

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:

**ARCHAEOTOUR - Archaeology,  
Tourism and Island  
Communities: Reception,  
Conceptualisation and  
Appropriation of Archaeological  
Record in Island Greece**

**Principal Investigator:**  
**Despoina Nazou**

**Popular Title:**

**Archaeology, Tourism and Island  
Communities**

**Scientific Field:**

**Social Anthropology, Archaeology,  
Tourism Studies**

**Host Institution:**

**University of Crete, dep. of History  
& Archaeology**



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Public archaeology emerges as a scientific imperative when archaeology enters the real sphere of economy, society and political dispute. In this context, local communities receive and remake archaeological meanings and interpret the “pasts” within specific historical and cultural contexts as “cultural heritage”. Various groups, dominant or dominated, within the multi-layered and hierarchical communities participate in or are excluded from “agreements” and “consensuses” on the political ways in which specific materialities of the past, are selected to signify individual or collective identities.

In a similar perspective, both institutionalised ‘memory’ and ‘oblivion’, define and are defined by archaeology. This largely weaves cultural identities and is closely woven into identity politics. Archaeology is then perceived as a reflexive field of the local communities themselves, through tourist use and the nostalgic restoration of experiences, memories and biographies of people and places.

Taking the above into the account, the proposed 3-year project, through the theoretical viewpoint of public archaeology and using social anthropological field methodology and archival material, is related to the investigation of the social identities that emerge dynamically in two local island communities in the 21st century with reference to the materialities of the past and their “heritagization”. The research will be conducted on Delos, Rhenia, Mykonos (Cyclades, Aegean Sea) and Meganisi (Ionian Sea) islands, presenting differences in geographical scale, economic and social base, and “development” aims of local communities.

One of the main impacts concerns the financial support of researchers and students who are going to be involved in the project in a time of economic crisis.

Another important impact is the financial and social empowerment of local communities, which can articulate their own discourse and acquire cultural visibility through both their ethnographic presentation and their active participation in the tourist market, in order to claim ways of use of their culture.

Providing information to and raising awareness among local and national cultural and tourism institutions, such as the Greek National Tourism Organisation, Archaeological Ephorates, Municipalities, Municipal Cultural Associations is the third major social impact of the project. This will form a new critical perspective for local communities. The synergies with the University of Crete and the creation of joint cultural and educational actions will help to shape policies and lead tourism cultural policy in new directions promoting new tourism products.

To me, H.F.R.I. funding  
would mean...

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This funding means supporting of a) the effort to produce innovative scientific knowledge and b) state-of-the-art research in the context of social sciences.

*The Principal Investigator,  
Despoina Nazou*

## Funding

Amount: **150,000 €**

Duration: **36 months**

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





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