

## Modern Greek literature in cinema – film adaptations as study material

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Panel 5 – ADAPTATIONS

Friday 3 September (Day 2), Session 1, 8 am

### Abstract

The paper examines the ways in which the elective course of study: “Modern Greek literature in cinema” - offered at Modern Greek Studies Program of Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University - enables students to understand and evaluate Modern Greek literature and cinematography in the context of contemporary Area Studies. The study course is built into the Modern Greek Studies Program (run on the Faculty of Humanities, as counterpart of other Philology programs and is conducted at the Institute of Classical, Byzantine and Greek Studies of the named university). Modern Greek novels, plays and their film adaptations are used in the course. The aim of the course is to study Greek film adaptations within the social, historical, cultural context of 19<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> century Greece, taking into account the aesthetic characteristics of films.

The paper will explore teaching methods and will examine different abilities and skills that can be developed using a film adaptation in teaching a literary work (i.e. foreign language skills - listening, speaking, reading, and writing), as well as a wide variety of teaching and learning methods (i.e. individual work and collaboration, critical analysis and emotional sharing, artistic expression, reflection, the use of technology, and other modes of learning). Activities before, during and after watching the films will be discussed. The methods of interpreting and comparing literary and cinematic sources will be examined for better understanding of historical, literary and social contexts, gender stereotypes, identity issues, etc. The research suggests that didactic possibilities of literary adaptations challenge boundaries of literary and cinematic forms.

The research makes contribution to understandings of literature and literary adaptations in “context” and “culture”. I argue that the role of films in language and literature education is significant and will enable students to push boundaries and perceive different aspects of contemporary Greek culture.

**Keywords** – *modern Greek literature, film adaptations, using film in education*

**Ana Chikovani** (Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University, Georgia) graduated from Tbilisi State University in Georgian and Modern Greek Philology, where she also took her doctorate in Modern Greek Studies. Her PhD was a study of rituals in Stratis Myrivilis’ works. Since 2008 Ana is Associate Professor of Modern Greek at the Institute of Classical, Byzantine and Modern Greek Studies of Tbilisi State University. She also is founder and member of the governing committee of Georgian Association of Modern Greek Studies. Author of more than 30 scientific publications, she has published in English, Greek, and Georgian. Ana Chikovani teaches a spectrum of courses in literary and cultural studies, among them Modern Greek Literature in Cinema and currently is working on a project *Cultural Identity issues and interpretation of the image of Medea in selected works of Modern Culture*. Her main research interests lie in the study of Religion, Folklore, Rituals and Ancient Receptions in contemporary literature and Cinema.

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