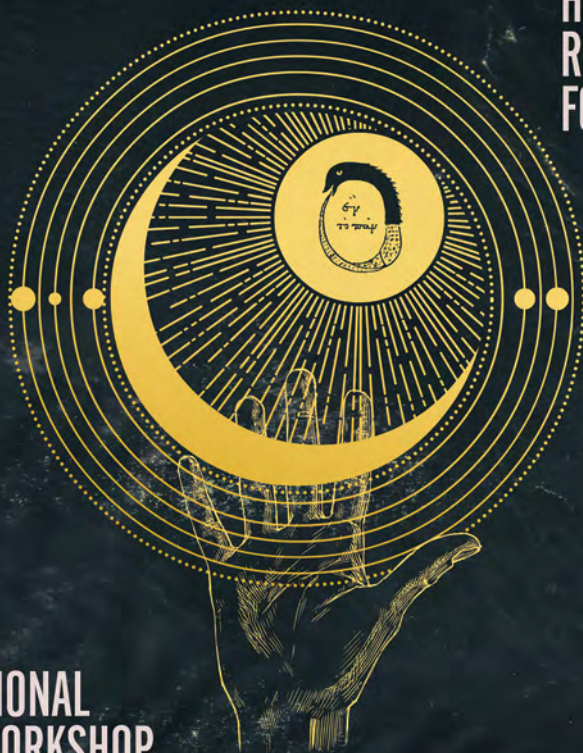


09-10 NOVEMBER  
2020

NATIONAL  
HELLENIC  
RESEARCH  
FOUNDATION



INTERNATIONAL  
DIGITAL WORKSHOP

# ALCHEMY IN BYZANTIUM: A RESEARCH FIELD ON THE RISE

<https://bit.ly/2TkNrBq>

# PROGRAM

MONDAY,  
09 NOVEMBER 2020

## OPENING SESSION

Welcome and introduction  
to the workshop

*Moderator:* **Maria Christina CHATZIOANNOU**, Director,  
Institute of Historical Research, National  
Hellenic Research Foundation, Athens

17.00-17.10\* | Greetings by the  
Director of the Institute **Maria  
Christina CHATZIOANNOU**

17.10-17.40 | **Gerasimos  
MERIANOS**, National Hellenic  
Research Foundation  
What makes alchemy in Byzantium Byzantine?

## 1<sup>ST</sup> SESSION

Artisanal traditions, alchemy,  
and materiality in Byzantium

*Moderator:* **Aristotle TYMPAS**,  
National & Kapodistrian University  
of Athens

I. Artistic techniques and alchemical  
practice

17.40-18.10 | **Shannon STEINER**,  
Binghamton University, New York  
Alchemy and the luxury arts in Byzantium

18.10-18.30 | Break

II. The Greek treatise on goldsmithing  
(Par. gr. 2327) revisited:  
A project of the Leibniz-Science  
Campus Mainz "Byzantium between  
Orient and Occident"

18.30-19.00 | **Susanne GREIFF**,  
Römisch-Germanisches  
Zentralmuseum Mainz (RGZM),  
Leibniz Research Institute  
for Archaeology  
*On common grounds:* Goldsmithing recipes  
in an alchemical collection

19.00-19.30 | **Antje  
BOSSLMANN-RUICKBIE**,  
RGZM / Justus Liebig University Gießen  
The goldsmithing recipes in Par. gr. 2327  
and the technology of medieval goldsmiths' works

19.30-20.00 | **Günter PRINZING**,  
Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz  
Observations on the textual base of the new edition.  
What do we know about the relation between  
Ms Par. gr. 2327 and Ms Meteorensis 97?  
Are they copies from a common source ("Vorlage")?

TUESDAY,  
10 NOVEMBER 2020

## 2<sup>ND</sup> SESSION

Receiving, commenting, compiling,  
developing: Key-authors and the  
evolution of the Greek alchemical  
tradition in Byzantium

*Moderator:* **Marina KOUMANOUDI**,  
National Hellenic Research Foundation

17.00-17.30 | **Michèle MERTENS**,  
University of Liège  
The trials and tribulations of Zosimos' writings  
through the Byzantine era

17.30-18.00 | **Cristina VIANO**,  
Centre National de la Recherche  
Scientifique, Paris  
Philosophy and alchemy in the sixth century:  
The alchemical commentary of Olympiodorus  
of Alexandria

18.00-18.30 | **Maria K.  
PAPATHANASSIOU**, National  
& Kapodistrian University of Athens  
Stephanos of Alexandria and the poet-chemists

18.30-18.50 | Break

## 3<sup>RD</sup> SESSION

Cultural crossroads: Byzantium,  
the East, and the West

*Moderator:* **Gerasimos MERIANOS**,  
National Hellenic Research Foundation

18.50-19.20 | **Lucia RAGGETTI**,  
University of Bologna  
Four shalt thou count! The Ps. Democritus' *Book  
on Elements and First Principles*

19.20-19.50 | **Vangelis KOUTALIS**,  
University of Ioannina  
Marcianus gr. Z 299 as part of Bessarion's Greek  
manuscript collection

19.50-20.20 | **Bojidar DIMITROV  
& Matteo MARTELLI**,  
University of Bologna  
Homer's alchemy between Byzantium and Baghdad

20.20-20.50 | **Maria MAVROUDI**,  
University of California, Berkeley  
Alchemy and philosophy between the Greek  
and the Islamic world, 7th-9th centuries

## CLOSING OF THE WORKSHOP

20.50-21.10 | Summing up  
and concluding remarks

\* Eastern European Time (UTC +2) Zone

# ALCHEMY IN BYZANTIUM: A RESEARCH FIELD ON THE RISE

The study of alchemy in Byzantium has been advancing during the last few decades, as indicated by the gradual increase in the number of publications, research projects, and doctoral dissertations that examine (or include the examination of) alchemical topics in a Byzantine context. This workshop is the first scientific event that focuses exclusively on alchemy in Byzantium and delves systematically into various of its dimensions. It builds on the dynamics of the field, aiming to provide an interdisciplinary platform for discussion between scholars specializing in Byzantine alchemy and scholars from diverse fields whose knowledge and insights will substantially aid the understanding of the peculiarities of alchemy in Byzantium.

The workshop is an activity of the research project “Alchemy in Byzantium” of the Institute of Historical Research, National Hellenic Research Foundation (coordinator: Gerasimos Merianos). It is also the first of a series of scientific events on the history of alchemy, labeled “Alchemical Dialogues”, an initiative undertaken in collaboration with Matteo Martelli, University of Bologna.

## **Workshop organizer**

Gerasimos Merianos, National Hellenic Research Foundation

## **Organizing assistant**

Vangelis Koutalis, University of Ioannina

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