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University of Missouri–St. Louis



**The Dr. Nicholas Matsakis Memorial Lecture**

**Part of UMSL's Greece in Missouri '21 series**

[www.greekstudies.org](http://www.greekstudies.org)

*Constantinople, The Queen of Cities.*

*The Resilience of the Greatest City on Earth*

**Dr. Bettany Hughes, Reseach Fellow, King's College London**

**Sunday, September 12, 2021**

**2 - 3 p.m. CDT**



Constantinople! The "Queen of Cities," the "Greatest City on Earth," the magnificent capital of the Byzantine Empire and the heart of Greek Orthodox religion. In this fascinating lecture, famous historian Bettany Hughes uses incredible new archaeological discoveries and historical revelations to chart the history of this amazing city and its remarkable tales of resilience and continuity. From Greek inscriptions at Delphi, to the poetry of the women of Byzantium, to Hellenism and beyond, she asks what it takes to make the city that became one of the most fought-over cities on Earth.

As part of the Greek Professorship "Greece in Missouri 21" series celebrating the bicentennial of the Greek War of Independence, this lecture will bring to life the turbulent history of the one city that shaped like none other the fates of the Greeks and Turks and remained, throughout 1821 and beyond, the symbol of the Byzantine Empire.



Dr. Bettany Hughes is an award-winning historian, author and broadcaster, who has devoted the last 25 years to the vibrant communication of the past. Her specialty is ancient and mediaeval history and culture. A Scholar at Oxford University, she has taught at Oxford and Cambridge Universities and lectured at Cornell, Bristol, UCL, Maastricht, Utrecht and Manchester. She is a Tutor for Cambridge University's Institute of Continuing

Education and a Research Fellow of King's College London. This year she will join the New College of the Humanities as Visiting Professor.

Her first book, *Helen of Troy: Goddess, Princess, Whore* has been translated into ten languages. Her second, *The Hemlock Cup, Socrates, Athens and the Search for the Good Life* was a *New York Times* bestseller and was shortlisted for the Writer's Guild Award. Her most recent book is *Venus and Aphrodite: History of a Goddess* (2019).

She has written and presented over 50 TV and radio documentaries for the BBC, Channel 4, Discovery, PBS, The History Channel, *National Geographic*, Discovery, BBC World and ITV. Her programs have now been seen by over 250 million worldwide.

**This event will be held virtually, and is free and open to the public. There are two ways to attend:**

**1. If you would like to participate in the Q&A, you will need to use Zoom. No extra software is required. Please RSVP using the blue button below to receive a direct link to the event:**

[Click here to use Zoom](#)

**2. If you want to watch the lecture without participating in the Q&A, you may do so on the UMSL Global YouTube channel by clicking the YouTube logo below:**



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CONSULATE GENERAL OF GREECE  
CHICAGO

This event is organized by the Hellenic Government-Karakas Family Foundation Endowed Professorship in Greek Studies, UMSL Global, University of Missouri-St. Louis under the auspices of the Embassy of Greece and in coordination with the Consulate General of Greece in Chicago