



## The Jewish Properties in Greece Confiscation, Exploitation and Restitution (1943 - 1950)

with Andreas Bouroutis

Wednesday, November 12<sup>th</sup> 5:45-7:15pm

JMC Library, 332 Case Hall, 842 Chestnut Rd.

In 1943 the Nazis enforced the racial legislation in Greece and started the deportation of the Jewish communities of the country. In Thessaloniki, more than 45,000 Jews were deported to Auschwitz - Birkenau. At the end of the War less than 2,000 remained alive. Among the first provisions of the Nazis was the aryanization of the Jewish properties. All Jewish assets, movable wealth and real estate were confiscated. YDIP, a Greek public agency, was established under German orders to assume responsibility for all Jewish properties. Thousands of Jewish properties (houses, enterprises and professional outlets) and their assets became the focal point of extended looting by the Germans and their Greek collaborators, by ordinary men and entrepreneurs and even by the people next door.

After the liberation of Greece in 1944, the issue remained pending although all legal provisions for the restitution of Jewish assets were made. YDIP remained the entity administering the Jewish properties and thousands of them remained in the hands of custodians appointed by the Germans, who continued to exploit them.

The lecture examines the relations between the Greek state and Greece's Jews in the postwar period and argues that the year 1949 was a crucial one for the restitution of order in the country. The provisions of international bodies such as the United Nations and the Council of Europe for the protection of civil and human rights turned out to be extremely helpful.

**Dr. Andreas Bouroutis** is a historian - political scientist and a lecturer at the Hellenic Open University in Greece. He is a visiting fellow of the Serling Institute for Jewish Studies and Modern Israel, the Department of History, and a member of the Center for European and Eurasian Studies (CERES) of Michigan State University. A leading scholar in the field of Jewish studies, he is the author of 4 monographs and of several articles in Greece and abroad about the Jewish communities of Greece and the Holocaust. His book *Holocaust in Thessaloniki. The Jewish Students of Umberto Primo School and the Italian Stance* (Alexandria: Athens 2020) was shortlisted for the Greek national book prize award, whilst his book *The Jewish Fortunes. State and Collaboration in Greece (1943-1949)* is in its second edition (Alexandria: Athens 2023). His latest scientific article "Greece, the Jews and the Middle East Question" was recently published at the *Journal of Modern Jewish Studies* (24:2, 2025).

**Co-Sponsors:** College of Arts and Letters, James Madison College, College of Social Science, Department of History, Residential College of Arts and Humanities, International Studies and Programs, Center for European and Eurasian Studies

