

Athens, 19 July 2020

Dear Colleagues,

We would like to inform you that the *Fifteenth International Conference on Interdisciplinary Social Sciences*, initially to take place in Athens, Greece, at the School of Philosophy of the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens (NKUA) on 20–22 July 2020, will now be held strictly virtually, still under the auspices of the Department of Philology, NKUA, over the same period.

The Conference on Interdisciplinary Social Sciences is a Common Ground Research Networks conference (<https://thesocialsciences.com/2020-conference>), which has been held annually for 14 consecutive years in various universities and organizations all over the world. It is built upon internationalism, interdisciplinarity, inclusiveness, and interaction. Conference delegates include leaders in the field as well as emerging scholars, who participate in the conference from all over the world and represent a broad range of disciplines and perspectives. It is a well-attended event with many academics, researchers, practitioners, field experts, stakeholders and students normally attending it. The conference is an important forum for academic dialogue and is associated with its respective Research Network, thus giving the opportunity for delegates to publish their work in its peer-reviewed Journals (<https://thesocialsciences.com/journals>) and books (<https://thesocialsciences.com/books>). It also provides a congenial space for its members to participate in rigorous academic and expert discussion in its respective community of scholars (<https://thesocialsciences.com/community>).

The 2020 event has been organised jointly by Common Ground and the Department of Philology of the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens (NKUA) in association with the Laboratory of Sociology and Education (Department of Early Childhood Education), University of Patras. It is in collaboration with the National History Museum of Greece, the Jagiellonian University of Kraków, Poland, and the Folklore Museum and Archives, Dept. of Philology, NKUA. In addition to its set foundational themes (<https://thesocialsciences.com/about/themes>), the 2020

Special Focus of the conference will be on *Reflecting on Community Building: Ways of Creating and Transmitting Heritage* (<https://thesocialsciences.com/2020-conference/special-focus>). This focus will explore the meaning of heritage, its premises, manifestations and outcomes in today's globalised society, culture, education, economy and politics. The real strength of the 2020 Conference lies in the premises of interdisciplinarity as it attempts to promote exchange among scholars whose background is in the humanities and the social sciences. The concept of heritage, the question of “heritage ownership” and its contribution to community building will be tackled by various disciplines, such as social and cultural anthropology, folklore, philology, sociology, linguistics, and education.

The conference is an open event which combines local and global perspectives and gives academics, young scholars and students across the globe the opportunity to attend either in person or virtually (<https://thesocialsciences.com/2020-conference/registration>). Local discount prices for Greek scholars and research students are also available. It also grants scholarships to emerging scholars so that they can acquire valuable experience in assisting with the organisation of the conference (<https://thesocialsciences.com/2020-conference/emerging-scholar-awards>). Interested scholars can submit their proposals at various times of the year (<https://thesocialsciences.com/2020-conference/call-for-papers>).

Due to the current covid-19 pandemic, to protect health and safety for all involved, it has been decided that the conference be held strictly virtually on the dates already decided, i.e. July 20-22, 2020. Apart from the keynote speeches and the presentations on the set themes, there will be a number of panels discussing different aspects and challenges of heritage today, as an open event without registration fees. To participate, you only need to sign up at https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeilq2qdhvaR4b6D_e8JG26MymgNDirdANGnBgKnPqzK3gSKQ/viewform.

You are welcome to share your thoughts and questions on heritage with us by attending the 2020 Virtual Panel Discussion on Heritage on 21 July 2020, at 3.00 p.m. Greece time. You could

disseminate information about the conference and the Virtual Panel Discussion on Heritage to academic colleagues, young scholars and students. You could email Elizabeth Costa, Conference Producer at Common Ground Research Networks, at: elizabeth@cgnetworks.org, on practical matters relating to the conference.

I look forward to seeing you at the conference.

With best wishes,

Dr. Vassiliki Chryssanthopoulou

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