



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

Description of the funded research project
1st Call for H.F.R.I. Research Projects to Support Faculty
Members & Researchers and Procure High-Value
Research Equipment

**Title of the Research Project:
Sourcebook of Byzantine Philosophy
(SBPh)**

**Principal Investigator:
Prof. Katerina Ierodiakonou**

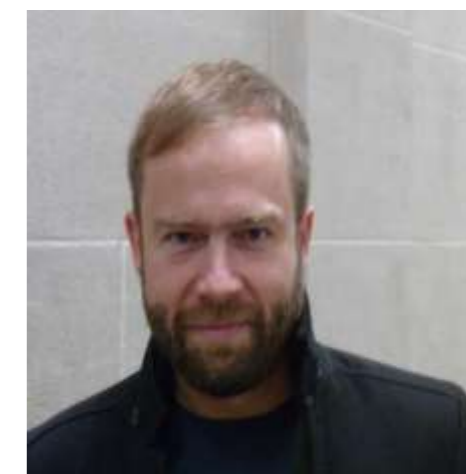
**Research Team Members:
Pantelis Golitsis
Ioannis Papachristou
Dafni Argyri**

**Scientific Area:
Humanities and Arts: Philosophy**

**Institution and Country:
Department of History and
Philosophy of Science, Greece**

**Host Institution:
National and Kapodistrian
University of Athens**

**Project webpage:
www.byphil.gr**



Budget: 146.132 €

Duration: 2019-2022 (36 months)

Research Project Synopsis

Byzantine philosophy is still one of the less known periods in the history of philosophy. There is no doubt that, in order for Byzantine philosophy to be properly studied and appreciated, what is foremost needed is a *Sourcebook of Byzantine Philosophy*, which collects the principal and most representative texts of Byzantine thinkers in an accessible and reliable edition with translation. Our *Sourcebook* will contain selected Byzantine philosophical texts in the original and in English translation, as well as comments that place these texts in their historical context and provide a philosophical analysis of them. The selected texts will cover the period from the 8th to the 15th century and raise interesting points in the areas of logic, theory of knowledge, metaphysics, natural philosophy, psychology, ethics and politics. We hope that this *Sourcebook* will become an indispensable reference work that can initiate more study of Byzantine philosophy and help us to reveal its particular character, which combines the ancient philosophical traditions with the Christian faith of the Byzantine thinkers.

Project originality

Our *Sourcebook of Byzantine Philosophy* will be the first sourcebook of the philosophical production in Byzantium. We will gather important and representative philosophical texts of Byzantine thinkers, translate them and comment on them. Our approach will be that of the historian of philosophy; we will place these texts in their historical background and, at the same time, try to assess their contribution to the philosophical issues they inherited from antiquity. The *Sourcebook* will reconstruct the forgotten image of Byzantine philosophy, present a clear account of the philosophical interests and debates in which the Byzantine scholars were engaged for centuries, and thus offer a fuller comprehension of the Byzantine world.

Expected results & Research Project Impact

The outcome of this Research Project will be the *Sourcebook of Byzantine Philosophy* in two volumes: I. Introduction, Prolegomena, Logic, Metaphysics, and II. Natural Philosophy, Psychology, Ethics, bibliography/indices.

Different groups of people will benefit from the publication of the *Sourcebook*:

- Historians of philosophy with a particular interest in ancient and medieval philosophy.
- Byzantine historians who realize that, in order to understand better the history of a particular period in Byzantium, they should also have a good grasp of its intellectual production.
- Historians of ideas will have the chance to satisfy their intellectual curiosity about the development of doctrines in a period of the history of thought about which not much is generally known.
- Moreover, this *Sourcebook* will be indispensable for teaching Byzantine philosophy at University level, which is the only way to ensure the continuation of academic research in this field.
- Finally, the general public interested in the history of the intellectual life during the Middle Ages will thus discover a thesaurus of authors and ideas that bridge the gap between Late Antiquity and the early Renaissance.

The importance of this funding

The funding of the Hellenic Foundation for Research and Innovation gives us the opportunity to create an international pole of interest in Byzantine philosophy, through the publication of the *Sourcebook of Byzantine Philosophy* and the organization of three workshops, a symposium and an international conference that will take place in Athens. In this way, the funding promotes the philosophical discourse and, in particular, the expansion of our knowledge about philosophy in Byzantium.



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