



**Netherlands Institute at Athens (NIA) in collaboration with the University of Leiden
& Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam (VU)**

Summer School on Visual Anthropology
1-20 July, 2021
(Online & on Skyros island)

Urgent Multimodal Ethnographies of Greece

Applicants:

Students at last year BA, Master & PhD students in
Social/Political Sciences & Fine Arts

The **Netherlands Institute at Athens** in collaboration with staff from the department of Cultural Anthropology and Development Sociology of the **University of Leiden**, the department of Social and Cultural Anthropology of the **Free University Amsterdam** (VU) organize this intensive four-week course on **visual anthropology**.

The scope

Anthropology and ethnography have been transformed in recent years drawing from a number of critical traditions. Visual anthropology has also changed as film, photography and visual documents can produce new forms of storytelling and experimental ethnographies. At the heart of our work is the study of politics in the widest sense of the term, from gender and ethnic inequalities to neoliberal capitalism and social movements. Our research is based on a vision to participate each time anthropologically in a small collaborative community project, in which all students will be able to offer a part of the ethnographic mosaic through various multimodal



methodologies. Every year the summer school will be taking place in a new location in Greece in collaboration with a local network in order to produce an urgent multimodal ethnography project which will be mainly authored by the students, staff and interlocutors. The urgency of each topic and location is related to an evaluation of the circumstances and the social dynamics that our research collaborators bring to focus each year.

As any anthropologist can potentially become an activist or a mediator in the communities we research, our aim is to bring together ethnography and multimodal methodologies with the urgent political matters of our post-covid era. Finally, we intend to examine in detail larger global or regional processes and power relationships at play and how these unfold and influence the smaller networks we study.

The field

This first year the summer school will be focusing on the industrialization of the environment and more specifically on the possible construction of an onshore gigantic wind turbine project (among the biggest onshore proposed plans in Europe) on the island of **Skyros at the centre of the Aegean Sea**. Similar projects have been proposed to take place on a number of Aegean islands, since the general legislation (περιβαλλοντικό) that was approved by the government in 2020 is in fact deregulating the construction of renewable energy sources. The overlapping of EU funding, the Greek government quotas for Green energy, the “Green” investments by the monastic community of Mount Athos that owns the asset of the proposed project and the decision to industrialize an EU protected natural habitat, create a paradoxical situation as the islanders go against such large-scale plans. While the islanders are not necessarily against renewable energy as they have suggested to construct turbines for the local needs of the island, the construction of 80-100 onshore wind turbines by private funds could be devastating for the local community and the fragile Aegean ecosystems. We will be working together with various island organizations and networks in order to understand the local perspectives of these controversial plans, the politics of the environment and the ways that our methodology can offer alternative critical perspectives.

The island

Skyros is a small island at the centre of the Aegean Sea, part of the North Sporades archipelagos with a reputation of dominant traditional values and architecture, local artisans, and unique natural habitats. It is the location of a major military airport (also civil) and there is a regular transportation to the mainland by the local Ferry company. The island has been inhabited since prehistoric times and it has been known as the hideout of Achilles and the place that Theseus died according to Greek mythology. The



islanders feel that their island is unique and are very eager to talk about their values and customs. They also say that their lives have been changing, that the past is no longer part of the present and the future and that everything is transforming.

Instructors/speakers:

- Prof. Dimitrios Dalakoglou (anthropologist Free University Amsterdam, VU)
- Dr. Tryfon Bampilis (anthropologist, NIA)
- Drs. Metje Postma (anthropologist/filmmaker, University of Leiden)
- Dr. Sander Hölsgens (anthropologist, University of Leiden)
- Dr. Steffen Köhn (anthropologist, Freie Universität Berlin)
- Prof. Kris Rutten (education, Ghent University)
- Ass. Prof. Alexandros Kioupkiolis (political philosophy/Aristotle University of Thessaloniki)
- Dr. Aimilia Voulvouli (anthropologist PhD UCL)
- Maro Anastopoulou (film director)
- Arjang Omrani (anthropologist/filmmaker, Ghent University)
- Fotini Gouseti (visual artist/anthropologist, University of Thessaly)
- Anastasios Kavasis (film/photography/fine artist)
- Constantinos Diamantis (anthropologist/filmmaker, University of Aegean)
- Dr. Andronikos Theoharidis (anthropologist/artist, PhD of Aegean University)

Structure of the course

From **23 to 30 June**, we will be having an **online week of preparation** in anthropological theory, methodology and film studies. **From the 1st until the 20th July the summer school will take place on Skyros island and online simultaneously.** A number of **lectures will be online and some onsite** depending on the circumstances and necessity of each seminar. In addition, there might be more limitations on the amount of time and people who can conduct research on the island so **there is a possibility of receiving only a small group of 5-6 students each week.** The seminars will focus on a general theoretical context in relation to visual anthropology/ethnographic methodology and contemporary approaches to field research with references to the island and Greece. In the sessions, the lecturers will give an overview of the theory of visual anthropology/ ethnography with reference to key debates.

The research on the island will take place in small groups of 2 or three students in collaboration with local activist groups and other networks. The students will be responsible for carrying on research and there will be regular research meetings with



the staff of the school. **Theoretical knowledge of social sciences research methodology with a focus on qualitative research and ethnography is mandatory.**

Our aim will be to complete our work and clips that will be edited in one major project by the 19th of July. On the 20th of July we will present the results of the research to the islanders and there will be a first public screening-exhibition of the research. Our work the rest of the summer will be presented in a special section at the ethnographic museum of Skyros and other local organizations and sites.

Finally, it is important to note that due to **COVID 19** related restrictions and measurements **the school might alter the proposed structure to adapt to the government's regulations.** It might be necessary to follow online a large number of lectures and do onsite workshops and research for a limited time on the island in limited numbers. For any alterations you will be informed in advance as far as you are accepted to the program.

Aim

The aim of the seminar is to give students an introductory understanding to visual and multimodal methodology, experience filming in social contexts where ethnography can become a tool of dialogue and mediation and offer to the communities and the networks we will be working together with, the results of our findings in forms that can be made accessible to a wider public. We will also have an overview of current debates and research topics in visual anthropology and ethnography. By participating and learning the filming and production process, the students gain some practical experience, use their skills, make new contacts and learn how to present their findings within wider local and global processes.

Method

During the seminar the students are expected to participate actively in all the courses and take part in a collaborative ethnographic field research. The work of the students will have to focus on the main research theme by following life stories, specific neighbourhoods of each place or social networks with the aim to address wider processes. In collaboration with local research groups, students will be able to come in contact with various people to discuss, interview and materialize our topic. Students will record and collect their material, which will be put together under the guidance of experienced staff in order to be presented at the end of our school.



Course requirements, language and evaluation

The course is available to last year BA-students as well as Master and first year PhD students in the fields of social sciences and fine arts. All lectures will be given in English. Students are required to participate actively in all the lectures and discussions during the courses. Mandatory knowledge of anthropological research methodology, social sciences methodology with focus on qualitative research and ethnography. The course will be evaluated by all staff and participants at the end.

Participation – application

Students can apply online (application can be found at the website of the institute, www.nia.gr) until the **14th of May** . Please contact us at nia@nia.gr in case assistance is needed. Successful applicants will be notified by **the 21st of May**. The number of participating students is limited (max. 20 students), so we encourage early registration. Selecting criteria will apply.

Costs and subsidies

The total cost of the course is **750€ for all E.U. students including accommodation during the course**. Overseas (non-EU) fees are 1250€. Students have a **discount subsidy of the tuition fees** if they do not intend to use the accommodation on the island of Skyros (300€). Students are expected to cover their airplane return ticket from the Netherlands or country of origin to the island and their lunch and dinner costs. We strongly suggest to those accepted to the program to buy tickets with flexible dates to adapt to the fluidity of the current conditions of the pandemic. The institute is going to **reimburse fully the fees of the course in case of cancellation** but there will be **no refunds for travel related cancellations** such as airplane or train tickets.

Accommodation

During the course the summer school will offer **free accommodation** to the participants/students in guest rooms on Skyros. Students might need to share their accommodation with another person, taking into account all related COVID 19 measurements and precautions. The institute will publish contact details as soon as students are accepted.



COVID 19 Measures

It is important to note that the **summer school will take place only** if all related regulations allow us during the proposed time. **In case the summer school is cancelled**, it is going to take place the same dates in the **summer of 2022**. Those who will be accepted will be able to transfer their participation to 2022 if they wish. Based on the instructions of EODY (Greek Organization for Public Health) and the relevant circulars on the measures against COVID-19, we would like to inform you at least about the following:

- You will be obliged to fill out a [passenger locator form](#) at least 48 hours before flying to Greece
- Most likely you will need an authorised PCR Covid-19 negative test 72 hours before arrival in Greece and possibly a rapid test.
- The summer school will be conducting on a regular basis rapid tests for all staff and participants
- Keep in mind that measures are continuously changing so be informed on the latest news by [EODY](#) (Greek Organization for Public Health)
- According to current measures masks are obligatory at all times both during seminars in enclosed spaces as well as outside.

For more information regarding the course, please contact:

Dr. Tryfon Bampilis, Netherlands Institute at Athens (NIA) Tel.: + 30 210 9210760; Mobile: + 30 6976465830, email: trifonb@yahoo.com or nia@nia.gr

Organizing Committee

- Ass. Prof. Mark Westmoreland (University of Leiden)
- Dr. Winfred Van de Put (Director, Netherlands Institute at Athens)
- Dr. Tryfon Bampilis (Netherlands Institute at Athens)
- Prof. Dimitrios Dalakoglou (VU)

Scientific direction, research and texts: Dr. Tryfon Bampilis

Coordination assistant, multimedia & onsite support: Constantinos Diamantis



Bibliography to be prepared before arrival

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