

CALL FOR PAPERS

International Conference on Etymological Theories and Practice in Ancient & Byzantine Greece

Thessaloniki, Teloglion Foundation, Greece

November 18-20, 2021

Organizers: Maria Chriti (Aristotle Univ., Greece), Claire Le Feuvre (Sorbonne Université, France), Arnaud Zucker (Univ. Côte d'Azur, France).

This international conference, to be held in Thessaloniki in November 2021, aims to attract researchers, mainly philologists, linguists and philosophers interested in practices of etymologizing in Ancient Greek and Byzantine literature. It is promoted by the International Association ETYGRAM (<http://www.cepam.cnrs.fr/etygram/>), devoted to the study of indigenous (or “emic”) ancient Greek etymologies and follows two editions, in 2016 and 2018. The ancient Greek conception of etymology is fundamentally different from our modern one and has a much broader meaning. To start with, it allows a rather exceptional plasticity (see, e.g., Plato's *Cratylus*) as far as semantic *paronomasia* is concerned. As ancient scholars understood it, etymology is chiefly a dynamic process aiming at suggesting semantic correlations between words based on phonetic similarities, with a momentous heuristic power. This intellectual game, a very serious one at that, deserves to be investigated since it is neither scientific in character (as modern linguists would describe it), nor rendered as “folk” etymology. It is rather a cultural construction, being both an art of punning and an attempt to uncover deep semantic motivations.

The organizers welcome proposals (in French, English, Greek, German, Spanish or Italian), taking especially into account the following parameters:

1. The technical aspects of ancient Greek etymology;
2. etymology and neologisms in scientific contexts;
3. etymology in pedagogical practices;
4. etymological practices in the *scholia* and commentaries of Late Antiquity and Byzantium.

Conference papers will be 30 minutes, with 15 minutes for discussion. Interested scholars from all academic levels are invited to send an abstract of no more than 500 words to zucker@unice.fr and assoc.etygram@gmail.com by **April 30, 2021**. Participants will be notified in May 30, 2021. Accepted papers will be presented on an equal footing with invited speakers.

Program Committee: Simone Beta (Univ. Siena. *Italy*), Maria Chriti (Aristotle University of Thessaloniki. *Greece*), Christophe Cusset (ENS Lyon. *France*), Richard Faure (Univ. Côte d'Azur. *France*), Claire Le Feuvre (Sorbonne Université. *France*), Giorgos Papanastassiou (Aristotle University of Thessaloniki. *Greece*), Nathalie Rousseau (Sorbonne Université. *France*), Richard Seaford (University of Exeter. *UK*), Athanasios Vergados (Newcastle University. *UK*) Arnaud Zucker (Univ. Côte d'Azur. *France*).