CALL FOR PAPERS

It is common knowledge in the social sciences that collective identities are neither eternal nor fixed. They are fluid, historically shaped, and object of management and negotiation by collective and individual actors. It is also common ground that national identities have been formed during modernity when the nation-state emerged as an essential and dominant political organization unit.

The outset of the relationship between the nation's collectivity and the state's territoriality is traced in the historical period of the industrial and urban revolution in Europe. However, this relationship is redefined continuously and shapes, historically, the dominant narrative around national identity, national origin, and the way the nation and the modern collective self are constructed.

In Greece, despite the debates and different perspectives, the view of the pre-existing cultural community of Hellenism is commonly accepted, and it is reconstructed on a new ground after the national liberation struggles and the establishment of the modern Greek state.

Culture – Borders – Gender /LAB
Department of Balkan Slavic and Oriental Studies
Tel.: 2310-891778, 156 Egnatia str. 54006 Thessaloniki
http://cbg-lab.uom.gr/en
The conference explores ways of constructing the community through performative expressions of collective identities, as they become visible in the institutional discourse, public events, rituals, and symbols used by the state and citizens to (re)produce the nation. These are contexts and processes in which experiences of the self, the collective, the national belonging, and the citizen are produced through interactions, hegemonic discourses, experiences of power, symbolic meanings, and embodied practices.

The concept of performance is chosen as the appropriate theoretical and analytical framework to study complex and multilevel forms of social action and different cultural practices that shape, reproduce or even challenge the multiple discourses and embodied ways in which national identity is constructed.

The conference will host presentations (in Greek or English) and discuss the issue of national identity, focusing on institutions' role and various forms of performance in the context of institutional discourse, social interaction, and various bodily practices. Indicative thematic areas are as follows:

- Collective, state, and private institutions (e.g., educational institutions, museums, associations, cultural associations)
- Religion, rituals, celebrations, and symbols
- Communities, borders and boundaries
- Space, architecture, monuments, and memory
- Family, kinship, and gender
- Material culture, nutritional practices, customary life
- Language, arts, dance, music, songs, costumes, sports
- Technology, media, digital and audiovisual culture

The invitation is aimed at social sciences and humanities researchers (Social Anthropology, Folklore, History, Sociology, Cultural Studies, etc.) who employ case studies and critical thinking to highlight the meanings and limitations, and dynamics of national identity performances in contemporary times.

Submission of applications - Information

- **Summary** of up to 250 words (in Greek or English) with the title of the presentation
- **Contact details**: name, scientific status, email address
- **Conference languages**: Greek, English
- **Deadline for the abstract submission**: November 30, 2020
E-mail: lemmth.vsas.synedrio2021@gmail.com
Eleni Gelani, PhD Candidate in Folklore and Social Anthropology, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki

Scientific Committee

- Vassilis Nitsiakos, Professor of Social Folklore, University of Ioannina
- Fotini Tsimbiridou, Professor of Social Anthropology, University of Macedonia
- Eftichia Voutira, Professor of Social Anthropology, University of Macedonia
- Eleni Gavra, Professor of Housing and Cultural Heritage in the Balkans and the Black Sea, University of Macedonia
- Aleka Ioannidou, Associate Professor of Slavic-Old Slavic Language and Secretariat, University of Macedonia
- Eleftheria Deltso, Associate Professor of Social Anthropology, University of Thessaly
- Ioannis Manos, Associate Professor of Social Anthropology, University of Macedonia
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- Eleni Sideri, Assistant Professor of Social Anthropology, University of Macedonia
- Stratos Dordanas, Assistant Professor of Modern and Contemporary History, University of Macedonia

Organizational committee

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- Ioannis Manos, Associate Professor of Social Anthropology, University of Macedonia
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- Ioannis Drinis, Head of the Department of Intangible Cultural Heritage and Intercultural Affairs, Ministry of Culture
- Eleftheria Deltso, Associate Professor of Social Anthropology, University of Thessaly
- Elina Kapetanaki, Dr. Social Anthropology, Postdoctoral Researcher, University of Macedonia
– Eleni Bintsi, Head of FEMM-TH
– Eleni Gelani, PhD Candidate in Folklore and Social Anthropology, AUTh.
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