



GrECI
Greek Heritage in European
Culture and Identity

The Material Heritage of Ancient Greece in Early Modern Europe New Approaches and Perspectives

Norwegian Institute in Athens
1–2 February 2024

A workshop organised in the context of the GrECI Twinning Project
(Horizon WIDERA-2021 ACCESS call, grant no. 101079379)

Subject of the workshop

Early modern Hellenism has often been approached in terms of texts, language, and ideas. The material facets of the phenomenon, on the other hand, have received less sustained scholarly attention. Nevertheless, the materiality of Hellenism—from Greek antiquities and forgeries to ‘Greek’ styles in clothing and bookmaking—is an important aspect of how Greek and European identities were construed in early modern Europe. How can we understand the connection between the interest in material aspects of Hellenism and the pursuit of a common European identity? In what ways did the desire for Greek artifacts, styles, and artistic techniques contribute to a wider cultural identification with Greek culture? What did early modern notions of ‘Greek’ material heritage in- and exclude?

Aims and scope

This workshop aims to explore early modern Hellenism from the perspective of its material culture in a broad sense. Our scope is not confined to the early modern receptions of the physical traces of ancient Greece such as its artefacts and landscapes. It also includes the ways in which the ancient Greek heritage more generally was incorporated in the material culture of early modern Europe through art, architecture, and in other areas of daily life such as dress and book culture.

Material aspects of early modern Hellenism have been studied in various fields of scholarship, including art history, archaeology, and book history, yet an overarching approach to the subject is lacking. This workshop aims to bring together scholars from different fields, including historians, archaeologists, art historians, and digital humanities scholars, working on different material aspects of early modern Hellenism. It specifically invites them to reflect on the different approaches employed in the field, in order to develop an interdisciplinary framework to deepen our understanding of how ‘material Hellenism’ co-shaped European identities.

This workshop is particularly interested in the contribution digital tools can provide in this new field of research. GIS applications, network analyses, deep mapping, and virtual reconstructions have been proven to be effective instruments in many fields of the historical humanities, and we believe they also hold promise for the study of the material dimensions of early modern Hellenism.

Topics for discussion and format

Participants are asked to relate the subjects of their presentations to questions of **Greek and/or European identity** and to reflect on their **approach and positioning** in the field of early modern Hellenism studies. We are particularly (not exclusively) interested in digital approaches to the subject.

Presentations may cover a range of thematic domains, which include, but are not limited to, the following subjects. Presentations that explore the intersection of several of these domains and/or take a diachronic approach are particularly welcome.

- Early modern interest in ancient Greek artefacts, architecture, and antiquarianism
- Perceptions and understandings of Byzantine material culture, as well as practices of looting and trafficking of Byzantine objects
- Notions of 'Greek style' (*maniera greca, alla greca*) in many domains of early modern material culture, including dress, architecture, and bookbinding
- The reception of Greek themes and motifs in early modern art and visual and material culture, as well as visual representations of Greece in early modern culture
- The uses of the Greek language in early modern material culture, including art objects and architecture
- The understanding and perception of Greek ruins, memory sites, and landscapes, both before and during the phenomenon of the Grand Tour
- Digital approaches to the material heritage of Greece in early modern Europe

Given the methodological emphasis of the workshop, we welcome proposals for both **traditional papers** (ca. 20 mins) and shorter **concept notes and project presentations** (ca. 10 mins). Proposals should be around 150-200 words. In addition, they should include a concise description of relevant academic work and a brief indication of the workshop's specific connection to one's scholarly work and interests.

Deadline for proposals and expressions of interest: **15 May 2023 17:00 CET**. Please send your documents both to han.lamers@ifikk.uio.no and to manzetti.maria-cristina@ucy.ac.cy.

Organising committee

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For more information on the GrECI consortium, please see the project's website: <https://greci-twinning.org>.