THANASIS SOTIRIOU

I am a historian and a postdoctoral researcher at the Centre for Medieval and Modern Hellenism (KEMNE) of the Academy of Athens. My academic background combines history and archaeology, with a particular focus on the Middle and Late Byzantine periods. I earned my PhD from the University of Crete (2023), where I examined the middle and lower aristocracy between 1204 and 1328. In parallel, as a long-standing member of the Amorium excavation team, I have collaborated closely with archaeologists and contributed to interdisciplinary projects on spatial perception, viniculture, rural landscapes and the archaeology of Byzantine Asia Minor. My research is grounded in training in sigillography, epigraphy, and numismatics, and has been funded by institutions in Greece, Turkey, and the USA, including Dumbarton Oaks, the American School of Classical Studies at Athens, and ANAMED.

Contact information

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1. EDUCATION

2023	Ph.D. in Byzantine History, University of Crete Dissertation Title: *The Byzantine Petty Aristocracy (1204-1328)* [in Greek] accepted for publication in the series Postbyzantine Texts and Studies (Centre for Byzantine Research, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki) Supervisors: Professor Tonia Kiousopoulou (University of Athens) Assistant Professor Demetrios Kyritses (University of Crete**)** Oral Defense: May 11, 2023
2015	MA in Byzantine History, University of Crete Thesis Title: *Perceptions of lending at interest in Late Byzantium* [in Greek]
2008	BA in History, Ionian University, Department of History

2. RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

2025 - today	Postdoctoral Researcher Research Centre for Medieval and Modern Hellenism/ Academy of Athens Project: *Migration Movements in Byzantine World, 1261-1453 (MIMOZA)*. Principal Investigator: Researcher Anastasia Kontogiannopoulou
2015-today	Member of the Amorium Excavation Team Anadolu University (Turkey) and the *Amorium Urban Archaeology Project* (IMS/ FORTH, Greece) Excavation Director: Prof. Dr. Zeliha Gökalp-Demirel (Anadolu University)

2025	Summer Fellow (2 months) Dumbarton Oaks, Washington DC Project: *Governing Late Byzantium: The Lesser Elites and the Dynamics of Power (1204-1347)*
2025, Jan.-June	Postdoctoral Researcher (6 months) Research Center for Byzantine and Postbyzantine Art, Academy of Athens Project: *The TAKTIKON online* Principal Investigator: Senior Researcher Olga Karagiorgou
2024	W.D.E. Coulson & Toni Cross Aegean Fellow (2 months) American School of Classical Studies at Athens and American Research Institute in Turkey Project: *Production, Consumption, and Trade of Wine in Byzantine Central Anatolia*
2023	Hellenic Research Fellow (1 month) The Tsakopoulos Hellenic Collection, California State University Library, Sacramento Project: *Byzantine Local Aristocrats and Turkish Conquerors in Asia Minor (1260-1330)*
2021-24	Research Associate (30 months) Institute for Mediterranean Studies/ FORTH Project: *Byzantine Agricultural Landscape Across the Aegean: Historical Analysis of the Landscapes of Messene in the Peloponnese (GR) and Amorium in Asia Minor (TR)* Principal Investigator: Dr. Nikos Tsivikis
2020-21	Doctoral researcher (15 months) Research Center for Byzantine and Postbyzantine Art, Academy of Athens Project: *Archaeological evidence for Byzantine wine production in Asia Minor (7th-9th c.): the case-study of Amorion*. Scientific supervisor: Senior Researcher Olga Karagiorgou
2019-20	Ph.D. fellow (10 months) Koç University, Research Center for Anatolian Civilizations (ANAMED) Project: *Outlining the Petty Aristocracy of Byzantine Anatolia in the Thirteenth Centur*y
2013-15	Research Assistant (15 months) University of Crete and University of Cyprus Project: *Continuity and change in the perception of natural space, the land use and settlement in Byzantine Eastern Mediterranean (6th-13th centuries). A reappraisal of the cases of Southern Balkans and Asia Minor from an interdisciplinary approach*. Principal Investigator: Dr. Myrto Veikou

3. TEACHING EXPERIENCE

2024-26	Lecturer in Byzantine History, Athens Tourist Guide School (Greek Ministry of Tourism)

4. PUBLICATIONS

forthcoming	**Thanasis Sotiriou**, "Five Seals, One Paradox: Late Byzantine Sebastoi between Sigillographic and Literary Evidence," in A. Sopracasa, M. Filosa, V. Prigent, C. Sode (eds), *Proceedings of the 13th International Symposium of Byzantine Sigillography*, Monographies du Centre d'Histoire et Civilisation de Byzance (Paris, forthcoming)
	*Byzantine Medieval Cities: Amorium and the Middle Byzantine Provincial Capital*s, ed. Nikos Tsivikis and **Thanasis Sotiriou**, Millennium Studies (De Gruyter, forthcoming)
	Thanasis Sotiriou, "Amorium in the Byzantine Literary Sources (6th-12th centuries)," in *Byzantine Medieval Cities: Amorium and the Middle Byzantine Provincial Capitals*, ed. Nikos Tsivikis and Thanasis Sotiriou, Millennium Studies (De Gruyter, forthcoming)
2023	Nikos Tsivikis, **Thanasis Sotiriou**, Olga Karagiorgou, and Ilias Anagnostakis, "Reconstructing the Wine Industry of Byzantine Amorium: Production and Consumption of Wine in Central Asia Minor, Seventh through Ninth Centuries," *Dumbarton Oaks Papers* 77 (2023), 131-176

5. SCHOLARSHIPS/ GRANTS

2025	Summer Fellowship, Dumbarton Oaks
2023	W.D.E. Coulson & Toni Cross Aegean Fellowship for 2023-2024 American School of Classical Studies at Athens and American Research Institute in Turkey
2023	Hellenic Research Fellowship at the Tsakopoulos Hellenic Collection California State University Library, Sacramento
2022	Grant for the participation of Junior Scholars at the 24th International Congress of Byzantine Studies International Association of Byzantine Studies (AIEB)
2019-20	Ph.D. Fellowship Koç University, Research Center for Anatolian Civilizations (ANAMED) academic year 2019-2020
2016-19	Ph.D. scholarship (3 years full-time) Greek State Scholarships Foundation (IKY)
2015	Research Scholarship IMS/ FORTH
2013	Postgraduate Excellence Scholarship University of Crete, Department of History and Archaeology

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

2026	"A World on the Move. Challenges and Perspectives of the Research Program Migration Movements in Byzantine World (1261–1453) (MIMOZA Project)." co-presented with Anastasia Kontogiannopoulou, *Byzantium Beyond Byzantium: 25th International Congress of Byzantine Studies*, Vienna (August 28, 2026)
	"Ownership or Granted Possession? Rethinking Aristocratic Landholding and Imperial Authority in Late Byzantium (13th–14th c.)." *Byzantium Beyond Byzantium: 25th International Congress of Byzantine Studies*, Βιέννη, 25 Αυγούστου 2026
	"Aristocratic Landholding in Late Byzantium: Ownership, Grants, and Imperial Power." *Rethinking Late Medieval Practices of Ownership: Property, Authority, and Religious Foundations from Byzantium to the Ottomans*, ANAMED, Istanbul (April 28, 2026)
2025	"The Oikeioi in Late Byzantium: From Prosopa to Institution." *2nd PROSOPON Workshop*, Ludwig-Maximilians University, Munich (December 11, 2025)
	"The *oikeioi* of Andronikos II Palaiologos" [in Greek]. *12th Greek Byzantinists' Conference*, University of Crete, Rethymno (September 28, 2025)
	"Shifting Geographies of Power and Faith: Local Elites and the Turkish Emirates in Western Asia Minor during the 13th and 14th Centuries" [in Greek]. *Geographies of History: Interconnections, Mobilities, and Ideas*, Panteion University, Athens (September 20, 2025)
	"Exploring the Seals of Late Byzantine Sebastoi, 1204-1350." *13th International Symposium of Byzantine Sigillography*, University of Cologne, Cologne (March 27, 2025)
2023	"Wine for the Army of Byzantium: Late Antique and Early Medieval Realities." co-presented with Nikos Tsivikis, Olga Karagiorgou, and Ilias Anagnostakis, *Wine & Institutions in the Ancient World*, Ghent University (December 8, 2023)
2022	"Outlining the Byzantine Petty Aristocracy, 1204–1330," *24th International Congress of Byzantine Studies*, Venice (August 24, 2022)
	"In Search of the Agricultural Historical Landscape in Byzantine Sources (7th–12th Centuries)." *24th International Congress of Byzantine Studies, Venice* (August 23, 2022)
2021	"On the vine road between Bithynia and the East: Production and Consumption of the Amorian wine in the Middle Byzantine period." co-presented with Nikos Tsivikis, Olga Karagiorgou, and Ilias Anagnostakis, *Colloquia Ceranea III*, University of Lodz (April 15, 2021)

2019	"Searching for the Byzantine petty aristocracy in 13th-century Smyrna" [in Greek]. *10th Greek Byzantinists' Conference*, University of Ioannina (November 28, 2019)
2016	"A Corpus of the Greek Sources on Amorium: a first assessment." *Amorium: A Byzantine Provincial Capital in the Setting of the Byzantine Empire*, IMS/ FORTH, Athens (November 25, 2016)
2015	"The Byzantine Monasteries as Spaces of Discipline" [in Greek]. *Notions of Space in Byzantine Historiography*, University of Crete, Rethymno (June 06, 2015)

LECTURES

2025	"The Title of Sebastos in Late Byzantium (1204-1350): Literary and Sigillographic Perspectives." Invited speaker at the 'Byzantium in Progress' seminar series, Princeton-Athens Centre (October 16, 2025)
	"Ink and Lead: The *Sebastoi* between Text and Seal." Invited speaker at the *Byzantine Studies Midday Dialogue*, Dumbarton Oaks, Washington D.C. (July 30, 2025)
2023	"Byzantine Local Elites and Turkish Conquerors in Asia Minor (1260-1331)." Research project presentation at the *Tsakopoulos Hellenic Collection*, Sacramento State University Library (April 28, 2023)
2022	"Viticulture and winemaking in Byzantine Asia Minor" [in Greek] Guest lecture (with Ilias Anagnostakis). Seminar Series 2021–2022, Department of Byzantine Archaeology and Art, Centre for Byzantine Research, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (January 12, 2022)
2020	"Outlining the Petty Aristocracy of Byzantine Anatolia in the 13th Century." in-house presentation at ANAMED, Istanbul (January 10, 2020)
2019	"Amorium: A Medieval City in Anatolia." Guest lecture in the course "Material and Textual Evidence on Late Antique and Byzantine Urban Studies" (ARHA 526), Assistant Prof. Nikos Kontogiannis, Koç University, Istanbul (December 05, 2019)
2018	"Studying the Byzantine sources about Amorium" [in Greek] *Amorium: from the excavation to the satellite research. Aspects of the archaeology of a byzantine thematic capital in Asia Minor*, IMS/ FORTH, Rethymno (November 21, 2018)

ADDITIONAL TRAINING

2024	International Seminar "Approaching Byzantium Through Seals," University of Cologne, Germany
2023	Advanced Summer Course "Byzantine Epigraphy in Situ," Organised by E. Moutafov, I. Toth, and A. Rhoby Nessebăr, Bulgaria, September 2023

2023	Dumbarton Oaks Coins and Seals Summer Program Washington, D.C., June 26-July 21, 2023
2017	Exchange Student (Erasmus+ program) Université Catholique de Louvain, Belgium (Spring semester)
2015	GIS for humanities (RESTeCH II) International Technical Workshop Certificate, IMS/ FORTH, February 2015