

Description of Funded Research Projects

1<sup>st</sup> Call for H.F.R.I. Research Projects  
to support Post-Doctoral Researchers



**H.F.R.I.**  
Hellenic Foundation for  
Research & Innovation

Research Project Title:

**Digitizing the Cappadocian  
Dialectal Landscape**

**Principal Investigator:**  
**Dimitra Melissaropoulou**



**Popular Title:**  
**Digitizing the Cappadocian Dialectal  
Landscape**

**Scientific Field:**  
**Social Sciences**

**Host Institution:**  
**University of Patras**



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The project aims at the thorough documentation and study of an Asia Minor Greek linguistic variety, in specific the Cappadocian dialect, attempting, for the first time in Greece, to implement a fully digital approach to dialectological research, by applying cutting-edge informatics tools to the study and documentation of dialectal variation. In detail, apart from primary linguistic research leading to the production of scholarly papers advancing our knowledge in the field of Linguistics and Cultural History, the project aims to produce two state-of-the-art major reference works, namely an interactive electronic dialectal atlas (which will constitute the first such effort in the domain of Greek Linguistics) and a comprehensive historical dictionary of the Cappadocian dialects (again lacking until now).

The reasons for selecting the specific dialect are the following: a) it is an endangered dialect of prime importance for the cultural history of Greece b) it is a dialect until recently considered entirely extinct, for which a wealth of newly-discovered material exists, hitherto unexploited by linguistic (dialectological, sociolinguistic, historical) research c) it is a dialect presenting great linguistic interest due to its long period of isolation and strong contact with Turkish and d) it is the only major dialect of Greek for which no standard works of reference exist.

This research proposal is expected to have a high impact on society since it will secure the linguistic treasure of one of the Asia Minor dialects for posterity, under threat of extinction after the obligatory relocation in Greece, in a format adhering to the highest possible level of scientific reliability, and accessible to all. The importance of this endeavor for Greek culture, historical memory and society, cannot be stressed enough. An equally important aspect of the project is that it will also encourage still extant dialect speakers to keep learning and preserving their dialect, both through the provision of learning tools, and through the promotion of the dialect as a linguistic form worthy of academic study.

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Support to young scientists, i.e. the P(rincipal) I(nvestigator) and the other participating young researchers to remain in Greece and implement their postdoctoral research towards the promotion of an until recently neglected field, i.e. dialectology, and crucially towards the acquisition of novel research skills which will enhance the prospects for their career development, as well as for the development of new techniques and products in a field where Greece does not follow, not yet at least, international academic standards.

*The Principal Investigator,  
Dimitra Melissaropoulou*

## Funding

Amount: **270,000 €**

Duration: **36 months**

Foundation: **H.F.R.I.**





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