

Dr. Ioannis N. Grigoriadis

Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science & Public Administration

Bilkent University, Ankara, Turkey

## ON THE MEANING OF CAVAFY TODAY

Cavafy's work is gaining today wider significance, and its meaning is acquiring new perspectives both on a Greek and a global level. From a Greek point of view, Cavafy's anniversary coincides with a multilevel crisis of historic proportions. His work suggests a framework that could help answer key identity questions that this crisis has unearthed. It advances a powerful vision of Hellenism which is extrovert, entrepreneurial, integrated with its region and history but not captivated by it and dedicated to cultural and civilizational crosspollination. This definition of Hellenism remains the only that could provide a meaning to Modern Greek national identity relevant to contemporary civilizational and cultural trends and could greatly contribute to Greece's recovery. On a global level, Cavafy can be highly instructive and inspiring. Being a herald of a cosmopolitan world that faded away with the end of the age of empires, he can now serve as a valuable intellectual guide in the global era. Similarly to his era, overlapping identities, cultures and ethnicities nowadays interact with each other, seek to define universal values and norms and result in hybridity. Cavafy's liminal identity, between East and West, Istanbul, London and Alexandria, *Hellas* and *Romiosyni* can be linked with contemporary identity struggles fought as a result of the undermining of the nation-state model by globalization forces. New cosmopolitanism has a lot to learn from the works of one of the brightest exegetes of its forerunner.