



**HELLENIC LINK–MIDWEST**  
A SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL LINK WITH GREECE  
ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΟΣ ΕΠΙΣΤΗΜΟΝΙΚΟΣ ΚΑΙ ΠΟΛΙΤΙΣΤΙΚΟΣ ΣΥΝΔΕΣΜΟΣ  
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## **“Toil and Rage in a New Land”: Greek Immigrants in the US Mining Industry (1900-1924)**

**On Sunday, April 21, 2024, at 3:00 pm, Hellenic Link–Midwest will present Professor George Anagnostou in a live lecture, titled: “Toil and Rage in a New Land”: Greek Immigrants in the US Mining Industry (1900-1924). The event will take place at the Four Points by Sheraton Hotel, 10249 West Irving Park Road at Schiller Park, Illinois (southeast corner of Irving Park Road and Mannheim Road). This lecture is supported by the [Hellenic Foundation, Chicago](#).**

Early 20th century Greek immigration in the United States is inextricably linked with the industrial history of the country. Overwhelmingly male in the beginning, it was part of a mass wave of immigrants from Southeastern Europe who were purposefully recruited as inexpensive labor in the mines, railroads, smelters, lumber yards, hydroelectric plants, and textile manufacturing. While a sector of this work force made the move to small-business ownership, others remained in industrial jobs for their entire lives. A high percentage returned to Greece, while thousands were killed in industrial disasters or confrontations with authorities and militia.

This talk will foreground the experience of Greek immigrants in the US mining industry (1900-1924). Drawing from the few available diaries, eyewitness accounts, biographies as well as testimonies of descendants, newspaper articles, photographs, and historiography, it will place the lives of the miners in relation to Americanization, nativism, and the labor movement. The presentation will connect the reality which the miners negotiated with the emotions—anger, fear, fury, defiance—they felt in negotiating that reality. The life and labor activism of Louis Tikas (1886-1914), a Cretan immigrant who was murdered during the infamous Ludlow Massacre in Ludlow, Colorado, will be a focal point.

The history of the Greeks in the mining industry leads us to rethink how we understand Greek American history. The experience of the early 20th century immigrants was far from uniform—an apprentice in the confectionary business in Chicago had a radically different experience than an itinerant industrial laborer in Carbon County, Utah; the wife of a vendor in New York City did not share the same concerns with the wife of a miner in Helper, Utah. The talk will emphasize the importance of situating immigrant lives in the context of particular regions and occupations. Building on the case of the miners, it will make a broader point: Greek American histories are many and diverse.

*George Anagnostou* is the Miltiadis Marinakis Professor of Modern Greek language and culture at The Ohio State University. His interests include diaspora and American ethnic studies, with a focus on Greek America. His published research covers a broad range of subjects, including film, documentary, ethnography, folklore, literature, history, sociology, and public humanities. He is the author of *Contours of White Ethnicity: Popular Ethnography and the Making of Usable Pasts in Greek America*. He is a co-editor of *Redirecting Ethnic Singularity: Italian Americans and Greek Americans in Conversation*, which was awarded the Modern Greek Studies Association Vassiliki Karagiannaki Best Edited Book Prize, 2022. Since 2017 he is the editor of the online journal *Ergon: Greek/American and Diaspora Arts and Letters* (<http://ergon.scienzine.com/>).

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