

International Cavafy Summer School 2019

8-14 July 2019

Onassis Library

Cavafy's Orient/at ions

The International Cavafy Summer School is an annual scholarly initiative of the Cavafy Archive and the Onassis Foundation, the first of its kind, devoted entirely to Cavafy and the impact of his work.

After the inaugural International Cavafy Summer School, which took place in July 2017, themed "Cavafy in the World," the second Summer School took place in July 2018 and focused on the theme "Cavafy and Antiquity." The third Cavafy Summer School, whose theme is "**Cavafy's Orient/at ions**" will focus on the multiple (geographical, aesthetic, historical, etc.) topographies and cultural dynamics of Cavafy's work, and will approach the Cavafy phenomenon in its broader geographical and historical range, both during the period of Cavafy's life in Alexandria and in subsequent decades when his poetry became a major literary event at a global scale.

Some of the questions and interpretive perspectives that will be explored during the International Cavafy Summer School include the poet's place in-between East and West; the significance of both ancient and modern Alexandria in the history of the empires; Cavafy measured in relation to discourses of Orientalism; the significance of colonial and post-colonial ways of reading Cavafy; the shift between regional geography and globality in Cavafy's reception; and Cavafy's own orientations in their multiple range (poetic, historical, erotic). The impetus in examining such diverse topics together is to explore the varied and sometimes contradictory or unexpected interconnections and interpretations of Cavafy's work as well as to re-examine some of the more traditional definitions of his work.

The International Cavafy Summer School 2019 will be led by **Stathis Gourgouris (Columbia University)** and **Takis Kayalis (Hellenic Open University)**; the International Cavafy Summer School will take place in the historic building of the Onassis Library, in the center of Athens. In addition, the seminars will host a number of invited speakers: **Hala Halim (New York University)**, **Peter Jeffreys (Suffolk**

University), Alexander Kazamias (Coventry University), Vassiliki Kolocotroni (University of Glasgow), Aamir R. Mufti (UCLA), and Yiannis Papatheodorou (University of Patras).

This year's school will be structured around morning seminars and afternoon research presentations during six consecutive days (8-14 July 2019). The International Cavafy Summer School aims to enrich and strengthen participants' knowledge about Cavafy and his work, opening new directions and comparative approaches in the context of Cavafy studies. Invited scholars, all experts in their fields, will lead comprehensive three-hour morning seminars and will take part in the presentations of participants' work, in one or more of the afternoon workshops. The twelve participants (Ph.D. candidates, postdoctoral researchers, and early-career scholars) will be invited to present their work in the afternoon workshops, to engage in creative dialogue with the invited scholars, and to take part in conversations that will develop over the six days of the school. Additional events will also be scheduled during the International Summer School.

One of the goals of the International Cavafy Summer School is to encourage future collaborations and research, particularly between scholars who follow different methodological paths and are at different points in their career. For this reason, successful applicants will be informed at the end of February, and will be asked to submit a plan for their presentation ahead of time.

Thanks to the generous support of the Onassis Foundation and the Cavafy Archive, the International Cavafy Summer School is in a position **to cover all room and board expenses for participants. In addition, there are no tuition charges or other fees for participants. Students and early-career researchers can also apply for grants to cover their travel expenses in whole or in part.**

The International Cavafy Summer School offers a unique opportunity to take part in world-class academic conversations and present new research. **Ph.D. candidates, postdoctoral researchers, and early-career scholars working in Comparative Literature, World Literature, Cavafy Studies, Modern Greek Studies, Classical Studies, History, Literary Theory, Post-Colonial Studies and related fields**, who would like to take part in the International Cavafy Summer School, are encouraged to apply, by sending:

- a) a cover letter that includes a brief outline of their current research and their motivation for participating in the International Summer School (max 500 words);**
- b) a description of the particular topic they would like to develop in a 30-minute presentation during the International Summer School (max 300 words);**
- c) a detailed c.v.: and**

d) contact information of an individual who could provide a reference letter in support of their application.

In exceptional circumstances one or two graduate students at the Masters level may be accepted, if they demonstrate the requisite ability and interest in the subject of the Summer School.

The working language of the International Cavafy Summer School will be English.

Therefore, fluency in English is a prerequisite for all participants. Participants will be recorded and portions of their talks will be made public on the [Cavafy Archive YouTube channel](#).

Knowledge of modern Greek is not a requirement, though familiarity with Cavafy's work is.

The deadline for applications to the International Cavafy Summer School is **31 January 2019**.

We ask that you send all relevant material, and address any questions, to Marianna Christofi, at cavafyarchive@onassis.org.