

On June 5th, 2018, Professor Yannis M. Ioannides received his official appointment and delivered his inaugural lecture at the Academy of Athens, having been elected as a corresponding member on June 8th, 2017. As a Greek citizen but non-resident of Athens, this is the highest award that he may be bestowed by the Academy of Athens.

The lecture, titled

“Cities Ancient, Medieval, Modern: An Economics Perspective,”

was delivered in Greek and was very well received. It drew from Professor Ioannides’ past and current research regarding the structure of urban systems throughout the world. In particular, the lecture relied on the theme of social interactions, which integrates Professor Ioannides’ research since he joined Tufts as the Max and Herta Neubauer Professor of Economics in 1995, and its adaptation in the context of modern information and communication technologies to investigate changing patterns in city size distributions using contemporary international data. The lecture also utilized his recent research on the structure of medieval Chinese cities and its consequences for modern Chinese cities, and his ongoing research on the consequences of trade for the sizes of ancient Greek cities and their political economy. The lecture ended with a brief focus on the consequences of the interactions approach to understanding and arresting urban decay in contemporary Athens. Professor Ioannides’ research has been supported by Tufts University, via the Neubauer Chair, and the MacArthur Foundation, via the Research Network on Social Interactions and Economic Disparities, directed by Kenneth J. Arrow and Steven N. Durlauf (1996-2006).

The lecture in an open session of the Academy was widely attended by the members of the Academy of Athens, public officials, Professor Ioannides’ family and friends, several Tufts students, Tufts alumni/ae, and parents of current Tufts students. Professor Ioannides was introduced by Dr. Lucas Papademos, former President of the Academy, and the event was chaired by Dr. Emellos, Vice President and Incoming President of the Academy.

The venue was the Main Hall

<http://www.academyofathens.gr/en/building/interior>

in the main building of the Academy of Athens on Panepistimiou Street, next the other two neoclassical jewels, one of the most beautiful neoclassical buildings in the world:

<http://www.academyofathens.gr/en>

The building was designed in 1859 by the Danish architect Theophil Hansen and was influenced by the elegant ionic features of the Erechtheion, one of the temples on the Acropolis of Athens.

The announcement of the lecture is here:

<http://www.academyofathens.gr/el/announcements/%CE%B5%CE%BA%CE%B4%CE%B7%CE%BB%CF%8E%CF%83%CE%B5%CE%B9%CF%82/20180522>

The lecture will appear in the Proceedings of the Academy. An English version of the lecture will be available as a working paper later in the year.

A wide-ranging interview (in Greek) with Professor Ioannides on his life, career and views on current Greek affairs appeared in *Kathimerini*, Greece most highly respected newspaper. It is available here:

https://sites.tufts.edu/yioannides/files/2018/06/Yannis-Ioannides_Kathimerini-17.6.2018.jpg