

**MOBILITY-BORDERS HERITAGE AND RESILIENCE THROUGH STORY-TELLING
THESSALONIKI (18-22/05/2026)
City Walks**

18/5/2026. A century of population movements and the making of the city

Dr Elina Kapetanaki (PhD in Social Anthropology, Panteion University)

The urban walk is based on the research project '100memories' which approaches the city as a boisterous mosaic of multiple movements, encounters, arrivals and departures [Institute of Historical Research of the National Hellenic Research Foundation (IHR/NHRF)] From the Upper Town of Thessaloniki to Mouschounti Square, this urban walk offers a short "biography" of contemporary Thessaloniki, assembled through fragments of stories of human mobility and spatial traces of everyday life. We will trace imprints of the people who have inhabited the city over the past century. They may seem insignificant; however, they reveal histories of movement, housing conditions, hopes, working life and narratives of the every day.

Meeting Point METRO Station Venizelou at 17.45pm
(<https://maps.app.goo.gl/EDZGn9vrv8efHCAf6>)

19/5/2026. Beyond the Postcard: Hidden Histories of Thessaloniki's Centre

Eleni Sideri (Assistant Professor, Department of Balkan, Slavic and Oriental Studies, University of Macedonia)

This urban walk explores the concepts of history and public memory through Thessaloniki's so-called "historical centre," foregrounding overlooked aspects of both lesser-known and iconic sites. By revisiting familiar locations from alternative perspectives, the walk challenges dominant narratives of the city. Our route—from the University of Macedonia to the White Tower, Navarinou Square, Aristotelous Square, and the Docks—Ladadika district—brings into focus histories often excluded from official representations and city branding. These include stories of class, minority communities, migration, and LGBTQ+ lives, offering a more complex and inclusive understanding of Thessaloniki's urban landscape. The aim of the tour is to give a fresh look at the places that have served as social hubs for Thessaloniki's LGBTQ+ community, spanning from the 1990s to our days. Our journey will start from the notorious cruising spot named "Kalachari" in parallel with the several touristic spots. In that way streets will signpost the local queer community struggle, in an attempt to explore these significant spots themselves, their stories and queer mobility within the city over the years.

Meeting Point UoM, Front Gate, Egnatias Str. at 17.45pm

20/5/2026. Field Trip to Borders (Greece/North Macedonia)

Ioannis Manos (Professor, Department of Balkan, Slavic and Oriental Studies, University of Macedonia) and *Kontantinos Tsioumelas* (Ph.d. candidate, Department of Balkan, Slavic and Oriental Studies, University of Macedonia)

The field trip to the Greece–North Macedonia border approaches it not just as a geopolitical line but as a lived and contested social space. Through on-site observation and discussion, participants will explore how borders are produced and experienced through everyday practices, infrastructures, and narratives of mobility. Particular attention will be paid to the

multiple meanings ascribed to the border by different actors, including state authorities, local populations, and cross-border movements. By engaging with the material and symbolic dimensions of the border landscape, the visit invites participants to reflect on how borders shape and are shaped by processes of mobility, control, and belonging.

21/5/2026. Reading the City from the Sea: A Sensory Exploration of Thessaloniki

Eleni Sideri (Assistant Professor, Department of Balkan, Slavic and Oriental Studies, University of Macedonia)

This exploration shifts attention to forms of perception beyond discourse and language, engaging senses such as sound and smell. Through a sea-based tour of Thessaloniki and its closest maritime horizon, the Thermaikos Gulf, we will reconsider the city's history from an alternative vantage point. By experiencing the urban landscape from the water, the tour invites participants to reflect on how sensory encounters reshape our understanding of place, memory, and the relationship between the city and the sea.

Meeting Point: **White Tower** , 16.45, <https://maps.app.goo.gl/deAQWur8f2vmiDQA6>
(depending on weather conditions)