

The George and Olga Tsunis Center for Hellenic Studies at Stony Brook University
and the
NY Chapter of the American Foundation for Greek Language and Culture
present

Homo Auctor: Orphans, Merchants and the Making of the First Greek-American Citizen in the 19th Century

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The saga of the archetypal Greek immigrant in America, starting from the late 19th century, faithfully relates the trials and tribulations of the impoverished and uneducated, albeit energetic and resourceful, peasant who came to this country from the villages of rural Greece. Little is known, however, about the fate of a group of teenage Greek orphans who had arrived much earlier in the United States, during the Greek War of Independence, and their subsequent association with another group of Greek cosmopolitans whose mercantile houses along the East coast flourished from before the time of the American Civil War until well into the heyday of the Gilded Age. This nebulous preamble to the ensuing mass Greek immigration to this country incubated, as it will be argued in my presentation, the subsequent leaders of the early Greek communities in several American urban centers and provided, at the same time, a foundational paradigm for the gradual transformation of the early Greek immigrant to an ideal Greek-American citizen.



Prof. Pouloupoulos was educated in Classics and Archaeology at UC Berkeley, and in Modern Greek Studies at Harvard. His research interests include the cultural history of Greece in the 19th and 20th centuries, narratives of crypto-colonialism, bio-mythologies, and reception studies. He recently edited a volume on the literature of the Greek Civil War for the journal *Hellenic Studies*. He is currently working on two projects: Greek Commercial Networks in 19th-Century America, and Graeculi and Roman Studies in Post-Independence Greece.

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1-3 pm

Poetry Center, Humanities Building

(2nd floor)

Stony Brook University