



THE HELLENIC CULTURAL SOCIETY
OF SAN DIEGO

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THE HELLENIC CULTURAL SOCIETY
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TRIMINAIO

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The mutation rate of genes, as well as the identification between genetic mutations and specific geographical areas, are issues that are still under investigation, and this is why the interdisciplinary conclusions of many genetic researches cannot be unquestionably accepted.

Nevertheless, the Indo-European problem still has a diachronic seductive effect on numerous scholars and research programs even though many theories often reach an impasse with no persuasive non-linguistic explanation of the dispersal of the Indo-European languages to account for all the regions where relevant languages were spoken.

Furthermore, contemporary research illustrates a worldwide systematic overview of successive cultural phases from the Upper Paleolithic to the end of the Bronze Age, mostly located with precision in time and space. Particularly, we can no longer consider the prehistory of the Greek area as "dark."

The new study, in which many Greek experts were involved (such as Iosif Lazaridis, associate researcher in Genetics of Harvard Department of Human Evolutionary Biology and Harvard Medical School), published this Thursday, August 26, 2022 in Science, reports on genetic data extracted from 777 individuals who lived across the so-called Southern Arc, namely Southern Europe and West Asia.

According to other more recent DNA data of ancient Anatolians, which raised new questions about the "spread" of Indo-European languages, it seems that Anatolians did not mix with steppe pastoralists during the early Bronze Age. It's the only place where Indo-European-related languages were spoken even though there was no steppe ancestry.

Ancient Anatolian peoples spoke the now-extinct Anatolian languages of the Indo-European language family, which were largely replaced by the Greek language during classical antiquity as well as during the Hellenistic, Roman, and Byzantine periods. The major Anatolian languages included Hittite, Luwian, and Lydian while other, poorly attested local languages included Phrygian, Palaic, Luwic, and Mysian.

To be continued in the next Triminaio

**SAVE THE DATE FOR THIS
SPECIAL LECTURE ON**

**"Greece as a Strategic
Partner in the Eastern
Mediterranean"**

BY IOANNIS STAMATEKOS



**Monday,
October 16, 2023
4 p.m. - 7 p.m.**

Atkinson Pavilion, Faculty Club
UC San Diego
9500 Gilman Dr, La Jolla, CA 92093

Registration Link:
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/greece-as-a-strategic-partner-in-the-eastern-mediterranean-tickets-695649465277?aff=oddtcreator>

Guests will be able to park at the Scholars Parking Structure day of the event. For guests who have registered I will follow up with a map on where to park and parking codes for them to get free parking.

Dear Fellow Members,

I hope you are all well and had an enjoyable and relaxing summer. Fall is approaching and we are starting to host some exciting lectures and events.

One such event is a joint lecture between the Society and the Center of Hellenic Studies at UCSD. Mr. Ioannis Stamatekos, Consulate General of Greece, Los Angeles will be talking about "Greece as a Strategic Partner in the Eastern Mediterranean". We are thrilled to be working and hosting these quality events that benefit of all our communities. You will find information regarding October 16, 2023 on the back of this edition.

The Society Board continues to work to keep our organization updated and current to the needs of all our members. Your vital financial support allows us to continue our work. Your dues are fully tax deductible as we are a 501c3 not-for-profit corporation. You can donate today via credit card at our website, www.Hellenic-Culture.org. On behalf of the Board of Directors, I thank you for your continued support.



**Best Regards,
Alexia Koulaxes Anas, President**

hellenic-culture.org

THE PROJECT AND OUR MISSION

As each day, minute or second passes we are losing our Greek history, culture, and truth. In 1948, Winston Churchill said to the House of Commons, "Those who fail to learn from history are doomed to repeat it." We are in the midst of a revolution. An outright revolt against history. While not everything in our history is good, it is true. And only truth can guide us forward.

The attack is not new and can cause people to forget their past which affects their future. We have for many years seen a wave of "revisionist history" at work in our educational system. Rewrite what you don't like. Now, it is even more pronounced. Erase it all.

We must never forget our heritage. We must not lose our history. Universities around the world have recently closed or consolidated history departments or laid off substantial numbers of historians. Others now contemplate such measures. Doing so comes at immense cost to students and to colleges and universities themselves, and to society. To eliminate or decimate a history department is a lose-lose proposition: it deprives students of essential learning and skills, even as it strips institutions of the essential perspectives and intellectual resources so necessary to confront the present and shape the future.

This loss is seen not only at the university level, but it has "trickled down" to the High School, Middle and Elementary school as well. With so much to teach and so little time the importance of what ancient Greece gave to the world is lost to science and math preferences. Not only is this happening in our schools but, in our own Greek communities as each generation becomes less and less exposed to our history, culture, and truths. The beauty, thought, philosophy, art, drama, architecture, sport, sciences, and math that were gifts to Western Civilization by our ancestors are being usurped by other groups who lay claim to it as their own.

This passion for the continuation of

our heritage has challenged the Hellenic Cultural Society of San Diego and the Prognosis Institute to combine efforts to create a series of short, visually rich animated documentaries. The animation format helps deepen visual understanding better than traditional diagrams and allows the presenter to tell stories that communicate ideas and emotions quickly and sharply in a unique, easy-to-perceive way that both children and adults can understand. Animation has become a popular form of storytelling that has helped shape the modern world by connecting people in a way that sometimes writing and live-action films cannot.

This new style, incubated on YouTube, TikTok and Instagram is the best way to successfully enrich younger generations with the tenets and virtues of Hellenism. Deborah Nichols, an associate professor of human development and family studies at Purdue University, said the vast interest in YouTube reflects the "shift away from globalized interest to much more specialized or individualized interest," and that youth are likely to explore their interests in this way.

Fifty-three percent of kids have their own smartphone by age 11, and nearly 70% have one by age 12. Smartphone ownership among tweens increased from 24% in 2015 to 41% in 2019, and from 67% to 84% among teens today. Among 8-year-olds, nearly 1 in 5 now have their own smartphone. In 2022, more than twice as many young people watch videos every day than in 2015. The percentage of teens who said they spend time watching online videos jumped from 34% to 69%, and the number of tweens who reported watching online videos rose from 24% to 56% in that same time frame. Millennials who grew up during the internet explosion adapted quickly to social media, a lifestyle of constant connectivity and on-demand entertainment. Millennials also grew up with primarily 2D

cartoons. Today, Millennials are now well into adulthood, with Generation Z (those born after 1997) ushering new expectations for brand authenticity, diversity and engagement.

Our project entitled **CITIZEN B•C•E•** (based on the book *Citizen B.C.* which was co-authored by Samson Soledad and our founder and my father, George Koulaxes) will be produced in easily digestible, 2–10-minute episodes, optimizing their appeal and assuring their compatibility with the various streaming platforms' time requirements. Each episode will have an authentic, compelling, and intriguing storyline, witty dialogue and voice over, and rich, engrossing graphic design and animation. It will be produced entirely as stylized animation and the audience will be guided through Ancient Greek History via an exquisitely animated world.

Given the creative freedom of animation, we can traverse the Parthenon or shop at the Greek markets. Our viewers will participate in a solstice festival, or hear the words of Socrates, Aristotle, and Plato. Our focus will be on how best to communicate and concentrate on a lesson bringing to life the truth of our heritage. The novel idea of an animated documentary will not dilute the important history lessons within. On the contrary, this fresh concept can only amplify them.

We hope you will join us in this exciting endeavor. We have already received over \$65,000.00 in generous financial support from several individuals, and are working to reach our goal of \$250,000.00. We would like to further discuss the possibilities of your participation and support. Please contact me at alexiaanas@gmail.com for further information.

CITIZEN B•C•E•

A visual journey through the intriguing, provoking, and unexpected history of ANCIENT HELLENISM.

New DNA Analysis Redirects the Cradle of Indo-Europeans, Sheds Light on Proto-Greeks.

A recent DNA analysis on 777 ancient genomes from across the so-called Southern Arc, namely Southern Europe and West Asia, redirects the cradle of Indo-Europeans and sheds light on the Proto-Greek prehistoric past.

As is well known, the Greek language belongs to the Indo-European language family, and, as far as the latest genetic analysis shows, the area of Greece is highly significant in terms of this language family's origin and its dispersal throughout other areas—yet, what does new DNA research say about Proto-Greek speakers and the first Indo-

European Language and Ethnicity; The Example of the Proto-Greek Speakers.

Ethnic identity is said to be based predominantly on a community's subjective faith in a common origin and distinctiveness. However, since no access to subjective ethnic self-awareness of prehistoric peoples is available, only a single objective way remains to trace origins of specific groups. This involves detection of the communication tool, or language in other words, uniting certain peoples and thus distinguishing distinct societies and cultures.

Article published in the Greek Reporter
Credited by Dimosthenis Vasiloudis August 7, 2023.

When we talk about the origins of the Greeks or the "outset" of the Greek civilization, the impression of a "coming" of a proto-Greek speaking population from another area to the Hellenic mainland is conveyed. Of course, this concept has its roots in some controversial information in ancient written sources, and it is also evidenced in the existence of certain words and place names of non-Greek origin ("Pre-Greek substratum") in the Greek language itself.

However, interpretations of migrations which dominated archeology in the previous century have influenced, and continue to influence, the main theories about the dispersal of the Indo-European languages.

In the last decades, the phenomenon of migration has been significantly revised by more systematic ways of Processual Archeology. It should no longer be considered a self-evident question but merely a hypotheses among many to be evaluated. Through the development of the new archeological theoretical thought, experts emphasize the radical shift towards the study of indigenous developments regarding the importance of migrations.

Experts consider the Greek language a member of the Indo-European family. Due to this status, the origin of the Greek language problematizes the derivation of the Indo-European family of languages. The most popular and long-lived predominant theory of the Proto-Indo-European origin is the one involving the South Russian steppe (Kurgan theory). Later alternative views also place the Proto-Indo-European homeland in eastern Anatolia, which is now Turkey (Anatolian or "sedentary farmer theory").

A characteristic problem of this complex Indo-European issue is that the research of linguistic paleontology developed tendencies to manipulate the archaeological research over time. Therefore, a common and equal tool for investigating the human past was hard to come by.

The revolution brought by the discovery of DNA in the 1950s was perceived as a huge opportunity utilized in scientific branches which work closely with archeological science to clarify ancient migration patterns. Despite the initial enthusiasm, various problems demonstrate that DNA alone cannot shed light on complex issues.

Continued on the back page