



Center of Greek and Chinese
Ancient Civilizations (KELKIP)



Grief and mourning in a global world: cross-cultural reflections

INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM

**August 29 and 30, 2025
Spyros Stefanou Estate
Kamos, Chios**

Academic committee:
**Mitsi Akoyunoglou (Ionian University)
Chloe Balla (University of Crete)**

Sponsor:
**JOHN S FAFALIOS
FOUNDATION**

MEETING SCHEDULE

Friday, August 29 (18.00-20.30):

Ancient wisdoms in dialogue

Moderator: Mitsi Akoyunoglou

Chloe Balla: Opening Remarks

James Zainaldin: "Consolation in Question: Philosophical Perspectives on Grief between Greece, Rome, and China"

Tue Søvsø: "Act out! Boundless grief and Cicero's philosophy of emotions"

Curie Virag: "Love as craftwork in early Confucian rites of mourning"

Saturday, August 30 (18.00-20.30):

From the past to the present

Moderator: Anna Irene Baka

Mitsi Akoyunoglou: "Lamentation shaping continuing bonds: The case study of Chios island"

Maria Tsakiri: "Echoes of the dead: Mourning, mediation, and the digital rewriting of loss"

Jelena Markovic: "Getting the object of grief into view: Ambiguous emotions in cultural loss"

Eleni Philippachi: Closing remarks

Parallel events:

Friday, August 29 (10.00-11.00 & 11.30-12.30):

Philosophy for children workshops on loss (ages 6-8) and the desire to live forever (ages 9-12),
with **Anna Ntinti** (in Greek)

Venue: Koraes Library, Chios Town

Friday, August 29 (21.00):

Film Screening: "The Answer to Forever",
Zheng Yunchang, China 2025 (cinephil.101/Cine Club Chios)
Venue: Perivoli, Kampos, Chios

A photograph of children's hands holding and releasing white paper airplanes against a bright, sunlit window background. The scene is warm and evocative, symbolizing hope and global connection.

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Participants:

Mitsi Akoyunoglou, *Ionian University*

Anna Irene Baka, *Harvard University | Ca' Foscari University of Venice*

Chloe Balla, *University of Crete/Center for Ancient Greek and Chinese Civilizations (KELKIP)*

Jelena Marcovic, *Maison de la Création et de l'Innovation, Université Grenoble Alpes*

Anna Ntinti, *University of Crete*

Eleni Philippachi, PhD, *Psychoanalyst (Hellenic Society of Psychoanalysis and Psychoanalytic Psychotherapy)*

Tue Søvsø, *Heidelberg University*

Maria Tsakiri, *Panteion University*

Curie Virag, *University of Warwick*

James Zainaldin, *Vanderbilt University*



The recent pandemic presented a challenge for those who lost friends or family members but were unable to attend their funeral.

Digital technology was used as a substitute which allowed people to 'get together', pay tribute to the deceased, share their memories and feelings.

Terms like 'viewneral' or 'econdolence' were introduced to describe 'virtual funeral services', which, unlike the counterpart of a real funeral, could bring people across the globe together. In this workshop we propose to discuss and draw attention to the different aspects of honoring the dead that emerge across different intellectual backgrounds, trace their historical origins, but also their survival on traditional and modern practices, and associate them with contemporary theories of emotion.



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