

Description of Funded Research Projects

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

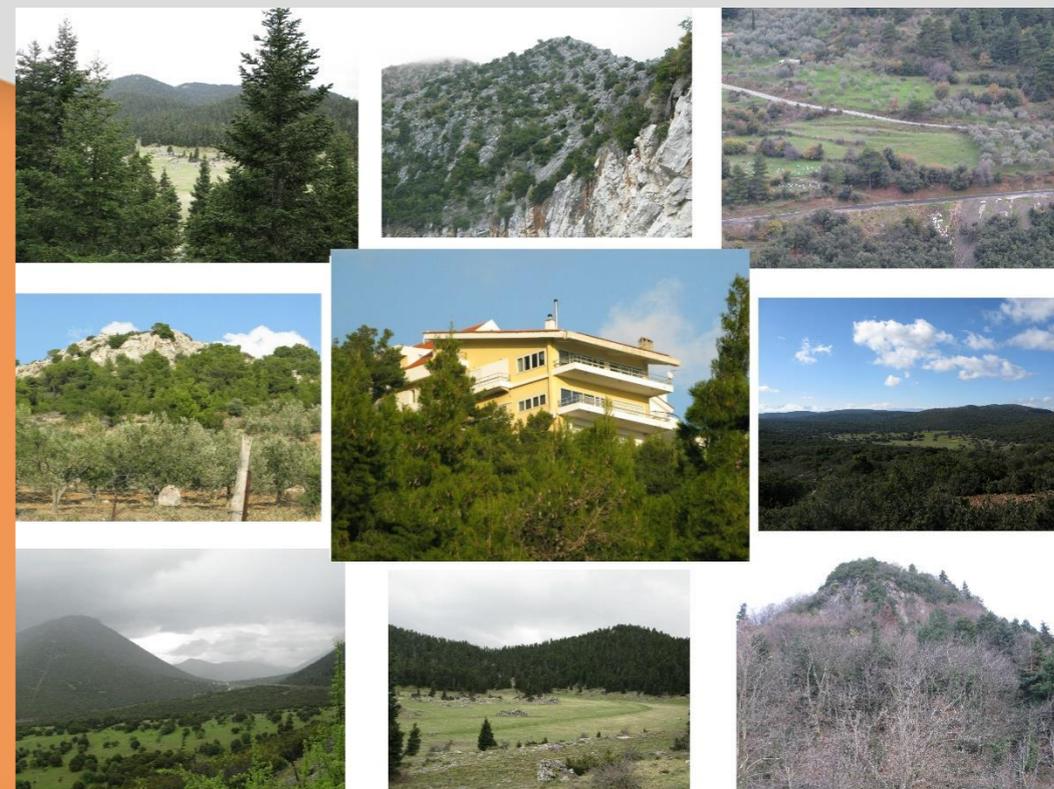


**H.F.R.I.**  
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Research Project Title:

**Forest maps “in process”. The  
social construction of  
environmental regimes**

**Principal Investigator:**  
**Eleni Panagouli**



**Popular Title:**

**Forest maps “in process”. The social construction of environmental regimes**

**Scientific Field:**

**Social sciences, Geography**

**Host Institution:**

**National Technical University of Athens, School of architecture**



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The construction of forest maps which started in the beginning of 2017, is a project on a national level and is the necessary preliminary stage of establishing the Cadastre. The research subject is the observation of forest map construction procedure, which is going to take place during the next few years. We intend to explore the production process of forest maps using sociological and physical geographical analysis tools. This choice is based on considering forest maps as more than a simple technical means, but as a kind of institution that directs public action.

In the first part, the research will take place on a national level. More specifically, on this part we will: i) treat the survey geographical data, make demographic and sociological data comparisons, ii) effectuate a research by questionnaires and by selection of data on forest-station level, iii) hold interviews from specialists and decision makers in related state services, and iv) make participatory observation in working groups or information exchange meetings of above-mentioned agents.

In the second part, we will work on the regional and local level.. More specifically, on this part we will: i) hold personal interviews from the staff of local forest stations targeting to explore the way they handle the forest map construction process, in relation to their perception of their mission and their signification of forest, environment, nature, property, urban, rural, ii) make participatory observation in citizens' assemblies, work reunions in information centers and local forest stations, and iii) hold interviews from owners that have raised an objection, in order to analyse their motivations, theirs practices and their representations. For this purpose, we will hold interviews in the areas of dispute, and ask of the actors to illustrate and represent their version on maps.

The non-existence of a Cadastre in Greece illustrates, in the most obvious way, the social conflicts over the definition of land uses and land property and the difficulty of the application of space planning. In most cases of contestations of land uses or land property, a forest is involved. From this point of view, the absence of forest survey is the basic obstacle for the realization of a Cadastre. In this context, our research contributes to a more open and further documented dialogue on forest survey, between the greek civil society, national authorities, policy makers and technical staff, a dialogue that will spatialize horizontal policies. On a larger scale, the research project intents on the one hand to build a bridge between the technical instrument of forest survey and society, and on the other hand to render forest cartography a tool of environmental thought and public action.

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It is very often that a research trajectory for scientists terminates at a PhD, as they are absorbed completely either by teaching or by jobs irrelevant to university. As far as the posts and especially in social research are limited, H.F.R.I. funding is a very good opportunity for me to continue my research activity and in conditions of scientific independence, something that could permit me to extend and deepen my research interests. Moreover, for someone like me who was based abroad, this funding is a way to conduct research on a greek field and thus be reconnected with the greek scientific community and return to Greece.

*The Principal Investigator,  
Eleni Panagouli*

## Funding

Amount: **60,000 €**

Duration: **24 months**

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





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