

after/lives

PELION SUMMER LAB 2022

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29 June - 9 July

**Makrinitsa
Thessaly, Greece**

Presented by Pelion Summer Lab for Cultural Theory and Experimental Humanities



Wenner-Gren Foundation
supporting anthropology worldwide



PELION SUMMER LAB FOR → CULTURAL THEORY + EXPERIMENTAL HUMANITIES



after/lives

WELCOME (BACK)!

After a two-year hiatus we are thrilled to be returning to Makrinitsa June 29th through July 9th, 2022 to host the 4th Pelion Summer Lab for Cultural Theory and Experimental Humanities (PSL) on the theme of After/Lives. PSL is an initiative of the Laboratory of Social Anthropology of the University of Thessaly in Volos, Greece, in conjunction with a Wenner-Gren Foundation for Anthropological Research Workshop and the Experimental Humanities Collaborative Network.

The aim of this 10-day program is to convene an interdisciplinary group of graduate students, researchers, academics, artists and cultural producers from fields such as anthropology, history, sociology, interdisciplinary arts, philosophy, literature, gender studies, cultural and new media studies for a period of intensive exchange and exploration regarding the pressing problems and questions of our worlds.

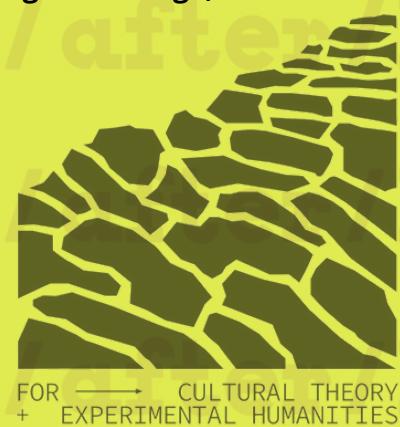
This year's theme After/Lives will address the pandemic-heightened sense of living-on in a haunted world and on a damaged planet. The summer lab will be organized into three clusters - Spectrality, Ruination and Survivance - that contend in different, but interrelated, ways with the ongoingness and the unfolding of a past that is not past. The activities of the lab will culminate in a final public experiment: a Shrine designed by the cohort.

We will draw on diverse bibliographies, art works, archives of critical events, bodies of research, popular culture at the intersection of cultural theory, ethnography, arts, activism and experimental humanities, related to topics and fields such as speculative anthropology, death studies, studies of the anthropocene, radical black studies, decolonial and anti-colonial optics, afrofuturism, feminisms, social movement tactics, new media studies, critical photography, forensic architecture and platform studies.

A tremendous interdisciplinary faculty and cohort will be coming together from around the world to share this precious time of learning, laughing and creating. We truly hope that this year's PSL will be a place where all of us can restore, reflect and cross-pollinate our passions and politics through collaboration with others. We genuinely want this lab to be a healing time, a place to become unstuck, a framework for rethinking thinking and decolonizing knowledge, an impetus to activate potentialities.

Penelope Papailias and George Mantzios,
PSL 2022 Program Directors

PELION SUMMER LAB



after/lives

PSL 2022 Schedule

DAY 1

Wednesday, June 29

13:00

Check-in at hotels in Makrinitsa begins

17:00 - 18:00

Registration at School

18:00 - 19:00

Introduction to PSL and After/Lives

Penelope Papailias & George Mantzios

19:00 - 20:00

Introduction to Experiment - Making and Staging

Public Shrine (cohort only)

Penelope Papailias & George Mantzios

21:00

Welcome dinner at school



after/lives

PSL 2022 Schedule

DAY 2

Thursday, June 30

10:00 - 14:00

SPECTRALITY - Cluster Session I (cohort only)

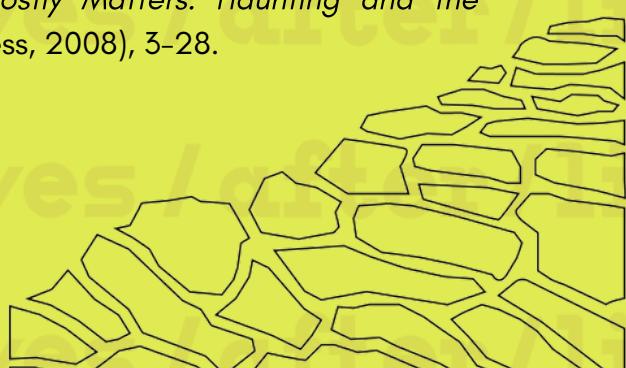
Margaret Gibson, Susan Lepsetler, Özge Serin

Anthropologists Susan Lepsetler and Özge Serin join cultural sociologist Margaret Gibson to consider how thinking with spectrality might enable us to engage with the living-on of trauma or the restless traces of marginalised "others" and their stories in ways that make an ethical demand against forces of active forgetting, disavowal, and silence. How does thinking with spectrality therefore help us engage the lingering presence of unresolved forces from the past -- through hauntings, through dreams, through images, tropes, artifacts, and through affects? This cluster's orienting proposition is that taking spectrality seriously as a mode of engagement allows us to engage the restless afterlives of haunting as simultaneously political, emotional, spiritual, aesthetic and intellectual.

Through shared readings, viewings, and interactive group activities, Spectrality invites participants to think collaboratively about topics ranging from the afterlives of slavery, to the nostalgic imprints and unsettling forces of globalization, to writing with ghosts. In its pursuit of the evanescent traces of the spectral, this cluster will address the very futurity--unforeseeable risk and chance--implicit within the past to enable collective practices of ethico-political freedom in the present.

Readings

- Christina Sharpe, "The Ship: The Trans* Atlantic," in *In The Wake: On Blackness and Being* (Duke UP, 2016), 25-67.
- Nadia Semeretakis, "The Breast of Aphrodite," in *The Senses Still: Perception and Memory as Material Culture in Modernity* (Boulder: Westview Press, 1994).
- Avery Gordon, "her shape and his hand," in *Ghostly Matters: Haunting and the Sociological Imagination* (University of Minnesota Press, 2008), 3-28.



after/lives

PSL 2022 Schedule



**DAY 2
(CONT'D)**

Thursday, June 30

16:30 - 18:00

Introduction to *Laboratory of Speculative Ethnology & Experimental Humanities Studio Space-Time* (cohort only)

Elizabeth Chin, A. Sayeeda Moreno, Krista Caballero, Dominique Townsend, Gwyneira Isaac

In this making series, participants will work with faculty across all clusters to integrate and visualize ideas, research, and artistic practices generated over the course of our entire time together through the creation of a flutter book. The flutter book, a type of an accordion book, is one in which the spine is not bound so that all the pages can be viewed simultaneously if so desired.

Micro-workshops focused on birth narratives, the more-than-human, the afterlife, and dream logs will include methods of writing, collage, cyanotypes, and mixed media. Focus will be on open-ended experimentation, attentiveness, and engagement with the site with each participant creating their own unique flutter book responsive to the elements around us, which will be included in the shrine experiment.

19:00

Makrinitsa Guided Tour

Archaeologist, anthropologist and professional tour guide Georgia Paveli will take us on a tour of the village in which she will discuss the local ecology –notably the abundant water supply and the political economy that developed around it, the elaborate masonry (towers, networks of cobblestone paths, springs), the folk artist Theofilos, the local religious and political power structure, the importation of a European colonial *habitus* by repatriated “Egyptian” Greeks, local mythology (good vs. bad monsters), Makrinitsa in popular culture and as tourist destination – and much more! We will begin at the school and end in the village square.

21:00 +

Live Greek music @ Melanthi Hotel

after/lives

PSL 2022 Schedule



DAY 3

Friday, July 1

10:30 - 13:30

SPECTRALITY Cluster cont'd - Session II (cohort only)

Margaret Gibson, Susan Lepsetler, Özge Serin

Activities will include:

- Explore our own dream narratives to create an expressive work, engaging nonliteral meanings in social, psychological and cultural haunting
- Conduct dérive in small groups and make alternative psychogeographical maps in the wake of our sensory and supersensory encounters on select trails
- Create Iphone videos which capture the ineffable in the natural world

17:00 - 20:00

Laboratory of Speculative Ethnology - 'Do You Want to Make a Robot?'

Elizabeth Chin

Anthropologist Elizabeth Chin will introduce us to her Laboratory of Speculative Ethnology, where she experiments with bringing together the imaginativeness of design with the groundedness of ethnography. DIY electronics are a key part of her practice and in Makrinitza she will lead us in a workshop "Do You Want to Make a Robot?" in which we will make simple toothbrush robots together as a way to make connections with each other. Working together on projects like this is a powerful way of connecting with new people and places.

Resources

- Instagram: @technologyworkshops
- Chin, Elizabeth. "Laboratory of Speculative Ethnology: Suits of Inquiry." *E-Misferica* 12, no. 1 (2015).
- Agid, Shana, and Elizabeth Chin. "Making and Negotiating Value: Design and Collaboration with Community Led Groups." *CoDesign* 15, no. 1 (January 2, 2019): 75-89.
- Anderson, Casey. "Repurpose, Remix, Bend: Piloting A Locally Defined Technology Curriculum," *American Anthropologist*, April 10, 2018.

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PSL 2022 Schedule

DAY 4

Saturday, July 2

10:00 - 14:00

RUINATION - Cluster Session I (cohort only)

Gastón Gordillo, Pamila Gupta, Alice von Bieberstein

This cluster will introduce the anthropological concept of ruination as 'good to think with', including its various literatures, iterations, and productive ruminations. Several keywords of association will also be discussed by the cluster leaders drawing on their ethnographic research in Argentina, Mozambique and Turkey: rubble and revolution for Gastón Gordillo, renovation and repair for Pamila Gupta, and extractivism and subterranean for Alice von Bieberstein.

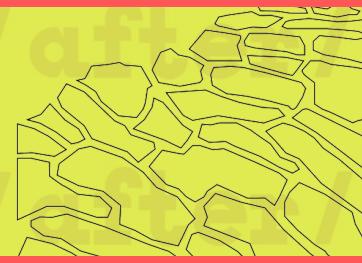
Readings

- Gordillo, Gastón R. 2014. "Introduction: Constellations", in *Rubble: The Afterlife of Destruction*. Durham and London: Duke University Press, pp. 1-28.
- Gordillo, Gastón R. 2014. "Conclusion: We Aren't Afraid of Ruins", in *Rubble: The Afterlife of Destruction*. Durham and London: Duke University Press, pp. 253-269.
- Gupta, Pamila. 2010. "Discourses of Incorruptibility: Of Blood, Smell, and Skin in Portuguese India" *Ler história* (58): 81-97.
- Gupta, Pamila. 2019. "On Renovation in Beira", in *Portuguese Decolonization in the Indian Ocean World: History and Ethnography*. Bloomsbury Academic, pp. 127-144.
- Stoler, Ann. 2008. "Imperial Debris: Reflections on Ruins and Ruination", *Cultural Anthropology* 23(2): 191-219.
- Von Bieberstein, Alice. 2021. "Holes of Plenty," *Etnofoor, Waste* 33(2): 75-90.



after/lives

PSL 2022 Schedule



**DAY 4
(CONT'D)**

Saturday, July 2

17:00 - 18:30

Experimental Humanities Studio Space-Time Navigating the Bardos

Dominique Townsend

In Tibetan Buddhist worldviews, the bardo is a state of being in-between. While the most common references to the bardo concern the experience between death and rebirth, in fact there are six distinct bardos or intermediary states. These are the natural bardo of this life, the painful bardo of dying, the luminous bardo of suchness, the karmic bardo of being born, the bardo of meditation, and the bardo of dreaming. In this session, Professor of Buddhist Studies Dominique Townsend will facilitate a close reading of a translation of texts designed to help people navigate in-between states, which are vital opportunities for transformation and enlightenment according to Tibetan Buddhist teachings. We will generate writing about states of in-betweenness related in particular to dreams, which offer a window into the harder to access bardo states.

Readings

- Coleman, Graham, and Thupten Jinpa, eds. "Ch 11. The Great Liberation by Hearing," in *The Tibetan Book of the Dead: First Complete Translation*. Penguin UK, 2008, pp. 217-235.

18:30 - 20:00

Experimental Humanities Studio Space-Time Birth Story Narratives

A. Sayeeda Moreno

We will join director and screenwriter A. Sayeeda Moreno in carving out space for the excavation of Birth Story Narratives. To do so, we will traverse through our known and unconscious identities: the entry point into this current manifestation of who we are now. Movement, breath, and a poetics of remembrance will guide us through this process. Some of us might need to embellish these narratives – as all we were left with were fragmented relics. A feminine annihilation. Ghosts linger throughout this uterine memory, embedded in our bodies. Participants will then be invited to transcribe snippets of the birth story narratives into the Flutter Books, provisioning a tactile artifact of our collective experience. Please bring a journal and a pen. Wear comfortable clothing.

21:00

RUINATION film screening

after/lives

PSL 2022 Schedule



DAY 5

Sunday, July 3

10:30 - 1:30

RUINATION Cluster Cont'd - Session II (cohort only)

Gastón Gordillo, Pamila Gupta, Alice von Bieberstein

17:00 - 18:00

Serious Games, A Conversation (book launch and screening)

Jenny Marketou

Visual artist Jenny Marketou discusses her recently published book, *Serious Games* (2021), based on two years of research culminating in an art project at Kyuchuk Hassan Mosque in Chania, Crete. *Serious Games* draws together site-specific research methods to explore the ways ruins and monuments become re-used and in some instances re-imagined as – and through – contingent urban scenarios capable of activating multisensorial potentialities and embodied relationships between decay, ruination, monumentality, and memory.

18:30 - 20:45

!May Men of Pelion! "Anti-Happening" Workshop

Virginia Christou

Anthropologist and dance choreographer Virginia Christou will lead this experiential workshop into one of Pelion's most iconic customs, the *Maides* of Pelion. This elaborate happening, centered on the rebirth of nature in spring, used to take place in Makrinitsa and several other villages in Pelion every May and is currently being revived. Through a range of activities including video screenings, group dances and discussion, participants will become acquainted with the custom as a critical site where interrelationships between cyclical and linear time, life and death, rites of passage, the demonic, fertility and gender all become performatively embodied in communal and liminal rites of social reproduction. We will continue our festivities afterwards with tsipouro and mezedes.

after/lives

PSL 2022 Schedule



DAY 6

Monday, July 4

9:00 ————— **ALL DAY** —————

Departure for beach day at Horefoto

12:00 - 14:00

Experimental Humanities Studio Space-Time –
Making Sun Prints at the beach

Krista Caballero, Dominique Townsend, Gwyneira Isaac, Sayeeda Moreno

The Cyanotype, also known as the sun print, is one of the oldest photographic printing processes in which one-of-a-kind, ghostly forms emerge out of a distinctive dark blue background. Images created via this alternative method do not require a camera, instead, botanicals or other objects are placed on light-sensitive paper and left in bright sunshine to be developed. Invented in 1842 by Sir John Herschel, cyanotypes were first employed for photographic purposes by botanist Anna Atkins. Her 1843 groundbreaking book, *Photographs of British Algae: Cyanotype Impressions*, is regarded as the world's first photo-illustrated book. This session will work with the sun to draw and trace After/Lives via presence and absence, making and unmaking.

18:00

Dinner in village of Pouri



after/lives

PSL 2022 Schedule

DAY 7

Tuesday, July 5

10:30 - 13:30

SURVIVANCE, Cluster Session I - "Vegetal"
(cohort only)

Gene Ray & Olga Cielemęcka

In this cluster critical theorist Gene Ray and philosopher Olga Cielemęcka join forces to open up an interactive space for participants to think, read, and walk together around a consideration of the conceptual, ecological, political, and reparative valences of survivance. To do so, Survivance convenes around a consideration of *Braiding Sweetgrass*, a text by Indigenous scholar and botanist Robin Wall Kimmerer, to remind us of the healing power of story-telling. Tracing these powers across media, an evening film screening will feature *Dulce* (2018) and *Beasts of the Southern Wild* (2012), which imagine the waterlogged worlds of community resilience and resistance in the face of anthropogenic environmental catastrophe.

Readings

- Louise Erdrich, *The Sentence: A Novel* (New York: HarperCollins, 2021).
- Robin Wall Kimmerer, "Council of Pecans" and "Three Sisters" in *Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge, and the Teachings of Plants* (Milkweed Editions, 2015), 11-21, 129-140.



after/lives

PSL 2022 Schedule

**DAY 7
(CONT'D)**

Tuesday, July 5

16:00 - 17:30

Echo - Antiphony - Circulation: A Sonic Cartographies Workshop (cohort only)

Tom Western

Sounds are always moving, and help us think in movements. This workshop runs with this motion and mobility – hearing new cartographies made of echo, antiphony, and circulation. Participants will engage practices of relational listening and remapping, plugging them into summer lab themes of survivance and ruination, and thinking with the forms of spatiality and collectivity that emerge in the process.

Readings

- Ochoa Gautier, Ana Maria (2019). "Sonic Cartographies". In *Remapping Sound Studies*, ed. G. Steingo and J. Sykes. Durham, NC: Duke University Press, pp.261-274.
- Anand, Nikhil (2017). *Hydraulic City: Water and the Infrastructures of Citizenship in Mumbai*. Durham, NC: Duke University Press (Preface: "Water Stories", pp.vii-x).

18:00 - 20:00

Experimental Humanities Studio Space-Time - Face/Body Casting Workshop (cohort only)

Gwyneira Isaac & M D Acuff

Participants will join museum curator Gwyneira Isaac and artist-educator M D Acuff in making objects that simultaneously quote, describe and express a variety of aspects of contemporary embodiment. Collaborative castings of face and body parts in plaster will help access in a material way the uncanniness, presence/absence, relationality, sacred and abject themes at play throughout the Lab. We are offering opportunities to think/make in an iterative fashion that take up the ghostly, fragmented forms of being in a (post)colonial-ravaged world.

21:00

Survivance film screening



after/lives

PSL 2022 Schedule



DAY 8

Wednesday, July 6

9:30 - 13:30

SURVIVANCE, Cluster Session II - "Water"

Walk to Stagiates

Gene Ray & Olga Cielemęcka

On the second day of the Survivance cluster proceedings, participants will be led on a walk to the nearby village of Stagiates, where local political struggles over water as a communal – and more-than-human – resource and lifeway feature as a point of group discussion and community engagement.

18:30 - 20:30

SURVIVANCE Cluster cont'd (cohort only)

Gene Ray & Olga Cielemęcka

The cluster will reconvene in Makrinitsa around a collective reading and discussion of Louise Erdrich's novel *The Sentence* (2021), which conjures numerous ghosts of past mistakes, unsettled debts, and viral exposures, recasting the stakes of survivance within another contemporaneous "post-"pandemic moment.



after/lives

PSL 2022 Schedule

DAY 9

Thursday, July 7

10:00 → End of Day

Preparations for Experiment - cohort /
Wenner-Gren meeting for faculty

15:30 - 17:30

Experimental Humanities Studio Space-Time -
Flutter Book Assembly

**Krista Caballero, A. Sayeeda Moreno, Dominique Townsend,
Gwyneira Isaac**



after/lives

PSL 2022 Schedule

DAY 10

Friday, July 8

10:00 - 14:00

Cohort completes preparations for staging shrine experiment

17:00 - 20:00

Public staging of shrine experiment!!!

21:00

Dinner followed by PSL reunion dance party!

DAY 11

Saturday, July 9

Check-out & Departure



after/lives // Schedule (1/2)

(9:00AM - 3:00PM)

4th Pelion Summer Lab for Cultural Theory and Experimental Humanities AFTER/LIVES Wednesday June 29th - Saturday July 9th, 2022

4th Pelion Summer Lab for Cultural Theory and Experimental Humanities AFTER/LIVES Wednesday June 29th - Saturday July 9th, 2022

after/lives // Schedule (2/2)

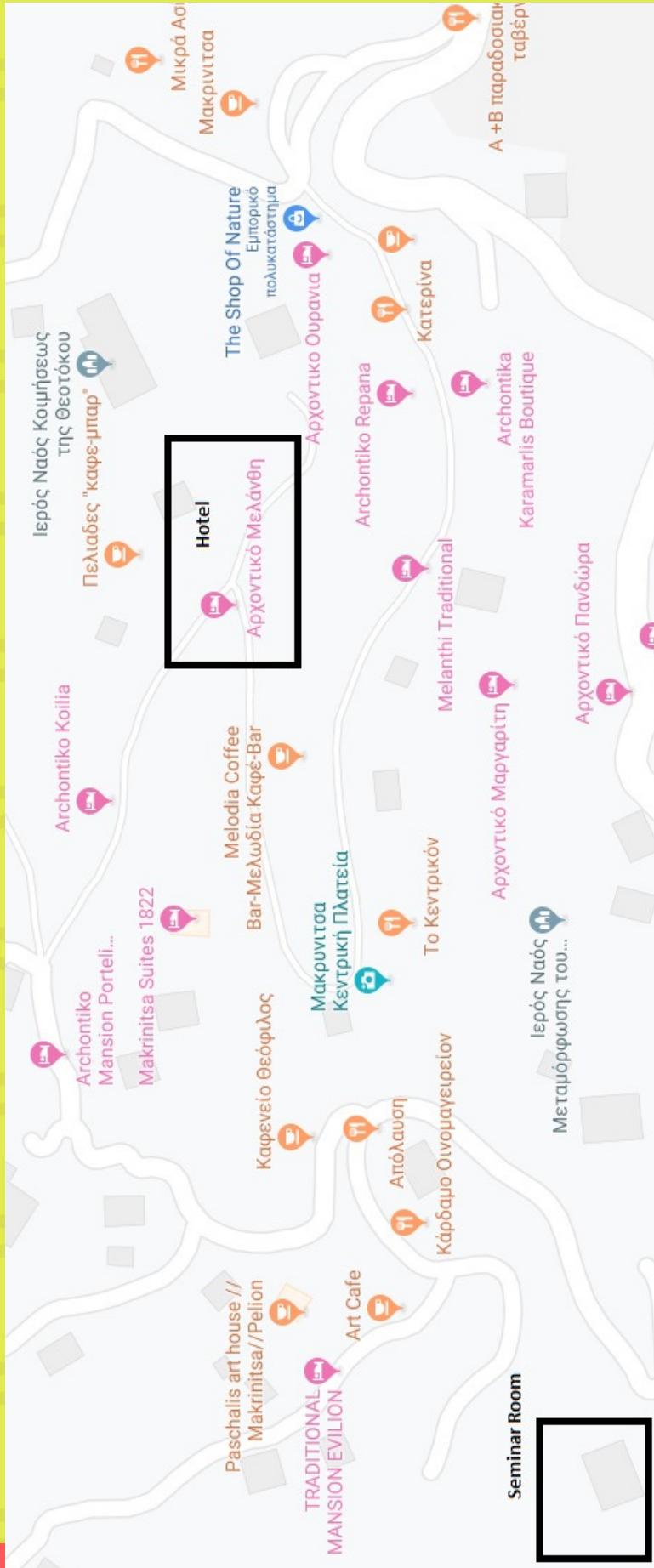
(3:00PM - 9:00PM+)

4th Pelion Summer Lab for Cultural Theory and Experimental Humanities AFTER/LIVES Wednesday June 29th - Saturday July 9th, 2022

	6/29 WEDNESDAY	6/30 THURSDAY	7/1 FRIDAY	7/2 SATURDAY	7/3 SUNDAY	7/4 MONDAY	7/5 TUESDAY	7/6 WEDNESDAY	7/7 THURSDAY	7/8 FRIDAY	7/9 SATURDAY
3:30 PM											
4:00 PM											
4:30 PM											
5:00 PM	Registration @ School										
5:30 PM	Intro to PSL & AfterLives (Penelope Papailias & George Mantzios)	Makrinitsa guided tour (Georgia Pavell)									
6:00 PM											
6:30 PM											
7:00 PM	Intro to Experiment - Shrine (Penelope Papailias & George Mantzios) (cohort only)										
7:30 AM											
8:00 PM											
8:30 PM											
9:00 PM + Welcome dinner	Live Greek music night @Melianthi	Spectrality film screening	Rumination film screening	Tsipouro & meze @ school	Dinner in village of Pouri	Survivance film screening		Dinner @ School + Dance Party +PSL reunion!!!			

after/lives

MAP/ SITE INFO



Intercity Bus Station KTEL

| ktelvolou.gr/en/home/ | Korai56 | 38222 | Volos | 2421033253 | 2421033254

Melanthi Mansion | 2428 099977

Philos Guesthouse | 00698 289 8257

Doctor

Portaria (village neighboring Makrinitsa to the east)

| 24280-99920

Hospital in Volos:

Polymeri St. 134

2421094200

2421351000

Pharmacy in Portaria

Emmanoulidou Sotiria | 2428099692

Bakeries

Tsiglifi

Maria, 2428096449

Portaria

| 37011 | Magnesia

D. & G. Kontorizos O.E. 2428096449

Portaria

| 37011 | Magnesia

Supermarkets

Manos

Charalabos I. 2428099398

Makrinitsa

after/lives

INFO

Makrinitsa has a bus connection both to Volos Bus Station and to Portaria. The buses leave approximately every two hours.

DEPARTURE	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	INFORMATION
06:15	●	●	●	●	●	-	-	
08:00	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	
10:00	-	-	-	-	-	●	●	
12:30	●	●	●	●	●	-	-	
14:30	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	
16:30	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	
21:00	●	●	●	●	-	-	-	

PORTARIA - MAKRINITSA → VOLOS

DEPARTURE	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	INFORMATION
07:00	●	●	●	●	●	-	-	
08:45	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	
10:45	-	-	-	-	-	●	●	
13:15	●	●	●	●	-	-	-	
15:15	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	
17:15	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	
21:45	●	●	●	●	-	-	-	

Local restaurants in Makrinitsa include:

Kardamo Restaurant [+30 2428 090131, 13.00-11.00]

AB Restaurant [+30 2428 099355, 12.00-12.00]

Central Restaurant [+30 690 606 4093, 12.00-12.00]



Faculty

M D Acuff (Whitman College, USA)

Krista Caballero (Bard College, USA)

Elizabeth Chin (Art Center College of Design in Pasadena, USA)

Olga Cielemęcka (University of Turku, Finland)

Margaret Gibson (Griffith University, Australia)

Gastón Gordillo (University of British Columbia, Canada)

Pamila Gupta (University of Witwatersrand, South Africa)

Gwyneira Isaac (National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian, USA)

Susan Lepseter (Indiana University, USA)

George Mantzios (University of Toronto, Canada)

Jenny Marketou (New School for Social Research, USA)

A. Sayeeda Moreno (Bard College, USA)

Penelope Papailias (University of Thessaly)

Gene Ray (Geneva School of Art and Design, Switzerland)

Özge Serin (Whitman College, USA)

Dominique Townsend (Bard College, USA)

Alice Von Bieberstein (Humboldt-University of Berlin, Germany)

Tom Western (University College London, England)

Supporting Organizations

Wenner-Gren Foundation for Anthropological Research

Experimental Humanities Collaborative Network (EHCN)

Kosmopolitik: Network for Social Research and Public Action

Laboratory of Social Anthropology, University of Thessaly

Erasmus+

Organizing Committee

Penelope Papailias, Director of PSL, 2022 Program Co-Director

Pantelis Probonas, Managing Director

George Mantzios, 2022 Program Co-Director

Eftychia Vardouli, Cultural Manager

Special Thanks

Ilias Marios Chaliamalias

Angie Konstantinidou

Asimina Kontozisi

Penny Paspali

Georgia Paveli

Nikos Tsoukas

Vangelis Saraktsanos

Kostis Sarakatsanos

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