

DR. CHRISTODOULOS PAPAVARNAVAS

Curriculum Vitae

Division of Byzantine Research, Institute for Medieval Research
Austrian Academy of Sciences
Hollandstraße 11-13 / 4 | A-1020 | Vienna, Austria
T +43-676-6683334
christodoulos.papavarnavas@oeaw.ac.at
chris_papavarnavas@yahoo.com
<https://oeaw.academia.edu/ChristodoulosPapavarnavas>

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Late Antique and Byzantine Literature
Byzantine Hagiography (primarily Martyrdom Accounts and Monastic Saints' Lives)
Religion and Monasticism
Prison and Imprisonment in Byzantium
Mobility and Migration in the Middle Ages
Literary Criticism
Audience and Reception Studies
Critical Theories (Narrative, Performance, Space, Gender, Emotions and the Senses)

EDUCATION

- 2014 – 2018 DPhil in Byzantine Studies, Department of Byzantine and Modern Greek Studies, University of Vienna (with Distinction and Honours: 'Promotio sub auspiciis'; 'Grete-Mostny'; 'Memory of Mankind')
Dissertation Title: 'Gefängnis als Schwellenraum in der byzantinischen Hagiographie: Eine literarische Untersuchung der Märtyrerakten in früh- und mittelbyzantinischer Zeit' (Supervisors: Prof. Claudia Rapp and Assoc. Prof. Stavroula Constantinou)
- 2012 – 2014 Master in Byzantine Studies, Department of Byzantine and Modern Greek Studies, University of Vienna (with Distinction)
Master's Thesis Title: 'Die Rolle des Publikums in den vormetaphrastischen Gruppen- und Einzelmartyrien' (Supervisor: Prof. Claudia Rapp)
- Sep. 2010 – Jan. 2011 Erasmus Visiting Studentship, Faculty of Greek and Latin Languages and Literature, Freie Universität Berlin
- 2008 – 2012 Bachelor in Byzantine and Modern Greek Literature, Department of Byzantine and Modern Greek Studies, University of Cyprus (with First Class Honours)

POSITIONS

- Since Mar. 2022 Research Fellow (Postdoc), Project 'Spaces That Matter: Enclosed and Secluded Places in Early and Middle Byzantine Hagiography' (financed by the Austrian

	Science Fund), Division of Byzantine Research, Institute for Medieval Research, Austrian Academy of Sciences
Mar. 2021 – Feb. 2022	Research and Teaching Fellow, University of Cyprus
Sep. 2019 – Jun. 2021	Research Fellow (Postdoc), Wittgenstein-Award Project ‘Mobility, Microstructures and Personal Agency’ (Prof. Claudia Rapp), Division of Byzantine Research, Institute for Medieval Research, Austrian Academy of Sciences
Oct. 2018 – Aug. 2019	Research Associate in the ERC Project ‘The Cult of Saints’ (Prof. Bryan Ward-Perkins), University of Oxford (from October to December 2018: full-time in Oxford; from January to August 2019: part-time from Vienna)
Nov. 2014 – Sep. 2018	University Assistant (Pre-doc), Department of Byzantine and Modern Greek Studies, University of Vienna
Aug. 2014 – Oct. 2014	Research Assistant, Project on Byzantine Hymnography: ‘Byzantine Hymnography and the Tradition of Rhetoric’ – Electronic Database (Assoc. Prof. Antonia Giannouli), Department of Byzantine and Modern Greek Studies, University of Cyprus
Nov. 2013	Research Assistant, Project on Byzantine Sigillography: ‘Systematische Fotothek zur Byzantinischen Sigillographie’ (PDoz. Dr. Alexandra Wassiliou-Seibt), Division of Byzantine Research, Institute for Medieval Research, Austrian Academy of Sciences, Vienna
Jun. 2013 – Sep. 2013	Research Assistant, Project ‘Lexikon zur byzantinischen Gräzität’ (Prof. Erich Trapp), Division of Byzantine Research, Institute for Medieval Research, Austrian Academy of Sciences, Vienna
Jan. 2012 – Oct. 2013	Research Assistant, Project on Linguistics: ‘Morphological Dictionary of Modern Greek Verbs’ – Electronic Database (Prof. em. Françoise Pouradier Duteil, University of Bremen), Vienna

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

I. University Courses

2021, Winter Semester. Undergraduate Course ‘Confinement in Byzantine Hagiographical Literature’ (in Modern Greek), Department of Byzantine and Modern Greek Studies, University of Cyprus (In-person Classes)

2021, Spring Semester. Seminar for BA, MA, and PhD Students ‘Marvellous and Macabre Tales from Byzantium: Novels and Romances’ (in English), Department of Classical Studies, Masaryk University (Virtual Classes due to COVID-19)

2021, Spring Semester. Undergraduate and Postgraduate Course ‘*Metaphrasis in Byzantium: Symeon Metaphrastes and His Works*’ (in German), Department of Byzantine and Modern Greek Studies, University of Vienna (Virtual Classes due to COVID-19)

2020/2021, Winter Semester. Undergraduate and Graduate Seminar ‘Sex, Violence and Crime in Greek Literature (Fourth–Twentieth Centuries)’ (in German), Institute for Byzantine Studies, Byzantine Art History and Modern Greek Studies, Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich (Virtual Classes due to COVID-19)

2020, Spring Semester. Seminar for BA, MA, and PhD Students ‘Saints and Holy (Wo)Men in Byzantine Literature and Art’ (in English), Department of Classical Studies, Masaryk University (Combination of In-person and Virtual Classes due to COVID-19)

2019/2020, Winter Semester. Undergraduate and Postgraduate Course ‘The Body in Byzantine and Modern Greek Literature’ (in German), Department of Byzantine and Modern Greek Studies, University of Vienna

2016/2017, Winter Semester. Undergraduate and Postgraduate Course ‘Holiness in Byzantium: Types of Saints in Hagiographical Literature’ (in German), Department of Byzantine and Modern Greek Studies, University of Vienna

II. Invited Teaching Lectures

Oct. 2020. Lecture ‘Why Moving? Reasons for Mobility and Migration in Byzantium: Men and Women – Saints and Laity’ (in English), Department of Byzantine and Modern Greek Studies, University of Vienna (Invited by Prof. Claudia Rapp)

May 2020. Virtual Lecture ‘Women Between Sinfulness and Spirituality in Late Antiquity and Byzantium’ (in German), Department of Byzantine and Modern Greek Studies, University of Vienna (Invited by Dr. Eirini Afentoulidou-Leitgeb)

Dec. 2019. Lecture ‘Cross-Dressing Nuns in Late Antiquity and Byzantium’ (in German), Institute for Byzantine Studies, Byzantine Art History and Modern Greek Studies, Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich (Invited by Prof. Lilia Diamantopoulou)

Nov. 2019. Lecture ‘Healing Miracles in Late Antique and Byzantine Martyrdom Accounts’ (in English), Department of the Study of Religions, Institute of History, University of Southern Denmark (Invited by Prof. Laura Feldt)

PUBLICATIONS

I. Monographs

2021. *Gefängnis als Schwellenraum in der byzantinischen Hagiographie: Eine Untersuchung friih- und mittelbyzantinischer Märtyrerakten* [= Prison as Liminal Space in Byzantine Hagiography: A Study of Early and Middle Byzantine Martyrs’ Passions] (= Millennium Studies, 90). Berlin/Boston: De Gruyter (open access:
<https://www.degruyter.com/document/doi/10.1515/9783110725780/html>)

II. Co-edited Books

2021. *Mobility and Migration in Byzantium: A Sourcebook*, together with C. Rapp, J. Preiser-Kapeller et al. (= Moving Byzantium, 1). Göttingen: Vandenhoeck und Ruprecht/Vienna University Press (in press; open access)

III. Articles in Peer-reviewed Scientific Journals

2016. ‘The Role of the Audience in the Pre-Metaphrastic Passions’, *Analecta Bollandiana* 134(1), pp. 66–82

2021. ‘Imprisoned Martyrs on the Move: Reading Holiness in Byzantine Martyrdom Accounts’, *Byzantinische Zeitschrift* 114(3), pp. 1241–1262

2022. ‘Holy Mothers in Pain: Childbearing and Breastfeeding in Byzantine Martyrdom Narratives’ (submitted)

IV. Chapters in Peer-reviewed Edited Volumes

2021. ‘Miracle and Martyrdom: Performing and Experiencing Healing Miracles in Prisons and Shrines’, in: V. Deroche-S. Efthymiadis (eds.), *Le rôle des miracles et des recueils des miracles*. Publications de l’École Pratique des Hautes Études (in press)

2023. ‘Saints’ Mobility and Confinement: Deconstructing Byzantine Stories of (Fe)male Ascetics and Monastics’, *Early Medieval Europe*, special issue, ed. C. Rapp and M. Meier (in progress)

[Forthcoming]. ‘Literary *topoi* Between Visuality and Orality: Describing Scenes of Confinement in Byzantine Hagiography’ (in progress)

V. Online Publications

2014. ‘Die Rolle des Publikums in den vormetaphrastischen Gruppen- und Einzelmartyrien [= The Role of the Audience in the Pre-Metaphrastic Group and Individual Passions]’. MA Thesis, University of Vienna (<http://othes.univie.ac.at/34303/>)

VI. Encyclopedia Entries

2022. ‘Theodoros von Trimithus’, in: M. Grünbart and A. Riehle (eds.). *Lexikon byzantinischer Autoren*. Leipzig: Akademie Verlag (in press)

2022. ‘Theodoros von Paphos’, in: M. Grünbart and A. Riehle (eds.). *Lexikon byzantinischer Autoren*. Leipzig: Akademie Verlag (in press)

VII. Book Reviews

2015. Review of: ‘S. Efthymiadis (ed.) 2014. The Ashgate Research Companion to Byzantine Hagiography, II: Genres and Contexts. Farnham and Burlington’, *Byzantinoslavica* 73, pp. 227–232

2019. Review of: ‘K. Degen 2018. Der Gemeinsinn der Märtyrer. Die Darstellung gemeinwohlorientierten Handelns in den frühchristlichen Martyriumsberichten. Stuttgart’, *Plekos: Elektronische Zeitschrift für Rezensionen und Berichte zur Erforschung der Spätantike* 21, pp. 239–244 (<http://www.plekos.uni-muenchen.de/2019/r-degen.pdf>)

2022. Review of: ‘R. Stearn 2020. Historiography and Hierotopy: Palestinian Hagiography in the Sixth Century A.D. Piscataway, NJ’, *Journal of Early Christian Studies* (in press)

INVITED LECTURES AND CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

2022. ‘Christian Martyrs and Their Prison Experience in Byzantine Literature’ (in German), International Conference on The Muse Enchained: Prison and Art in the Ancient and Modern Cultures, 1–4 February, Villa Vigoni, Italy – German-Italian Centre for the European Dialogue (Invited Lecture)
2021. ‘Saints’ Mobility and Confinement: Deconstructing Byzantine Stories of (Fe)male Holiness’, International Conference of the Wittgenstein-Award Project Mobility, Microstructures and Personal Agency, 19–21 November, Austrian Academy of Sciences (Invited Lecture)
2021. ‘Motherhood and Sainthood: Childbearing and Breastfeeding in Byzantine Martyrdom Narratives’, International Conference on Lactating Breasts: Motherhood and Breastfeeding in Antiquity and Byzantium, 5–7 November, University of Cyprus (Conference Presentation)
2021. ‘Mothers in Pain: Pregnancy, Childbirth and Breastfeeding in Greek Martyrdom Accounts’, International Medieval Congress, 5–9 July, University of Leeds (Conference Presentation)
2021. ‘Healing Miracles and Healing Places: Martyrs’ Prisons and Shrines as Liminal Spaces in Byzantine Hagiography’, Seventh National Conference of Byzantine Studies, 22–25 June, Belgrade (Invited Lecture)
2020. ‘Enclosed Spaces – Enclosed Saints: The Case of Imprisoned Martyrs in Byzantine Hagiographical Literature’, Retracing Connections Seminars, 27 November, Uppsala (Invited Lecture)
2020. ‘Martyrs’ Prisons as Healing Shrines in Byzantine Hagiography’, Byzantine Studies Seminars, 5 October, Edinburgh (Invited Lecture)
2019. ‘Authoritative Narratives of Byzantium: Reading Prison Scenes in Martyrdom Accounts’, Authority, Materiality, and Media Research Group, 1 November, Odense (Invited Lecture)
2019. ‘Martyrdom and Secret Holiness: The Role Swap Between a Martyr and a Flute Player’, International Conference on Secrets and Secrecy in Late Antiquity, Byzantium and Early Islam, 26–28 July, Bamberg (Invited Lecture)
2019. ‘Sanctity and Mobility’, Workshop Vienna–Tübingen on Migration and Mobility, 30 September–1 October, Vienna (Invited Lecture)
2019. ‘Conceptions of Space and the Body of the Martyr: Reading Scenes of Blood in Greek Hagiographical Passions’, SPBS Spring Symposium on Blood in Byzantium, 30 March–1 April, Cambridge (Conference Presentation)
2019. ‘Imprisoned Martyrs on the Move: Reading Holiness in Byzantine Martyrdom Accounts’, International Workshop on Holiness on the Move: Travelling Saints in Byzantium, 22 February, Newcastle (Invited Lecture)

2018. ‘Prison Space and Holiness in Martyr Narratives: A Literary Approach to Greek Passions’. The Cult of Saints in the First Millennium, Seminars Fridays at the Trinity College, 9 November, Oxford (Invited Lecture)

2017. ‘Imprisoned Martyrs and Holiness: A Literary Representation of Prison in Hagiographical Passions’ (in Greek). Byzantine and Medieval Colloquium of the University of Cyprus, 15 March, Nicosia (Invited Lecture)

2016. ‘Prison as Liminal Space in Byzantine Hagiography: A Literary Study of the Martyrs’ Passions in the Early and Middle Byzantine Periods’. Sixth Annual Workshop of the Graduate Exchange in Late Antique, Byzantine and Early Medieval History, 20 May, Princeton (Conference Presentation)

2015. ‘The Role of the Audience in the Pre-Metaphrastic Passions’. Colloquium on Late Antique Hagiography as Literature, 20 May, Edinburgh (Conference Presentation)

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2022. Session ‘Tradition and Innovation’. International Conference on Poetry in Late Byzantium, 9–11 February, Vienna (Moderator)

2015/2016, Summer Semester. ‘Field Trip to the Historic Sites of the Republic of Armenia, with Special Emphasis on the Medieval Period and the Relations between Byzantium and Armenia’, University of Vienna (Co-organisation and Logistics under the Supervision of Prof. Lioba Theis and Prof. Claudia Rapp; Field Trip: 30/04/2015 – 10/05/2015)

2015. Session ‘Remembering Byzantium’. Fifth Annual Workshop of the Graduate Exchange in Late Antique, Byzantine and Early Medieval History, 2 June, Vienna (Moderator)

2015. Paper ‘Transferring Aristotelian Logic from Alexandria to Constantinople: Manuscripts, Concepts, Perspectives’ by PI Prof. Christophe Erismann, Vienna Dialogues, 30 May, Vienna (Moderator)

2015. Vienna Dialogues Workshop-style Conference on ‘People on the Move and the Ideas they bring: Mobility of Ideas, Motifs and Texts in Byzantium and Beyond’, 29–30 May, Vienna (Logistics)

2015. International Workshop on ‘Ideologies and Identities in the Medieval Byzantine World’, 16–17 April, Vienna (Logistics)

2014. Vienna Dialogues Workshop-style Conference on ‘People on the Move and the Things they carry’, 18 October, Vienna (Logistics)

FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS, HONOURS

2019. Honorary Inclusion of the Dissertation in the Project ‘Memory of Mankind’ (Hallstatt/Austria) supported by the UNESCO World Heritage

2019. Grete-Mostny Prize for the Originality and Exemplary Interdisciplinary Approach of the Dissertation, awarded by the Historical and Cultural Studies Faculty of the University of Vienna

2019. Honour ‘Promotio sub auspiciis praesidentis rei publicae’ for the Highest Possible Grades in All Levels of Education, given by the Austrian Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research

2019. Tsiter-Kontopoulou Grant, Department of Byzantine and Modern Greek Studies, University of Vienna (for participating in the SPBS Spring Symposium ‘Blood in Byzantium’, University of Cambridge 30.03.2019–01.04.2019)

2013. Fellowship for Participation in Byzantine Summer School at Thessaloniki, Greece (01/07/2013 – 14/07/2013), granted by EHESS (Paris) and the Municipality of Thessaloniki

2013. Grant for Completion of Master’s Studies, given by the State Scholarships Foundation of Cyprus (I.K.Y.K.)

2012. Honours for the Best Academic Performance (9.51 out of 10) at the University of Cyprus (2008 – 2012)

2010 – 2011. Grant for Participation in the EU Student Exchange Programme “Erasmus”, Studies at Freie Universität Berlin, Germany, Faculty of Greek and Latin Languages and Literature (01/09/2010 – 31/01/2011)

2004 – 2005. An Honourable Member of the Youth Parliament hosted in the Hellenic Parliament, Athens, Greece. Grant for Participation at the 10th Session (02/09/2005 – 05/09/2005)

REFEREEING ACTIVITIES

Scholarly Journals and Publishers: *Religions* (Basel, Switzerland)

LANGUAGES

Modern Languages

Greek (native), English (excellent), German (excellent), French (very good), Italian (good reading knowledge), Spanish (basic reading knowledge)

Ancient Languages

Ancient and Medieval Greek (excellent), Latin (very good)

MEDIA COVERAGE

2021. Podcast Interview about ‘Cross-dressing in Byzantine Literature’, Vienna 15/02/2021

URL: <https://soundcloud.com/makro-mikro/crossdressing-als-motiv-in-der-byzantinischen-literatur-makro-mikro-44> Interviewed by Julia Grillmayr for the MakroMikro Podcast Series of the Austrian Academy of Sciences

2019. ‘Grete-Mostny-Preisverleihung 2019’, Vienna 25/06/2019

URL: https://hist-kult.univie.ac.at/detailansicht/news/grete-mostny-preisverleihung-2019/?tx_news_pi1%5Bcontroller%5D=News&tx_news_pi1%5Baction%5D=detail&cHash=5b546a7338258bcb753c106d36c66676

2019. ‘Vier Sub-Auspiciis-Promotionen und ein Ehrendoktorat an der Uni Wien: Alexander Van der Bellen überreicht die Ehrenringe der Republik Österreich’, Vienna 12/03/2019
URL: <https://www.bundespraesident.at/aktuelles/detail/news/teilnahme-an-der-sub-auspiciis-promotion-der-universitaet-wien/>

2019. ‘Uni Wien: Vier Sub-Auspiciis-Promotionen und ein Ehrendoktorat an der Uni Wien’, Vienna.at – das Stadtportal für Wien, Vienna 12/03/2019
URL: <https://www.vienna.at/uni-wien-vier-sub-ausipiciis-promotionen-und-ein-ehrendoktorat/6127464>

2019. O. Wächter. ‘Kür der Fleißigsten: Vier Ehrenringe vom Bundespräsidenten Alexander Van der Bellen verliehen’, *Kurier – Job & Business* 11 (16/03/2019), p. 4

2016. U. Sorz. ‘Jungforscher*innen: Christodoulos Papavarnavas’, *Heureka: Das Wissenschaftsmagazin aus dem Falter Verlag* 5 (23/11/2016), p. 4.

URL: https://www.falter.at/heureka/FALTER_201611232A21348D01/jungforscherinnen

OTHER PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

2018. Examiner and Evaluator for the Greek Proficiency Exams ‘Ellinomatheia’ B2, C1, C2, Department of Byzantine and Modern Greek Studies, Vienna, Austria

2010. Second Evaluator and Logistics Assistant at Pancyprian Entrance Exams for Cyprus and Greece State Universities and Polytechnics, Ministry of Education and Culture (Examination Service), Nicosia, Cyprus

2011 – 2012. Invigilator for the ACCA June Exams, British Council in Nicosia, Cyprus

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Since 2020. Deutsche Arbeitsgemeinschaft zur Förderung Byzantinischer Studien

Since 2019. Research Network for the Study of Late Antique and Early Medieval Monasticism

Since 2015. Österreichische Byzantinische Gesellschaft

2008 – 2011. Volunteer Student Club/Doctors of the World (Social Service), University of Cyprus