

## Research Program

2019-2021



### **Migrations, Identity Preservation and Identity Transformation: Asia Minor and Cyprus, Past and Present**

Although Asia Minor and Cyprus share a long history of communication as most lands in such a close proximity do, the mobility of Orthodox Christians remains still a considerably neglected field of research. A long tradition of commercial and pilgrimage exchanges came to an end with the Greek-Turkish War (1919 – 1922), when many Christian Orthodox had to leave Asia Minor. This forced migration was preceded by voluntary and involuntary migrations during the turbulent years preceding World War I, not only as a result of social upheavals and their consequences, but also related to poor harvests and famines.

The project explores the migrations of Asia Minor Greek- and Turkish-speaking Orthodox populations during the last period of Ottoman rule and the first decades of British rule on the island and the identity issues deriving from this constantly changing relationship. Focusing on the actions of this specific group of people, we will be trying to illustrate the processes, through which they preserved, transformed or re-invented their social and religious identity through time until today.

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