

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

NIKOS KAZANTZAKIS

University of Cyprus, June 19-21, 2026

Anastasios G. Leventis Building, Amphitheatre B108
University of Cyprus main Campus, Nicosia
1 Panepistimiou Avenue, 2109 Aglantzia



University of Cyprus
Department of Byzantine
and Modern Greek Studies



UNIVERSITY OF
CAMBRIDGE



Baylor University



RUTGERS



VILLANOVA
UNIVERSITY
Department of Theology
and Religious Studies

FRIDAY 19/06

17:00-17:30 Registration and opening note

17:30-18:30 Chair: Marinos Pourgouris

Keynote speaker: Lewis Owens

"I don't know what to believe." Kazantzakis, psychic research, and spiritual grandfathers

18:35-19:35

Presentation: Dean Papademetriou / Kostas Myrsiades

Nikos Kazantzakis's Odysseus, A Verse Tragedy: A Staged Reading and Critical Responses

Reception

SATURDAY 20/06

09:00-10:10 Session 1

Chair: Afroditi Athanasopoulou

09:00-09:20 **Basilus J. Bert Groen**
Kazantzakis' Schooltime at Naxos

09:20-09:40 **Maklena Nika**
Crossing Borders: Nikos Kazantzakis and the Albanian Reader

09:40-10:00 **Michael Paschalis**
The French (1936), Dutch (1939), and Spanish (1942) versions of Askitiki and their Place in the History of the Greek Text

10:00-10:10 Discussion

10:15-11:25 Session 2

Chair: Bart Soethaert

10:15-10:35 **Christina Argyropoulou**
Nikos Kazantzakis quests in Journey to Morea, his style and an intra-literary investigation of his cogitation

10:35-10:55 **Afroditi Athanasopoulou**
Between imagery and reality: Cyprus in the writings of Kazantzakis and Eleni

10:55-11:15 **Alexia Wang**
The Collapse of An Oriental Dream: Kazantzakis's travel writings on China and Japan

11:15-11:25 Discussion

Coffee break

11:40-12:50 Session 3

Chair: Kyriaki Petrakou

11:40-12:00 Paola Pruett-Vergara
Illness, body, and mystical struggle

12:00-12:20 Przemysław Kordos
The Last Temptation within the context of Gospel-inspired fantasies

12:20-12:40 Angela Lopez-Egea Vives
Nikos Kazantzakis and Martin Scorsese: Catholicizing Mary Magdalene in The Last Temptation of Christ

12:40-12:50 Discussion

Lunch Break

14:45-15:55 Session 4

Chair: Kostas Karavidas

14:45-15:05 Anna Coopey
Prometheus Recalcified: Writing Back Against Riefenstahl (and Others) in Nikos Kazantzakis' (1943) Prometheus Trilogy

15:05-15:25 Clio Takas
History at Play: Kazantzakis' Byzantine Dramas

15:25-15:45 Kyriaki Petrakou
A postmodern Kazantzakis' Niceforos Fokas by Telemachos Moudatsakis (2025)

15:45-15:55 Discussion

16:00-17:10 Session 5

Chair: Michael Paschalis

16:00-16:20 Andreas Prasinou
Beyond Kleos: Heroic Epic Ideology from Homer to Kazantzakis's Odyssey

16:20-16:40 Marinos Pourgouris
Kazantzakis and the Re-writing of Homer's Odyssey

16:40-17:00 Yiannis Stamos
The Fratricides: A Lacanian Reading

17:00-17:10 Discussion

Coffee Break

17:25-18:35 Session 6

Chair: Vangelis Calotychos

17:25-17:45 Katherine Kelaidis

Universalism and Its Shadows: The Postcolonial Kazantzakis

17:45-18:05 Bart Soethaert

Civil Service to World Literature? Nikos Kazantzakis at UNESCO (1947-1948)

18:05-18:25 Kostas Karavidas

Nikos Kazantzakis on Television: Christ Recrucified in the Context of the Greek Metapolitefsi

18:25-18:35 Discussion

18:40-19:50 Session 7

Chair: Paola Pruet-Vergara

18:40-19:00 Thomas Karagkiozopoulos

The dialectics of conflict: from the epic contrast of "Freedom or Death" to the "Cretan Glance"

19:00-19:20 Tzina Kalogirou-Natassa Chalkia-Areti Dimitra Douka

Interartistic Sanctity: Narrative and iconographic ethos in Kazantzakis's Ο φτωχούλης του Θεού (Saint Francis)

19:20-19:40 Nikos Mathioudakis

From Crete to England and into Solitude: A Stylolinguistic and Intertextual Reading of Kazantzakis' Aniforos (The Ascent)

19:40-19:50 Discussion

SUNDAY 21/06

09:00-10:10 Session 8

Chair: Marinos Pourgouris

09:00-09:20 Vangelis Calotychos

Mining Georgios and Alexis Zorbas: On Extraction of Resources at a Moment of Hyperextractivism

09:20-09:40 Afroditi Tseremi

The Silent Strength: Women in the World of Kazantzakis

09:40-10:00 Konstantinos Kalaitzakis

Exploring the distinctive relationship of Nikos Kazantzakis and Giorgos Seferis: Aesthetic and ideological divergences

10:00-10:10 Discussion

10:15-11:50 Session 9

Chair: Nikos Mathioudakis

10:15-10:35 Paraskevi Vasileiadi

Editing the Self: Mapping the notebooks of Nikos Kazantzakis from school notes to literary drafts

10:35-10:55 Dionysius Psilopoulos

Kazantzakis's conception of the artist as a prophet-magician of the new Aeon and the magical power of the word

10:55-11:15 Leo Krukowski

...For he can simply die for a song

11:15-11:25 Discussion

11:30-11:40 Closing Remarks

SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

Afroditi Athanasopoulou
Darren Middleton
Lewis Owens
Marinos Pourgouris
Paola Pruet-Vergara

PARTICIPANTS

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