

Call for papers

New Ancient Greek Literature: Contexts, Audiences, Legacies

Conference Date: 8–9–10 July 2026

Location: Leuven (*Couvreur Room & Aula Emma Vorlat*)

Conveners: Liese Dictus, Dries Nijs, Raf Van Rooy, Reinhart Ceulemans (*KU Leuven, HellBel*)

The ongoing [HellBel project](#) organizes an international conference devoted to the vibrant but understudied phenomenon of **New Ancient Greek** (NAG) or Humanist Greek literature (also known as e.g. Neo-Greek). This body of texts, composed primarily during the Renaissance and the early modern period but by no means limited to it, sought to **revive and reinvent classical Greek as a living literary language**, bridging antiquity and Byzantium with the authors' contemporary intellectual landscapes.

Our conference aims to explore NAG literature not simply as a philological curiosity but as a **dynamic cultural practice** — crafted by specific authors, for specific audiences, and shaped by particular literary and performative conventions.

Keynote speakers:

- ¶ Tua Korhonen (University of Helsinki)
- ¶ Han Lamers (Norwegian Institute, Rome)
- ¶ Filippomaria Pontani (Ca' Foscari University, Venice)

We invite proposals for papers on any topic relevant to the subject matter of the conference. We especially welcome contributions engaging with the following themes:

α – Author, Audience & Performance

How were NAG texts intended to be read, heard, or staged? What roles did rhetorical training, manuscript/print culture, visual presentation, or oral delivery play in their production and reception? How did NAG authors influence each other, whether within Greek or across languages?

β – Byzantine Legacy

In what ways did Byzantine literature (and collections such as the Greek Anthology), scholarship, or (religious) culture influence the content, form, and function of NAG texts?

γ – The Epic Tradition

How did humanist authors imitate and emulate the epic tradition in Greek? What narrative, metrical, linguistic, or ideological strategies did they adopt, adapt, or transform?

We welcome proposals from scholars across disciplines including (but not limited to) classical studies, Byzantine studies, Neo-Latin and New Ancient Greek philology, Renaissance studies, performance studies, and intellectual history.

Paper format: 30 minutes for presentation, followed by 15 minutes of discussion

Working language: English — proposals in German, French & Italian will also be considered.

Output: A selection of papers will be invited for publication in a peer-reviewed volume.

Please **submit** title & abstract (max. 300 words) and a biographical note (max. 100 words) to hellbel@kuleuven.be.

✍ **Deadline** for submissions: 30 November 2025

✍ **Notifications** of acceptance: 1 February 2026

✍ **Registration fee:** €50

Participants are expected to arrange their own travel and accommodation. We may be able to reimburse some of the expenses of early career researchers who have no funding of their own. Please indicate this in your submission.

Information on **how to reach Leuven** from various locations within Europe, including from Brussels Airport (Zaventem) and Brussels South International Airport (Charleroi) can be found [here](#). An overview of options for **accommodation** in Leuven can be found [here](#).

