

Welcoming Address to the Honorand by the Dean of the School of Philosophy, Professor Stavroula Tsinorema

Vice Rector,
Chair of the Department of Philology,
Colleagues and Students,
Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my utmost privilege to welcome you to this evening's academic ceremony. The Department of Philology of the School of Philosophy will confer an Honorary Doctorate to distinguished Professor Gregory Nagy of Harvard University, in recognition of his many outstanding contributions to the study of ancient Greek literature and Hellenic culture more generally.

We honour the scholar who has contributed profoundly to academic research. We also honour the valuable collaborator of members of staff of all three Departments of our School who have been hosted as fellows, and have collaborated with Professor Nagy, at the renown Center for Hellenic Studies at Washington D.C., which he directed for 21 years. It is with his continuous efforts that a twin Center was established at Nafplion in 2008, which has been dynamically thriving and offering significant contribution to classical studies.

Professor Nagy,

It is an exceptional honour for us that you have accepted the honorary degree, and it's a great pleasure to have you with us this evening, if only remotely. It is a privilege for me to welcome you to this important ceremony, which does not only confer honour to you but above all to our School, which will have among its members a distinguished scholar of your own standing. Your multifaceted research in ancient Greek scholarship, via the methodology of orality, which you have enriched and renewed, has offered a solid foundation for the understanding of the form, style and conditions of synthesis of the entire archaic lyric and epic poetry and Homeric poems in particular.

Being an accomplished classicist, you have been a most inspiring and influential teacher of a new generation of specialists in your field internationally. You have contributed to an open understanding of humanities research by opening up your



Fig. 5 : Welcoming address by the Dean, Prof. S. Tsinorema

studies to all through the use of new, digital technologies, thereby highlighting how important the meeting of the humanities with the ecosystem of new technologies can be. You have inspired us, at the same time, to reflect upon the new technologies as a defining component of today's civilization, and engage in the kind of rational investigation and reflexive understanding that forms a significant part of the impact of humanities research in contemporary times.

In our turbulent era, in which the humanities are challenged to prove their impact on the world, you provide a model of how research in the humanities can shape and reshape our relation to the world, with our past, the kind of relation without which we would be unable to orient ourselves to the future. We could hardly imagine making sense of our human, social world without the contribution of accumulated research in the humanities. Our understanding of pasts and places, of our place and past, and thus our present, has been deeply shaped by the findings of research in meanings and symbolisms, languages and texts, traditions, arts and artifacts, which penetrate our conceptions of ourselves and the world, our lived experience. I cannot stress enough how research in the humanities has, to a large extent, laid the foundation for the development of our contemporary identities.

Dear Professor Nagy,

I congratulate you on this Honorary Doctorate Degree and sincerely welcome you as a distinguished member of the Republic of Letters of the University of Crete. I certainly hope that this memorable conferment will be a significant momentum for enhancing our academic collaboration. I extend my thanks to the Head and the members of the Department of Philology for this excellent initiative.

We shall all look forward to welcoming you in person to our Faculty in the near future.

Congratulations and thank you!