

Διεθνές Συμπόσιο
**International
Symposium**

JULY 10
Lefkada 2022

Walking Practices:
art, social action
and oral history



ME
MOR
I A M | *Walking
Festival*

www.memoriamlefkada.org



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INITIATIVE

Organised by
Memoriam Walking Festival

Project team:
Kalafati Daphnie, Kondylatou Dimitra,
Papahatzsi Photini, Vrakatseli Andromachi

Co-organiser
Department of Fine and Applied Arts,
University of Western Macedonia

Venue Location
Cultural Center of Lefkada

Symposium Chair
Andromachi Vrakatseli, Department of Applied and Fine Arts,
University of Western Macedonia

Book Design
itcanfly.co

Under the auspices of:
Ministry of Culture & Sports

With the support of:
Stavros Niarchos Foundation Public Humanities Initiative
(SNFPHI) at Columbia University
Cultural Center of Lefkada
Municipality of Lefkada

Program | Πρόγραμμα

9.30 - 10.30 **Session A | Workshops**

Nikos Bubaris, Soundwalk (*in greek*)

Location: old town of Lefkada

Departure: from the entrance of the main pedestrian street

Συνεδρία Α | Εργαστήρια

Νίκος Μπουμπάρης, Ηχητικός περίπατος (*στα ελληνικά*)

Τοποθεσία: Ιστορικό Κέντρο Λευκάδας

Έναρξη: στην είσοδο της αγοράς

11.00 **Greeting**

11.10 - 12.45 **Session B | Walking and Intermedia**

Location: Cultural Center of Lefkada

11.10 Nikos Bubaris, Locative Media Walks. An introductory discussion

11.50 Bill Psarras, ARTIST TALK: walking, thinking, writing

12.40 - 13.10 **Break**

13.10 - 15.15 **Session C | Multisensory modes and walking**

Location: Cultural Center of Lefkada

13.10 Andromachi Vrakatseli, Sonic walker, memory and oral history

**13.40 William Sharpe, What Does a Walk Look Like?
Some Milestones in Visual History**

**14.30 Nadia Siokou, UrbanDig Project: art and intangible cultural heritage
as a tool for communities to co-create urban space**

15.15 Discussion Concluding Remarks

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09.30 - 10.30 **Nikos Bubaris**

Soundwalk | Ηχητικός περίπατος (in greek)

Στον ηχητικό περίπατο θα κινηθούμε σε διαδρομές που συνδέουν τους σταθμούς του φεστιβάλ φέρνοντας στο προσκήνιο τον ηχητικό κόσμο της περιοχής. Κινούμενοι και κινούμενες μαζί με τους ήχους, ακολουθούμε τις μεταβολές της ροής τους και μεταφερόμαστε από τον έναν ήχο στον άλλο δημιουργώντας μια ακουστική χαρτογραφία της περιοχής. Ταυτόχρονα, αλληλοεπιδρούμες ηχητικά με την πόλη η οποία λειτουργεί ως όργανο αντηχήσεων και χρωματισμών αλλά και ως συνθέτρια που δίνει ρυθμό, μιξάρει και μοιράζει τους ήχους στο χώρο. Τέλος, ανιχνεύουμε το πριν και το μετά των ήχων συνδέοντάς τους με τις εφήμερες και τις επαναλαμβανόμενες δράσεις της κοινότητας αλλά και τις προσωπικές εντυπώσεις που όλα αυτά που μας προκαλούν.

Διάρκεια: 1 ώρα

Σημείο συνάντησης: 9.30 στην είσοδο της κεντρικής αγοράς

11.10 **Nikos Bubaris**

Locative Media Walks. An introductory discussion

My presentation concerns theoretical and practical issues of making locative media walks. In the first part, I provide an overview of different approaches in conceptualizing "media", "walking" and "placemaking" in order to trace the multiple communicative functions of locative media walks. In the second part, I present various artworks that highlight the distinct spatial experiences which arise when media and walking are creatively brought together.

Nikos Bubaris is Associate Professor at the Department of Cultural Technology and Communication at the University of the Aegean in Greece. His research interests lie in the fields of sound studies, cultural theory and media studies. He has published in journals, books and conference proceedings on acoustic communication, sonic cultures, sound design and art, mobile media, walking and urban cultures, user-interface and content design. He has created various media walking projects, audio and multimedia works for art, museum and cultural exhibitions, actions and performances.

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11.00 - 15.30 **Bill Psarras**

Territorial Poetics (II: Unfolding)

Site-specific intervention, walking performance for camera and drone, 520m paper, found stones

Full HD video, 16:9, colour, single channel, stereo sound

Duration: 25:42

Year: 2019

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Bill Psarras

Territorial Poetics (III: Vanity)

Site intervention, performance for camera / drone, stones, gold paint

Full HD video, 16:9, colour, single channel, stereo sound

Duration: 13:32

Year: 2020

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Bill Psarras

Messenger

Walking performance for camera, custom made light bulb, poetry

Full HD video, 16:9, colour, single channel, stereo sound

Duration: 9'

Year: 2016

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Bill Psarras

Urban Halo

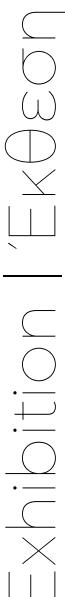
Walking performance for camera, poetry

Full HD video, 16:9, colour, single channel, stereo sound

Duration: 5:58'

Year: 2013

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11.50 Bill Psarras

ARTIST TALK: walking, thinking, writing

Walking comes as a praxis, a thought, a spatial statement, a situation where the fleshly and the intellectual meet. It celebrates and magnifies the flora and the fauna either in urban or rural context. Bill Psarras is interested in intermedia entanglements of body, walking, objects and site; highlighting the transient, the in-between and the emotional in search of the poetic. Having as a departing platform selected walking-oriented artworks from his art practice and stemming from altered considerations of wider cultural concepts such as flaneur and psychogeography, the artist will reflect on the intersections of walking, thinking and writing; highlighting aesthetic, intermedia and sensory aspects of the city, body, thresholds, territory and sea.

Bill Psarras (1985) (Dr.) is an artist, academic and musician. He is an Assistant Professor at the Department of Performing and Digital Arts, School of Arts, University of the Peloponnese, in the intersections of performance art, site-specific practices and video installations. He has been awarded as an ARTWORKS Fellow of Stavros Niarchos Foundation (2020-21). His art practice explores poetics across different media, merging the poetic and the technological. This includes site-specific walking performances, video/text installations, video art, music and poetry; exploring the geopolitics and politics of cities, liminal spaces (terrain vague, sea, thresholds). They have been exhibited in international festivals, group exhibitions and cultural institutions across Europe, US and Asia (Στέγη Ιδρύματος Ωνάση, MOMus, THM, FILE, ADAF, WPA Experimental Media, Film and Video Poetry Society, ROOMS 2013, OUT(TOPIAS), Fringe Bath UK, Royal Academy of Arts). He has been a former adjunct lecturer at the Dept. of Audio & Visual Arts of Ionian University (2016-2019) where he also conducted his arts-based PostDoc exploring the intersections of performance art, site, technology and geohumanities (State Scholarship 2017-19). He holds a PhD in Arts and Technology from Goldsmiths University of London (AHRC Scholarship 2013), an MA in Digital Arts (University of the Arts London) and a BA/MA in Audiovisual Arts (Ionian University). His interdisciplinary arts-based research has been published in international journals (LEA MIT Press, Technoetic Arts, IJART), conferences proceedings, book chapters and symposia in the intersections of contemporary art, performance and urban-cultural studies. As a musician he has composed music for documentaries and self-released a series of e-albums across rock and ambient music. He is the Art Director of Primarolia organisation and its annual exhibition of contemporary art.

13.10 Andromachi Vrakatseli

Sonic walker, memory and oral history

Walking is a means of sensory engagement in the everyday space. This presentation will analyse the acoustic aspects of a walking interview in order to show how sound shapes oral history and what are the auditory qualities of the latter. Oral history is researched as a sonic event, a matrix that is related to acoustic perception, temporal and spatial coordinates, social and cultural values. This research will explore how memory is triggered by current acoustic experiences and stimuli. How soundscape resonates in the human body generating a narrative about the past. Which is the way that communication is encoded and decoded according to sonic relations and experiences.

Andromachi Vrakatseli teaches sound art and sound design in the Department of Fine and Applied Arts, University of Western Macedonia, Greece. She holds a PhD (University of the Aegean) sound art and exhibition space. Her PhD is the first one in Greece in the field of sound studies. During her postgraduate studies in Music Technology (University of York) she specialized in interactive art technologies. Her scientific research and sound artworks have been presented in many international conferences that deal with sound (The Global Composition 2018, Darmstadt University of Applied Sciences, etc.) and cultural exhibitions. She has published in conference proceedings and journals (Leonardo Electronic Almanac MIT Press, -work accepted). She is a sound artist and she has collaborated with Museums in educational programs about sound.

13.40 William Sharpe

What Does a Walk Look Like? Some Milestones in Visual History

This talk will offer an illustrated tour of walking's pictorial evolution, from the paleolithic to the pandemic, from pilgrimages and protest marches to electronic surveillance and ambulatory activism. It will be presented how the interest of the speaker in walking is developed specializing also in the Columbia course about walking. Emphasis will be played on the important moments in walking history, and how these have been depicted artistically. How walking images make powerful statements about social values, gender roles, and individual aspirations. Finally, some current issues for walking artists and activists will be analyzed, with an emphasis on those that are collective and community-oriented.

William Sharpe teaches English and American literature at Barnard College, Columbia University, in New York. His research focuses on the intersection of art, literature, and modern urban culture. His books include *Visions of the Modern City* (1987); *Unreal Cities* (1990), *New York Nocturne: The City After Dark in Literature, Painting, and Photography* (2008); and *Grasping Shadows: The Dark Side of Literature, Painting, Photography, and Film* (2017). He is the co-editor of the "Victorian Age" volume of the *Longman Anthology of British Literature*. His new book *The Art of Walking: A History in 100 Images* will be published by Yale University Press in 2023.

14.30 Nadia Siokou

UrbanDig Project: art and intangible cultural heritage as a tool for communities to co-create urban space

This presentation will address the question of how artistic activities can act as a driving force for community engagement towards a sustainable and bottom-up urban (re)development. UrbanDig project is a non-profit organisation practising a set of artistic, educational and participatory tools with and for communities, designing projects with high social impact, while encouraging sustainable and renewable structures and networks among multiple actors. A glimpse of these tools will be presented, incorporated within the UrbanDig Adrianio framework of actions. UrbanDig Adrianio "excavates" the Hadrian Aqueduct, drawing inspiration from its triple status as an obscure cultural monument, an unused water vein, and an unseen underground route - an axis that connects many areas of the city of Athens with each other as "asynchronous" as Kolonaki (town centre) and Menidi (agricultural outskirts). These three aspects of Hadrian Aqueduct are the three main pillars around UrbanDig Adrianio: culture (monument) - environment (water) - society (community networking).

Nadia Siokou is an Architect (Dipl. NTUA), currently finishing her MSc. in Design | Space | Culture (NTUA).

Since 2016, she is a board member of UrbanDig Project having participated in many community projects and performances as production manager. Since 2021, she is the Company Manager of Ohi Pezoume Performing Arts Company | UrbanDig Project and the Project Manager of many European Projects on behalf of the organisation (UIA- CULTURAL HIDRANT, Erasmus+HADRIAN, Erasmus+ EIG etc.)

She has worked as the Exhibition Spaces Designer and Production Coordinator in the 6th Athens Biennale "ANTI" 2018, has collaborated with various architectural offices as free-lance architect and has been invited as tutor in various under-graduate courses of the National Technical University of Athens.

During her studies, she has participated voluntarily in the organisation and production of the 4th Biennale of Athens (AGORA,2013), the Open House Athens (2014,2015), the exhibition OUTtopias (Benaki Museum, 2016).

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