The history of ancient Athens is closely linked with the myths of Theseus. In his face, the Athenians recognized a founding hero, as well as a real king, who unified the region of Attica and imposed innovative methods of government. In this lecture, Dr Papadimitriou will present the myths of Theseus, explore their symbolisms, and discuss how they were associated with the Homeric epics and with other mythological traditions, especially those of Crete. Then, he will analyze the links between mythology and history, and explain how the myths of Theseus were used as a means of political propaganda both by the Athenian aristocracy and by the democratic regime.