

Name: Despina
Surname: Iosif

Date of Birth: 03-03-1974
Nationality: Greek
Address: Thucididou 4-6
155 61 Holargos
Athens
Greece

Telephone Numbers: 0030 210 6516605, 0030 6944 308757

Email Address: desiosif@yahoo.com

See also <https://eap.academia.edu/DespinaIosif>

Present Positions

9/2007-?: Department of Religion, **College Year in Athens/DIKEMES**. Teaching two undergraduates courses, one on *Monothelism* and the other on *The Origins and History of the Orthodox Church*, (**in English**).

9/2015-7/2018: Department of Humanities, **Hellenic Open University**, in Athens. Teaching the undergraduate e-course *Public and Private Life in Early and Late Antiquity*.

5/2017: Creator and editor, along with four other scholars, of a web page and journal on the Early Christian World, <http://www.postaugustum.com/>, (in Greek and **in English**).

Recent Positions

2/2013-7/2013: Department of History and Archaeology, **University of Crete**. Teaching the undergraduate course *The Early Christian World* and the seminar *Pagan and Christian Biography in the Graeco-Roman World* and **10/2016-2/2017:** Department of Education, teaching the undergraduate course *Ancient History: Religion and Culture*.

9/2004-7/2011: Department of Humanities, **Hellenic Open University** in Athens. Teaching the undergraduate e-course *Introduction to the Greek Civilisation*.

9/2011-2/2012: Historical Advisor for **BBC1** documentary *In the Footsteps of St. Paul*, presenter David Suchet, (<http://www.bbc.co.uk/mediacentre/proginfo/2012/52/david-suchet-st-paul.html>; available also on youtube), (**in English**).

Studies

10/1999-8/2003: *PhD* in *Ancient History* at the Department of History of **University College London**, in London, England. The title of my thesis was *Early Christian Attitudes to War, Violence and Military Service* and my supervisor was Head of Department Professor John A. North, (**in English**).

2/1997-9/1999: *MA* in *Ancient History* at the Department of History and Archaeology of the **University of Crete**, in Rethymno, Greece (grade 8 out of 10).

8/1997: Attendance of Danish Language and Culture Classes at the **University of Copenhagen** in Copenhagen, Denmark, with an Erasmus programme.

9/1991-2/1996: BA in *History and Archaeology* at the Department of History and Archaeology of the **University of Crete**, (grade 7.59 out of 10).

6/1991: Graduation from State School, (grade 18.9 out of 20).

Research

8/2018: Research on *Fear in Early Christian Circles* at the **Fondation Hardt** pour l'étude de l'antiquité classique, in Geneve, Switzerland, (**in English**).

8/2016: Research on *Early Christians at Night Time* at the **Fondation Hardt**, (**in English**).

10/2004-9/2006: *Post Doc* in *Ancient History* at the Department of History and Social Anthropology of the **University of Thessaly**, in Volos, Greece. The title of my post doc was *Pious Uses of Wealth in Early Christianity: Bribery and Charity* and my supervisor was Professor Dimitris J. Kyrtatas.

8/1995: Participation in a *Research Programme* of the University of Crete at the **Historical Archive of Kyklades**, in Hermoupolis, Syros, Greece, under the supervision of Professor Christos Loukos.

9/1994: Participation in the *Excavation* of the **Early Christian Basilica of Eleytherna**, in Rethymno, under the supervision of the Professor of the University of Crete Petros Themelis.

Scholarships and Grants

1/2005-6/2006: **State Scholarships Foundation** (IKY) for my postdoctoral research.

9/2002-7/2003: **Alexandros Onassis Foundation** for the completion of my thesis.

9/1999-7/2002: **State Scholarships Foundation** (IKY) for my doctoral studies.

8/1997: **University of Copenhagen** to study in Copenhagen.

9/1992-7/1993: **Nautical Home** for the second year of my BA.

9/1991-7/1992: **Pateras Foundation** for being accepted for a BA in History and Archaeology.

4/2016-5/2016: Erasmus Hellenic Open University and University of Zaragoza for lecturing for a week at the **University of Zaragoza**, in Spain.

Foreign Languages

6/1999: Academic **IELTS**, (grade 7.5 out of 9).

8/1997: Attendance of **Danish** Language Course at the University of Copenhagen.

3/1996-6/1996: Attendance of **Spanish** Language Course at the University of Crete.

3/1993: Certificate of **Proficiency** in English, University of Oxford, (grade B).

12/1992: Certificate of **Proficiency** in English, University of Cambridge, (grade pass).

10/1989: **Certificato** di conoscenza della lingua Italiana, Scuola Leonardo da Vinci, (grade A).

6/1989: **First Certificate** in English, University of Cambridge, (grade A).

5/1988: Advanced **Proficiency** in English, University of Michigan, (grade pass).

Academic Publications

Books (3)

- *Early Christian Attitudes to War, Violence and Military Service*, **Gorgias Press**, Piscataway NJ 2013, (**in English**).
- *Epilepsy in Antiquity*, **Hellenic Association Against Epilepsy**, Athens 2013, (in Greek).
- *Apocryphal Acts of Paul and Thecla*, with M. Triantafillou, ed. Polymnia Athanassiadi, **Katarti**, Athens 2008, (in Greek).

Articles (14)

- 'Religious Violence' in *Augustine in Context*, Tarmo TOOM, (ed.), **Cambridge University Press**, Cambridge, 2017, p. 195-202, (**in English**).
- 'Violence and the Construction of Masculinity in the Graeco-Roman World', *Historika* 64, 2015, p. 175-184, (in Greek).
- 'Books, Libraries and Reading in Galen', *Mnemon* 34, 2015, p. 161-187, (in Greek).
- 'The present and future worlds are enemies to each other. Early Christian Aloofness and Participation in the Pagan World', in Richard Alston, Onno M. van Nijf and Christina G. Williamson, ed., *Cults, Creeds and Identities in the Greek City after the Classical Age*, Peeters, Leuven, Paris, Walpole, 2013, p. 289-308, (**in English**).
- 'I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. Illness as Demon Possession in the World of the First Christian Ascetics and Monks', *Mental Health, Religion and Culture, Routledge Journals* 14.4, April 2011, p. 323-340, (**in English**), available also online:
<http://www.informaworld.com/smpp/title~content=g769579891~db=all~tab=forthcoming>
- 'The Persecutions of Pagans under Christian Rule according to the Theodosian Code (429-435) and the Justinianian Code (529-534)', *Kritiki Diepistimonikotita* 4, 2011, p. 35-47, (in Greek).
- 'Mental Disorders in the Ancient Greek Novels', *Archaeologia* 118, 2010, p. 53-57, (in Greek).
- 'The Presence of Women in the Christian Deserts', *Embolimon* 56-57, 2008-9, p. 117-132, (in Greek).
- 'Early Christian Charity' in Niki Tsironi, (ed.), Τμή και Τμήμα, **National Hellenic Research Foundation and Cultural Society Ainos**, Athens, 2008, p. 37-56, (in Greek).
- 'Semen est sanguis christianorum: the Dissent Between Tertullian and Cyprian on the Appropriate Christian Behavior During Persecution', *Ariadni, University of Crete*, 14, 2008, p. 99-124, (in Greek).
- 'New Testament Teachings and Readings on the Legitimacy of Warfare', *Historein* 6, 2006, p. 7-19, (**in English**).
- '*Christianos ad leonem*. The Persecutions of Christians. The Case of Perpetua', *Mnemon* 26, 2004, p. 201-208, (in Greek).
- 'Dura Europos. The First Christian Church House', *Archaeologia* 92, September 2004, p. 99-103, reprinted in newspaper *Kardamyla*, November 2004, p. 3, (in Greek).

- ‘Caesar the Warrior versus Jesus the Peacemaker?’, *Eulimene* 4, Mediterranean Archaeological Society, University of Crete, 2003, p. 167-180, [\(in English\)](#).

In press

‘La peur devrait être constante, comme le désir d'atteindre le salut. Aspects Benefiques de la Peur dans les Premiers Cercles Chretiens’ in *Histoire*, Presses Universitaires de Rennes, [\(in French\)](#).

Forthcoming

My next projects are to write two books [in English](#), one on **Roman Prisons** and the other on **Medicine and Magic in the Early Christian World**.

Publications for the General Public

Articles in the Journal *Historika Themata* (4), (in Greek)

- ‘Maria Magdalena’, *Historika Themata* 66, October 2007, p. 106-119.
- ‘Spartacus’, *Historika Themata* 57, December 2006, p. 24-35.
- ‘Nero’, *Historika Themata* 47, January 2006, p. 68-83.
- ‘The First Christians in the Roman Army’, *Historika Themata* 30, June 2004, p. 8-19.

E-articles (6)

- ‘Is anyone among you sick? Let the elders of the Church to pray over them and anoint them with oil in the name of the Lord. Oil Massages and Early Christian Ascetics and Monks’, *Postaugustum*, Eranismata 2018 <http://www.postaugustum.com/en/category/quotes/>, [\(in English\)](#).
- ‘No one has disgraced my virgin body. Virginty Tests and Early Christian Ascetics and Monks’, *Postaugustum*, Eranismata 2018 <http://www.postaugustum.com/en/category/quotes/>, [\(in English\)](#).
- ‘Augustine and other brands of Christianity’ in *Postaugustum* 1, 2017, p.1-3 www.postaugustum.com/journal, [\(in English\)](#).
- ‘A Themistian achievement. In tune with imperial propaganda or *those who lie, do not lie without purpose*’, *Arxaiologia on line*, 2015, www.archaiologia.gr, [\(in English\)](#).
- ‘The Religious Policy of Emperor Constantine’ in *Arxaiologia on line*, 2012, www.archaiologia.gr, (in Greek).
- ‘The Military Policy of Emperor Constantine’ in *Historical Quest* 19, 2012, <http://www.historical-quest.com>, (in Greek).
- ‘The Pseudo-Hippocratic Epistles’, *Historical Quest* 7, 2011, <http://www.historical-quest.com>, (in Greek).

Book Reviews (6), (in Greek)

- D. J. Kyrtatas and S. I. Rangos, *Η ελληνική αρχαιότητα: πόλεμος, πολιτική, πολιτισμός*, Athens, 2010, in the newspaper **Kathimerini**, 21 June 2011, p. 14.
- P. Athanassiadi, *Το ημερολόγιο της Περπέτουας*, Athens, 1999, in *Historika Themata* 33, October 2004, p. 129-130.

- D. J. Kyrtatas, *Απόκρυφες Ιστορίες. Μύθοι και θρύλοι από τον κόσμο των πρώτων χριστιανών*, Athens, 2003, in *Historika Themata* 29, May 2004, p. 129-130, reprinted in *Alexandros Onassis Bulletin* 25, September 2004, p. 40-42.
- Brian Campbell, *War and Society in Imperial Rome 31 BC-AD 284*, London and New York, 2002, in *Historika Themata* 27, March 2004, p. 128.
- D. J. Kyrtatas, *Κατακτώντας την αρχαιότητα. Ιστοριογραφικές διαδρομές*, Athens, 2002, in *Historika Themata* 25, January 2004, p. 126.
- Ralph W. Mathisen, *People, Personal Expression and Social Relations in Late Antiquity*, University of Michigan Press, 2003, (under publication by **Historika Themata**).

Articles in Newspapers (5), (in Greek)

- ‘Women Before and After the Advent of Christianity’, **Koryschades** 550.21, 2008, p. 13-15.
- ‘The Apocryphal Tradition on Virgin Mary’, *Aygi*, 15 August 2008, p. 12-13.
- ‘The Three Magi’, *Kathimerini, Epta Imeres*, 31 December 2005-1 January 2006, p. 22-23.
- ‘The Medical Uses of Mastic in Antiquity’, *Kathimerini, Epta Imeres*, 9 December 2000, p. 2-4, reprinted in *Chiako Bima*, September 2001, p. 3.
- At the moment I am preparing the edition of two supplements for the newspaper *Kathimerini*, one on *Christianity and Violence* and the other on *New Testament Ethics*.

Papers Presented in Conferences (18)

- “*In vinculis*. The Roman Prisons in the New Testament”, Postaugustum, Hagiography as Source for Everyday Life, **University of Thessaly**, Volos, 21 April 2018, (in Greek).
- “Beneficial Aspects of Fear in Early Christian Circles”, Colloque franco-hellénique interdisciplinaire, Saisir et gérer la peur: Anthropologie de la peur en Grèce de l’Antiquité à l’ère chrétienne, **Panteion University**, Athens, 13-16 September 2017, (in English).
- “The Use of Gladiatorial Blood in Roman Medicine”, Phanes Seminar, **Université Paris IV and Institut Protestant de Théologie**, Orient et Méditerranée, Islam Médiéval & Monde Byzantine, Paris, 1-2 September 2017, (in English).
- “Masculinity and Violence in Late Roman Times”, The Construction of Male Identity, **Federation for Research in Women's History**, Athens, 10-12 June 2016, (in Greek).
- “The Myth of Augustine as the Predecessor of Inquisition”, Phanes Seminar, **Norwegian Institute in Rome**, Rome, 1-4 June 2016, (in English).
- “A Pagan among Christians: Themistius in the Christian court”, Phanes Seminar, **Norwegian Institute in Athens**, Athens, 11-13 December 2014, (in English).
- “Religious Overachievers in Antiquity”, Phanes Seminar, **University of Bergen**, Bergen, Norway, 2-4 November 2013, (in English).

- “Snapshots from Unreality. Exorcism in Early Christian Literature”, Demons and Illness Conference, Centre for Medical History, **University of Exeter**, Exeter, 22-24 April 2013, ([in English](#)).
- “Money and the Construction of Early Christian Identity”, **European Association of Biblical Studies**, Thessaloniki, 8-11 August 2011, ([in English](#)).
- “How to buy off a place in heaven?”, **International Medieval Congress of the University of Leeds**, Leeds, 11-14 July 2011, ([in English](#)).
- “What can Private Letters tell us about the Graeco-Roman World?”, **Society of Biblical Literature International Meeting**, Tartu University, Tartu, Estonia, 25-29 July 2010, ([in English](#)).
- “Late Antique Illness as Demon Possession and the Early Christian Ascetics”, **Society of Biblical Literature International Meeting** on Biblical Scholarship and Disabilities, Rome, 30 June -4 July 2009, ([in English](#)).
- “Early Christian Charity”, Symposium on Euergetism and Philanthropy, **National Hellenic Research Foundation**, Athens, 28 February 2007, (in Greek).
- “Illegality and Integration among the Early Christians”, Cults, Creeds and Contests in the Post-Classical Greek City Workshop, International Conference organised by **Royal Holloway**, the **University of Groningen** and the **Institute of Classical Studies**, London, 30-31 March 2006, ([in English](#)).
- “Virgins and Prostitutes in the Lives of the Early Christian Monks and Ascetics”, Erotic and Asceticism Conference, **University of Thessaly**, Volos, 5-7 November 2004, (in Greek).
- “New Testament Teachings on the Legitimacy of Warfare”, International Conference on Religion and Conflict, **University of Thessaly**, Volos, 11-13 June 2004, ([in English](#)).
- “Towards the Dating of the Acts of the Christian Martyrs”, Joint Conference of the Classical Association and the Classical Association of Scotland, **University of Edinburgh**, Edinburgh, 5 April 2002, ([in English](#)).
- “*Militia Christi-Militia Caesaris*. The Relationship between the Temporal and the Eternal Kingdoms”, Seventh Conference of the Centre for Medieval Studies, **University of Bristol**, Bristol, 10 February 2001, ([in English](#)).

Other Talks (17)

- “*When Christians had come into the World the Universe went to Ruins! –Come on. Christians Do Not Differ from Other People!*”, The Athens Greek Religion Seminar Spring 2018, **Swedish Institute at Athens**, 22 May 2018, ([in English](#)).
- “Early Christians in Pagan Cities”, **Union College**, Classics Faculty, New York, USA, 2 May 2017, ([in English](#)).
- Series of lectures on the New Testament World, **University of Zaragoza**, Spain, 25 April-2 May 2016, ([in English](#)).
- “The Medical Uses of Mastic in Antiquity”, **Ionian Centre**, Athens, 4-25 November 2012, (in Greek).
- “The Holy Disease in Galen”, **University of Crete**, Department of History and Archaeology, Rethymno, Crete, 16 March 2011, (in Greek).

- “The Christian Apocryphal Tradition”, **Society of Egyptian Greeks**, Athens, 23 November 2009, (in Greek).
- “Slavery in the Graeco-Roman Period”, with Mr S. Paraskevaïdis, Meetings on Rebellion in History, **Association for the Study of History and Society**, Athens, 27 March 2008, (in Greek).
- “The Persecutions of Pagans under Christian Rule according to the Theodosian Code and the Justinianian Code”, Meetings on Discriminations, **Kritiki Diepistimonikotita**, Athens, 29 November 2007, (in Greek).
- “The Apocryphal Acts of Paul and Thecla”, Meeting of the **Hellenic Open University Teachers**, Athens, 5 May 2007 and **Association of Greek Women Scientists** 24 September 2008, (in Greek).
- “Women in Antiquity” with Mr P. Aggelopoulos, Meetings on Love in History, **Association for the Study of History and Society**, Athens, 15 February 2007, (in Greek).
- “The Persecutions of the Early Christians”, **Periscopio Publications**, Athens, 13 December 2006, (in Greek).
- “Bribery and Philanthropy in the Early Christian World”, Meeting of History Postgraduate Students of the **University of Thessaly**, Volos, 24 May 2006, (in Greek).
- “The Meeting Places of the Early Christians”, **Cultural Centre of the Municipality of Holargos**, Athens, 22 February 2006, (in Greek).
- “Late Antique Historiography”, Meeting of the **Hellenic Open University Teachers**, Athens, 23 April 2005, (in Greek).
- “Towards the Dating of the Acts of the Soldier Martyrs”, Work-In-Progress Seminar, **Institute of Classical Studies**, London, 22 February 2002, (**in English**).
- “Early Christian Attitudes to Warfare: *Quot Homines, tot Sententiae*”, Thesis Workshop in Late Antique and Byzantine Studies, **King’s College London**, London, 21 June 2001, (**in English**).
- “Caesar Versus Jesus? A Brief Presentation of the Sources and Possible Interpretations”, Postgraduate Seminar, **University College London**, London, 5 June 2001, (**in English**).

Other Teaching Experience

From Spring Semester 2005 until Fall Semester 2010: Department of Law, **University of Thrace** in Komotini. Teaching of two postgraduate courses *The Triumph of Christianity* and *The Transition from the Ancient to the Medieval World*.

Spring Semester 2008 and Fall Semester 2008: History Department, **State School for Tour Guides**. Teaching of the undergraduate course *Roman and Byzantine History*.

Academic year 2006-2007: **Public University of Ag. Paraskeyi** in Athens. Teaching of the access to all, joint course *Every Day Life in New Testament Times* with Dr P. Papanastasatos and Dr K. Alexopoulou. I concentrated on religion, Dr Papanastasatos on theatre and Dr Alexopoulou on private life.

10/2001-7/2002: History Department, **University College London**. Teaching, as a teaching assistant, the undergraduate course HIST 5500: *Greek Historical Texts*, **(in English)**.

10/2000-7/2002: *Top Tutors*. Teaching, as a private tutor, *Ancient History* A-levels, 37 Redbourne Avenue, Finchley Central, London, N3 2BP, tel: 0208 349 2148, **(in English)**.

Other Work Experience

8/1999: Member of the **Organizing Committee for the International Conference on Religion** of the University of Crete, 21-27 August 1999.

9/2003-10/2007: Writing book reviews and articles for **Historika Themata**.

Voluntary Work (in English)

3/2003: Member of the **Committee for Organizing Cultural Events at Händel Museum**, 25 Brook St, Mayfair, London, W1K 4MB, tel: 0207 4951685.

2001/2-2002/3: PhD Representative of University College London at the **Ancient History Society**.

2001/2-2002/3: PhD Representative of the **Institute of Classical Studies Advisory Committee**.

IT Skills

Excel, Word, Creating websites using HTML and Dreamweaver.

Initiatives and Hobbies

10/2006-?: Member of the Journal Board of the **Association of Greek Women Scientists**.

2/2006: Co-founding of the **Association for the Study of History and Society**.

2/1997: Co-founding of the **Environmental Group of the University of Crete**.