

The Netherlands Institute at Athens (NIA) in collaboration with the
Faculty of Archaeology of Leiden University
present the fourth

Athens Research School
21 –30 March, 2025

*Audio Visual Methods in Collaborative Archaeology: Exploring the
Politics of Heritage*

Applicants:

Archaeology and humanities students in BA (last year), MA & PhD

About the course:

Audio-visual applications are nowadays broadly used in heritage and museum studies, fostering communication between researchers and visitors as well as the promotion of heritage sites and museum collections. Furthermore, as digital media has become increasingly affordable and accessible, visual representation is expanding across several dimensions in archaeology, becoming a prominent tool of analysis and collaboration within the discipline. By discussing the available methodological tools and critically reflecting on their application, this intensive course focuses on how such tools can be incorporated ethically into collaborative archaeological research. For this, the program includes a basic introductory course on audio-visual methods in one of the most challenging urban landscapes of Europe, where archaeology and the politics of heritage management intersect in unique ways. During this course participants will be involved with storytelling, will collaboratively produce short multimedia works, such as clip-films or essay films, featuring alternative archaeological narratives about the many relationships between the people, archaeological materiality, and discourse.

Structure of the course:

Between **March 21 and 30, 2025** the seminars will run daily at the NIA, located in the heart of Athens. The program will feature field research (film & photography production) in selected locations throughout the city. The seminar will focus on providing the general theoretical context in relation to audio-visual methodologies and contemporary approaches to field research in urban settings. During the course, the students will be assigned with specific topics to conduct their research and produce video and sound recordings with their own smart phones, or for more experienced users



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the Institute's equipment will be provided. In preparation for the seminar, all students are expected to have read the mandatory literature before arrival in Greece.

Methods:

During the seminar, students are expected to participate actively in all the courses and carry out a guided short field research. Specific projects of choice will be given that might have a focus on material culture, a specific heritage site, landmarks, whole neighbourhoods or archaeological networks but it can expand to wider thematic units, such as the politics of archaeology and contemporary perceptions of past societies. Students will record and collect their own material in groups and will reflect on them, with the guidance of experienced staff. Film directing and storytelling will also be in focus with our collaborative film director who will introduce students to introductory basic principles. No filming/photographs will take place inside archaeological sites due to related legislation in Greece. Each group will have to produce a short 3-4 minutes video which will be presented at the last day of the school. Only a limited number of successful videos will be given the permission by the Institute to be uploaded on social media and presented on various venues after the school.

Course requirements, language and evaluation:

The course is available to outstanding students from different levels, such as BA (last year), Master, Research Masters, and PhD students (preferably first and second year). All lectures will be given in English. Students are required to participate actively in all the lectures and discussions during the courses. During this full time course you will need to be fully dedicated to the various daily activities-research-assignments of the program.

Course period, dates and times:

The course consists of 9 intensive days with lectures and field research. Arrival and a welcome meeting will take place on the evening of the 20 March. The first course day will be on the 21 and the last on the 29, and the presentations of students will take place the 30 of March afternoon (obligatory participation). Daily classes will be mostly scheduled between 10.00 to 15.00 (depending on courses), including lunch break. The rest of the time, students will conduct field research. Students are expected to depart on the evening of 30 March or 31 March.

Participation – application:

Students can apply through the NIA website (www.nia.gr) until **Friday, January 10th, 2025**. The successful applicants will be notified by the **Thursday, January 16th, 2025**. In case your application has been successful, the course fees will have to be paid by **Monday, January 27th, 2025**. The number of participating students is limited (max. 15 students), so we encourage early registration. Selecting criteria will apply. Please be aware that a cancelation of your participation is possible up until two weeks before the

start of the course with a 50% refund of the course fees. After that date no refunds will be made.

Costs and subsidies:

The total cost of the course is 300€ for all students registered at E.U. and Dutch universities **including accommodation**. Overseas (non-EU) fees are 550€. Overseas fees for students registered at universities at countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America are subsidized, so their fee equals the EU sum. If students chose to seek accommodation independently, then the cost of the course drops to 150€. Students are expected to cover their airplane return ticket from the Netherlands or country of origin to Athens and their lunch and dinner costs.

Scholarships:

A limited number of scholarships covering the total cost of the course (including accommodation) is available **for Archon members only**. To apply for a scholarship, please email Dr. Natalia Donner at n.r.donner@hum.leidenuniv.nl. You will then receive a separate application form that you will have to fill out and send back before Friday, January 10th at 17:00 (CEST). If you are eligible to receive funding from other sources (such as your school, research project, or other types of grants), please do not apply for our scholarships, which are limited and preferably will benefit students who do not have any alternative funding options.

Accommodation:

During the course the Institute will offer accommodation to the participants/students in our guest rooms at the institute. Students will be sharing their rooms. The institute will publish contact details as soon as students are accepted. For more information regarding accommodation, please contact the NIA secretary Mrs Emmy Makri at emakri@nia.gr or nia@nia.gr

Transport to the institute:

On arrival to Athens you can commute to NIA by Metro (Acropolis), taxi or bus. The institute is situated very near to the metro station called Acropolis, in the centre of the city, next to the areas of Plaka and Thision. For exact information on how to get to NIA please contact the secretary Mrs Emmy Makri at emakri@nia.gr

For more information regarding the course, please contact:

Dr. Tryfon Bampilis, Netherlands Institute at Athens (NIA) Tel.: + 30 210 9210760, email: tryfonb@nia.gr or nia@nia.gr

Organizing Committee:

- Dr. Tryfon Bampilis (Scientific Coordinator of Social Sciences, Netherlands Institute at Athens)
- Dr. Natalia R. Donner (Leiden University, Faculty of Humanities and Faculty of Archaeology)
- Maro Anastopoulou (film director)