

Lalioti Vasiliki

Ethnographies of protest performances in Greece: the moral and the political

standard lecture

Anthropology has historically been received (and criticized) as a field of study with a strong moral mission: to reveal hierarchies, to demystify power relations, to expose the political dimensions and consequences of anthropological knowledge itself. Moreover, within the past few decades, anthropology's interest in, and work on, moral issues like violence, oppression, poverty, humanitarianism, and human rights have been impressively increased. In this presentation, I intend to discuss anthropological/ethnographic studies of theatrical and musical performances, which have taken place in protests during the period of 'crisis' in Greece. My aim is to explore the relationship between the moral/ethical and the political values that inform a) participants' practice and rhetoric and b) ethnographers' research practices and interpretations. I will focus especially on the theoretical and epistemological implications of reflexivity (and its lack), that is, of the acknowledgement of the anthropologists' own moral and political commitments which shape the ethnographies of these performances.

Bio:

Vasiliki Lalioti is Assistant Professor (Anthropology of Performance) at the Faculty of Music Studies in the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens. She received her doctorate in Anthropology from the University of Durham. Her recent publications include *The soundtrack of our life. Contemporary issues in the study of popular music* (Athens: Papazisis, 2016) and papers in various Greek and international journals. Her research interests include: performing arts (theatre, music), popular culture, politics of memory, posthumanism and technology, social movements, digitality.

