



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

Description of the funded research project
2nd Call for H.F.R.I. Research Projects
to Support Post-Doctoral Researchers

Title of the research project: Theognostus' *Canones*: a bridge between the ancient and byzantine worlds

Principal Investigator: Stephanie Roussou

Reader-friendly title: Theognostus' *Canones*

Scientific Area: Humanities and Arts

Institution and Country: Academy of Athens, Greece

Host Institution: Academy of Athens

Budget: €79.200

Duration: 36 months



Research Project Synopsis

The ninth-century Greek grammarian Theognostus straddles the divide between the ancient and Byzantine worlds. His work (entitled '*Canones*' or '*On orthography*') on correct Greek spelling is vital for our knowledge and understanding of ancient grammar as it preserves much ancient scholarly material from ancient grammarians, whose work does not survive in its original form. From yet another angle, this work is important because of its influence on the etymological lexica composed by later Byzantine scholars, while at the same time it provides us with a rare insight into ninth-century linguistic thought. But to date Theognostus' work has received far less attention than it deserves, owing to the lack of any proper edition of the text: the only full publication of Theognostus' *Canones* ('Rules') ever produced, which dates to 1835, is a transcript of a single manuscript. Since this publication is not a critical edition, it contains many passages that simply fail to make sense.

In 1964 Alpers edited the beginning of the *Canones* (rules 1-84 out of a total of 1,006) taking into account four manuscripts. Today we know of two more manuscripts, but these have not yet been taken into account in the context of a critical edition. Neither of the two previous editions, then, took into consideration all the extant manuscripts, and although Alpers' edition significantly improved the text, it covers less than 10% of this lengthy work.

The main outcome of my research project will be a monograph on Theognostus' *Canones*, including the first complete critical edition of this text, based on a thorough examination of all the surviving manuscripts and accompanied by a full introduction, critical apparatus, and apparatus of parallel passages. This will make Theognostus' work accessible both to Classical scholars and to Byzantinists and thus allow it to fulfil its potential usefulness to both fields.

Project originality

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Expected results & Research Project Impact

A monograph entitled 'Theognostus' *Canones*: a bridge between the ancient and byzantine worlds', including the first complete critical edition of this text, will make Theognostus' work accessible both to Classicists and to Byzantinists, and will be a valuable tool for the study of the Greek and Byzantine scholarship and their interrelationships.

The importance of this funding

The H.F.R.I. funding of my research project is important to me, since it allows me to fulfil a project that is an urgent *desideratum* for the study of classical and Byzantine scholarship and their interrelationships.



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COMMUNICATION

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