018–2020).

"Modernity" in *Lexicon of Migrating Ideas in the Slavic Balkans*, *18th to 21st centuries* (Polish Academy of Sciences 2018–2020).

"Foreign Religions" in A.H. Sommerstein (ed.), *The Encyclopedia of Greek Comedy* (Wiley-Blackwell, 2019).

"Pannychhis" in A.H. Sommerstein (ed.), *The Encyclopedia of Greek Comedy* (Wiley-Blackwell, 2019).

"Ares" in R.S. Bagnall and others (eds), *The Encyclopedia of Ancient History* (Wiley-Blackwell, 2012).

"Apollo" in R.S. Bagnall and others (eds), *The Encyclopedia of Ancient History* (Wiley-Blackwell, 2012).

REVIEWER FOR THE JOURNALS:

Journal of Classical Reception,
Journal of the Classical Tradition
Eirene
Opuscula. Annual of the Swedish Institutes at Athens and Rome

ORGANIZATION OF LECTURES AND CONFERENCES

2026

A. Online lecture series on flowers, trees and forests in Greek, Latin, Chinese and Japanese literature

Program

- **Yasuhiro Katsumata (Kyoto University),** "The Symbolism of Pine Trees in Longus' Daphnis and Chloe and Yukio Mishima's Sound of Waves", 30.4.2026.

- **Kyoko Nakanishi (Tsuda University),** "Symbolism of Plants in Greco-Roman and Japanese Classical Literature: a Comparative Approach", 7.5.2026.

- **Sarah Marshall (Oxford),** "Mono no aware: Trees and Flowers as Figures of Transience in Homer, Vergil, and The Tale of Genji", 21.5.2026.

- **Yumi Suzuki (Cambridge),** "Classifications of Plants in Ancient China and Greece: An Ethnobotanical Comparison", 28.5.2026.

- **Didier Natalizi Baldi (Oxford),** '"De la scheggia rotta…parole e sangue'. The fractured boundaries of bleeding plants in Latin and Classical Chinese literature", 8.6.2026.

- **James Zainaldin (Vanderbilt),** "Writing the Peach Between Chinese and Roman Agronomy", 18.6.2026.

- **Di Wang (Hunan) / Marina Bazzani (Oxford),** "Flowers, Trees and Forests in Early Chinese and Byzantine Encomium Literature", 25.6.2026.

- **Dimitra Amarantidou (Shandong),** "Dao in Greek Soil: Seferis's Translation and Transplantation of Vegetal Imagery in the Daodejing 道德經", 2.7.2026.

- **Beth Harper (Hong Kong),** "The Old Man in the Garden, or Charismatic Idleness: Comparisons from Ancient China and Rome", 9.7.2026.

B. Lecture by Richard Buxton (Bristol) on "Myths of the Greek islands: patterns of isolation and connectivity", Academy of Athens 6.5.2026

2025

A. Online lecture series on nature and natural imagery in ancient Greek, Latin, Chinese and Japanese literature: comparisons and contrasts

Program

- **Michael Konaris (RCGLL, Academy of Athens),** "Representations of ancient Greek and Chinese attitudes to nature from Alexander von Humboldt (1769–1859) to Lin Yutang (1895–1976). Assumptions and controversies in the history of scholarship", 30.1.2025.
- **Beth Harper (Hong Kong),** "Labor and Leisure: Figuring the gardener in early Chinese and Latin texts", 13.2.2025.
- **Didier Natalizi Baldi (Oxford**), "The dissolution of empire and nature in Chinese and Latin poetry", 30.4.2025.
- **Alexander Beecroft (South Carolina),** "Nature and Culture in Greek and Chinese Imagery", 15.5.2025.
- **Cynthia Liu (Oxford),** "Harmony in Greco-Roman and Chinese poetry", 22.5.2025.
- **Lisa Raphals (California, Riverside),** "Moving Spirits: The Heavens in the Body and Mind-Body Dualism", 12.6.2025.
- **Yiqun Zhou (Stanford),** "Nature, Emotion and Metamorphosis in Classical Chinese and Greco-Roman Myth and Poetry", 19.6.2025.
- **Di Wang (Yuelu Academy, Hunan)**, "Mapping Nature in Greco-Roman and Early Chinese Cartography", 26.6.2025.
- **Wiebke Denecke (MIT),** "The grammar of nature in Japanese and Latin literatures", 3.7.2025.

B. Lecture by Tim Rood (Oxford) on "The Greek palimpsest: Alfred Zimmern at the British School at Athens, 1909–10" in collaboration with the British School at Athens, Academy of Athens 4.4.2025

C. Online workshop in commemoration of the 200th anniversary of the publication of K.O. müller's *Prolegomena zu einer wissenschaftlichen Mythologie* 1825–2025

Thursday 9 October 2025

Program

18.00 **Michael Konaris (RCGLL, AA),** Introduction

18.10 **Wiebke Denecke (MIT**), Greetings on behalf of the family of Karl Otfried Müller

18.20 **Fritz Graf (Ohio State),** "Karl Otfried Müller and the Science of Mythology"

19.20 **Philippe Borgeaud (Geneva),** "Towards a new reception of Karl Otfried Müller's *Prolegomena zu einer wissenschaftlichen Mythologie* in the French-speaking world"

19.40 **Wiebke Denecke (MIT**), "Reflections on Smart Historiography: The Göttingen School and Karl Otfried Müller's *History of the Literature of Ancient Greece*"

2024

A. Online lecture series on the history of classical scholarship since the end of WW2: National trajectories, transnational trends and influences during the second half of the 20th century

Program

- **Oswyn Murray (Oxford),** "The Republic of Letters between East and West. Memories of the Cold War", 11.1.2024.
- **Ichiro Taida (Toyo**), "Receptions of Western Classics in Japan in the second half of the 20th century", 16.2.2024.
- **Constanze Güthenke (Oxford**), "Philology and Politics: German scholarship after 1945", 21.3.2024 (hybrid, in collaboration with the Princeton Athens Center)

- **Georgy Kantor (Oxford**), “Ancient history in the Soviet Union: between Marxism and empiricism”, 11.4.2024 (hybrid)
- **Richard Hunter (Cambridge**), “Sidere mens eadem mutato? Memories of an Australian classicist”, 23.5.2024.
- **Glenn Most (Chicago),** “Four Weddings and a Funeral. Personal Reflections on Classics in America since the Second World War”, 13.6.2024.
- **Huang Yang (Fudan),** “Western Classical Studies in China since 1949”, 2.7.2024.
- **Margalit Finkelberg (Tel Aviv),** “Classical Studies in Israel as a Mirror of Changing Identity”, 16.7.2024.

B. Online lecture by Matthias Steinhart (Würzburg) on “Between strangeness and connoisseurship. Goethe and Greek sculpture”, 4.9.2024

2022–2023

Hybrid lecture series on the interpretation and reception of ancient Greek mythology

Program

- **Stephen Harrison (Oxford)**, “Psyche in the Nineteenth Century: Images from Art”, 15.12.2022 online
- **Joshua Billings (Princeton)**, “The Sophists, Myth, and the Gods” in collaboration with the Princeton Athens Center, 17.1.2023, hybrid
- **Robert Fowler (Bristol)**, “Friedrich Hölderlin and Pindar's Myths”, 16.2.2023 hybrid
- **Scott Scullion (Oxford)**, “Myth, Literature, and Cult in Scholarly Constructions of Dionysos”, 9.3.2023 hybrid
- **Fiona Macintosh (Oxford)**, “Iphigenia – a long view”, 23.3.2023 online
- **Vinciane Pirenne-Delforge (Collège de France)**, “Interpretative Paradigms and Greek Gods: Demeter as a Test Case”, 20.4.2023 online
- **Claude Calame (EHESS / AnHiMA, Paris)**, “Earth-Mother and Great Goddess: ecological and ecofeminist interpretations of the figures of Gaia and Demeter between myth and ritual”, 15.5.2023 online

- **Glenn Most (Berlin/Chicago)**, “Heracles in Hesiod”, 5.6.2023 online
- **Jan Bremmer (Groningen)** “Perseus between Female and Male Initiation: A Quest for an Elusive Hero”, 15.6.2023 hybrid
- **Jingling Chen (Illinois)**, “In the Name of Prometheus: The Reception of Prometheus in Modern Chinese Literature and Culture”, 29.6.2023 online