

DEMOCRITUS UNIVERSITY OF THRACE

SCHOOL OF CLASSICS AND HUMANITIES



DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY AND ETHNOLOGY

LABORATORY OF FOLKLORE AND SOCIAL ANTHROPOLOGY

## CALL FOR PAPERS

### **International Conference: “Aspects of the Balkan Cities from 1990 to the Present: Space and People, Culture and Tourism”**

**Komotini, 19-21 October 2018**

The Department of History and Ethnology, Democritus University of Thrace, in collaboration with the Laboratory of Folklore and Social Anthropology of the Department of History and Ethnology invites you to the International Conference **“Aspects of the Balkan Cities from 1990 to the Present: Space and People, Culture and Tourism”** which will take place in Komotini, 19-21 October 2018.

The collapse of the former socialist regimes, the wars in certain parts of the Balkans, the immigrations, the rise of poverty and the westernization course of the political-economic systems have deeply affected most of the Balkan (or Southeastern European) countries - as some of them prefer to be called - during the last decade of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Although Greece was not included in this context of radical political-social changes, it still constituted a country of great geopolitical importance and at the same time received a series of processes as a result of the transformations in the neighbouring countries (e.g. cross border tensions and immigration flows). The rearrangements in the 1990s and the political-economic conditions during the first two decades of the 21<sup>st</sup> century have

reshaped the character of the Balkan cities within the dynamics of the glocal processes and the economic crisis which mainly affected Greece.

In this specific historical context the changes occurred in the political and social – economic level have been imprinted both in the territory and the everyday practice of the people. The aim of the conference is to investigate the anthropogeographical changes and the cultural practices in the Balkan urban setting also tourism included as a field of transcultural meetings and as a vehicle of reciprocal symbolic meanings exchanges between the societies which are at the same time receivers and processors of both the global and the local.

The basis of our question is the socio-spatial dialectic according to which space is socially produced through the connection of space and people, which results in producing and reproducing spatial formations, which in turn define and shape social relationships. This dialectic relationship of space and people socializes the geographical/material space which constitutes both a historical product since it develops and changes through time and is defined by human activities. Space as social relationship is cultural space in the sense that inside space culture is produced through the interaction between subjects in the context of everyday life discourses and in the way everyday situations are experienced. Therefore, space is perceived and produced in various ways by different subjects and groups in various times. The connection of socio-spatial procedures with tourism receives its importance since tourist activities penetrate the space and culture and contribute to the reform of the space and local identities.

**The proposed (and non-exhaustive) topics of the conference are:**

- Post Socialist Balkan cities: space and demographic changes
- “Ethnoscapes” of Balkan cities (immigrants, refugees, ethnic groups etc.)
- Public / Private places, religious spaces in Balkan cities
- Borders, mobilities in Balkan cities
- Sexuality and gendered perspectives in Balkan cities
- Touristic representations of Balkan cities, tourist policy and practices, tourism promotion
- Traditional urban settlements, politics of regeneration, cultural identity, cultural heritage, museums, monuments and tourism
- Globalization, crisis in Balkan localities

The conference encourages multidisciplinary approach and scientists from all scientific fields are welcome to submit their papers.

All those interested should submit their proposals (title and abstract up to 250 words) until May 20, 2018. Please include: name, institution, position, email.

Proposals should be sent to: [markoukat@hotmail.com](mailto:markoukat@hotmail.com) or [nantia.macha@gmail.com](mailto:nantia.macha@gmail.com)

Paper presentation: 20 minutes maximum.

Accepted and presented papers will be published in a proceedings volume under an ISBN reference.

Conference languages: Greek, English or French

**Important Dates:**

-Abstract submission deadline: **May 20, 2018**

-Notification of acceptance / rejection: **June 10, 2018**

-Conference: **October 19-21, 2018**

**On behalf of the Scientific Committee:**

Aikaterini MARKOU, Assistant Professor, Department of History and Ethnology, Democritus University of Thrace.

**Organising Committee:**

Nantia MACHA-BIZOUMI, Dr. of Folklore, Member of the Teaching Staff, Department of History and Ethnology, Democritus University of Thrace.

Aikaterini MARKOU, Assistant Professor, Department of History and Ethnology, Democritus University of Thrace, President of the Organizing Committee.

Eleonora NAXIDOU, Assistant Professor, Department of History and Ethnology.

Kiriakos SGOUROPOULOS, Laboratory Teaching Staff, Department of History and Ethnology, Democritus University of Thrace.

**Secretarial Support:**

Pavlos GKOURNELIS, PhD candidate, Department of History and Ethnology, Democritus University of Thrace.

**Scientific Committee:**

Manolis G. VARVOUNIS, Professor, President of the Department of History and Ethnology, Director of the Laboratory of Folklore and Social Anthropology, Democritus University of Thrace.

Vassilis DALKAVOUKIS, Associate Professor, Department of History and Ethnology, Democritus University of Thrace.

Vassiliki KRAVVA, Assistant Professor, Department of History and Ethnology, Democritus University of Thrace.

Aikaterini MARKOU, Assistant Professor, Department of History and Ethnology, Democritus University of Thrace, President of the Scientific Committee.

Eleonora NAXIDOU, Assistant Professor, Department of History and Ethnology, Democritus University of Thrace.

Georgios TSIGARAS, Associate Professor, Department of History and Ethnology, Democritus University of Thrace.

Konstantinos ZAFIRIS, Assistant Professor, Department of History and Ethnology, Democritus University of Thrace.