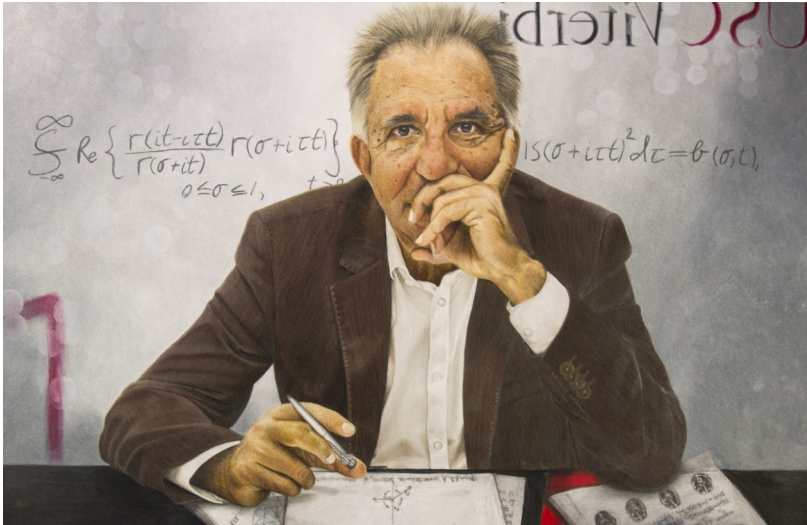


HELLENIC DIASPORA ACADEMIC ASSOCIATION

Presents the
Distinguished Lecturer Series



Join us for a
discussion with
Dr. Athanassios Fokas

Date **March 15, 2022**

Time **12:00 PM EDT**

The Grand Illusion and the two 'Big Bangs' in our Mental Evolution

There is a widely spread misunderstanding that *consciousness*, the first 'big bang' in our mental evolution, dictates our lives, whereas in reality it only expresses and modifies *unconscious processes*. Several examples of the crucial importance of the unconscious will be discussed, including visual perception and *homeostasis*. Since many of our evolutionary predecessors also possess consciousness, the natural question of "how do we differ from other animals?" arises. It will be argued that our unique characteristic is our predisposition to construct *re-representations*. This second 'big bang', gives rise to language, mathematics, the arts and technology. Apparently, the interaction of re-representations with unconscious processes provides the essence of human creativity and the driving force of the astonishing human achievements.

Professor Fokas has a BSc in Aeronautics from Imperial College (1975), a PhD in Applied Mathematics from the California Institute of Technology (1979), and an MD from the University of Miami (1986). In 2000, he was awarded the Naylor Prize, the most prestigious prize in Applied Mathematics and Theoretical Physics in UK (the last recipient before Fokas was Stephen Hawking). In 2002, he was appointed to the newly inaugurated Chair in Nonlinear Mathematical Science at the University of Cambridge. Among many other distinctions are the Aristeion of the Bodossaki Foundation and the decoration of the Commander of the Order of Phoenix by the President of the Hellenic Republic.

Moderator

Dr. Panayotis Kevrekidis

Professor of Mathematics and Statistics
University of Massachusetts, Amherst



Register Now

with support from



ΙΔΡΥΜΑ ΣΤΑΥΡΟΣ ΝΙΑΡΧΟΣ
STAVROS NIARCHOS
FOUNDATION

