

## Vangelis Koutalis

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Section of Neohellenic Research

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### STUDIES

2001: Degree in Physics: Physics Department, University of Ioannina.

2009: Presentation of a Master's Thesis under the title *The Emergence of Chymistry under the Horizon of Renaissance Occultism* (in Greek), Department of Chemistry, University of Ioannina.

2009 to the present: Doctoral Dissertation in progress, Department of Chemistry, University of Ioannina.

### PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITY

2012 to the present: Managing editor of the journal *Almagest*.

### RESEARCH INTERESTS

- The emergence of "chymistry" during the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries through the appropriation of Renaissance Occultism or Christian Kabbalism
- The epistemology of Joseph Priestley
- The chemical philosophy of Humphry Davy
- The historical reinterpretations of "chemical revolution"
- The rhetorical dimension of knowing, and the history of dialectical thinking, especially with regard to the emergence of scientific discourses
- The development of a demarcated field of knowledge, and a respective didactic tradition, concerning chemical phenomena in the Greek-speaking communities of SE Europe, during the 18<sup>th</sup> century, focusing especially on the unprinted manuscript textbooks of this period
- Byzantine and post-Byzantine alchemy

## RESEARCH AND OTHER ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES

- 2009-2011: Participation in the European research programme HePHaESTUS (*Hellenic Philosophy, History and Environmental Science Teaching Under Scrutiny*), run by the Institute of Neohellenic Research of the National Hellenic Research Foundation in collaboration with the Laboratory of Science Education, Epistemology and Educational Technology of the University of Athens.
- 2010 Fall: Allington Fellow for three months at the Chemical Heritage Foundation (Philadelphia, USA). Research Topic: Humphry Davy's *Consolations in Travel*.
- 2011 Fall: Study and transcription of Greek manuscripts, preserved in the Library of the Romanian Academy (Bucharest), which are relevant to the early modern alchemy. Research funded by SHAC (Society for the History of Alchemy and Chemistry – New Scholars Awards 2011-2012).
- 2011 Fall – 2012 Winter: Visiting researcher in the History and Philosophy of Science Department of Cambridge University, as part of the research programme HePHaESTUS.
- 2012 (February-March): Participation in the University of London Working Seminar on editing Byzantine Texts for 2012, organised by the Hellenic Institute of the Royal Holloway University of London.
- 2012 Fall: Study of Greek manuscripts and printed books that contain texts relevant to the early modern alchemy. Research funded by SHAC (Society for the History of Alchemy and Chemistry – New Scholars Awards 2012-13).
- 2012 to the present: Participation in the DACALBO research project (Digital Archive Concerning Alchemy in Byzantium and in the Greek-speaking communities of the Ottoman empire), run by the Institute of Neohellenic Research of the National Hellenic Research Foundation in collaboration with a) the Laboratory of Science Education, Epistemology and Educational Technology of the University of Athens, b) the Department of Chemistry, University of Ioannina, and c) the Center for History and Paleography of the National Bank of Greece Cultural Foundation.

## MAIN PUBLICATIONS

- V. Koutalis, "Cosmopoiesis as a chymical process: Jean d'Espagnet's *Enchiridion physicae restitutae* and its translation in greek by Anastasios Papavassilopoulos", proceedings of the 5th International Conference of the European Society of History of Science (Athens, 1-3 November 2012). Forthcoming.

- V. Koutalis & E. Bokaris, "Teaching Boscovich's puncta in SE Europe: Athanasios Psalidas' *Physics in General*", proceedings of the International Conference for the tercentenary of the birth of Ruggiero Giuseppe Boscovich (Ragusa 1711 – Milano 1787), Pavia, 8-10 September, 2011. Under publication.
- C. D. Skordoulis & V. Koutalis, "Investigating the historical development of the concept of matter: controversies about/in ancient atomism", in G. Tsaparlis & H. Sevian (eds.), *Concepts of matter in science education*, series: Innovations in Science Education and Technology, 19, Dordrecht et al.: Springer, 2013, pp. 463-483.
- V. Koutalis, "Μεσολάβηση, υποκειμενικότητα και ζωντανή εργασία: Ο Homo Viator στο χριστιανικό καββαλισμό του Τζιοβάνι Πίκο ντε λα Μιράντολα» ("Mediation, subjectivity and living labour: Homo Viator in the Christian kabbalism of Giovanni Pico della Mirandola"), *Αξιολογικά*, 28 (2012), 139-176.
- V. Koutalis, «Η πέτρα που θραύει την εικόνα: η έννοια της επανάστασης και η χρονικότητα μιας εξειδικευμένης επιστήμης» ("The little stone smiting the image: The concept of revolution and the temporality of a specialized science"), *Θέσεις*, 113 (2010), 91-132.
- V. Koutalis, «Το όπλο πάνω στο τραπέζι: το ψέμα, η αλήθεια, και η ρητορική διάσταση του γνωρίζειν» ("The gun left on the table: Falsehood, truth, and the rhetorical dimension of knowing"), *Ουτοπία*, 91 (2010), 67-85.
- V. Koutalis, «Αφαιρώντας απ' το λόγο την οξεία αιχμή του: το τίμημα της οριοθέτησης της επιστημολογίας από τη ρητορική» ("Subtracting from discourse its cutting edge: The price paid for the demarcation of epistemology from rhetoric"), *Κριτική Επιστήμη & Εκπαίδευση*, 10 (2010), 29-64.
- V. Koutalis, «Αμφισβητώντας τη δικαιοδοσία του νικητή: η κριτική του Priestley στον Lavoisier» ("Disputing the jurisdiction of the victor: the criticism of Priestley to Lavoisier"), *Κριτική Επιστήμη & Εκπαίδευση*, 8 (2008), 59-88.
- Efthymios Bokaris & Vangelis Koutalis, "The spread of "Chymia" and Lavoisier's views in the Greek speaking regions", in José Ramón Bertomeu-Sánchez, Duncan Thorburn Burns, & Brigitte Van Tiggelen (eds.), *Neighbours and territories – The evolving identity of chemistry; Proceedings of the 6<sup>th</sup> International Conference on the History of Chemistry*, Louvain-la-neuve, Belgium: Mémosciences asbl, 2008, pp. 597-607.
- E. Bokaris & V. Koutalis, "the 'system of chymists' and the 'Newtonian dream' in Greek-speaking communities in the 17th-18th centuries", *Science & Education*, 17 (2008), 641-661.