

## Andreas Karkavitsas

**INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE IN LECHAINA ILIAS 4<sup>th</sup> -6<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2022**

***“Andreas Karkavitsas and his times. Literature, Language, Politics”***



October 2022 will mark 100 years since the death of Andreas Karkavitsas, the renowned author from Lechaina in Elis. The Municipal Library of Lechaina and the Association of Supporters of the Municipal Library, under the auspices of the Municipality of Andravida-Kyllini, are organizing an international conference in Lechaina, the birthplace of Karkavitsas, to honour his work, which marked the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century and the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Karkavitsas has been recognized by literary critics as an important writer of the literary generation of the 1880s, although his works are no longer extensively studied in the school curriculum. There are also several aspects of his literary pursuits which have not yet been researched systematically, which are worth investigating again.

The skillful use of language in Karkavitsas' works, the social critique evident in his texts, as well as his articles, all contribute to the timelessness of his work. Therefore, the aim of this conference is to reevaluate Karkavitsas' works in the light of contemporary expert approaches.

### **Scientific Committee in alphabetical order**

1. Roderick Beaton, Emeritus Professor of Modern Greek and Byzantine History, Language and Literature Department of Classics, King's College London.
2. Christos Chatziiosif, Emeritus Professor of History, University of Crete.
3. Andreas Fouskarinis, Greek philologist, poet.
4. Liana Giannakopoulou, Senior research Fellow, Faculty of Modern and Medieval Languages and Linguistics, University of Cambridge.
5. Georgia Gotsi, Associate Professor of Modern Greek and Byzantine Studies, School of Philology, University of Patras.
6. Johanna Hanink, Associate Professor of Classics, Brown University.
7. Dionysis Kragaris, lawyer, author.
8. Peter Mackridge, Emeritus Professor of Modern Greek, Faculty of Medieval and Modern Languages, University of Oxford.
9. Ourania Polykandrioti, Research Director, Department of Modern Greek Research, National Hellenic Research Foundation.
10. Dimitris Psychogios, Emeritus Professor, Panteion University, Department of Communication, Media and Culture.
11. Eleni Psychogiou, folklorist, researcher at the Hellenic Folklore Research Centre at the Academy of Athens.
12. Dimitris Tziovas, Professor of Modern Greek Studies, Centre for Byzantine, Ottoman and Modern Greek Studies, University of Birmingham.
13. Lambros Varelas, Associate Professor, School of Philology, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki.

## Thematic axes of the Conference

1. **Karkavitsas and his time (Historical and Cultural Outline):** The aim is to provide a historical outline of the times during which Karkavitsas produced his works. For example, what Athens, Lechena and Ilia were like during his times, what the role and importance of the Press was, how both the reading and production of literature were treated under the unusual political, financial and social conditions at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century and the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup>.
2. **Karkavitsas as an author:** The aim is an evaluation of the author's works by modern-day experts within the framework of new approaches to contemporary literary theory.
3. **Karkavitsas and the issue of language:** Karkavitsas' active involvement in the language issue of the time, his choice of the Demotic language in his works under the influence of Jean Psycharis' work *My journey* (1888), his involvement in literary associations such as "Language and Life" (1905) and "Educational Association" (1910), all constitute areas which have not been adequately researched. As a result, the influence that his choice of linguistic instrument has exerted on the quality of his literary work has not been determined.
4. **Karkavitsas and politics:** Karkavitsas' relationship with politics is an area which has been left completely unexplored. Issues worth delving into are his interest in the Greek Revolution of 1821, his faith in the Greek Nation, the effect on his works and personality which the war of 1897 had, his attitude towards the politics of his time, which is evident in his works, his involvement in the Movement of Goudi, his stance during the National Schism, during which he sided with the king, and his opposition to Eleftherios Venizelos.
5. **Karkavitsas' Travels:** There is immense interest in discovering how his travels, his expeditions and his travel diaries, whether they concerned land or sea, constituted a valuable source of literary inspiration for him. It is also interesting to investigate their underlying ideological and aesthetic elements.
6. **Karkavitsas as an author of school literary textbooks:** This project constituted the final phase in his fiction writing. Not only has this field not been studied at all, but it is also completely unknown and reveals Karkavitsas' ability to address younger age groups through his literary work. The aim is to investigate the themes that he

employs (mythology, nature, knowledge of his country's history and culture, tradition), which on the one hand serve the purposes of official curricula, and on the other hand shed light on his interests from a different perspective. His underlying pedagogical beliefs can also be identified, as can be the relation between these beliefs and other texts and ideas of that time.

7. **Elements of folklore in Karkavitsas' works:** Under the influence of Nikolaos Politis, as was the case with the whole literary generation of 1880, the author seeks his people's identity in their customs, songs and stories, all of which enrich his literary work.
8. **Karkavitsas' conversation with his contemporaries:** Karkavitsas' literary and personal relationship with his contemporaries, such as Alexandros Papadiamandis, Kostis Palamas, Alexandros Pallis, who was also a generous sponsor of the Demoticists, is still unexplored. For example, his friendship with Kostas Hatzopoulos was particularly important, therefore it also needs to be explored further.
9. **Women in Karkavitsas' works:** His work can be evaluated through the scope of intersexual relationships and gender studies.
10. **Antiquity in Karkavitsas' works:** Karkavitsas took part in the Demoticist Movement, and thus took a greater interest in the Byzantine epoch and the Ottoman Rule, while renouncing antiquity, which is not altogether absent from his works however, as is evident in his novel *The Archaeologist*.
11. **Karkavitsas' relationship with Lechaina and the Plain:** Karkavitsas' birthplace of Ileia was bidirectional and continuous. It would be worth delving into the influences on his works, the cultural events that were organized in his honour, the bodies and persons who became involved in them and also his descendants in the Elean literary and cultural environment.
12. **Karkavitsas' Literary Perception:** On the 11<sup>th</sup> of January 2020 the Association of Supporters of the Municipal Library organized a presentation of the graphic novel of Andreas Karkavitsas' novel "The Beggar" by Kanellos Cob. This was an opportunity to renew our interest in Karkavitsas' works. It also led us to the choice of this subject matter, in order to seek his influence in contemporary writers, but

also creative adaptations of his work to other forms of art (comics, theatre, television).

**Submission of Contributions: 31. 03. 2022.** Proposal title, abstract up to 300 words and brief Curriculum Vitae to be sent via email address.

**Duration of Contributions:** 20 minutes.

**Approval of Contributions: 30. 04. 2022.**

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