



ALABAMA GREECE INITIATIVE



ANGELIKI ZIAKA, ARISTOTLE UNIVERSITY

Lecture: "Muslim Presence in Greece"
February 23, 2011, 3:30 pm in Gorgas 205

Dr. Angeliki Ziaka is a Lecturer in the History of Religions at Aristotle University in Thessaloniki, Greece, and a Doctor of the Marc Bloch University of Strasbourg. Dr. Ziaka's research interests focus on Muslim theology and history as well as the social, religious and political dimensions of Islam in the Middle East, interreligious dialogue, and contemporary religions. She has published books on the social and political dimensions of Shi'ism (2004), interreligious dialogue (2010), byzantine and post-byzantine literature and Islam (2010) and the eschatological savior and Messianic movements in Islam (2010).

Her lecture will address the experiences and differences of two groups of Muslims currently residing in Greece. The so-called "old" Islam includes Muslims of Greek citizenship who are fully integrated into Greek society, having lived permanently in Western Thrace since the 15th century - when the nation came under Ottoman domination - and make up 2% of the Greek population. The so-called "new" or "migrant" Islam are immigrants who have recently come to Greece from various Muslim countries (financial refugees, political refugees, asylum seekers, students etc.). In order to better understand the status of these two groups, Dr. Ziaka will present a historical, social and juridical overview that will outline the phenomena related to migration and lead to proposals and solutions relevant to the problems involved.

UPCOMING INITIATIVE EVENTS

GREEK FILMS - BRIDES, TOUCH OF SPICE
March 30 - 31, 2011, 5:00-7:30 pm in Smith 205

GREECE AND GLOBAL CULTURE SYMPOSIUM
April 1, 2011, 9:00 am - 1:00 pm in Gorgas 205

DANAE STEFANOY, ARISTOTLE UNIVERSITY
Lecture: "Improvising Greece"
April 20, 2011, 3:30 pm in Gorgas 205
Concert featuring **Danae Stefanou** (piano) and
Andrew Raffo Dewar, New College, (soprano saxophone)
April 21, 2011, 7:30 pm in Moody Recital Hall

The **Alabama Greece Initiative** is an endeavor within the **College of Arts and Sciences** at the University of Alabama investigating potential relationships with Aristotle University in Thessaloniki, Greece. A committee of faculty, with the support of Dean Robert Olin, has developed these events to highlight some of the possible collaborations and topics that the relationship can enhance. For more information, go to www.as.ua.edu/greece.

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