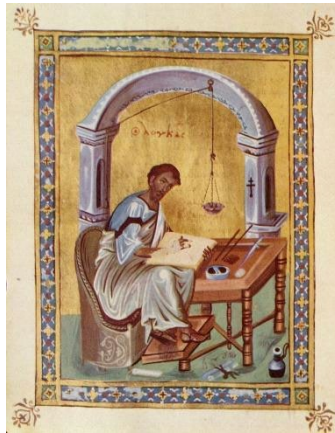


# FIFTH BYZANTINE COLLOQUIUM OF THE UNIVERSITY OF BUENOS AIRES

## Fiction and Faction in Byzantine Literature

Sección de Filología medieval – Instituto de Filología clásica  
Facultad de Filosofía y Letras

3–5 April 2024



Continuing the tradition of the Buenos Aires conferences, the topic of the fifth instalment is primarily narratological. We propose to tackle fiction, or the absence of fiction, in the Byzantine millennium. In particular, we will address the question whether there is indeed any tension between the narration of *ficta res* and of events that ‘really happened’.

This topic raises a number of issues, for example whether fiction and realism are productive categories. The delineation of fiction itself can be problematized, as also the question whether it should be defined by its relation to a referent. In this regard, it is of paramount importance to ask how the Byzantines themselves understood what we now would label as ‘fiction’, and how their perspective relates to that of classical Antiquity.

The Byzantine narrative appears in several genres, of which two have been studied more widely in the past few years: hagiography and the novel. The first of these was traditionally associated with non-fiction, although it abounds in fictional saints and non-historical events. The second one has been virtually always connected to fiction and to its so-called renaissance in the twelfth century.

Parallel to those and other narratives, theoretical treatises on rhetoric were written as well as commentaries on earlier narratives: by authors such as Photios and Eustathios of Thessaloniki and by Michael Psellos (e.g. his comparison of Euripides and George of Pisidia). These works appear to have used some theory of narration as a touchstone, or at least an opinion on what should be narrated, in which way, etc. It is relevant to have these in mind when tackling specific Byzantine narratives today.

Three topics will be central in the conference:

1. Byzantine narratives that can be labelled as 'fiction' or 'faction', the well-known but problematic mixture of fact and fiction.
2. The interaction between more or less theoretical treatises and actual narratives.
3. The possible tension between fictionalization and factualization.

This list is non-exclusive. Proposals on other relevant topics are also welcome, including those that open up the topic to art and other non-written narratives from Byzantium.

\* \* \*

We invite **20-minute papers** on any topic pertinent to narrative in Byzantium in the widest sense. Submissions of **English** presentations are particularly welcome.

**Please submit your abstract by 31 January 2024** to [tomas.fernandez@conicet.gov.ar](mailto:tomas.fernandez@conicet.gov.ar), [palomacortezr@gmail.com](mailto:palomacortezr@gmail.com) and [reinhardt.ceulemans@kuleuven.be](mailto:reinhardt.ceulemans@kuleuven.be). Abstracts should count 1000 characters or less (excl. bibliographical references), and should clearly state the hypothesis, goals and (expected) conclusions of the presentation.

**Full papers will be expected by 15 March, 2024.**

(8 pp. Palatino Linotype 11; interlinear space 1½, margins: 2 cm)

\* \* \*

**Venue:** in-person (Buenos Aires)

*Attendance of the conference will amount to € 20, or to its equivalent in Argentinian pesos (in the rate of Banco Nación); and € 16 for members of SAEMED, AADEC or CAEBiz. For anyone not presenting a paper, attendance is free, but registration mandatory.*

\* \* \*

**Organizing committee:** Prof. Tomás Fernández (Buenos Aires), Prof. Reinhart Ceulemans (Leuven), Ms Paloma Cortez (Buenos Aires)

**Organizational assistance:** Daniel Gutiérrez, Pablo Fuentes

## Under the aegis of

Comité argentino de Estudios bizantinos (CAEBiz)

Instituto de Filosofía "Dr. Alejandro Korn", Facultad de Filosofía y Letras UBA

Sección de Filosofía Medieval del Instituto de Filosofía, Facultad de Filosofía y Letras UBA

Instituto de Historia Antigua y Medieval, Facultad de Filosofía y Letras UBA

Cátedra Libre de Estudios griegos, bizantinos y neohelénicos, UBA

Instituto de Estudios grecolatinos "Francisco Nόvoa", UCA

Instituto Multidisciplinario de Historia y Ciencias humanas, CONICET

Sociedad Argentina de Estudios Medievales (SAEMED)

Asociación Argentina de Estudios Clásicos (AADEC)

Centro Michels de estudios de la tradición clásica

Academia Argentina de Letras (AAL)

Sociedad Española de Bizantinística (SEB)

Asociación Internacional de Estudios Bizantinos (AIEB / IABS)

Centro de Estudios griegos, bizantinos y neohelénicos "Fotios Mallerós", Universidad de Chile

Centro de Estudios bizantinos, neogriegos y chipriotas, Granada

Comité Argentino de Estudios bizantinos (CAEBiz)

Cariátide, Asociación argentina de Cultura helénica



**SOCIEDAD  
ESPAÑOLA DE  
BIZANTINÍSTICA**



Universidad de Buenos Aires  
Facultad de Filosofía y Letras

CÁTEDRA LIBRE DE ESTUDIOS  
GRIEGOS, BIZANTINOS Y NEOHELÉNICOS



**International Association  
of Byzantine Studies**