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Dear Patrons, Members and friends,

The Greek Archaeological Committee UK takes great pleasure in inviting you to its 61st lecture entitled ‘**Marathon revisited: the new excavation of the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens at the site of Plasi**’, by Associate Professor Dr Yannis Papadatos, on Tuesday 25th May 2021, at 6pm (UK), 8pm (Greece). Due to the pandemic, the lecture will be given online via ZOOM. In order to participate in the event, it is necessary to register. A link with instructions how to register will be sent in due course.



Dr Yiannis Papadatos is Associate Professor of Prehistoric Archaeology in the Department of History and Archaeology, at the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens. He received his degree on Archaeology and History of Art from the University of Athens (1994), and his PhD on Prehistoric Archaeology from the University of Sheffield (1999). He has also worked as Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the University of Sheffield, as contract archaeologist for the Greek Archaeological Service, and adjunct lecturer in the Hellenic Open University. He is the director of several fieldwork projects, including the Minoan mountain building at Gaidourofás, the Minoan peak sanctuary at

Stavromenos at Anatoli Ierapetra, both in Crete and at Marathon-Plasi. He is a member of the organizing committee of the Minoan Seminar, and he has organized several international conferences and workshops in Greece and the UK. His publications include several monographs, edited volumes, and papers.

The excavations of the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens which commenced in 2014, under the direction of our speaker, is a collective project of the Department of Archaeology and History of Art. The scientific team for study and publication consists of members of staff and research students of the Department. (<https://www.marathonexcavations.arch.uoa.gr>)

Despite their limited and rescue character, the first excavations by Mastrokostas and Marinatos in 1969-70, showed the importance and extent of the Plasi site in Marathon, some 1.5km from the Tumulus of the Athenians. The systematic excavation of Plasi has reinforced the initial hypothesis that the site was the main focus of human activity in the plain of Marathon for almost 3 millennia, from the Final Neolithic to at least the Hellenistic period. So far, the excavation has revealed remains of a fortified settlement of the Early and Middle Bronze Age, an extensive cemetery of the beginning of the Late Bronze Age, a settlement of the Mycenaean period, a cemetery of the Early Iron Age, a sanctuary of the Archaic period, and extensive architectural remains of the late Classical/Hellenistic period. The speaker will address the implications of these finds for our understanding of the history of Marathon, from prehistory down to the phases just before and after the great battle.

The speaker will also mention the use of modern excavation techniques and digital methods of recording. These ensure that future archaeologists will acquire all the necessary skills and competences through the excavation of a broad array of contexts (domestic, funerary, ritual), dated to many different periods. Finally, public awareness regarding archaeological practice and protection of cultural heritage will be discussed together with feedback from the local community and beyond.

This promises to be a fascinating, well-illustrated presentation, given by the Director of the excavation of this emblematic site and I sincerely hope that you can join us on the evening of the 25th May.

Zetta Theodoropoulou Polychroniadis, PhD
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