



# ARTEMIS BIP (Blended Intensive Program) ELEGY: Representations of Grief in European Societies

**MAY 2026**

**Coordinated and hosted by: University of Ioannina, Greece**



**Hybrid format:**

**In-person** (4/5/2026–8/5/2026) &  
**Online** (27/4/2026 & 28/4/2026) &  
(11/5/2026 & 12/5/2026)

**Venue:**

General State Archives–Historical Archives of Epirus,  
"Panagiotis N. Soukakos" Congress Hall, Ioannina  
(D. Filosofou & Glykidon, Ioannina)

**ARTEMIS–Partner Universities:**



With the kind support of: **Περιφέρεια Ηπείρου**  
Region of Epirus



Universitatea OVIDIUS din Constanța



UNIVERSITÉ  
Clermont Auvergne



**Co-funded by  
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Private stories, but also collective experiences related to death, loss and the feeling of grief find expression through art. From funerary monuments and tombstones, to musical genres associated with death such as requiems and elegiac poetry: from dedication plaques on the benches in contemporary London to the small incised bronze cubes placed on pavements in front of the entrance of houses in Cologne, making where Jewish people lived before the Second World War – victims of Nazi atrocities: to the names of the first thousand victims of *Covid 19* printed on the front page of the *New York Times*, across all these manifestations, the way we process grief and preserve the memory of those we have lost is through art. For, one might say, a person is truly forgotten only when their name is forgotten.

*"every poem an epitaph"*  
T.S. Eliot

Mourning and the grief for the loss of a person are expressed by the poetic genre –known since Greek antiquity– as elegy. "Elegy inhabits a world of contradiction", since it "pushes against the limits of our expressive resources precisely at the very moment in which we confront our mortality" (Weisman, 2010: 1). Karen Smythe defines elegy as "a verbal representation or staging of emotion, wherein the detached speaker engages the audience with the intent of achieving some form of cathartic consolation" (Smythe, 1992: 3). It is one of the oldest of our poetic genres revealing an ancient relationship between literature and loss (Watkin, 2004:

6). Poetry became an important cultural space for mourning the dead in the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> centuries "as warfare was industrialized and mass death augmented, as mourning rites were weakened and the 'funeral director' professionalized, as the dying were shut away in hospitals and death itself made a taboo subject" (Ramazani, 1994: 1), leading the mourners to a state of despair, depression or melancholy. Poetry of mourning as private utterance offers refuge from the social denial of grief, and as published discourse it carries out in the public its struggle against the denial of grief (Ramazani, 1994: 15-16).

The aim of the ARTEMIS BIP "ELEGY: Representations of Grief in European Societies" is the interdisciplinary approach and exploration, through various cultural and artistic expressions, of the experience of death, individual and collective, in European societies.

#### References:

- Ramazani Jahan (1994), *Poetry of mourning. The modern elegy from Hardy to Heaney*, The University of Chicago Press, Chicago and London.
- Smythe, K. E. (1992), *Figuring grief. Gallant, Munro, and the Poetics of Elegy*, McGill-Queen's University Press, Montreal & Kingston.
- Watkin, W. (2004), *On mourning. Theories of Loss in Modern Literature*, Edinburgh University Press, Edinburgh.
- Weisman, K. (ed.) (2010), *The Oxford Handbook of the Elegy*, Oxford University Press, Oxford.

**ARTEMIS BIP ID:** 2024-1-EL01-KA131-HED-000210895-4

#### ECTS Credits:

The program corresponds to 3 ECTS credits, based on the total student workload. This includes 59 hours of mandatory participation in lectures and workshops (online or in-person) as well as preparation of assignments, presentations, and group activities.



## ACADEMIC SCHEDULE

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Monday 27/04/2026

Online

16.00–19.00 EET (Greece) / 15.00–18.00 CET (France)

- ✚ Presentation of the program, teaching team, student team and types of activities: Despoina Papastathi
- ✚ The City that Remembers: Ioannina and the Silent Forms of Death in the Monumental Landscape: Fanie Lytari, UOI

**Link:**

[ARTEMIS BIP ELEGY\\_1st ONLINE meeting | Συμμετοχή σε σύσκεψη | Microsoft Teams](#)

Tuesday 28/04/2026

Online

16.00–19.00 EET (Greece) / 15.00–18.00 CET (France)

- ✚ ***“In the Poetic Workshop: Verses on Grief and Loss”***. In this Poetry Workshop, French, Romanian, and Greek poets come together in dialogue. The poetry event is co-organized by **University of Ioannina** and the **Patras World Poetry Festival**. The poets taking part are:

- \* Antoine Simon (France)
- \* Laurent Grison (France)
- \* Nicolae Baciut (Romania)
- \* Aura Christi (Romania)
- \* Adrian Lesenciuc (Romania)
- \* Peter Sragher (Romania)
- \* Thanassis Hatzopoulos (Greece)
- \* Liana Sakelliou (Greece)
- \* Antonis Skiathas (Greece)

- ✚ With the participation of Angela Bratsou (Romania), translator and literary critic

**Link:**

[ARTEMIS BIP ELEGY\\_“In the Poetic Workshop: Verses on Grief and Loss”. | Συμμετοχή σε σύσκεψη | Microsoft Teams](#)



Monday 04/05/2026

In-person

["Panagiotis N. Soukakos" Congress Hall,  
D. Filosofoy & Glykidon, Ioannina, Greece]

9.00-9.30	Registration
9.30-10.00	Greetings
10.00-10.30	Despoina Papastathi, UOI, <i>Elegy: Representations of Grief in European Societies. An Introduction</i>
<b>Death in literature: Elegy, Lament and Consolation</b> <b>Moderator: Vasileios Pappas</b>	
10.30-10.50	Sandrine Dubel, UCA, <i>What does Andromache's Grief do to the Iliad?</i>
10.50-11.10	Eleni Gasti, UOI, <i>Echoes of Elegy: The Kommos of Aeschylus' Choephoroi as Ritual Performance of Grief</i>
11.10-11.30	Sylvana Chrysakopoulou, UOI, <i>Xenophanes abolishes animal sacrifice in his Sympotic Elegy</i>
11.30-12.00	Discussion
12.00-12.30	Coffee break



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<b>Death in literature: Elegy, Lament and Consolation</b> <b>Moderator: Eleni Gasti</b>	
12.30-12.50	Helene Vial, UCA, <i>Ovid and Elegy: The Reinvention of a Lifetime</i>
12.50-13.10	Stella Alekou, UOI, <i>Female lament and Violence in Ovid's Heroides and the 15 Heroines</i>
13.10-13.30	Vasileios Pappas, UOI, <i>The Grief of Maximianus' Graia puella (Elegy 5): Sex is NOT a Bad Thing</i>
13.30-14.00	Discussion
14.00-15.00	Lunch break
15.00-18.00	Guided tour of the Castle of Ioannina and its main landmarks including the Byzantine Museum & the Silversmithing Museum

Tuesday 05/05/2026

In-person

["Panagiotis N. Soukagos" Congress Hall,  
D. Filosofofou & Glykidon, Ioannina, Greece]

**Death in literature: Elegy, Lament and Consolation**  
**Moderator: Maria Zoubouli**

10.00-10.20	Sébastien Douchet, UCA, The Lament of an Abandoned Woman: Elegy and the Female Condition in Late 15 <sup>th</sup> Century in <i>La Fausseté d'Amour</i>
10.20-10.40	Dafinoiu Cristina, OUC, The Myth of Sacrifice for Creation in the Balkan Space: A Comparative Perspective between Greek and Romanian Culture
10.40-11.00	Antigoni Samiou, UOI, <i>Duino Elegies (Duineser Elegien, 1923)</i> of Rainer Maria Rilke
11.00-11.20	Discussion
11.20-12.00	Coffee break



**Artistic Representations of Grief**  
**Moderator: Despoina Papastathi**

12.00-12.20	George Kokkonis, UOI, Ritsos' <i>Epitaphios</i> : Where Poetry Encounters the Composers
12.20-12.40	Petros Petrikis, UOI, Trauma and resilience. The case of the French lyricist, composer and singer Barbara
12.40-13.00	Leisha Ashdown-Lecointre, UCA, Pantomime, Pierrot and Elegy in Late Nineteenth Century Europe
13.00-13.20	Maria Zoubouli, UOI, The Burial of Yugoslavia and the Exhumation of Memory: Abramović's Balkan Epic
13.20-13.40	Discussion
13.40-15.00	Lunch break
15.00-18.00	Visit to the University of Ioannina Library for study and project preparation

Wednesday 06/05/2026

In-person

["Panagiotis N. Soukakos" Congress Hall,  
D. Filosofoy & Glykidon, Ioannina, Greece]

**Religious and Philosophical Representations of Grief**  
Moderator: Alexandra Alexandridou

10.00-10.20	Anne-Marie Favreau-Linder, UCA, "The Philosopher and the Father Faced with the Death of His Child: Plutarch, <i>Consolation for His Wife</i>
10.20-10.40	Maria Tomadaki, UOI, Poetry in Elegiac Distichs from the Middle Byzantine Period (9th–12th centuries)
10.40-11.00	Panagiotis Athanasopoulos, UOI, Thomas Aquinas on Sadness and its Remedies
11.00-11.20	Dimitris Kargiotis, UOI, Tears and Authenticity
11.20-12.00	Discussion
12.00-12.30	Coffee break



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**Cemeteries, Rituals and Rhetoric of Death**  
Moderator: Dimitris Kargiotis

12.30-12.50	Alexandra Alexandridou, UOI, Confronting the Fear of Death: An Archaeological Perspective
12.50-13.10	Fabrice Galtier, UCA, The Function of the <i>Imagines maiorum</i> in Remembering the Dead in Ancient Rome
13.10-13.30	Cristina Rogojină, OUC, Romanian Burial—The Ethnographic Context of the Funerary Rites Song <i>The Dawns</i>
13.30-14.00	Discussion
14.00-15.00	Lunch break
15.00-18.00	Guided tour of the city center and the Archaeological Museum of Ioannina

Thursday 07/05/2026

In-person

["Panagiotis N. Soukakos" Congress Hall,  
D. Filosofoy & Glykidon, Ioannina, Greece]

### Mourning, Rituals and Rhetoric of Death

Moderator: Maria Tomadaki

10.00-10.20	Bettina Severin-Barboutie, UCA, Source(s) of (In)finiteness? Reflections on the Potential of Bandes Dessinées for the Historical Investigation of Death and Finitude
10.20-10.40	Marilena Marin, OUC, The Law of Talion Viewed as the Victim's Elegy: Suffering, Justice, and Forgiveness
10.40-11.00	Discussion
11.00-11.30	Coffee break



### Creative Reading and Writing

Moderators: Despoina Papastathi, Anne-Marie Favreau-Linder, Christina Dafinoiu

11.30-14.00	Group presentations and discussion of the assigned poems by teams of French, Romanian, and Greek students, followed by brief critical commentaries and presentation of student projects
14.00-15.00	Lunch break



*Time at leisure: exploring Ioannina...*



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Friday 08/05/2026

In-person

#### Educational and cultural excursion:

**Route:** Ioannina – Acheron Springs – Necromanteion – Preveza – Ioannina

**Departure:** 9:00 | **Return:** 19:30

**Lunch Break:** University of Ioannina Student Restaurant, Preveza

Monday 11/05/2026

Online

16.00–20.00 EET (Greece) / 15.00–19.00 CET (France)

**Moderators: Despoina Papastathi, Vasileios Pappas**

- ✚ Marina Cap-Bun, OUC, Elements of the Romanian Traditional Mythology of Death
- ✚ Veronica Christina Nedelcu, OUC, The Epitaph–An Image of Death as a Joke in the Cemetery of Sapanta. (“The Merry Cemetery”)
- ✚ Annick Stoehr-Monjou, UCA, The Tears of Augustinus: Mourning and Lamentation in a Christian Context
- ✚ Alina Buzatu, OUC, Grammars of Suffering: Existential Meaning or Biological Design Flaw?
- ✚ Discussion

**Link:**

[ARTEMIS BIP ELEGY\\_3rd ONLINE meeting | Συμμετοχή σε σύσκεψη | Microsoft Teams](#)

Tuesday 12/05/2026

Online

16.00–20.00 EET (Greece) / 15.00–19.00 CET (France)

- ✚ Echoes of a week spent in Ioannina from the students’ perspective
- ✚ Echoes of a week spent in Ioannina from the teachers’ perspective.
- ✚ Summary of main theoretical content
- ✚ What is next?

**Link:**

[ARTEMIS BIP\\_4th ONLINE meeting | Συμμετοχή σε σύσκεψη | Microsoft Teams](#)



<b>Academic and Scientific Coordinator of the Program</b>	<b>Despoina Papastathi, University of Ioannina</b>
<b>Speakers (listed in alphabetical order)</b>	
<b>Alekou Stella, University of Ioannina</b>	
<b>Alexandridou Alexandra, University of Ioannina</b>	
<b>Ashdown-Lecointre Leisha, University Clermont Auvergne</b>	
<b>Athanasopoulos Panagiotis, University of Ioannina</b>	
<b>Buzatu Alina, Ovidius University of Constanta</b>	
<b>Cap-Bun Marina, Ovidius University of Constanta</b>	
<b>Chrysakopoulou Sylvana, University of Ioannina</b>	
<b>Dafinoiu Cristina, Ovidius University of Constanta</b>	
<b>Douchet Sébastien, University Clermont Auvergne</b>	
<b>Dubel Sandrine, University Clermont Auvergne</b>	
<b>Favreau-Linder Anne-Marie, University Clermont Auvergne</b>	
<b>Galtier Fabrice, University Clermont Auvergne</b>	
<b>Gasti Eleni, University of Ioannina</b>	
<b>Kargiotis Dimitris, University of Ioannina</b>	
<b>Kokkonis George, University of Ioannina</b>	
<b>Lytari Fanie, University of Ioannina</b>	
<b>Marin Marilena, Ovidius University of Constanta</b>	
<b>Nedelcu Veronica Christina, Ovidius University of Constanta</b>	
<b>Pappas Vasileios, University of Ioannina</b>	
<b>Petrikis Petros, University of Ioannina</b>	
<b>Rogojină Cristina, Ovidius University of Constanta</b>	
<b>Samiou Antigoni, University of Ioannina</b>	
<b>Severin-Barboutie Bettina, University Clermont Auvergne</b>	
<b>Stoehr-Monjou Annick, University Clermont Auvergne</b>	
<b>Tomadaki Maria, University of Ioannina</b>	
<b>Vial Helene, University Clermont Auvergne</b>	
<b>Zoubouli Maria, University of Ioannina</b>	
<b>Poets (listed in alphabetical order)</b>	
<b>Baciu Nicolae, Romania</b>	
<b>Christi Aura, Romania</b>	
<b>Grison Laurent, France</b>	
<b>Hatzopoulos Thanassis, Greece</b>	
<b>Lesenciuc Adrian, Romania</b>	
<b>Sakelliou Liana, Greece</b>	
<b>Simon Antoine, France</b>	
<b>Skiathas Antonis, Greece</b>	
<b>Sragher Peter, Romania</b>	
<b>Translator and literary critic</b>	
<b>Bratsou Angela, Romania</b>	



# NOTES

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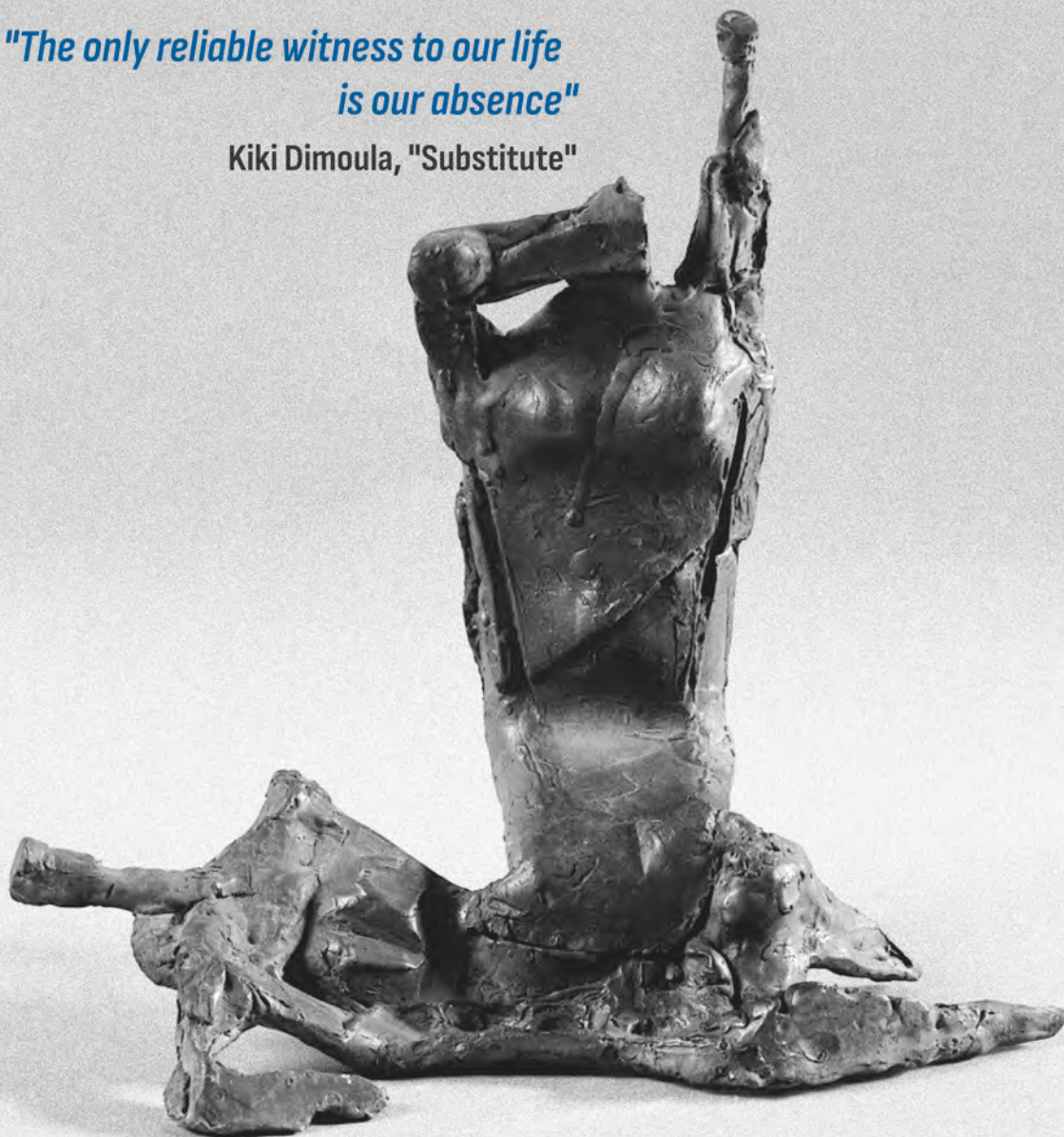
# NOTES

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*"The only reliable witness to our life  
is our absence"*

Kiki Dimoula, "Substitute"



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