



Stony Brook University

The Center for Hellenic Studies at Stony Brook University

presents

## The Allure of Panic after Nietzsche

### Vassilis Lambropoulos

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University of Michigan

Following Nietzsche's invocation of the double Greeks, the god Pan has been an important figure to both Modernists and Post-modernists as a hybrid creature who escapes traditional standards of unity and harmony. Part human, part animal; part benevolent, part sinister; part inspiring, part alarming, the mythological deity personifies several contrasting qualities that haunt high and late modernity: Dionysus vs. Christ, secularism vs. faith, profane vs. sacred, sensual vs. spiritual, hedonism vs. morality, Arcadia vs. Paradise, nature vs. society, primitive vs. civilized. In contrast to the opposition between Apollo and Dionysus, which seeks a fusion of the two forces, Pan represents a dialectical tension beyond transcendence. Thus, this enigmatic half-man, half-goat becomes a paradigmatic cipher for artists and intellectuals who appeal to his alluring powers in order to find out whether the ancient oracles have fallen silent or can still address our concerns.



Vassilis Lambropoulos is the C.P. Cavafy Professor of Modern Greek in the Departments of Classical Studies and Comparative Literature at the University of Michigan. His areas of research include modern Greek literature and culture, classical reception, modern tragedy, and ethical politics. His authored books are *Literature as National Institution: Studies in the Politics of Modern Greek Criticism*, *The Rise of Eurocentrism*, and *The Tragic Idea*. He has also edited and co-edited a number of volumes and special journal issues, including *The Text and Its Margins: Post-Structuralist Approaches to Twentieth-Century Greek Literature* and *Twentieth-Century Literary Theory: An Introductory Anthology*. He is currently working on a book on revolution as tragedy in modern drama.

**Thursday April 27, 2017**

**2:30-4:00pm**

**Poetry Center, Humanities Building**

**(2nd floor)**

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