The Artemis Azariadis Memorial Lecture:
Greece, Democracy, and the Politics of Civility
Thursday, September 19, 2019
When President Barack Obama visited Greece at the end of his time in office, he hailed Greece for its foundational role in the creation of democracy. This characterization, while well-intended and diplomatically correct, misstates Greece’s real contribution. That contribution continues in modern times, including, its successful rejection of dictatorship in 1974 and the creation of a polity that, with relatively few exceptions, guarantees equality before the law and a genuine ideological choice through clean elections. The exceptions, however, provide an interesting light on the limitations of the democratic ideal in general as well as on modern Greece’s own complex and often humiliating history.

Michael Herzfeld is Ernest E. Monrad Research Professor of the Social Sciences in the Department of Anthropology at Harvard University; he is also Honorary Professorial Fellow in the Faculty of Arts, University of Melbourne; IIAS Visiting Professor of Critical Heritage Studies, Leiden University; Senior Advisor, Critical Heritage Studies Initiative, International Institute of Asian Studies, Leiden; and Chang Jiang Scholar, Shanghai International Studies University. He is the author of eleven books (most recently Siege of the Spirits: Community and Polity in Bangkok, 2016), two films (Monti Moments, 2007, and Roman Restaurant Rhythms, 2011), and over 200 articles and reviews.

This program is sponsored by UMSL Global, the Hellenic Government-Karakas Family Foundation Professorship in Greek Studies, and The Karakas Family Foundation Alliance for the Advancement of Hellenic Studies.

A parking permit is required for all visitors to UMSL. To request your free permit, click here or call 314-516-7299.