

George L. Vlachos (Georgios Vlachos)

PhD candidate

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Athens, GR, Dimokratias 6, 157 73

Statement: Regional Representative Candidate on behalf of Greece

As a young environmental historian who is currently finishing his PhD, I do not take my candidacy as a Regional Representative for Greece lightly. For the last four years I have been working within the field of environmental history, striving to establish through my research a link between the environment and the emergence and establishment of nationalism in the Balkans during the late 19th and early 20th century. My thesis, which is in the very late stages of its completion reflects that fact, as it examines the nationalization process of southern Macedonia through the manipulation of the province's environment by the Greek state.

Although my list of publications does not compare to that of the other regional representatives from around Europe, all of who are renowned and seasoned scholars in our field, I believe that my diligence and dedication to the discipline will make up for it. In fact, the two articles that are contained in my CV –both of which are now in press- negotiate environmental history themes, even encroaching upon fields that are exceptionally new and promising, like video-game studies. That, coupled with my conference presentations as well as the fact that I recently co-organized a successful environmental history workshop should be enough to show my devotion. It was these qualities that urged the Greek Regional Representative, Prof. Vasso Seirinidou, to recommend my candidacy for the position she currently holds.

My aspirations as the Regional Representative for Greece are twofold. On the one hand, I plan to highlight the role of environmental history in Greece, a country that has been completely detached from the study of environmental humanities in general. In light of this, I intend to seek and contact like-minded young scholars and perhaps utilize my position to organize environmental humanities workshops for Greek (or Balkan) environmental historians, with the help of the Greek National Research Foundation, with which I maintain an amicable relationship. On the other hand, I hope to find a way to underscore the value of environmental history, not as an alternative or marginal school of history but as a deeply political and engaging field that needs to find its place in the university curricula of southeastern Europe. The establishment of a network comprised of environmental historians would undoubtedly be a very positive first step toward this goal.

For these reasons and bearing these ideas I submit my candidacy for the Regional Representative for Greece, knowing fully well my responsibilities toward ESEH, toward my fellow representatives and board members and toward environmental history.

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Education

**PhD candidate in European University
Institute, History and Civilization
Department**

**Thesis: Where The Nation Would Dwell: The
Hellenization of southern Macedonia, 1913-
1940**

September 2015-Ongoing

Supervisor: Pieter Judson

**MA in Leiden University, History
Department**

**Thesis: Licensed to Kill: Forging the pre-
modern masculine Greek hunter, 1967-1990**

September 2013-September 2014

Supervisor: Eric Storm

**BA in Kapodestrian University of Athens,
Political Science and Public Administration
Department**

September 2007- June 2012

Articles

Vlachos, George L., in press, 'From Slavic Swamp to Promised Land: Social and environmental engineering in a southern Macedonian swamp, 1913-1936' in *State, Experts and Nature: Engineering the Eastern Europe Environment (Provisional Title)*. (Collective Volume)

Vlachos, George L., in Press, 'Of Ecosystems and Landscapes: Grasping themes of environmental history in first-person survival videogames and walking simulators.' in *The Interactive Past 2 (Provisional Title)*, Sidestone Press. (Collective Volume)

Conference Presentations

Vlachos, George L., *To Fell a Digital Tree: Perceiving History and Environment in First-Person Survival Games* in “The Interactive Pasts Conference 2”, Hilversum, 8-10 October 2018

Vlachos, George L., *The Spade and the Plow: Archeological Discoveries and Agricultural Modernization in Macedonia, 1878-1922* in “European Society for Environmental History Biennial Conference 2017”, Zagreb, 28 June to 2 July 2017

Vlachos, George L., *Constructing the Greek Nation through the Natural Landscape: Issues of Nature, Nationalism and Environmental Management in Greece, 1881-1923* in “Environment and History: The multiple faces of a dynamic relationship”, 22-23 October, 2015

Workshop Organization

Vlachos, George L. and Mazzoli, Gilberto, *Reframing Environmental Colonialism* in European University Institute, Florence, 27-28 May, 2019
