



# NEWSLETTER



## The Norwegian Institute at Athens

July – December 2023



*The Small Cycladic Islands Project Team in Action (Summer 2023)*

## The Norwegian institute at Athens

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## Looking Back/Ahead

The latter half of 2023 was marked by a vibrant array of academic activities at the Institute. From hosting enlightening lectures, engaging workshops, and insightful conferences to conducting fieldwork for our archaeological projects, we've been fervently immersed in the pursuit of knowledge. Additionally, we celebrated the launch of our latest publications with book launches that brought our scholarly achievements to the forefront.

A significant highlight was our annual administrative trip to the University of Bergen in October. This trip also afforded us valuable interactions with colleagues across various Humanities and Social Sciences departments. These encounters served not only to strengthen our ties within the academic community but also to foster collaborations that will shape the future endeavors of the Institute.

Our sincere gratitude goes out to everyone at UiB for their warm hospitality and genuine interest in discovering more about the NIA and the research opportunities we bring to the table.

During our stay in Bergen, we convened our bi-annual meeting with the NIA's academic advisory board. Together, we delved into critical aspects, including the implementation of the Institute's updated action plan, present and upcoming activities, and the nitty-gritty of logistical workflows. This time, our focus was keenly directed toward enhancing our publishing strategies and refining publication processes. We extend our sincere gratitude for the invaluable guidance and advice provided by our advisory board. Their insights play a pivotal role in shaping the academic landscape at the NIA.

Shifting gears, we're thrilled to witness a surge in researchers and research groups from Norway. Among them are our cherished returning friends and colleagues, as well as scholars from departments that have recently discovered the richness of our research facilities. It's heartening to see our academic family expanding, injecting fresh energy into the Institute's vibrant academic life, and seamlessly blending with the dynamic international community here in Athens.

In our ongoing commitment to fostering collaborative research, the Research Affiliate Program has emerged as a valuable avenue for scholars from

Norway, including faculty, MA, and PhD students, with a keen interest in both ancient and modern Greece.

Our heartfelt appreciation goes to Prof. Ann Helen Mydland (The Art Academy – Department of Contemporary Art, UiB) and Assoc. Prof. Alex Knodell (Department of Classics, Carleton College). As Research Affiliates during Fall and Spring 2023, they not only enriched the academic tapestry of the Institute but also forged new avenues of collaboration with local colleagues. Their contributions have played a pivotal role in expanding the horizons of our academic community.

Simultaneously, we dedicated efforts to enhance and modernize the NIA's digital infrastructure, fortifying our capacity to seamlessly host research activities reliant on cutting-edge equipment. In parallel collaboration with the Nordic Library, strides were made to augment our Papyrology collection. Excitingly, we anticipate making the Papyrology Study Room accessible to researchers by the end of 2024.

As we stand on the threshold of 2024, the horizon unfolds with the promise of a dynamic and engaging year. The first half is already adorned with a rich tapestry of lectures and workshops. Alongside the lectures organized by the NIA and the diverse workshops and seminars by our colleagues from Norway, this year introduces novel initiatives. We are thrilled to initiate research activities that will bring together Norwegian, Greek, and global colleagues, fostering collaborative exploration on shared interests.

Amidst our ambitious plans, we are diligently working on launching a Digital Archaeology Workshop Series and other hybrid workshops. These sessions will delve into trending topics within the broader framework of Humanities, Social Studies, and the Arts, featuring collaboration with researchers from UiB and UiO, along with distinguished colleagues from the Greek academic community.

Undoubtedly, one of the most exhilarating developments in the first half of this year is the return of two courses from UiB and UiO to the NIA in Spring 2024 (see the relevant section). Even more thrilling is the prospect of welcoming students from two new courses in Fall 2024. We are overjoyed to witness the resurgence of teaching and educational

activities, a key component of our recently updated action plan. This reaffirms our commitment to shaping the NIA into an integral educational hub for the new generation of Norwegian students and scholars.

In pursuit of our educational objectives, our ongoing archaeological projects in Karystos (Euboea), the Cyclades, and the Apidima Cave in Laconia are poised for another exciting run during the Summer/Early Fall of 2024. These ventures provide opportunities for Norwegian students to hone their fieldwork skills. The experience not only fosters their archaeological expertise but also equips them with essential transferable skills, enhancing their qualifications for the job market.

Our commitment to supporting MA and PhD Archaeology students from Norwegian Universities remains unwavering. We are pleased to announce the return of the NIA's Erik Østby Archaeology Stipend, with details set to be advertised in late Spring 2024.

For undergraduate and graduate students outside the field of Archaeology, our collaboration with Athenaeum - Society of Friends of the Norwegian Institute at Athens remains robust. Athenaeum generously provides at least one travel stipend annually to students from Norwegian Universities.

We are delighted to share the culmination of our creative discussions and collaboration with our Athenaeum friends and colleagues. This endeavor has not only led to innovative ways of supporting students from Norway engaged in research on ancient and modern Greece but has also resulted in the establishment of a new lecture series titled "The Athenaeum Lecture Series." This series aims to extend the reach of academic work by Norwegian scholars and institutions beyond Norway, serving as both a platform for dissemination and an incentive to further bolster Athenaeum's mission of support.

*Paschalis Zafeiriadis, Advisor/Researcher*

## Research and Research Opportunities at NIA

### Research Affiliate Program

The Research Affiliate Program launched in 2022 aims to further the role of the NIA as an interna-

tional research hub and bring under its academic roof researchers and projects from Norway that could benefit from its role as a liaison between Norway and Greece.

Advanced or early-career scholars and MA/PhD students from Norwegian Universities are eligible to apply. The Program offers our affiliated researchers the opportunity to benefit from our international academic network in Greece and abroad, office space at our premises, access to the Nordic Library, and the possibility to transfer books from the Nordic Library to their NIA office.



Our Fall 2023 affiliated researcher, Dr. Anne-Helen Mydland, Professor, The Art Academy – Department of Contemporary Art, University of Bergen

In Spring, we will have the honor of welcoming Dr. [Arve Egil Asbjørnsen](#), Professor at the Department of Biological and Medical Psychology at the University of Bergen, to our 2024 Research Affiliate Program. Dr. Asbjørnsen, in collaboration with Greek colleagues from the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, will conduct research on language and implicit learning. During his research stay at NIA, he will also organize two international workshops on relevant topics.



Our Spring 2024 affiliated researcher, Dr. Arve Egil Asbjørnsen, Professor at the Department of Biological and Medical Psychology at the University of Bergen

\* Please refer to the relevant section for the complete list of our Spring 2024 research affiliates.

### The Erik Østby Archaeology Stipend

We are pleased to announce the continuation of the Erik Østby Archaeology Stipend for the academic year 2024-2025. This stipend, established in honor of Prof. Erik Østby for his outstanding archaeological work and impactful contributions to the Institute, is designed to support MA and PhD Archaeology students from Norwegian Universities conducting research on topics relevant to any period of Greek Antiquity, or involving such topics. The stipend will be advertised in late Spring 2024. Stay tuned for further details!



### The Athenæum Travel Grant (2023-2024)

The Athenæum board is pleased to award the 2023-2024 Travel Grant to Sunniva Mundal Haug, an MA student in Art History at the University of Bergen. For details on the 2024-2025 Travel Grant, please contact [Athenæum](#).

## July - December 2023 Activities

### Activities hosted at the NIA (closed)

**Course:** [Practicum Placement PROF4045-H23](#). Organized by the department of Teacher Education and School Research, University of Oslo.

**Workshop:** [The Ancient World](#) research project. Organized by the Department of Archaeology, History, Cultural Studies, and Religion, University of Bergen.

**Symposium:** [Deep White](#) as part of the [How Norway Made the World Whiter](#) research project (NorWhite). Organized by the Department of Linguistic, Literary and Aesthetic Studies, Faculty of Humanities, University of Bergen. Dr. Delia Tzortzaki was invited by the organizers to deliver a short introductory lecture on whiteness, as part of her previous research.



**Course:** [Archaeology of the Anthropocene](#) as part of the [Dialogues with the Past - Nordic Graduate School in Archaeology](#). Organized by the Department of Archaeology, Conservation and History, University of Oslo.



**Conference:** [Privileges & Politics: Printing privileges and the circulation of knowledge \(1450-1850\)](#) as part of the [Before Copyright](#) research project. Organized by the Department of Archaeology, Conservation and History, University of Oslo.



### Activities organized by the NIA (open)

**Lecture:** NIA-logues - Discussion-based Lecture Series: [In Dialogue with Digital Archaeology. From Fieldwork to Research Interfaces](#). Lecture by Dr. [Nicoló Dell'Unto](#) (Assoc. Professor, Museum of

Cultural History, University of Oslo) and Dr. [Mar-kos Katsianis](#) (Assoc. Professor; Department of History and Archaeology, University of Patras).



Lecture Recording:

[https://youtu.be/lSxsJ\\_3i5DI?feature=shared](https://youtu.be/lSxsJ_3i5DI?feature=shared)

**Lecture:** [The Gliding Scale Model of Political Systems. Between Oligarchy and Democracy.](#) Lecture by Assoc. Professor Ingvar B. Mæhle (Assoc. Professor of ancient history, Department of Archaeology, History, Cultural Studies and Religion, University of Bergen).

Lecture Recording:

[https://youtu.be/6L\\_Z3WATATk?feature=shared](https://youtu.be/6L_Z3WATATk?feature=shared)

**Lecture:** [Gourimadi, a Prehistoric Site on Euboea: The Current State of Research.](#) Lecture by Dr. [Žarko Tankosić](#) (SFF Center for Early Sapiens Behavior (SapienCE), Department of Archaeology, History, Cultural Studies, and Religion, University of Bergen), Dr. [Paschalis Zafeiriadis](#) (The Norwegian Institute at Athens, University of Bergen), and Dr. [Fanis Mavridis](#) (Ephorate of Paleanthropology/Speleology, Min. of Culture and Sports).



Lecture Recording:

<https://youtu.be/GRtqk8dSTYQ?feature=shared>

**Lecture:** [Constructing Whiteness: The Psimythion of the National Archaeological Museum.](#) Lecture

by Dr. [Efi Oikononou](#) (National Archaeological Museum, Athens; Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sports) [Took place on 16/1/2024].

Lecture Recording:

<https://youtu.be/NdXHiXjy1ds?feature=shared>



**Book Releases by the NIA (open)**

**[Vikings in the Mediterranean.](#)** Proceedings of International Conference Co-organized by the Norwegian, Swedish, and Danish Institutes at Athens, Athens, 27-30 November 2019.

Event Recording:

<https://youtu.be/LHFF9xbtVD4?feature=shared>

\* The book was launched last October during our visit to the University of Bergen. We extend our gratitude to Dr. Žarko Tankosić for coordinating the event and to the Department of Archaeology, History, Cultural Studies, and Religion for their warm hospitality and support.



**[Theory of Museology. Main Schools of Thought 1960-2000.](#)** The book launch took place at the premises of the ICOM Hellenic National Committee in Athens.



Event Recording:

[https://youtu.be/PRE7f\\_R8ipE?si=XC7MtoNKnxKil9by](https://youtu.be/PRE7f_R8ipE?si=XC7MtoNKnxKil9by)

## Upcoming Spring-Summer 2024 Activities

Activities Hosted at the NIA (closed)

**Course (22/1-1/3):** [ANT2222 – Athen i antikken](#) (Athens in Antiquity). Course by the Department of Philosophy, Classics, History of Art and Ideas, University of Oslo.

**Conference (1-2/2):** [The Material Heritage of Ancient Greece in Early Modern Europe New Approaches and Perspectives](#). This conference is a vital part of the [Greek Heritage in European Culture and Identity \(GrECI\)](#) project. [[Program and attendance policy](#)].

**Course (2-13/4):** FIL233/333 – [Felleskap, lykke og kunst / Filosofien i antikkens Athen](#) (Community, Happiness, and Art / Philosophy in Ancient Athens). Course by the Department of Philosophy, University of Bergen.

**Workshop (8/4):** History Teaching and “Bots”. A novel Norwegian Model from the University of Agder. Organized by the Department of Religion, Philosophy and History, University of Agder.

**Workshop (20-21/5):** Title TBD. As part of the [Bergen Cognition and Learning Group](#) project. Organized by the Department of Biological and Medical Psychology, University of Bergen.

**Workshop (23-24/5):** Title TBD. As part of the [Bergen Cognition and Learning Group](#) project. Organized by the Department of Biological and Medical Psychology, University of Bergen.

**Research Project Meeting (10-14/6):** [Moral Re-](#)

[sidue: epistemological ramifications, ethical implications, and didactic opportunities](#) (MORE). Organized by the Institute of Health and Society, University of Oslo.

### Upcoming Activities Organized by the NIA (open)

**Lecture (31/1):** The Real Thucydides Trap: How Today’s ‘Statesmen’ See What They Want (and Expect) to See in Their Favorite Ancient Historian. Lecture by Dr. [Peter Stuart Robinson](#) (professor of Political Science, Department of Social Sciences, The Arctic University of Norway). This lecture marks the inauguration of the Athenæum Lecture Series, a collaborative effort with the Athenæum – Society of Friends of the Norwegian Institute at Athens, aimed at advancing the mission and goals of the Society.

**Lecture (13/2):** Town, Demes, and Territory. The Emergence of the Polis of Tegea. Lecture by Dr. [Knut Ødegård](#) (Assoc. Professor, Department of Archaeology, Conservation and History, University of Oslo).

**Lecture (27/2):** Using the Myths of the Past to Forge Regional Identity in the (Ancient) Present. Lecture by [Thomas Alexander Husøy-Ciaccia](#) (Heritage Officer at the Norwegian Church Arts Centre).

**Research Project Presentation (29/2):** The Tegea Roadwiki Project: Field Research Project in Tegea to train teachers and pupils in the region of Tegea on how to conceive and write Wikipedia entries relating to local mythology, history, and traditions. Dr. [Delia Tzortzaki](#) and project contributors will present the outcomes following the project’s completion.

**Annual Open Meeting:** [NIA’s 35th Annual Open Meeting](#). Presentations of NIA’s activities for 2023 by Dr. Delia Tzortzaki (Advisor/Researcher/Legal Representative at NIA/University of Bergen) and Dr. Paschalis Zafeiriadis (Advisor/Researcher at NIA/ University of Bergen). Our keynote lecture titled “Kokkinókastrō - Castello Rosso - Kızılhisar: The History and Archaeology of an Iconic Monument of Kárystos” by Dr. Dimitrios N. Christodoulou (Deputy Director of the Ephorate of Antiquities of Euboea, Ministry of Culture and Sports).

**Lecture (9/4):** NIA-logues –Discussion-based Lecture Series: Title TBD. Lecture by Dr. [Apostolos Spanos](#) (professor, The Department of Religion, Philosophy and History, University of Agder) and Dr. Maria Efthimiou (professor, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens).

### Archaeological Projects (2024)

The Norwegian Institute at Athens has three active archaeological projects in Greece: two excavations and one field survey. We are delighted to report the ever-growing participation of students from Norwegian Universities in our projects, which also serve as a means for them to obtain fieldwork experience and other valuable archaeological transferable skills. For more information on our [ongoing](#) and [completed](#) project, please check the relevant section on our website.

An in-depth presentation on the NIA's archaeological endeavors in 2023 is scheduled for our upcoming Open Annual meeting on 14/3. Presently, all our archaeological projects are gearing up for the next fieldwork season and diligently examining the materials unearthed during previous seasons. It's gratifying to note the continued enthusiastic interest of students from Norway in participating in our projects!



[The Gourimadi Archaeological Project](#) (GAP; June): GAP involves the systematic excavation of a Late Neolithic-Early Bronze Age site near Karystos in Southern Euboea. The project is directed by Dr. [Žarko Tankosić](#) (Center for Early Sapiens Behavior, Department of Archaeology, History, Cultural Studies and Religion, University of Bergen), and co-directed by Dr. [Paschalis Zafeiriadis](#) (NIA/University of Bergen), and Dr. [Fanis Mavridis](#) (Ephorate for Palaeoanthropology and Speleology).



[The Small Cycladic Islands Project](#); SCIP (June-July): SCIP is a diachronic archaeological survey of several small, uninhabited islands in the Cycladic Archipelago of the Aegean Sea. The project is a collaboration between the Ephorate of Antiquities of the Cyclades, the Norwegian Institute at Athens, and Carleton College. The project operates under the overall direction of Dr. [Demetrios Athanasoulis](#) (Director of the Ephorate of Antiquities of the Cyclades) and is co-directed by Assoc. Professor [Alex Knodell](#) (Department of Classics, Carleton College, Minnesota) and Dr. [Žarko Tankosić](#) (Center for Early Sapiens Behavior, Department of Archaeology, History, Cultural Studies and Religion, University of Bergen).



[Apidima Caves Excavation Project](#) (late August-October): The project encompasses the archaeological and geological exploration of Apidima Caves in Laconia, Peloponnese. The excavations at Apidima are conducted under the co-direction of Professor [Katerina Harvati](#) (Centre for Early Sapiens Behaviour, University of Bergen; Institute of Archaeological Sciences, and Director of the Senckenberg Center for Human Evolution and Palaeoenvironment, University of Tübingen) and Dr.

[Vangelis Tourloukis](#) (Institute for Archaeological Sciences, Senckenberg Centre for Human Evolution and Palaeoenvironment, Department of Geosciences, Eberhard Karls University of Tübingen).

### Spring 2024 Research Affiliates

Dr. [Arve Egil Asbjørnsen](#), Professor at the Department of Biological and Medical Psychology, University of Bergen, will be utilizing the NIA's facilities from March through May. His research focuses on language and implicit learning, contributing to the [Bergen Cognition and Learning Group](#) project. During his stay in Athens, Dr. Asbjørnsen will have the opportunity to collaborate with colleagues from the local academic community. Additionally, he plans to organize two international workshops in late May.

Dr. [Markos Katsianis](#), Associate Professor at the Department of History and Archaeology, University of Patras, will be continuing his research into two ongoing projects during Spring 2024. This includes work on semantic modeling and post-excavation stratigraphic data study for the [Paliambela Kolindros Archaeological Project](#), as well as data documentation for the [Amphipolis Excavation Project](#).



Dr. Markos Katsianis, Associate Professor at the Department of History and Archaeology, University of Patras

[Mads Sondre Stryger Prøitz](#), a PhD candidate in Classical Archaeology at the University of Oxford (School of Archaeology and Faculty of Classics) will be researching on his dissertation titled *Manifesting Identity: Symbols and Iconography in Ancient Greece – Analyzing Collective Identities and State Formation*. Mr. Prøitz during his stay in Greece will also visit sites and check material relevant to his research.



Mads Sondre Stryger Prøitz, PhD candidate in Classical Archaeology at the University of Oxford (School of Archaeology and Faculty of Classics)

### Norway – NIA – Greece

#### The NIA in UiB

As part of our annual administrative trip in October, we visited the University of Bergen (UiB). These trips provide valuable opportunities for in-person meetings with our administration, allowing us to promote the Institute and update our colleagues in Norway about research, educational, and dissemination opportunities offered by the NIA.

During our visit, we engaged in our usual meetings with the UiB administration and our advisory board. Additionally, we seized the chance to meet with colleagues from the Faculty of Social Sciences and the [University Museum of Bergen](#), exploring discussions about the Institute and potential collaborations.

A noteworthy highlight of our visit to the University Museum of Bergen was the exploration of their exhibitions, particularly the [SapienCE Early Human Behavior Exhibition](#). We extend our gratitude to Dr. [Kari Loe Hjelle](#), dean and the museum director, and Mrs. [Åshild Sunde Feyling Thorsen](#), curator at the Museum, for providing us with insights into the exhibitions.





The final and, undoubtedly, the most significant leg of our administrative trip to UiB was our brief meeting with Mr. Tore Tungodden, the University's director. During this meeting, we had the valuable opportunity to present NIA's action plan and the diverse range of academic activities we undertake. It was truly an honor.

### The NIA and the Royal Norwegian Embassy in Greece

Our ongoing and continually evolving collaboration with the [Royal Norwegian Embassy in Greece](#), manifested through joint initiatives this past semester, aimed not only to showcase Norway's vibrant cultural tapestry in Greece but also to imbue each event with a distinct research dimension. Through these collaborative activities, we bring forth a unique blend of cultural dissemination and scholarly inquiry, providing a nuanced perspective on Norway's rich heritage.

In December, marking the prestigious Nobel Prize in Literature awarded to the esteemed Norwegian playwright, author, and poet Jon Fosse, the Royal Norwegian Embassy in Athens and the Norwegian Institute at Athens jointly organized a reception initiated by the Ambassador of Norway in Greece. This [event](#) provided an opportunity for our colleagues and friends in Greece to witness the

ceremony through live-streaming and celebrate this remarkable achievement.

Her Excellency Lajla Brandt Jakhelln, Ambassador of Norway to Greece, inaugurated the reception with an introduction to Jon Fosse and his literary contributions. Mrs. Saropoulou, translator, and theater director added valuable insights from her experience directing theatrical performances based on Fosse's work.

Notably, the University of Bergen and the NIA, an organic part of it, take immense pride in this Nobel Prize, as Jon Fosse is a University of Bergen alumnus (BA in Literature) and was awarded an [honorary doctorate](#) from the University of Bergen for his significant contribution to World Literature.

In celebration of the 160th anniversary of Edvard Munch's birth (1863-1944), we collaborated with the Academy of Fine Arts in Athens and the Royal Norwegian Embassy in Athens to organize an [open discussion](#) on the renowned Norwegian painter. The focal point of the event was Peter Watkins' film "Edvard Munch" (1973), complemented by insightful commentaries on the film and Munch's work from two distinguished Norwegian scholars, Dr. [Eamon O'Kane](#) (Professor, The Art Academy – Department of Contemporary Art, University of Bergen) and Mr. Frode Sandvik (Curator, Modern Art, [KODE Museum](#), Bergen).



Her Excellency Lajla Brandt Jakhelln, Ambassador of Norway to Greece, Mr. Christian Grotnes Halvorsen (Deputy Head of Mission), and Mrs. Christina Sordina (Adviser, Cultural Affairs)

### **A Note from Dr. Alex Knodell: 2023 Research Affiliate Insights**

Since the 2022, I have had the great privilege to be a research affiliate at the Norwegian Institute at Athens. I applied initially because of my collaboration with the NIA on the Small Cycladic Islands Project (SCIP), which I codirect with Žarko Tankosić, of the University of Bergen, and Demetris Athanasoulis, of the Ephorate of Antiquities of the Cyclades. During the 2022-2023 academic year, when I had a sabbatical leave from my home institution of Carleton College in the US, I was able to use the facilities of the NIA to pursue this research. As an affiliate, I had full access to the Nordic Library, the NIA library and conference room, and an office at the NIA. These spaces were crucial for working on research and writing projects and for regular meetings with colleagues from the Greek Archaeological Service and other foreign schools.



Dr. Alex Knodell, Associate Professor,  
Classics Department, Carleton University

I would say three things stand out from my experience as a research affiliate at the NIA, related to research, presenting this work, and preparing for a new phase of it. First, the progress I made on collaborative work related to SCIP simply would not have been possible without these facilities. I was able to set up an extra monitor and keyboard in my office, check out books for several weeks, and really dig into a writing project over a period of weeks and months, rather than hours or days. This meant compiling fieldwork data in GIS, the careful analysis of lidar imagery, working with the staff of the NIA to arrange study permits for materials, and, of course, long hours of library work and writing. All of this culminated in a major article (currently under review) about the western Cyclades, where SCIP carried out fieldwork in 2021 and 2022. Along

the way, the team and I also produced our first publication in Greek (in press), which summarized the work of the project from 2019 to 2022, and we began work on several additional articles.

In January of 2023, Demetris Athanasoulis and I had the opportunity to present the work of SCIP to a standing-room only audience for the NIA's first public lecture of the new year. This was a fitting start to the year and a great opportunity to share our work with the NIA community and a wider audience. It was also useful for us, since we were able to present new ideas and benefit from the wide range of expertise of other scholars in the room. Conversations from that evening have fueled our research since and even engendered new collaborations.

Finally, there was a real benefit to having a “home base” at the NIA's facilities in Koukaki, just steps from the Acropolis. This was crucial in preparing for the work of SCIP in the summer of 2023, since it allowed me to meet easily with collaborators from the ephorate and other foreign schools—many of them have their own offices and institutes nearby. It also provided easy access to the lecture programs at the NIA and elsewhere, which were a constant source of intellectual stimulation and camaraderie. I am very grateful for my time at the NIA, and I look forward to returning soon!

*Alex R. Knodell (Carleton College, Northfield,  
Minnesota, USA)*