

Political Banditry in the Balkans and Asia Minor through Ego-documents

This workshop proposes to study political banditry via ego-documents produced by gang leaders or bandits, in an Ottoman and post-Ottoman regional framework including the Balkans, Asia Minor and the Caucasus, and concerning political banditry from the 1890s to the early 1920s. The aim of the workshop is to challenge the view that these texts are of a lesser value due to their subjective character. On the contrary, we postulate that the very nature of the ego-document allows for a heuristic interrogation of political banditry.

Organisation

Nikos Sigalas (Institute for Mediterranean Studies/FORTH): nikos.sigalas@gmail.com
Alexandre Toumarkine (INALCO/ Paris): alextooumark@yahoo.com

With the support of the CETOBaC



ATHENS

22-23/03

2 0 2 4

www.efa.gr



Hybrid conference:

École française d'Athènes, Didotou 6, Athens & [Webinar registration](#)

Friday, March 22 | 9:30-18:10
Session 1

9:30-10:30 | Welcome and introduction

10:30-12:10 | 1st panel- The fabric of Heroes

Athena Skoulariki *University of Crete*

From Crete to Macedonia: the turning point in Pavlos Gyparis' career as a paramilitary

Nikos Sigalas *Institute for Mediterranean Studies/FORTH*

Topal Osman narrated by his men

Discussant: Yaşar Tolga Cora

12:10-12:30 | Coffee break

12:30-14:10 | 2nd panel- Impossible careers, interrupted trajectories?

Dmitar Tasić *Institute for Recent History of Serbia*

Interrupted lives and careers - stories of Kosta Vojinović and Toško Vlahović in 1917 Serbia

Alexandre Toumarkine *INALCO/ Paris*

The memoirs of Ottoman Captain Cemal: komitadji violence as idiosyncrasy, psychological inclination, non-adaptability to social norms and military order

Discussant: Nathalie Clayer

14:10-15:40 | Lunch break

15:40-18:10 | 3rd panel- Political Bandits as nation builders

Nikos Vafeas *University of Crete*

Les liens inséparables de la France et de la Grèce: A propagandist ego-document published in 1922 in Paris by the famous Cretan chieftain Pavlos Gyparis (1882-1966)

Nathalie Clayer *CNRS-EHESS*

Banditry as founding experience in the history of a nation: Mihal Grameno's narrative of the "Albanian revolt"

Vemund Aarbakke *Aristotle University of Thessaloniki*

Bandits and Revolutionaries - Transformation of the Christian armed element in Thrace at the turn of the 19th century as presented by Hristo Karamandjukov

Discussants: Athena Skoulariki and Elias G. Skoulidas



Saturday, March 23 | 10:00-14:10
Session 2

10:00-11:40 | 1st panel- A gendered approach to banditry

Tasos Kostopoulos *Institute for Mediterranean Studies/FORTH*

Young female teachers with revolvers: ego-documents of komitadji women in late Ottoman Macedonia

Lydia Zeghmar *Musée du Quai Branly*

Folklorising the zeybek dance: A masculine gaze on Turkish banditry

Discussant: Nikos Sigalas

11:40-12:00 | Coffee break

12:00-13:40 | 2nd panel- Bandits' self-narratives in pension requests

Elias G. Skoulidas *University of Ioannina*

The activists of the "Northern Epirus Struggle": their voices among the registers and petitions

Petar Todorov *Institute of National History - Saints Cyril and Methodius University*

Narrating history for social benefits: ego documents for pension

Discussants: Tasos Kostopoulos, Dmitar Tasić

13:40-14:10 | Conclusions