Fifty Shades of Blame:
On Early Phanariot Invective

Nikos Panou
Stony Brook University

Nikos Panou is Assistant Professor of Comparative Literature and Peter V. Tsantes Endowed Professor in Hellenic Studies at Stony Brook University. He received his Ph.D. in Comparative Literature from Harvard University and has been a postdoctoral fellow at the Seeger Center for Hellenic Studies and the Society of Fellows in the Liberal Arts, Princeton University. Before moving to Stony Brook he was a Visiting Assistant Professor of Comparative Literature at Brown.

This talk will focus on a group of texts written in archaizing Greek at the beginning of the eighteenth century. Dense, bizarre, and shockingly aggressive, they draw on an age-old tradition of verbal abuse designed to defame, dishonor, annihilate an opponent, real or imaginary. A few questions call for an answer here. How and why were such texts produced? Where does their vitriolic intensity stem from? Are they a product of excessive anger, mean disposition, sadistic inclinations, or were they meant to satisfy other needs and predilections? In short, can they still speak to us today? What do they reveal about moral norms, cultural standards, and personal relations among the Greek-speaking intelligentsia of the Ottoman Empire at a crucial point in its history?

Monday, October 22, 2018
5:30 pm
Rhode Island Hall, Room 108

Sponsored by The Program in Modern Greek Studies

For more information, contact modern-greek@brown.edu