



KΕΝΤΡΟ ΕΡΕΥΝΑΣ  
ΓΙΑ ΤΙΣ ΑΝΘΡΩΠΙΣΤΙΚΕΣ  
ΕΠΙΣΤΗΜΕΣ

## Humanities Knowledge in the Digital University

10-11 May 2021

*These sessions bring together researchers from the Independent Social Research Foundation (London) and the Research Centre for the Humanities (Athens) to note the main current effects of digital platforms on humanities research, and to identify the questions for further study that we can most usefully pursue.*

### Day One: Understanding the Digital University

Educational technology is a multi-billion Euro industry that operates all over the world, and that shapes every aspect of university operations. It includes back-office functions like payroll and course registration, and in recent years has expanded to front-end arenas where it supplements and sometimes replaces classroom instruction. In between lie Course Management Systems (CMS), e-advising applications, and other digital platforms that provide essential services, services that universities increasingly outsource to private vendors. In 2012-13, it seemed that Massive Open Online Courses (xMOOCs) would replace large sections of the planet's physical universities, starting with the mass-scale institutions that already operated through large lectures and offered very modest individualized feedback. MOOCs failed pedagogically, but online instruction has been given a new lease on life through Covid-19 requirements for social distancing. This session will discuss the future of non-digital higher education. What hybrid structures are most likely? What activities will not be mediated through ed-tech? What functions should universities turn over to third-party ed-tech providers?

Day One Times BST/EEST		10th May 2021		
<b>2:00pm</b> 4:00pm EEST	<b>Welcome &amp; Introduction</b> - Kostas Gavroglu			
<b>2:10pm</b> 4:10pm EEST	<b>Chris Newfield</b> Teaching Revolutions in the Digital University	<b>Aristotle Tympas</b> The End of the Two Cultures	<b>Yorgos Stamboulis</b> The Digital Condition and Universities: What Is at Stake?	
<b>3:10pm</b> 5:10pm EEST	<b>Questions &amp; Open Discussion</b>			
<b>4:00pm</b> 6:00pm EEST	<b>End</b>			

### Day Two: What is Humanities Knowledge?

Universities distinguish themselves from high schools by offering courses with content that reflects current research, and that teaches students to become researchers and knowledge creators themselves. Disciplines that do not create knowledge, perhaps because they are entirely applied, are generally not eligible to become university subjects. The humanities disciplines create knowledge in fields such as history, philosophy, linguistics, and literary criticism; at the same time, many academics and administrators outside those fields do not know what the knowledge is that they produce—as opposed to commentary, embellishments, and opinion. One issue is an irreducible plurality of methods. A second issue is scale, which is smaller or more individualized in the humanities than in the natural or physical sciences. A third is uncertainty about the nature of human intelligence at a time when artificial intelligence seems about to transform knowledge, technology, and the economy. A fourth is the status of evidence, which in the humanities is non-quantitative and often not positive or present. Panelists will analyze these or related problems and offer a range of conclusions and proposals about how the humanities might respond.

Day Two Times BST/EEST		11th May 2021		
<b>2:00pm</b> 4:00pm EEST	<b>Welcome &amp; Introduction</b> - Christopher Newfield			
<b>2:10pm</b> 4:10pm EEST	<b>Lauren Goodlad</b> AI and the Humanities	<b>Nishat Awan</b> Digital Narratives of Complex Geographies	<b>Theodore Arabatzis</b> Will Educational Technology Change the History of Science?	<b>Elpida Rikou</b> Knowledge Production in the Arts
<b>3:30pm</b> 5:30pm EEST	<b>Questions &amp; Open Discussion</b>			
<b>4:00pm</b> 6:00pm EEST	<b>End</b>			

## Speakers & Chairs

**Theodore Arabatzis** *Professor of History and Philosophy of Science, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens*

**Nishat Awan** *Principal Investigator, Topological Atlas, TU Delft*

**Ada Dialla** *Associate Professor of European History, Athens School of Fine Arts; RCH President*

**Kostas Gavroglu** *Emeritus Professor of History of Science, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens; ISRF Academic Advisor & RCH Founding Member*

**Lauren Goodlad** *Professor of English and Comparative Literature, Rutgers University*

**Chris Newfield** *ISRF Director of Research; Distinguished Professor Emeritus, UC Santa Barbara*

**Elpida Rikou** *Independent Researcher, Writer and Artist*

**Yorgos Stamboulis** *Assistant Professor in Innovation Management and Entrepreneurship, University of Thessaly*

**Aristotle Tympas** *Chairman of the Department of History and Philosophy of Science and Professor of History of technology, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens*

### Professor Theodore Arabatzis

*Professor of History and Philosophy of Science, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens*

Theodore Arabatzis is Professor of History and Philosophy of Science at the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens. He holds a Diploma in electrical engineering from Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, and an MA and a PhD in history of science from Princeton University. He has been awarded fellowships from Princeton, MIT and the Max Planck Institute for the History of Science. His research has focused on the history of modern physical sciences and on historical philosophy of science. He has published many articles in these areas in international journals and edited collections. He is the author of *Representing Electrons: A Biographical Approach to Theoretical Entities* (University of Chicago Press, 2006), co-editor of *Kuhn's The Structure of Scientific Revolutions Revisited* (Routledge, 2012), and co-editor of *Relocating the History of Science: Essays in Honor of Kostas Gavroglu* (Springer, 2015). He has served as co-editor of the journal *Metascience* (2010–2014). In 2017 he was awarded the IUHPST Essay Prize in History and Philosophy of Science by the International Union of History and Philosophy of Science and Technology, for his essay entitled "What's in it for the historian of science? Reflections on the value of philosophy of science for history of science". In May 2019 he was elected corresponding member of the International Academy of the History of Science. He is president of the European Society for the History of Science (2020–2022).

### Dr Nishat Awan

*Principal Investigator, Topological Atlas, TU Delft*

Nishat Awan is an academic and spatial practitioner whose research interests include the production and representation of migratory spaces and border areas. She explores how these issues can be addressed through spatial practice, in particular thinking about maps as topological entities. After completing a post-doc at TU Berlin, she returned to University of Sheffield as a lecturer, from where she also holds a PhD (2011). She has taught at a number of architecture schools in the UK and has previously worked in architectural practice. She has recently moved from Goldsmiths University of London to TU Delft. Currently, she is a member of OPENkhana, a collaborative that works between architectural, computational and artistic practice. She is author of *Diasporic Agencies* (2016), ) addressed the subject of how architecture and urbanism can respond to the consequences of increasing migration. She is co-author of *Spatial Agency* (Routledge, 2011) and co-editor of *Trans-Local-Act* (aaa-peprav, 2011). An ISRF Fellow in 2015–16, her project was called, "Migrant Narratives of Citizenship: A Topological Atlas Of European Belonging." In

that project, she asked, "Where are the edges of Europe, how are they defined and who can be included within them?" Her work addressed these questions by creating contemporary narratives of European belonging that challenge prevalent conceptions of Europe and its citizens." Currently, she leads the European Research Council funded project, *Topological Atlas*, which aims to produce visual counter-geographies of the fragile movements of migrants as they encounter the security apparatus of the border. <http://www.topologicalatlas.net>

### **Dr Ada Dialla**

*RCH President; Associate Professor of European History, Athens School of Fine Arts*

Dr. Ada Dialla is Associate Professor of European History at the Department of Theory and History of Art, School of Fine Arts (Athens) and until recently was chair of the Department. She has studied History at the School of History, State University of Moscow (Lomonosov) (B.A. and M.Sc.), at the Department of History and Archaeology of the University of Athens and at the Department of Political Science of the University of Athens. From 2004 until 2009 she was the director of the Historical Archives of the University of Athens. She was a visiting researcher at the Russian Academy of Science (St Petersburg), at the École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales (Paris) and at the Jordan Center for Advanced Studies in Russia of New York University. She is a member of the Scientific Committee and the Editorial board of the journal *Historein. A Review of the Past and Other Stories*. She is a founding member and chairman of the Athens-based Governing Board of the Research Centre for the Humanities. She is a member of the Supervisory Committee of the Hellenic Institute of Byzantine and Post-Byzantine Studies in Venice. Her main research interests are 19th and 20th century Russian and European history and politics (with emphasis on transnational history, Empire and Nationalism), Russian-Greek trans-cultural relations, history of humanitarian interventions and Humanitarianism, and Russian/Soviet history of historiography. Her recent book is co-authored with Alexis Heraclides and is entitled *Humanitarian Intervention in the Long Nineteenth Century. Setting the Precedent* (Manchester: Manchester University Press, 2015). She is writing a book called *The Greek Revolution, the Russian Empire and the New Global Flows: Recentering the Margins in the Age of Revolutions*. The book aims to re-center the Greek Revolution of 1821 by placing it in the midst of a longer revolutionary narrative and in the middle of a new global politics. By perceiving the Greek Revolution from a Russian and Eurasian perspective, the project tries to expand the space of intellectual exchanges and intercommunication during the Age of Revolutions (19th century). In doing so it aims at tracing a more complex and polycentric European historical-intellectual map.

### **Professor Kostas Gavroglu**

*Emeritus Professor of History of Science, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens; ISRF Academic Advisor & RCH Founding Member*

Kostas Gavroglou served as Professor of History of Science at the Department of History and Philosophy of Science at the University of Athens, from 1994 to 2014.

His research fields are the histories of physical and quantum chemistry, the history of artificial cold, and issues related with the appropriation of scientific ideas and practices by the European periphery from the 18th century.

Publications include *Sciences in the Universities of Europe, Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries* (Springer, 2015, co-edited with Ana Simoes & Maria Paula Diogo), and *Neither Physics nor Chemistry: A History of Quantum Chemistry* (MIT Press, 2011, with Ana Simões).

### **Professor Lauren Goodlad**

*Professor of English and Comparative Literature, Rutgers University*

Lauren M. E. Goodlad is Professor of English and Comparative Literature as well as a faculty affiliate of the Center for Cultural Analysis (CCA), the Rutgers British Studies Center, and the Rutgers Center for Cognitive Science. At the University of Illinois, where she taught until 2017, Goodlad was a Kathryn Paul Professorial Scholar, University Scholar, Provost Fellow for Undergraduate Education, and the director of the Unit for Criticism & Interpretive Theory (2008-14). At Rutgers, she is now Associate Chair of English, a member of

the executive committees for Graduate Studies, the CCA, and RBSC, as well as chair of a new interdisciplinary initiative on Critical Artificial Intelligence.

A specialist in Victorian and nineteenth-century literature and culture, Goodlad also has research and teaching interests in genre studies; critical, feminist, postcolonial, and political theory; television and seriality studies; Big Tech and artificial intelligence; as well as literature in relation to liberalism, globalization, and financialization. She is the chair of the MLA's TC History and Literature forum and a member of the advisory boards for *Victorian Literature and Culture*, *Nineteenth-Century Gender Studies*, and *Victoriographies*. Goodlad's new project, tentatively titled *Genres that Matter: The Long Afterlives of Nineteenth-Century Fiction*, is a *longue duree* study of groundbreaking Victorian-era media including *Wuthering Heights*, Trollope's *Barchester Chronicles*, and the creation of Sherlock Holmes. By way of exploring genre conventions as they migrate and morph across periods, media, and geographic borders, the book describes such varied after-echoes as David Peace's *Red Riding Quartet*, HBO's *Big Love*, and the advent of data-driven artificial intelligence. Excerpts from the study have appeared in *New Literary History*, *Re-Plotting Marriage in Nineteenth-Century British Literature*, *The Edinburgh Companion to Anthony Trollope*, and *The Wide Nineteenth Century*, a forthcoming special issue of *Victorian Literature and Culture*. Goodlad is also co-editing *What Is and Isn't Changing*, a forthcoming special issue of *MLQ*, and has a second project under development on the topic of the country house and the world-system.

### **Professor Christopher Newfield**

*ISRF Director of Research; Distinguished Professor Emeritus, UC Santa Barbara*

Professor Chris Newfield joined the ISRF after 31 years at the University of California, Santa Barbara, most recently as Distinguished Professor of Literature and American Studies.

His academic work has focused on critical university studies, American literature since 1990, California culture and society, quantification studies, and the status of literary knowledge.

Publications include *Ivy and Industry: Business and the Making of the American University, 1880-1980* (Duke University Press, 2003); *Unmaking the Public University: The Forty Year Assault on the Middle Class* (Harvard University Press, 2008); and *The Great Mistake: How We Wrecked Public Universities and How We Can Fix Them* (Johns Hopkins University Press, 2016).

### **Dr Elpida Rikou**

*Independent Researcher, Writer and Artist*

Elpida Rikou is a visual artist, social anthropologist and social psychologist. Her work concerns the relations of the arts to the humanities, cultural policy, everyday life in the city, the body, and mental health. She has a PhD on Social Psychology (EHESS, Paris), a MA on Social Anthropology (Paris V), a bachelor degree in Sociology (Panteion University), and a bachelor degree in Visual Arts (Athens School of Fine Arts). She has taught at different universities since 1998 (from 2007 -2017 at the Athens School of Fine Arts), and has published widely on scientific and other issues (Anthropology and Contemporary Art, Alexandria, 2013, etc.). Further, she has been organizing art projects with an interdisciplinary character since 2008 (Learning from documenta, Fonés, Value, etc.). Elpida Rikou has also been engaged in psychoanalytic psychotherapy (Centre de Formation et de Recherches Psychanalytiques, Paris) and in art therapy (stage, Paris V). She has been employed as a researcher at the Centre National de Recherches Scientifiques in France, she has contributed as a volunteer in the artistic activities of the Public Drug Dependence Unit 18 Ano of the Mental Hospital of Attica, and she has been appointed at the National School of Public Health as Lecturer (a position from which she resigned for personal reasons). She has been involved in the field of lifelong learning practices and she coordinates the Contemporary Art Workshop of the Municipality of Halandri, Athens (together with Sophia Grigoriadou) since 2016. Today, she is mainly active as an independent researcher, writer and artist within the context of TWIXTlab project.

## **Dr Yorgos Stamboulis**

*Assistant Professor in Innovation Management and Entrepreneurship, University of Thessaly*

Dr Yorgos Stamboulis was born in Athens, Greece. He received his B.Eng. degree in Production and Management Engineering from the Technical University of Crete, Hania. He went on to receive his MSc in Management of Technology and his D.Phil in Science and Technology from the University of Sussex, Brighton, UK, Policy.

Since October 1998 he has been with the University of Thessaly, Volos, Greece teaching at the Departments of Mechanical and Industrial Engineering, of Planning and Regional Development and at the Department of Economics.

His research interests include economics of technological and institutional change, management, strategy and policy for entrepreneurship, innovation and technology, organisation and strategic management, cooperatives management, strategy, organization and management, economics of energy and the transition to sustainable sociotechnical systems, critical management theory, critical realism and systems thinking.

Yorgos Stamboulis is a member of EAEPE (European Association of Evolutionary Political Economy), the System Dynamics Society, EEEE (the Greek Society for Operations Research) and TEE (the Technical Chamber of Greece).

## **Professor Aristotle Tympas**

*Chairman of the Department of History and Philosophy of Science and Professor of History of technology, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens*

Aristotle Tympas, a specialist in the study of technology from the humanities and the social sciences, works as professor at the Department of History and Philosophy of Science, School of Science, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens. His studies combined engineering (MSc, Aristotelio University, 1989), technology and science policy (MSc, Georgia Tech, 1995) and history-sociology of technology (PhD, Georgia Tech, 2001). In addition to teaching courses at his university (at his home department and at the Department of Informatics and Telecommunications), he has helped to introduce and teach courses in the digital, environmental and medical humanities at several other universities, in Greece and abroad. Former chair (2017-2019) of the management committee of the 'Tensions of Europe: Research Network on History, Technology and Europe', Tympas currently serves as vice president of the International Master's Programme on Society, Science and Technology (ESST), as director of the Interdepartmental Graduate Program 'Science, Technology, Society—Science and Technology Studies' and as chair of the Department of History and Philosophy of Science.

He has been a visiting scholar in the US (MIT Program in Science, Technology and Society), Germany (Viadrina Center B/Orders in Motion) and Sweden (Swedish Institute for Disability Research). Tympas has supervised over one hundred student theses (undergraduate, graduate, doctoral), Greek and international. With support from a series of fellowships and grants, he has published on a range of issues and technologies (Theory / Historiography, Computing / Communication / Automation, Environment / Energy / Sustainability, Biotech / Biomed / Med / Disability, Labor / Gender / Migration, Greece). He is the author of *Calculation and Computation in the Pre-electronic Era* (Springer, 2017) and *Analog Labor, Digital Capital* (Angelus Novus, 2018, In Greek). <http://scholar.uoa.gr/tympas/home>