

AAA lectures – Aegean and Southern Balkans – 2023

Ourania Kouka (University of Cyprus) and Milena Gošić (University of Belgrad)
invite you to an online ZOOM lecture
on Monday, May 22nd 2023 at 17:00 (CET), 18:00 (EET/Athens zone)

by

Professor John Papadopoulos

Department of Classics, University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA)

titled:

***Komai*, colonies and cities: the failure of the polis and the rise
of urbanism on the fringes of the Greek world**



This presentation focuses on a process that took shape in the Late Bronze and Early Iron Age, especially in Epirus, southern Albania, and Macedonia, namely the dichotomy between *polis* and *polis*-less states, which are paralleled by the earlier dichotomy between palatial and non-palatial states in the Late Bronze Age. The aim is to show how two very different systems of political organization not only connected with one another, but how each influenced and determined the other in interesting and unexpected ways.

In spectacular fashion, Philip II, in the fourth century BC, showed how powerless *poleis* were in the face of his Macedonian, tribal, clan-based, *polis*-less, state with central authority. It was the northern fringes of the Greek world that became the crucible of political activity that was to determine and define the trajectory of the latter Greek world. In contrast, the established and evidently stable *poleis*, which found it so difficult to merge their sovereignties in any way that was both militarily effective and politically acceptable, became irrelevant: a political dead end. Yet one could not exist without the other; the two systems had become irrevocably intertwined, in a sense mutually dependent on one another. The aim of this paper is to trace the development and attempt to understand the effectiveness of the non-palatial, *polis*-less, clan-based tribal *ethne*.

Zoom link:

<https://ucy.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJAtcu6vpz4uEt2owh650c1Q8rKugLrZNaWg>