

Description of Funded Research Projects

1st 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:

**Antiparochi and (its) architects:
Histories of social forces, spatial
politics and the architectural
profession in Greece, 1929-74**

Principal Investigator:
Konstantina Kalfa

Popular Title:
The history of antiparochi

Scientific Field:
Humanities and Art

Host Institution:
**National Technical University of Athens, School of
Architectural Engineering**



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Research Project Summary

'Antiparochi and (its) architects' is planned as a three-year collaborative research project at the School of Architecture, National Technical University of Athens. The project involves original archival research and interviews with protagonists from different professional backgrounds and generations. It exploits new technologies for the documentation and digitization of archival material and for the development of an open, interactive, multimodal and searchable database. It establishes collaborations with noted scholars from various disciplines and countries to promote a multi-disciplinary and internationally comparative theoretical and methodological analysis, leading to the sharpening of existing and development of new analytical tools. It schedules lectures, public conversations, a specialized workshop in collaboration with UCy, and an international one-day conference as part of the dissemination process.

The research propounds the critical historical examination of perhaps the most legendary phenomenon of modern Greece, antiparochi (a 'quid pro quo' arrangement: the exchange of land for new apartments on this land), by means of a particular focus on its 'architects': a. its informal 'architects' (engineers, sub-engineers, contractors, builders and proprietors themselves), b. broader spatial politics and strategies, c. the architectural profession in Greece. The project suggests that such an approach could contribute significantly to the on-going discussions and quests for viable solutions to the current economic crisis, by providing a more nuanced and enriched understanding of how the Greek urban environment has been shaped. It also contributes to the promotion of a new understanding of modern Greek architecture as historically intertwined with: broader expressions of Greek culture, established networks of knowledge and power and modes of construction that have –up until today– been generally perceived as evolving separately. The historical comparative examination of fields (a.), (b.) and (c.), the activation of latent archival data and the generation of new data, through semi-structured interviews as well as the strategic use of new media, are among the innovative aspects of this research.

As antiparochi grew exponentially to become a widespread phenomenon, affecting the built environment but also almost every aspect of life for a large segment of the population in Greece, understanding both how it functioned historically and the means that facilitated it, will raise awareness in society about different modes of urban dwelling in relation to the future of the Greek city. What is more, and in accordance to antiparochi as a bottom-up system of development, this research supports knowledge exchange through co-productive forms of collaborative research with organizations, which actively sustain oral history or which can significantly contribute to our study with their archives and expertise. Engaging with such institutions is expected to maximize social impact, as well as to take advantage of the potential for re-encouraging debates and establishing new networks of social knowledge-building.

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The selection of this proposal for funding by H.F.R.I. is, of course, an excellent honor and even more so, a unique opportunity, given that this project can be found in the core of my scientific and research interests on the historiography of Architecture.

However, the most important thing is, that this attempt to highlight the importance and role of antiparochi, to record its history and, through it, the history of Greek architecture and its creators for about half a century that this exceptional phenomenon flourished and lasted, requires a long, laborious and costly research effort that would not either be –given my personal circumstances as well as the wider conditions– formulated as an idea-proposal, or of course, implemented without the support-financing by H.F.R.I.

*The Principal Investigator,
Konstantina Kalfa*

Funding

Amount: **169,599 €**

Duration: **36 months**

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





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