



HELLENIC LINK–MIDWEST
A SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL LINK WITH GREECE
ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΟΣ ΕΠΙΣΤΗΜΟΝΙΚΟΣ ΚΑΙ ΠΟΛΙΤΙΣΤΙΚΟΣ ΣΥΝΔΕΣΜΟΣ
P.O. Box 3, Park Ridge, IL 60068-0003
Phone (847) 644-3500 and Fax: 847-498-0421
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Talking about a Revolution: The Greek War of Independence and the Remaking of Thessaloniki

Celebrating the Greek Revolution of 1821, on Sunday March 17, 2019, Hellenic Link–Midwest presents *Dr. Paris Papamichos Chronakis* in a lecture titled: “*Talking about a Revolution: The Greek War of Independence and the Remaking of Thessaloniki.*” The event will take place at 3:00 pm in Room 1604, at the Oakton Community College, 1600 E. Golf Road, Des Plaines, IL 60016. Admission will be free.

Please park at the Faculty/Staff parking lot C and enter through door entrance #37. Please arrive between 2:30-3:00 pm so we can start the lecture promptly at 3:00 pm, as we have the room reserved until 5:00 pm only.

The Greek War of Independence shook the Ottoman Empire from the Danube in the north to Crete in the south. Urban populations across the two shores of the Aegean felt its impact in multiple ways—direct and indirect, political, economic, and social. The repercussions of the Revolution were empire-wide. They touched all of the empire’s ethnoreligious groups and reconfigured social hierarchies and interethnic relations in many of its major urban centers.

This talk zooms into the celebrated multiethnic port city of Thessaloniki to consider the shifts the war caused in the city’s Greek Orthodox community. The outbreak of the revolution in the nearby peninsula of Chalkidiki led to a wave of violence against the city’s Greek Orthodox Christian population. Mob violence, mass killings, and forced migration dealt a severe blow to a hitherto thriving community and significantly weakened its status among the city’s multiethnic population. The long-term consequences were not less important. Thessaloniki’s Greek Orthodox Christians lost control of the lucrative export trade to the advantage of their Jewish rivals who would virtually monopolize it until the end of Ottoman rule. Moreover, Greek Orthodox Christians from the Ottoman Macedonian hinterland would migrate in Thessaloniki, fill the community’s depleted ranks and slowly rise to become its new elite. Thessaloniki might have escaped the revolutionary imbroglio, but the Greek War of Independence nonetheless effected truly revolutionary changes in the social hierarchies and ethnic identities of the city.

Dr. Papamichos Chronakis, (Ph.D., University of Crete, 2011; MA in Comparative History, University of Essex, UK, 1998; BA Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece, 1996), is Lecturer in Modern Greek History at the University of Illinois at Chicago. His research focuses on the history of the port cities of the Eastern Mediterranean and his manuscript in progress narrates the passage of Salonica from the Ottoman Empire to the Greek nation-state by bringing together the interrelated histories of Sephardic Jewish, Greek Orthodox, and Muslim entrepreneurial elites. He has co-edited and contributed to a special issue of *Jewish History Journal* on the history of the Jews of Salonica and has written on interwar Zionist youth cultures in Greece; Zionism as a localized identity; Greek anti-Zionism and antisemitism; Greek Jewry in the First World War; the uses and performances of Greekness among concentration camp Jewish prisoners.

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