

Dr. Georgios – Stylianos Prevelakis

Professor Emeritus of Geography and Geopolitics at Panthéon-Sorbonne University (Paris 1) and Research Professor at CNRS (UMR Géographie-cités)

«Place, nation, religion. Space and time in Greek iconographies» (Abstract)

The effort to make populations interested in protecting the environment usually encompasses utilitarian arguments, such as sustainability. However, attitudes towards the environment are also determined by spiritual factors. 'Iconography', as defined in the science of Geography, allows us to analyse the relationship between the natural and human factors and, consequently, to integrate the spiritual factor in environmental politics.

The transition from local and religious iconographies to a national iconography, an outcome of the rise of modernity in Greece, has blunted environmental sensitivity. Museums by definition contribute to the shaping of Iconographies. Thus, they can influence our attitudes towards the environment. The complex character of sites and places, a result of population movements in Greek historical crossroads, as well as the sacred character bequeathed by Antiquity to Christianity, should be highlighted in order to counterbalance the environmentally levelling effect of national iconography.