



# The Levantines: Identities and Heritage

2 – 3 November 2018

Cotsen Hall, Gennadius Library, Athens



Building upon the success of our earlier conferences in Istanbul in 2014 and London in 2016, this conference will introduce the Levantines to a Greek and international audience (academics and non-academics) and illustrate their role in the shaping of modern Greece. Emphasis will be given to the aspects of the Levantine world and its complex socio-economic networks which gave rise to layers of social, cultural, political, and material exchanges with resonances lasting till today.

## Tickets

£18 for both days of conference (LHF Members £16, Students £9), excluding Eventbrite booking fee.

To book click [here](#).

**For more information:** LHF-Athens2018@levantineheritage.com

## Provisional Programme

### Day 1 - Friday 2 November

- 08.30 Registration
- 09.30 Welcome by LHF Chairman, Quentin Compton-Bishop
- Opening remarks by Professor Jenifer Neils, Director of the American School of Classical Studies at Athens
- 10.00 - 11.00 Keynote speech: *The Challenges of Pluralism***
- Paschalis M. Kitromilides, Professor and Director of the Centre of Asia Minor Studies, Athens
- 11.00 - 11.30 Coffee break
- 11.30 - 13.00 Session 1 – Dignitaries in the Levantine World**
- 11.30 *Greeks in the service of the Republic of Venice. Venetian Consuls in the Ottoman Empire (1670-1715)*
- Umberto Signori (State University of Milan)
- 11.50 *Merchant office holders in 18<sup>th</sup> century Levantine trade. Non-business profit-seeking mechanisms, power politics and Levantine identity*
- Despina Vlami (Academy of Athens)
- 12.10 *The Consulate of the Septinsular Republic (1800-07) in the Dardanelles and Ionian shipping in Constantinople and the Black Sea in the beginning of the 19<sup>th</sup> century*
- Gerassimos Pagratis (National & Kapodistrian University of Athens)
- 12.30 *Levantines and the British Consular Service*
- Lucia Patrizio Gunning (University College London)
- 12.50 Q&A
- 13.00 - 14.00 Lunch break
- 14.00 - 15.30 Session 2 – Networks, Families and Institutions**
- 14.00 *The German Teutonia Club and its role as a cultural hub of the Levantines in pre-World War 1 Istanbul*
- Richard Wittman (Orient-Institut, Istanbul)

- 14.20 *The sports activity of the English Commercial School "Barkshire" in Smyrna and Athens*  
Andreas Baltas (Panteion University, Athens)
- 14.40 *The Durighellos: three generations of consuls, merchants and antiquarians in the Levant*  
Elisabeth Fontan (Musée du Louvre, Paris) and Michel Klat (independent researcher, London)
- 15.00 *The Baltazzi family and rural change in Western Anatolia in the Late Ottoman Empire*  
Önder Eren Akgül (Georgetown University, USA)
- 15.20 Q&A
- 15.30 - 16.00 Coffee break
- 16.00 - 17.30 Session 3 – The role of Religion and Interreligious connections**
- 16.00 *The Catholic bishops and their community on the Island of Syros and the Ottoman authorities*  
Elias Kolovos (University of Crete)
- 16.20 *A Muslim ayan and his Christian partner: interreligious economic cooperation in Smyrna in the beginning of the 19<sup>th</sup> century*  
Sophia Laiou (Ionian University, Corfu)
- 16.40 *A visit to an invisible community: the Protestant Greeks of Asia Minor in the late Ottoman Empire*  
Gülen Göktürk (Eskisehir Osmangazi University, Turkey)
- 17.00 *American Protestantism, Greek Orthodoxy and Greece's Megali Idea: Evolution of the relationship between American Protestant missionaries and Greek Orthodox throughout the 19<sup>th</sup> century*  
Ahmet Gençturk (Tor Vergata University of Rome)
- 17.20 Q&A
- 17.30 - 18.30 Roundtable – Searching the Family Past / Family Portraits**
- 17.30 *Exploring the Murat Levantine identity*  
Joseph Nicholas Murat

*Anastasia: Speaking her silence*

Şebnem Şenyener

*The unknown story of a painter: Mario Prassinis (1916-1985)*

Seza Sinanlar Uslu

**18.30 - 18.40 Closing of Day 1**

18.40 Evening Reception

**Day 2 – Saturday 3 November**

08.30 Registration

**09.30 - 10.30 Keynote speech: *Greeks and Levantines in Egypt: Parallel Lives***

Alexander Kitroeff, Haverford College, USA

**10.30 - 11.00 Book presentation: *The Smyrna Quay – Tracing a symbol of Progress and Splendour***

Achilleas Chatziconstantinou and George Poulimenos

11.00 - 11.30 Coffee break

**11.30 - 13.00 Session 4 – Levantine Identities – Who/what is a Levantine?**

11.30 *The Levantins – an Italian word*

Jérôme Muniglia de' Giustiniani (independent researcher, France)

11.50 *Through the eyes of a Levantine: Hieronymo Giustiniani's manuscript on Genoese Chios*

Ioanna Koukounis (Independent researcher, Athens)

12.10 *The Levantine in the eyes of the 'Levantine': Jacqueline Kahanoff between Levant and the West*

David Tal (University of Calgary, Canada)

12.30 *Levantine Identities in Eric Ambler's 'The Mask of Dimitrios and The Light of Day'*

Nagihan Haliloğlu (Ibn Haldun University, Turkey)

- 12.50 Q&A
- 13.00 - 14.00 Lunch break
- 14.00 - 15.30 Session 5 – Cosmopolitan cities in transition**
- 14.00 *Salonica, Jerusalem of the Balkans*  
Philip Mansel (Institute of Historical Research, London)
- 14.20 *Cosmopolitan Athens: the communities of western Europeans in Athens 1800-1920*  
Nikos Potamianos (Foundation for Research and Technology - Hellas)
- 14.40 *Smyrna in the wartime: End of October 1914 – September 8<sup>th</sup>, 1922*  
Hervé Georgelin (National & Kapodistrian University of Athens)
- 15.00 *The network of the Bank of Athens in the Levant, 1893-1930@ Urban and architectural aspects*  
Vilma Hastaoglou-Martinidis (Aristotle University of Thessaloniki)
- 15.20 Q&A
- 15.30 - 16.00 Coffee break
- 16.00 - 17.30 Session 6 – Levantines in a post-Ottoman world**
- 16.00 *Between the Levant and the League: Thanassis Aghnides and the Greco-Turkish population exchange*  
Haakon Ikonomou (Aarhus University, Denmark)
- 16.20 *The role of Malta following the Smyrna humanitarian crisis of 1922*  
Giorgio Peresso (Malta)
- 16.40 *Uncertain legal status: Rise and fall of Turkey's Levantine community*  
Giordano Altarozzi (Petro Maior University, Romania) and Iulia-Alexandra Oprea (Sapienza University of Rome)
- 17.00 *The murder of Léonard Calomati and the end of the Levantine presence in Chios*  
Vassilis Ayiannidis (Athens)

- 17.20 Q&A
- 17.30 18.30 Levantine Unions socializing event**
- 17.30 Izmir Levantine Union, Istanbul Levantine Union, LHF, Hellenic Levantine Union. Discussion on challenges, collaborations and synergies
- 18.30 - 18.40 Closing of the Conference**
- LHF Chairman

### Conference Venue



The conference takes place in Cotsen Hall in the splendid Gennadius Library of the American School of Classical Studies. Address: Souidias 61, Athens 106 76, Greece.

<http://www.ascsa.edu.gr/index.php/gennadius/>

### About the Levantine Heritage Foundation

*The Levantine Heritage Foundation (LHF) is a non-profit membership association, established to advance research, preservation and education in the heritage, arts and culture of the different ethnic and religious communities of the wider Levant region of the former Ottoman Empire. The Ottoman Levant comprised most of present-day Balkans, Greece, Turkey, Syria, Lebanon, Israel and Egypt, and its influence extended far beyond the borders of those countries. The Ottoman Empire was made up of many different ethnic groups, including Turks, Arabs, Greeks, Armenians and Jews. They were joined over the centuries by traders and diplomats from every part of Europe, from Britain to Dalmatia, Catholic, Protestant and Jewish, many of whom settled in the region and intermarried with the local population. In recent years, it has become common to refer to these European settlers in Ottoman lands as "Levantines."*

*However, research into the cosmopolitan world of the Levantines is still in its infancy, and much remains to be discovered about their way of life and their legacy.*

For further information, please visit: [www.levantineheritage.com](http://www.levantineheritage.com)

### **Membership**

Join the Levantine Heritage Foundation and get discounts on conference tickets, future events and LHF publications. £20 for 1 year, £80 for 5 years or £500 Life Membership.

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