

2022 INAUGURAL ANTHROPOLOGY LECTURE

— TO CELEBRATE THE OPENING OF THE NEW ACADEMIC YEAR 2022-2023, THE SOCIAL AND CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY PROGRAMME OF KU LEUVEN CORDIALLY INVITES YOU TO THE 2022 INAUGURAL ANTHROPOLOGY LECTURE. THIS YEAR'S GUEST LECTURER IS PROFESSOR C. NADIA SEREMETAKIS —

27|09|2022
4-6 PM

C. Nadia Seremetakis

ANTHROPOLOGY FROM THE BORDERS OF THE INSIDE

ABSTRACT: Anthropology means dialogue. Under conditions of globalization and transnational processes, where there is no longer an inside and outside, earlier relationships of dialogue vanish. We rather exist in a pseudo-culture of sameness, much of which is simulated by the media. Can anthropology establish a self-reflexive relationship with its own past that changes the positioning of the present? Our present is marked by traumatic events, which foster a realization of our vulnerability and lead to a reconsideration of what constitutes the human now.

In this lecture, I draw on my ethnographic work on border spaces, spaces of trauma in a journey through antiphonic witnessing and memory. The focus of my work, during 30 years of conscious and unconscious fieldwork, writing, teaching and practicing multimedia public anthropology in various locales and times, has been on the dialogical as a technique for critiquing, historicizing, and remembering. I argue that anthropologists must remain reporters in "disagreement" and, by standing on the margins of the everyday, learn through and from other folks who dwell at the border of social and historical disaster.

Amongst many other publications, professor C. Nadia Seremetakis is best known for her acclaimed books *The Senses Still: Perception and Memory as Material Culture in Modernity* and *The Last Word: Women Death & Divination in Inner Mani*, based on long term fieldwork in urban and rural Greece. Her most recent book *Sensing the Everyday* is a multi-sited ethnographic exploration of the quotidian in process; it weaves past and new fieldwork experiences as she journeys from Greece to Vienna, Edinburgh, Albania, Ireland, New York and beyond, and captures social crisis as a crisis of borders, cartographic, somatic and psychic.

Born and raised in Greece, she studied in New York and taught at NYU, Vassar, and CUNY. Since 2008 she has joined the University of the Peloponnese where she also founded the first Greek field-based multimedia Program on Everyday Life and Culture. Her engagement with public/applied anthropology started as early as 1989, and includes designing/organizing public interdisciplinary multimedia events, publishing in the media, and holding advisory positions at the Hellenic Ministry of Health, at the Regional Office for Europe of the World Health Organization, and since 2012 at the Unesco National Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Heritage.

WHERE Auditorium Vesalius (VESA 91.30), Andreas Vesaliusstraat 11, 3000 Leuven **WHEN** 27 September 2022 – 4 to 6 pm | Please register your presence on www.soc.kuleuven.be/anthropology/events/inaugural-lecture

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