



EASA
ARTS MEET SCIENCES
COLLOQUIUM
SUMMER SEMESTER 2026
April 10, 2026 / 6.00 p.m.

PROF.DR.PAVLOS KAVOURAS

Resonant Being: Homo sapiens sapiens and the sound of sacred consciousness

Abstract

This lecture presents *Resonant Being*, a multidisciplinary inquiry into the evolution of human consciousness through the intertwined dimensions of sound, symbol, and the sacred. Challenging conventional definitions of *Homo sapiens sapiens* as a linguistic or tool-making species, this work reorients our understanding of the human as a fundamentally resonant being—shaped by vibration, attuned to rhythm, and transformed through recursive acoustic patterns. Tracing an arc from early ritual soundscapes to contemporary neuroscience, the lecture weaves together insights from archaeology, musicology, philosophy of mind, ritual studies, and cognitive anthropology. It argues that the emergence of modern human awareness was not simply a biological or linguistic milestone, but a metaphysical and symbolic inflection—a vibrational awakening marked by inner speech, mythic narration, chant, and the sacred use of sound. In exploring how resonance forms the cognitive and cultural architecture of personhood, community, and cosmology, *Resonant Being* offers an integrative framework that places music and sound at the very heart of what it means to be human. This is not merely a story of the past—it is an invitation to reimagine consciousness itself as a sonic structure, always unfolding, always becoming, always listening.

BNote

Dr. Pavlos Kavouras

Professor Emeritus

National and Kapodistrian University of Athens

Head of the UNESCO Chair "Anthropology of Traditional Music: Representing and Repositioning Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH)

Email: kavouraspavlos@gmail.com

Mob.: +30 6908855321

Website: <https://www.pavlos-kavouras.com>

<https://unescochairmusic.uoa.gr>



Pavlos Kavouras is a Professor Emeritus of the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens (NKUA). His scientific work blends anthropology and sociology, musicology, history, philosophy, and cultural studies. He was Founder and Director (2007-2022) of the Ethnomusicology and Cultural Anthropology Laboratory of the NKUA. He has participated as principal or collaborating partner in many international projects related to lecturing, teaching, and ethnographic research, as well as numerous other institutional synergies in art and education management. Since 2016, he has been a visiting professor at UCLA, Department of Ethnomusicology, and in 2015, he, as Onassis Foundation Greek Scholars Fellow, gave a series of invited lectures in the United States of America, at the universities of California (UCLA), Stanford, Illinois, Michigan, and Harvard. Since 2012, his academic, artistic, and philosophical interests have been focused on migration and otherness in a broad geo-cultural perspective employing music and film as venues for understanding otherness and as vehicles for attaining self-awareness. In 2019, he was appointed by the Hellenic Ministry of Foreign Affairs to represent Greece in the Ancient Civilizations Academic Forum in La Paz, Bolivia. Since 2020, he is a founding member of the NKUA Center for Excellence dealing with “Inter-religious Dialogue.” He has done extensive ethnographic research in Greece, the USA, Southwest India, and Egypt. He has published numerous books and articles in English and Greek, and is the General Editor of the *Ethnomusicology and Anthropology* scholarly series for Nissos Publications.

He has taught various academic courses at both undergraduate and graduate levels such as *Introduction to Ethnomusicology*, *Anthropology of Music*, *Cultural Anthropology*, *Ethnographic Film*, *Music and the Divine*, *Seminar: Music Ethnographies*, *Seminar: Music Biographies*, *Seminar: Discourse Analysis*, *Questions of Methodology*, and *Music and the Other Arts*. His publications include *Ghlendi and xenitia: the poetics of exile in rural Greece*, *Trickster and Cain: a musical allegory*, *Folklore and tradition: issues of re-presentation and performance of music and dance*, “Ethnographies of dialogical singing, dialogical ethnography,” and “Allegories of nostalgia: music, tradition and modernity in the Mediterranean area”. His recent research projects include “*Performigrations: People Are the Territory*” (European Union – Canada Programme for Cooperation in Higher Education and Vocational Training, 2014-2016). “*ARISTEIA II, Western Art Music at the Time of Crisis: An Interdisciplinary Study of Contemporary Greek Culture and European Integration*” (WestArtMus 2014-2015), “*Video Life Stories of Immigrants*” (Hellenic Ministry of the Interior 2012-2013).