



**A *Retracing Connections online research dialogue* between Myrto Veikou (Patras) and Markéta Kulhánková (Prague), moderated by Ingela Nilsson (Uppsala)**

## ***From narrative to lived spaces: Digenis Akrites in recent research***

### **ABSTRACT**

*Digenis Akrites* holds a special place in both Byzantine and modern Greek literature. Previously often seen as a kind of national epic, it is now most often read as a heroic and romantic poem set in the Eastern borderlands of Byzantium. Surviving in different versions, the time and place of the poem's composition are difficult to determine, but there is a general agreement on a twelfth-century Constantinopolitan context for the writing down of an orally transmitted story.

Recently, *Digenis* has been re-read in various ways related to space. John Kee drew on narrative theory and geography in his article in *Byzantinoslavica* (2022) and Myrto Veikou is currently applying a landscape perspective to *Digenis* in a comparison with the Arab *Epic of the Holy Warrior (Dhat al-Himma)*. At the same time, Markéta Kulhánková, who translated *Digenis* into Czech together with Ondřej Cikán (2018), is now finishing her work on a narratological commentary in which narrative space has come to play a significant role.

What is the difference between narrative space and the physical landscape in which the story of *Digenis* is placed? How are the two related? Why do we care about the narrative space of *Digenis*? How can a storyworld be understood as a lived space? And why does space even matter? These are questions that will be addressed in a discussion between Myrto Veikou and Markéta Kulhánková, moderated by Ingela Nilsson.

The Dialogue takes place online via Zoom on **Tuesday, March 19, 2024, at 18.00 (Athens)**.

To register, please visit:

<https://www.sia.gr/en/events.php?eid=396#ParticipationForm>