

Einladung zu einem Gastvortrag

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Cavafy's Haunting from Colonized Egypt to the Greek Crisis

How do Cavafy's poems haunt us despite or through practices aimed at preserving the poet's cultural or national myth? This talk traces Cavafy's haunting from colonized Egypt to crisis-stricken Greece today through recent practices of dissemination of his poetry in public space, which often involve fragmentation and decontextualization. Approaching the Cavafian text as a statue that sometimes needs to be fractured to come alive in the present, I propose a fragmentary reading that does not erase a poem's historicity by decontextualizing it, but explores that historicity to its fullest by conjuring specters of the past in the present. Subjecting the poem "In a large Greek colony, 200 B.C." (1928) to such a reading, I unravel the ways it recasts Egypt's modern history of debt and colonization, as well as the neoliberal rhetoric of debt, crisis and reform in contemporary Greece. The poem emerges as a node connecting multiple histories, which resonate in the present not only as reminders of loss and trauma but also as pregnant with futurity.

Ort: Institut für Byzantinistik und Neogräzistik der Universität Wien
1010 Wien, Postgasse 7, 1. Stiege, 3. Stock

Zeit: Dienstag, 20. März 2018, 18:30 Uhr

Anschließend wird zu einem Glas Wein gebeten! Eintritt frei.
Interessierte sind herzlich willkommen!