

The Center for European Studies and Modern Greek Studies
Twenty-first Century Europe

After the Greek Fox: Historical Insights from a Modern Crisis

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2:00 pm – 3:30 pm

Center for European Studies
102 Nichol Avenue
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Elektra Kostopoulou holds an award winning Ph.D. in history from Bosphorus University of Istanbul. Her research, teaching, and publications propose a bridge between Middle Eastern and European Studies and have received several grants and distinctions.

In the self-construction of a distant European past Greece, both as an abstraction and as an actual polity, has enjoyed grandeur of almost metaphysical proportions. In considering European modernity, both as a historical construction and as the basis for the existing political union, Greece has become a scapegoat of sorts. Older understandings of modern Greece as an incomplete modern state have been hence intertwined with this current fiscal crisis (2009-today), forming an easy target of widespread corruption, cronyism, and economic stagnation conveniently associated with a failing public sector.

Through an engagement with the haunting legacies and resulting experiences of modern Greek history, this talk will address the mutual (often historiographical) scapegoating between “centers” and “peripheries” which threaten Europe as a geography, a political apparatus, and a conception. For, disentangling economics from the historical anthropology of the region makes for sterile—and potentially precarious—narratives and policies.

Refreshments to follow • Event open to public