



The Australian Archaeological Institute at Athens

2025 AAIA GALE VISITING PROFESSOR

Professor Alexander Mazarakis Ainian

University of Thessaly



Professor Alexandros Mazarakis Ainian studied the History of Art and Archaeology at the Free University of Brussels (ULB) and completed his PhD at the University of London (UCL). He initially worked as an archaeologist at the Greek Ministry of Culture. He then taught for eight years at the Department of History of the Ionian University and in 1999 became a Professor of Classical Archaeology at the University of Thessaly. In 2017 he became director of the University of Thessaly Press. He has taught at the University of Athens and the National Technical University of Athens. Also as a Visiting Professor at Paris I/Panthéon-Sorbonne, the Ecole Pratique des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales (Paris), UCL-Louvain-la-Neuve (Belgium) and in Paris at the Sorbonne. He has directed several European and National Research Programs. His field projects include Skala Oropos and Vari in Attica, Kythnos in the Cyclades, Soros in Magnesia and Kefala on Skiathos. He is a member of the scientific editorial boards of recognized scientific journals and publications such as *Hesperia*, *Pharos* and *Centre Camille Julien* (Aix-Marseille). He is a member of the Archaeological Society at Athens, the German Archaeological Institute at Athens, ICOM-Greece.



Public Lecture - The University of Sydney: 'The Wonders of ancient Kythnos'

Wednesday August 21 6.30pm
Vere Gordon Childe Centre Boardroom

Although close to Athens, Kythnos remains one of the lesser-known islands of the Cyclades. Its capital, today called Vryokastro, has a rich ancient history from the 12th C BC to the 7th C AD. Land and underwater fieldwork have brought to light four sanctuaries, each dedicated to different deities. One of these was unplundered, a unique finding that greatly advances our knowledge about the use of ancient Greek temples from the Archaic period to the Roman era. This paper presents this exceptional discovery, as well as Vryokastro's other temples, its settlement on the acropolis, the Hellenistic 'prytaneion', a proto-Byzantine basilica church, and the city's harbour installations, to celebrate what has been called 'the best Greek island you have never heard of'.

Vere Gordon Childe Centre Boardroom
Level 4, Madsen Building
The University of Sydney

<https://aaia.gr/>

*Aerial views of the ancient town of Kythnos
(today Vryokastro). (photo by Costas
Xenikakis)*