



University of Cyprus  
Faculty of Humanities



Σύνδεσμος Εικαστικοί Καλλιτέχνες Κύπρου  
Cyprus Visual Artists Association

## CALL FOR PROPOSALS Deadline September 1st

**Conference: “How to Chant for a Thin Place”: Borders and Bridges in  
World Literature and Art  
November 30th - December 1st, 2018  
Faculty of Humanities, University of Cyprus  
with the support of Phyltorio - Visual Artists Association, Nicosia  
Municipal Gardens**

The conference is organised by the Faculty of Humanities, University of Cyprus, in honour of Professor Stephanos Stephanides on the occasion of his retirement from the University of Cyprus. The conference is free and open to the public.

*the old sea  
between two islands  
was once  
my dwelling  
till the horizon lifted  
to let us through  
so I still wonder  
how to write thick poetry?  
how to chant for a thin place?  
(extract from the poem “Karpassia” by Stephanos Stephanides, 2007)*

This conference proposes a gathering of ideas that thematically relate, stem from, or respond to the multi-layered and interdisciplinary scholarly and literary work of Stephanos Stephanides. Few Cypriot writers have succeeded in producing work that functions as a bridge between the literatures of post-colonial transnational communities. The multiple dimensions of Stephanides’ contribution to literature, critical theory, and translation studies place Cyprus at the epicenter of conversations on Indian, Caribbean, American as well as Mediterranean communities. The goal of the conference is to take Stephanides’ poetry, prose, critical work, and films as a springboard for a productive exchange amongst scholars and creative practitioners around the ideas of transitional literatures and translatability, as well as performative, creative, and ritual practices, and post-colonial critique. New perspectives that introduce radical reconfigurations of identities, aesthetics, and language are particularly welcome.

We also welcome responses that focus specifically on the work of Stephanos Stephanides, examining the breadth of his scholarly and literary output, his institutional role and contribution to the development of literary studies and academia in Cyprus, critical approaches to his work as ethnographer, resonances between his work and that of other local and international authors, and reflections on his memory writing.

**We invite proposals for papers, panels, and creative contributions across disciplines may include, but are not limited to, the following topics:**

- Life writing and transcultural memory
- Vernacular cosmopolitanism
- The translation of heritage and translation as activism
- Theorisations and creative practices of translatability
- Queering the spatial and the temporal
- Creative cross-cultural practices in post-colonial literatures
- Ritual poetics and poetic rituals
- Literary ethnographies and autoethnographies
- Cyprus as real and symbolic space
- Theory of islands and border poetics

Presenters are welcome to use multiple media and formats, including performance and new media.

**Scientific committee:**

Alev Adil  
Ellada Evangelou  
Stavros Karayanni  
Chrystalleni Loizidou  
Anastasia Nikolopoulou

**Invited keynote speaker:**

Christopher Merrill (born February 24, 1957) is an American poet, essayist, journalist and translator. Currently, he serves as director of the International Writing Program at the University of Iowa. He led the initiative that resulted in the selection of Iowa City as a UNESCO City of Literature, a part of the Creative Cities Network. In 2011, he was appointed to the U.S. National Commission for UNESCO.

**Deadline for abstracts up to 200 words and short bios: 1st of September.**

**Contact and Submission Guidelines:**

Please send brief abstracts and short bios at [howtochant@gmail.com](mailto:howtochant@gmail.com)  
Abstract submission deadline: September 1st, 2018  
Acceptance notifications by mid-September.