

HERITAGE

THE HERITAGE MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION

*Engaging Local Communities in Heritage Management through
Archaeological Ethnography*



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DATES:

Sunday 1 July 2018 – Sunday 22 July 2018

Athens and Gonia (Crete), Greece

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Background

The field school *Engaging Local Communities in Heritage Management through Archaeological Ethnography* provides an excellent and unique opportunity for participants to acquire training in the fields of archaeological ethnography, community archaeology and heritage management, while they delve into the daily life of the rural community of Gonies, a small village in the mountainous province of *Malevyzi* in central Crete.

The summer school is part of the *Three Peak Sanctuaries of Central Crete* archaeological project that investigates the Minoan peak sanctuaries of *Philioremos*, *Pyrgos* and *Keria*, which are in close proximity to the village of Gonies. Yet, the field school adopts a broader approach to archaeological ethnography and to ethnographic research in general, as it focuses on aspects of the recent past and contemporary archaeology and heritage.

Throughout the duration of the project, extensive ethnographic research is conducted in *Gonies*, which used to be one of the largest villages in the region. Possessing a very strong pastoralist and agricultural economy, it significantly contributed to the culture and history of the island. However, post-WWII out-migration and urbanization severely depopulated the village and its surroundings, leaving it with a mere 200 inhabitants.

Archaeological ethnography is an integral part of our research in Gonies. As a holistic research approach it aims to understand local people within their social and cultural environments. Also, it seeks to closely investigate the involvement of locals with their material and intangible heritage in general. We address the issues arising in the documentation, preservation, and dissemination of cultural heritage and social memory through our research and our public engagement with the village, along with local and national stakeholders.

In order to achieve this objective, a full understanding of the local context is necessary, as well as the creation of strong cooperative bonds between the project and the village. Ethnography helps us to more deeply involve the local population in creating anthropological and historical knowledge about the village, the archaeological site and its significance in changing historical settings.

This year's research

The research theme for the 2018 field school is *Memories of the Second World War*. Placed within the theoretical framework of contemporary archaeology, oral history, difficult heritage, memory, and trauma, we will investigate how locals recall World War II, its aftermath on themselves and the village, their perceptions about victims and

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perpetrators, as well as the silences or the difficult stories that remain untold. We will research the complex nature of trauma, how it affects the experience of survivor narratives, how it can act as testimony and documentation, whilst being integrated into the informants' life stories.

The students' primary responsibility will be to assist the members of staff, Dr. Aris Anagnostopoulos and Dr. Eleni Stefanou, to conduct ethnographic and oral history research. Hence, students will be trained to employ various ethnographic techniques, such as direct and participant observation, interviews, focus groups, and hands-on audiovisual practice with photography and video, in collaboration with the staff members, the cinematographer in residency and the local community.

The field school comprises of two parts, which will take place in two different research settings over three weeks:

1. The first part of the field school (01-07 July 2018) will take place in Athens in partnership with the *Netherlands Institute at Athens* and the *Athens Ethnographic Film Festival (Ethnofest)*. During this week, our students will receive intensive theoretical training on ethnographic research methods, anthropological approaches to vision and sound, heritage and oral history. Simultaneously, they will be introduced to the use of cameras and recording equipment in the field.
2. The second part of the field school (08-21 July 2018) will take place in the village of Gonies, Crete. In these two weeks in the field, students will receive one-to-one, intensive training on conducting interviews and archiving their recordings, while putting to practice the theoretical goals that they developed during the first part of the field school.

Course objectives

The course aims to familiarize students with the methods and concerns of archaeological ethnography and oral history for the purposes of managing heritage, memories and oral narratives.

It acquaints students with the concept of "difficult heritage" both in its intangible form, as a series of absences, and in its tangible form, relating to unsettling spaces and objects that pose a challenge to memory processes.

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The aim and outcome of the field school is to film a number of interviews in the form of life stories and, continuing last year's work, to create an oral history archive, that would be essential in the safeguarding the village's memories and narratives.

This year, in particular, students will participate in the following research activities:

- *Ethnographic interviews, participant observation, focus groups, events.*
- *Hands-on audiovisual practice on photography video, and sound recording and archiving.*
- *Digital documentation of personal narratives and material objects.*
- *Planning and performing a public presentation at the end of the program.*

PREREQUISITES

There are no prerequisites for participation in this field school. A working knowledge of Greek will be helpful. Students who have no knowledge of the language will learn to conduct ethnographic work with a translator, in this case a Greek-speaking colleague. There is only minimal physical labor involved in this field school. Fieldwork takes place in a village that is not far from *Herakleion*, the capital of the island of Crete, but amenities are sparse and the ways of life are quite different from those in a city. Students will understand that ethnographic work in such places is quite demanding, and requires their full attention and resourcefulness to be successfully carried through.

TRAVEL & MEETING POINT

In **Athens**, students will meet the staff on **Sunday, 1 July at 11:00** in the premises of the **Irish Institute of Hellenic Studies** at Notara 51a, Athens, 106 83 (<http://www.ihsa.ie/welcome.html>).

In **Crete**, students will meet the staff on **Sunday 8th of July at 13:00** at the lobby of **Hotel Olympic**, Kornarou Square, Heraklion (tel. no.: +30 281 288861; www.hotelolympic.com) in order to catch the 14:00 o'clock bus to Gonia (route takes 40 mins).

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Participants will have to make their own arrangements to travel both to and from Greece, and from Athens to Heraklion. Heraklion is connected to Athens by boat (ANEK lines & MINOAN lines) and airplane (AEGEAN airlines, SKY EXPRESS, ELLINAIR). Boat tickets vary in price, and can be booked late in the year, without alterations to the price. If you prefer to fly from Athens to Heraklion, we recommend you book early to get cheaper prices. To avoid surprises, remember that the ticket from Athens city centre to Athens airport costs 10 euros by metro and 6 euros by the X95 bus.

ACCOMMODATION

For the first part of the field school, which will take place in Athens during the week 01-07 July, students will reside at the Irish Institute of Hellenic Studies at Athens. Students may have to share rooms, and there is a shared bathroom and kitchen.

For the second part of the field school, on the following two weeks, 08-21 July, which will take place in Gonies, Crete, students will live in houses provided by the community.

Lodging is comfortable, but very basic. Students will share rooms, a kitchen and toilets. Hot water will not always be guaranteed.

We offer breakfast, a snack at lunch, and dinner cooked in the local cuisine. Food will be basic, but plenty and nutritious, based on local produce.

In Gonies, Crete, the local diet is based heavily on meat and dairy products, and an abundance of olive oil, but fresh vegetables and legumes will also be readily available.

Specialized diets (e.g. vegan, kosher) are very difficult to maintain due to the remoteness of the place. Vegetarians may attend and will be catered, but the food options may be fairly limited.

DISCLAIMER – PLEASE READ CAREFULLY

Field work involves long hours in hot weather. Students must be aware that conditions in the field are different than those experienced at home, dorms or college town. This program operates in the mountains of Crete. During the day, temperatures in the shade fluctuate between 70o-80of. However, under the sun they may reach 80o-90of. Humidity is relatively low and some mosquitoes and/or flies may be close to the research area. If students have any concerns, they must discuss them with a doctor and/or project director as appropriate.

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While in the village, students represent the project, and therefore their conduct reflects on the project's work and relationship with the community at large. Ethnographic work involves talking to a great variety people, and of very different cultural backgrounds, usually in their own private abodes. You should behave politely and in a way mindful of local custom at all times, during the program hours and during your times of rest and socializing. Creating intimate relationships with the locals whilst on the program is strictly prohibited.

Gonies is a small, quiet village with few outlets for entertainment. Most nights out will be spent in one of the local coffee shops, where students will be customarily offered alcoholic beverages as a treat. Please drink in moderation, the local variety of distilled alcoholic drink is very strong (40-60% alcohol by volume), and may result to alcohol poisoning if consumed in large quantities.

Students are required to bring the following items:

Sleeping bag (mandatory)

Trainer and/or trekking shoes (mandatory)

Warm jacket (mandatory)

Decent clothing for visiting elderly villagers and churches (mandatory)

Sun hat and sun cream (mandatory)

Towel and toiletries (mandatory)

Laptop and usb stick (mandatory)

Notebook for notes (mandatory)

Photographic camera (mandatory)

Audio recorder (mandatory)

A detailed (daily) course schedule of the field school has already been prepared and will be made available to the participants upon their acceptance to the program. For more information, you may contact the field school directors and/or instructors or you may contact our organization at inherity.info@gmail.com or e.drakaki@inherity.org