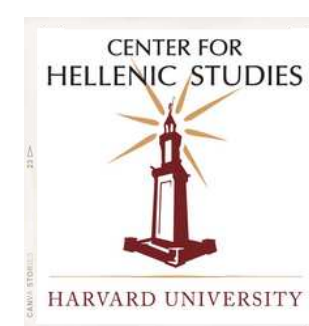




# The Virgin Beyond Borders

**INTERNATIONAL ONLINE CONFERENCE | 9-12 March 2022**

organized in collaboration and with the support of:



The conference presents papers on various topics related to the cult of the Virgin, including the emergence of her cult in the Eastern Mediterranean, aspects of its development, as well as local traditions associated with Mary.



Project Management: Ainos Cultural Society

[www.thevirginbeyondborders.net](http://www.thevirginbeyondborders.net)

Join Zoom Meeting

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**Wednesday 9th March 2022**

- GMT 15:00 (ATH 17:00)    **Welcome addresses**
- GMT 15:30 (ATH 17:30)    **Keynote address by Ioli Kalavrezou (Harvard University),**  
"Mary, a Multivalent Figure and the Mother of All"
- GMT 16:30 (ATH 18:30)    **Alexander Lingas (City University, London, and Oxford),**  
"Marian Hymns from the Traditions of  
Constantinople and Venice"
- GMT 17:00 (ATH 19:00)    **Gregory Nagy (Harvard University),**  
"The Cult of the Virgin Myrtiliotissa"
- GMT 17:30 (ATH 19:30)    **Melina Paissidou (Aristotle University of Thessaloniki),**  
"Panagia Eleousa in Great Prespa Lake:  
A Local Cult of the Virgin and its Iconographic Symbols"
- GMT 18:00 (ATH 20:00)    **Nicole Paxton-Sullo (University of Notre Dame and Yale),**  
"Eternal Processions and Imagined Ritual:  
*Akathistos* Cycles in the Medieval Serbian Church"
- GMT 18:30 (ATH 20:30)    **Athanasios Semoglou (Aristotle University of Thessaloniki),**  
"The Protective Veil of the Virgin (the "Pokrov") in the Medieval  
Russian Iconography: In Search of its Origins"
- GMT 19:00 (ATH 21:00)    **Richard Price (University of London),**  
"The Virgin in Russian Folk Hymns"
- GMT 19:30 (ATH 21:30)    **EVENT: A SELECTION OF RUSSIAN HYMNS FOR THE MOTHER OF GOD**

**Thursday 10th March 2022**

- GMT 15:00 (ATH 17:00)    **Mary Cunningham (University of Nottingham),**  
"The Power of Physical Presence: The Belt (ζώνη) of the Virgin  
Mary in Constantinople and Beyond"
- GMT 15:30 (ATH 17:30)    **Rei Hakamada (University of Okayama and Oxford University),**  
"Mary the Mother of God in Gregory Palamas' Homilies:  
Her Role in the Deification/ Salvation of Human Beings"
- GMT 16:00 (ATH 18:30)    **Joe Dowling-Soka (Macquarie University, NSW, AU),**  
"Militarisation of Mary in Seventh-Century Constantinople"
- GMT 16:30 (ATH 18:30)    **Ally Kateusz (Wijngaards Inst. of Catholic Research, London, UK),**

"On the Origins of the Georgian *Life of the Virgin*"

- GMT 17:00 (ATH 19:00) **Margaret Mullett** (Queen's University, Belfast, and the Austrian Academy),  
"Mary in the *Christos Paschon*"
- GMT 17:30 (ATH 19:30) **Annemarie Weyl Carr** (Southern Methodist University, USA),  
"Reflections on the Dormition: Mary as Mother and Bride"
- GMT 18:00 (ATH 20:00) **Sarah Wagner-Wassen** (University of Leuven),  
"Finding Mary in Second Temple Mystical Apocrypha:  
Stories for the Queen of Heaven"
- GMT 18:30 (ATH 20:30) **Maria Evangelatou** (University of California, Santa Cruz),  
"Mary and the Cultural Construction of Motherhood in Byzantium:  
A Gendered Reading of the Rare *Galaktotrophousa* Iconography"
- GMT 19:00 (ATH 21:00) **Emmanuel Gergis** (Agora University, Springfield, VA),  
"Mary, the Second Heaven, Yesterday and Today: Tracing Theological  
and Popular Aspects of Marian Devotion in the Coptic Tradition"
- GMT 19:30 (ATH 21:30) **EVENT: A SELECTION OF COPTIC HYMNS FOR THE MOTHER OF GOD**

**Friday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2022**

- GMT 15:00 (ATH 17:00) **Fr Maximos Conostas** (Holy Cross Hellenic College),  
"The Marian Theology of Geometres' *Life of the Virgin*"
- GMT 15:30 (ATH 17:30) **Robert Kitchen** (Sankt Ignatios Andliga Akademi, Stockholm),  
"The Versified Virgin:  
'New' Syriac Metrical Homilies on the Mother of God"
- GMT 16:00 (ATH 18:30) **Michail Kitsos** (University of Toronto),  
"The Virgin in Jewish-Christian Narratives"
- GMT 16:30 (ATH 18:30) **Magdalena Łaptaś** (Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University, Warsaw),  
"The Overwhelming Motherhood of the Virgin Mary in the  
Nativity Scene from the Faras Cathedral (Sudan)"
- GMT 17:00 (ATH 19:00) **Sebastian Brock** (University of Oxford),  
"Where Mary Speaks: Giving a Voice to Mary in Syriac Literature"
- GMT 17:30 (ATH 19:30) **Maria Vassilaki** (University of Thessaly, Greece),  
"The Virgin at Sinai"
- GMT 18:00 (ATH 20:00) **Maria Lidova** (University of Oxford),

"A Sixth-Century Ivory Icon of the Virgin at the British Museum: The Migration of Marian Imagery from Late Antique East to Romanesque West"

- GMT 18:30 (ATH 20:30) **Isabella Baldini** (Bologna) and **Eleni Chrysafi** (Thessaloniki),  
"Images of the Virgin in Byzantine Italy across the BYZART Digital Collection"
- GMT 19:00 (ATH 21:00) **Sabrina Higgins** (Simon Fraser University, Vancouver),  
"The Materialization of Mary:  
The Physical Evidence of a Marian Cult in the Eastern Mediterranean"
- GMT 19:30 (ATH 21:30) **EVENT: BYZANTINE HYMNS FOR THE MOTHER OF GOD**  
**THE 'TROPOS' CHOIR DIRECTED BY KOSTAS ANGELIDIS**

**Saturday 12th March 2022**

- GMT 14.30 (ATH 16:30) **Francesca Dell'Acqua** (University of Salerno),  
"*Hagia Sophia* – The Virgin Mary across Borders in  
Southern *Langobardia*"
- GMT 15:00 (ATH 17:00) **Tara Field** (University of California, Santa Cruz),  
"Tree Madonnas in Roman Catholicism:  
From Biblical Symbolism to Local Identity"
- GMT 15:30 (ATH 17:30) **Elena Papastavrou** (Hellenic Ministry of Culture),  
"*Magnificat*: Origins and Impact on Marian Iconography in  
East and West"
- GMT 16:00 (ATH 18:30) **Maria Paschali** (Open University of Cyprus),  
"The Swooning Virgin:  
An Iconographic Motif and its Moves across the Mediterranean"
- GMT 16:30 (ATH 18:30) **Maria Xenaki** (Hellenic Archaeological Service),  
"Parthenon as a Church Dedicated to the Theotokos:  
Literary and Epigraphic Sources"
- GMT 17:00 (ATH 19:00) **Nektarios Zarras** (University of the Aegean, Greece),  
"Speaking through the Scroll:  
The Virgin in the Gallery of the *Hodegetria* in Mystras"
- GMT 17:30 (ATH 19:30) **Gordana Blagojevic** (Institute of Ethnography, SASA, Belgrade),  
"Songs on the Virgin Mary in the Serbian Musical Tradition"
- GMT 18:00 (ATH 20:00) **Maria-Despoina Loukidou** (Aristotle University of Thessaloniki),  
"The Language of the Virgin's Laments: Poetry and Music in the  
Hymns of Leo VI the Wise in Settings from the Old Sticheraric  
Style to Saint John Koukouzeles"
- GMT 18:30 (ATH 20:30) **Antigoni Ntousiopoulou** (Aristotle University of Thessaloniki),

"The Origin of the Virgin Mary's Lament in the Iconography of  
Greek Antiquity"

GMT 19:00 (ATH 21:00) **Niki Tsironi** (NHRF), **Katia Savrami** (University of Patras) and **Evangelos Kokkoris**  
"Lamenting Body"

GMT 19:30 (ATH 21:30) **EVENT: A WORKSHOP WITH THE STUDY GROUP FOR PALAEOGRAPHY OF  
BYZANTINE MUSIC 'CHRYSORRHEMON'**  
**Maria Alexandru** (Aristotle University of Thessaloniki)

CLOSING REMARKS BY IOLI KALAVREZOU