



HELLENIC REPUBLIC  
MINISTRY OF DEVELOPMENT  
GENERAL SECRETARIAT FOR RESEARCH AND INNOVATION  
**HELLENIC FOUNDATION FOR RESEARCH AND INNOVATION**

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### Press Release

#### **HFRI organized the Event titled “Gender Meetings in Research: Experiences - Voices - Subjects.”**

On Thursday, March 7, 2024, on the occasion of March 8, the Hellenic Foundation for Research and Innovation (HFRI) organized the event “Gender Meetings in Research: experiences - voices - subjects.” Deputy Minister of Social Cohesion and Family Maria-Alexandra Kefala and the Secretary-General for Equality and Human Rights, Dr Zefi Dimadama, opened the Event. Academics, researchers and friends of HFRI honoured the Foundation with their presence.

Deputy Minister Maria-Alexandra Kefala, in her address, outlined the government’s objectives and policies to structure a matrix of actions and initiatives that will create a sense of security for women and the ability to fulfill their goals and aspirations in terms of equality. She referred to the actions implemented by the Ministry of Social Cohesion and Family, which are dedicated to the removal of stereotypes, but also to the important role of the scientific community, stressing that *“It is important to empower women to enter the workforce and by strengthening the promotion of role models to attract even more women to the fields of research and innovation.”*

In her short message, Secretary-General for Equality and Human Rights Dr Zefi Dimadama focused on women’s participation in research and innovation and the significance of gender equality in those areas. She concluded by referring to the importance of HFRI highlighting gender equality issues for equal participation and contribution of men and women in the financial, research and innovation sectors.

The President of the Scientific Council (SC) of HFRI, Professor Xeni Chrysochoou, welcomed the attendees and stressed the importance of celebrating Women’s Day, a day that should possibly be transformed into a day of gender inequality, as she noted. She said that while HFRI does not directly

conduct research, it participates in the research effort by funding research in Universities and Research Centers, regardless of subject matter or geographic area. As she pointed out, the Event presents projects from various HFRI actions in different universities in the humanities and social sciences fields. The Event aims to show how research is linked to society's expectations for visibility and empowerment through projects that give voice to different forms of femininity and identities and speak about gender violence, LGBTQI and trans community movements. Thus, research can contribute to the transformation of society at critical moments.

Then, the Director of the Foundation, Dr Katerina Kouravelou, in her brief address, personally thanked the initiators of the Event as well as the staff of HFRI who embrace and implement the vision of the Foundation in the best way possible.

The aim of the Event was achieved by highlighting the gender dimension in research through the presentation of funded research projects and PhD theses, which have been supported by the Foundation's Actions and place gender at the centre of their study.

A summary of the Projects and Dissertations presented is as follows:

**“Co-emotional landscapes of care: Gender-based violence and resilience in the era of the Covid-19 pandemic.”**

With Principal Investigator Eirini Avramopoulou, Assistant Professor at the Department of Social Anthropology at Panteion University, the research project focuses on gender-based violence. It examines the correlation between institutional structures and co-emotional caring relationships during the COVID-19 pandemic in Greece. During the presentation, excerpted material from the 4th episode of the mini docufiction series “Co-emotional landscapes” was screened, which captures the atmosphere of violence and anguish but at the same time of care and solidarity that defined the subject and the research process in a climate quite burdened by the repeated femicides and lethal persecutions of LGBTQI individuals. The Project was endorsed as part of the 4th Call of Action, “Science and Society-Emblematic Action- Interventions to address the economic and social effects of the COVID-19 pandemic,” with Panteion University as Host Institution and is carried out with Diotima Center for Gender Rights and Equality as collaborating organization.

**“Brutal intimacies. A history of rape in modern Greece, 1900-1970.”**

The research project with Dimitra Vassiliadou, Associate Professor at the Department of Social Anthropology and History at the University of the Aegean as Principal Investigator, focuses on rape cases handled by the Greek judicial system, as well as on public debates on sexual violence and its institutional treatment in the period 1900-1970. At the Event, there was a presentation of the proceedings of the conference “Against their Will: Interpretations of Sexual Violence in Modern Greece,” which highlighted the Project's goal of researching the historicity of sexual violence in 20th-century Greece. The Project was endorsed as part of the Action “2nd Call for H.F.R.I. Research Project to support Postdoctoral Researchers” with the University of the Aegean as the Host Institution.

**“Modern Greek poetry and male homosexuality (1830-2020): queer theory and criticism in Modern Greek Literature”**

In his PhD thesis, Postdoctoral Researcher in Modern Greek Literature at Panteion University, Dr Charalampos Otampasis records and evaluates queer poetic discourse in Greece from 1830 to 2020 in support of the academic and theoretical debate concerning the literary representation of male homosexuality. During the course of his research, which lasted 4.5 years, Dr Otampasis was able to identify and collect 35 poets of homoerotic discourse. At the presentation of his dissertation at the Event, he recited 3 poems of homoerotic poetic discourse. The research work was endorsed under the “2nd Call for H.F.R.I. Scholarships to PhD Candidates” with the Democritus University of Thrace as the Host Institution.

### **“Gender, body and politics: FEMEN and the Action of Greek women’s associations and organizations”**

As part of her PhD dissertation, Dr Maria Kalfa, Lecturer and Postdoctoral Researcher at the Department of Social Work, Democritus University of Thrace and the Department of Political Science of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, studies the position of the naked female body in public space and the Discourses and its use as a tool in feminist Action and the modern remakes of feminism. The research work was endorsed as part of the “2nd Call for H.F.R.I. Scholarships to PhD Candidates” with the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki as the Host Institution.

### **“Center of New Media and Feminist Public Practices”**

The research project, with Principal Investigator Dr Elpida Karaba, Associate Professor of the Department of Culture, Creative Media and Industries of the University of Thessaly, is dedicated to the relationship between art, feminism and technology to the production of discourse and artistic production, focusing on the creation of new creative projects and original theory and methodology, as well as on the provision of an extended educational approach to these issues. In her presentation, Dr Karaba, through audiovisual material, analyzed the objectives of the Centre and spoke about the axes of development of its activities, such as theory, artistic practice and extended educational approaches. The Project was endorsed as part of the Action “1st Call for H.F.R.I. Research Project to support Postdoctoral Researchers” with the University of Thessaly as the Host Institution.

### **“Bodies of self-narrative: artistic representations of gender violence.”**

In her Doctoral Dissertation, Athanasia Katraki, PhD Candidate of the Department of History, Archaeology and Social Anthropology of the University of Thessaly, studies contemporary art projects as representations seeking their transformation into public testimonies of gender violence and militancy and explores how the vulnerable self-narrating body makes cultural sense. In her presentation, Athanasia Katraki focused on discussions from within her dissertation by referring to two artistic examples. The research work was endorsed as part of the “3rd Call for H.F.R.I. Scholarships to PhD Candidates” with the University of Thessaly as the Host Institution.

The Event is available on the official HFRI YouTube channel <https://youtu.be/41XKZ7YMmSc>

*Attached are photos from the Event.*

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### **About HFRI**

The Hellenic Foundation for Research and Innovation (HFRI) was established (Law 4429/2016) in response to the vital need for supporting Greek scientists. It is a legal person governed by private law, monitored by the Ministry of Development. HFRI aims to promote research and innovation in the country. In particular, it aims to evaluate and fund unrestricted research, namely research activities, research infrastructure and their technological applications, arising from scientific curiosity, without any thematic exclusions or geographical limitations, having scientific quality and excellence as a sole criterion.

