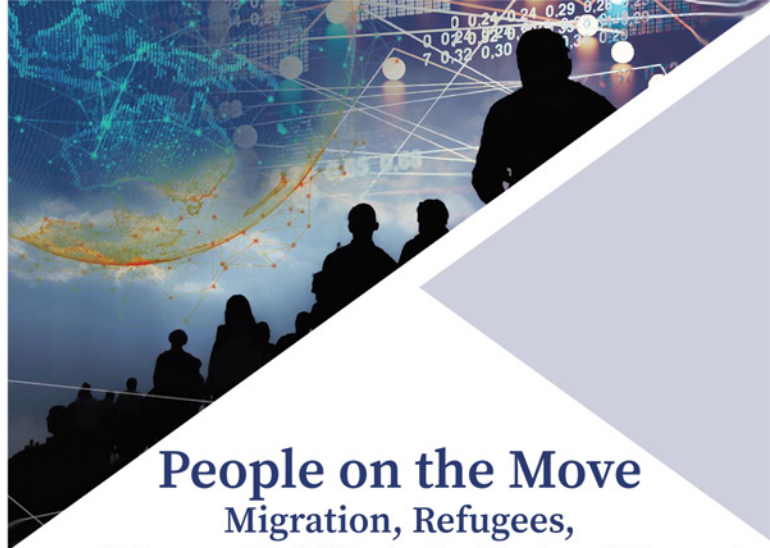


CYA

College Year in Athens

4th Annual
Student Conference
26 & 27 April 2021



People on the Move

Migration, Refugees,
and Human Mobility in the Past and Present

Athens 26 & 27 April 2021
Daphne & George Hatsopoulos Hall
CYA

Today, civil wars, inter-state conflict, pervasive socio-economic insecurity, and climate change are some of the main reasons why people move across and within regions. Migrants, including asylum seekers, face continuous obstacles on their journeys, with liberal democracies increasingly applying restrictive policies. Migration is a long-standing subject of research in the social sciences, increasingly approached through an interdisciplinary lens in an attempt to understand the complexity of human mobility. Studying the past allows for a better understanding of the present, while exploring current issues, from the European 'refugee crisis' to climate refugees, allows for better preparation for the future. Human mobility results in the emergence but also reconfiguration of communities at a socio-economic, political, and cultural level. From the establishment of diasporic communities and the movement of artistic traditions along with craftsmen to the current exploration of gender in migration and the impact of climate change on human movement, immigration has shaped and will continue to shape our world. The 4th Annual CYA Student Conference aims to explore human mobility in all its kaleidoscopic aspects, offering students the opportunity to delve into diverse subjects addressing the past and present.

Conference Committee

Hüseyin Çınar Öztürk, CYA Archaeology Professor (Chair)

Angeliki Dimitriadi, CYA Political Science Professor

Theoni Scourta, CYA V.P. for Academic Affairs

Conference Program & Abstracts

MONDAY 26 APRIL

15.00 Welcoming remarks

Alexis Phylactopoulos, CYA President

15:15 Opening Address

Hüseyin Çınar Öztürk, CYA Archaeology Professor

Session one: Cultural Interaction, Diaspora Communities, and Human Mobility

Chair: Hüseyin Çınar Öztürk, CYA Archaeology Professor

15.30 *On the Migration of Icons*

Caroline J. Tyler, CYA – College of the Holy Cross

15.50 *Rebetiko: Music of the Arrivals*

Stephen Dierkes, CYA – College of the Holy Cross

16.10 *Modern Diasporas: The Case of Bukharan Jews*

Jennifer Rubin, CYA – University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

16.30 *Jewish Resistance against Deportations and Persecution during WWII in Greece*

Jenny Cheung, CYA'20 – University of Southern California

TUESDAY 27 APRIL

Session two: Migration and Refugees in Greece and Beyond

Chair: Angeliki Dimitriadi, CYA Political Science Professor

14.00 *Refugees and Asylum Seekers: Is Unconditional Hospitality the Solution?*

Mackenzie Baldner, CYA – DePaul University

14.20 *The Journeys of Environmental Migration*

Anna Gibbons, CYA – The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

14.40 *The Vulnerability and Resiliency of Refugee Women in Greece*

Grace-Anna Glenn, CYA – The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

15.00 *Afghan Refugee Women in Greece: The Art of Starting Over*

Samantha Kestler, CYA – Illinois Wesleyan University

15.20 Closing Remarks

Angeliki Dimitriadi, CYA Political Science Professor

CAROLINE J. TYLER

CYA – College of the Holy Cross

On the Migration of Icons

In 988 AD, Grand Prince Vladimir of Kyiv baptized his city into the Orthodox Christian faith. This mass conversion paved the way for a beautifully intricate relationship between Byzantium and Kievan Rus as well as further cementing the relationship between Greece and Russia. Particularly interesting is the way that Russia came into contact with icons. In order to explore this connection, I will closely examine Byzantine and Greek icons, comparing and contrasting them to Russian icons. Hopefully, the icons themselves can provide insight into how the cultural impact of each geographical area can affect the development of their iconography. Though Orthodoxy in Greece and Russia is the same faith, the way the respective cultures interact with the church varies because of the way it developed. I hope to further explore each culture and their relationship to the Orthodox Church through the development and interaction with icons and iconography.

Caroline J. Tyler is a junior at the College of the Holy Cross in Worcester, Massachusetts. There she majors in Russian studies and history, with a thematic concentration on resistance, revolution, and reaction. Her Byzantine art and archaeology class with Professor Dimitra Kotoula inspired her to explore the relationship between Russia and Greece. She hopes to continue working with Professor Hüseyin Öztürk as a volunteer on the Gourimadi archaeological excavations later this year. She is so happy to be exploring Greece, even virtually, with such wonderful people and lifelong friends.

STEPHEN DIERKES

CYA – College of the Holy Cross

Rebetiko: Music of the Arrivals

Rebetiko is a type of Greek urban folk music which traveled with Smyrnite Greeks from Turkey across the Aegean Sea to the port city of Piraeus in Greece in the early 1920s. The migration of this type of music along with its musicians was a consequence of the massive population exchange stemming from the Greco-Turkish War (1919–1922). In lyrics and style, the music characterized and reflected the numerous struggles these travelers faced upon their arrival in Greece. Rebetiko is also found in Australia, again as a result of a mass migration, but this time in the 1950s. Since that time, Rebetiko has seen a recent revival in Greece and Greek diaspora groups in Australia. With such revivals, questions about the ownership of this type of music arise. What is moving the revival and what do Greek musicians think about it and the music that has been produced as a result of it? Using means of virtual communication that have conveniently become more common due to the Covid-19 pandemic, I plan to speak with Greek musicians about their experiences in order to gain a first-hand understanding of the evolution of this music and the role migration has played in its shaping. I will explore if and how the evolution responded to the Australian migration, and if the current revivals in Greece are still linked to the migration a century ago.

Stephen Dierkes is a junior classics major at College of the Holy Cross. He is a pianist for the chapel choir at his home institution and has very much enjoyed learning about the rich and expanding history and impact of Rebetiko music. Stephen is uncertain about what the future holds, save his plans to take part in the Gourimadi Archaeological Project with Professor Öztürk this summer. He is grateful for the privilege of studying in Athens and for all that has come out of this unique semester.

JENNIFER RUBIN

CYA – University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Modern Diasporas: The Case of Bukharan Jews

Bukharan Judaism has become a popular topic in contemporary mass media as Central Asian Jews make their mark on New York City and slowly fade from importance in Bukhara, Uzbekistan. Since the second Jewish Diaspora in the 1990s, Bukharan Judaism has grown in prominence to capture the interest of Western audiences. One of the dynamic narratives used to describe this group emphasizes the uniqueness and cultural significance of the Bukharan Jewish community in New York City. Articles, personal accounts, and exposés examine the heritage of Bukharan Jewish immigrants, the growth they have brought to Queens, New York City, and the importance of their cultural revival in the modern age. A prominent contrasting narrative exposes the shrinking Jewish community in Uzbekistan and laments the loss of this thriving Jewish center as emigration takes its toll on Bukhara. These descriptions of migration imply that Bukharan Judaism has outgrown the physical boundaries of Bukhara and no longer remains localized in a physical Jewish homeland. This paper will examine how Western narratives about Bukharan culture explain how Bukharan Judaism has transcended the need for a physical religious center and address the question: how does this civilization remain a relevant and dynamic part of contemporary global Jewish culture?

Jennifer Rubin is a junior studying neuroscience, history, and education on the premedical track at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Inspired by strong Jewish women in her youth, Jennifer has a personal interest in the evolving dynamics of modern Jewish culture. She hopes to merge her interest in the Diaspora with her historical understanding of Central Asia to address the dynamism of under-recognized Jewish cultural groups.

JENNY CHEUNG

CYA'20 – University of Southern California

Jewish Resistance against Deportations and Persecution during WWII in Greece

During the Axis invasion of Greece during the Second World War, 46,000 out of the 56,000 Jews who lived in Thessaloniki at the start of the war were forcibly moved to concentration camps in Germany and other parts of Europe, where all but approximately 1000 individuals perished. This paper will examine the ways in which Greek Jews responded to and resisted such deportations. While German forces occupied territories north of Larissa, the Italians occupied territories in the south. Nazi authorities often rounded up victims and forced them to live in ghettos before deporting them to concentration camps both in and outside of Greece. Since the Germans often lied about their intentions and concealed their actions, resistance efforts in Nazi-occupied territories outside of concentration camps were limited as few Jews managed to escape. Those who did usually fled to the mountains, where they joined the Communist-led National Liberation Front (ELAS/EAM), or served as nurses and doctors for resistance fighters. However, in the Italian-occupied zone, although some Jews were deported, such occurrences were less frequent as Jews had somewhat greater protection. Therefore, Jewish acts of resistance took more diverse forms and included activities such as concealing one's identity, joining resistance groups, conducting spy activity, and providing medical care for the wounded.

Jenny Cheung was a Spring 2020 student at CYA and is currently a senior studying history and religion at the University of Southern California. During her time in Greece, she interned at the Museum of the City of Athens, where she analyzed telegraph messages of Greek spies who resisted the Nazis during WWII. Her current research interests include resistance against genocide, oral history, imperialism, and de-colonization, and she plans on furthering her studies in these areas at graduate level.

MACKENZIE BALDNER

CYA – DePaul University

Refugees and Asylum Seekers: Is Unconditional Hospitality the Solution?

This paper will critically evaluate how different countries receive refugees and asylum seekers. This will be an attempt to come closer to understanding how we can effectively and justly incorporate refugees and asylum seekers into the political and social settings of the countries in which they reside, either briefly or for extended periods of time. The paper will engage with Jacques Derrida's work on unconditional hospitality and also look briefly at how work by more contemporary philosophers on intersectionality can inform the best way to practice hospitality towards refugees and asylum seekers. The primary context focused on will be migration in European countries. Research questions will include: (1) How can the concept of unconditional hospitality inform the way refugees and asylum seekers are received? and (2) What are possible alternatives to unconditional hospitality which may provide a just system for all? Ultimately, the goal of the paper is to rethink how refugees and asylum seekers should be received in terms of hospitality and justice in the countries in which they find refuge and asylum.

Mackenzie Baldner is a spring 2021 student at College Year in Athens and a junior at DePaul University in Chicago, Illinois, where she majors in philosophy. She is especially interested in transformative justice practices and the philosophical examination of social justice. She plans on pursuing a JD law degree after graduation.

ANNA GIBBONS

CYA – The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

The Journeys of Environmental Migration

Climate change has caused the displacement of thousands of families throughout the world. Environmental disasters such as drought, flooding, rising sea levels, and increasing global temperatures have been the result of humans impacting the climate in a negative way. Rich, developed countries are depleting the world of resources with little thought for the environment, and poor, less developed countries are suffering the consequences. Major areas that are affected by this are Latin America, Southeast Asia, and Africa. The situation is so grim that families that have the resources are pushed to move to different areas in their home countries or migrate to another country. Families that are not as financially fortunate must live through the devastation of climate change. After outlining the scientific causes of climate change which has led to migration, I will present the issues plaguing Southeast Asia through data analysis and research that supports future predictions about migration in the area. The story of migration is lost in the maelstrom of today's political climate and one of the goals of this paper is to humanize migration.

Anna Gibbons is a spring 2021 student at College Year in Athens and freshman at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She studies environmental science, political science, and marine science. This summer, she is interning at the North Carolina Cooperative Extension, assisting in agriculture and conservation programs. After graduating from UNC in 2024, Anna plans to continue her education by pursuing a degree in environmental law, with a focus on environmental justice.

GRACE-ANNA GLENN

CYA – The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

The Vulnerability and Resiliency of Refugee Women in Greece

Forced migration is something that has endangered the lives of many throughout history, recently landing many refugees on the islands of Greece. Their long and dangerous journeys place all refugees at risk. However, women in particular are a vulnerable group. Female refugees are faced with the burden of being or becoming a mother, lack of access to healthcare, and the agony of separation from other family members. These factors make these women more vulnerable to gender-based violence, oppressive cultural norms, and discrimination, diminishing their sense of safety. Although conditions in refugee camps are not conducive to a fulfilled life, many women have tried to make the best of their situation by using various outlets to cope, such as non-formal community education and the use of technology to communicate with their separated loved ones. This paper will analyze previous case studies about the hardships these women face every day, examining both why women are more vulnerable and what these women have done to make the best out of their hardships. I hope to bring to light the injustices these women experience while also shedding light on their dedication to making a better life for themselves, showing that although they are very vulnerable, they are also very resilient.

Grace-Anna Glenn is currently a junior at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where she is double majoring in human development and family studies, and exercise sport science. She also has a minor in medical anthropology, and she hopes to one day pursue a career in dentistry. At UNC, she is involved with *Carolina For The Kids*, an organization that supports children who have been or are in the UNC Children's Hospital.

SAMANTHA KESTLER

CYA – Illinois Wesleyan University

Afghan Refugee Women in Greece: The Art of Starting Over

Years of unemployment, insecurity, and political instability have caused many refugees from Afghanistan to migrate to Greece. This paper will discuss the refugee women from Afghanistan in Greece, and how coming to a new country for a new life is not always what it seems. Since Greece has been an asylum for years, many women have come to Greece to find new opportunities for themselves and their families. Male refugees have a slightly better chance than female refugees of getting a full-time job. Even though women make up about 25% of refugees, their thoughts, ideas, and needs are often forgotten. Refugee women who start over in a foreign country have little in their favor. By reading primary and secondary literature as well as discussing programs that help refugee women, I hope to: 1) provide an understanding of refugee women, 2) understand the Greek job market, and 3) comprehend how we can help these women by teaching them so we can all live in one cohesive unit. The research will focus on modern Greek society from the early 2000s up to the present day. What jobs are available to refugee women and are these women able to survive on them? How do Greek citizens feel about refugees in general? Answering these questions will hopefully give us the understanding that we need to help and educate women refugees.

Samantha Kestler is an undergraduate junior at Illinois Wesleyan University in Bloomington, IL, studying anthropology and classics, and she is a spring 2021 student at CYA. Topics of special interest to Samantha include cultural anthropology, mythology, and museum studies. Samantha plans to pursue her studies by enrolling in a graduate program for museum studies after completing her undergraduate degree.



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