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Evrydiki Sifneos (1957-2015)

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In Memoriam

EVRYDIKI SIFNEOS
(1957-2015)

On 13 October 2015, the Section of Neohellenic Research of the Institute of Historical Research of the National Hellenic Research Foundation lost one of its foremost members, Roura (Evrydiki) Sifneos. Roura began working in the then-named Centre for Neohellenic Research of the National Hellenic Research Foundation in 1996.

Roura was a pioneering historian, recognized internationally. She worked until the very last moment of her life for the development of research, as well as for the expansion of the horizons of our Institute, by publishing academic papers and books, promoting research projects, building cooperation networks and organizing conferences and workshops. She was also a fellow of Harvard University and the Institute for Advanced Study at Princeton University.

*Roura studied history at the University of Athens (BA, 1982) and continued with postgraduate studies at the École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales (EHESS) in Paris (1986-1994), focussing on economic and social history and industrial archaeology. She received her Ph.D. from EHESS in 1994 with her thesis *Lesbos, la ville de Mytilène et sa région. Économie et société (1840-1912)*. As a young woman, she was strongly politicized and worked as a volunteer for a time in Central America. In 1996, she worked as a consultant to the Greek ministries of culture and tourism, specializing in modern history issues and the reuse of industrial buildings.*

The island of Lesbos and its oil and soap production were the focal points of her early scientific interests. Thereafter, her research concerns turned to the study of the international business activity of merchant houses: the Sifneos Brothers in the Azov Sea and the Kumpas Brothers in Romania. From this starting point, her studies were extended to the Black Sea in Southern Russia, penetrating the local scale through her study of the city of Odessa. Roura's scientific contribution to the promotion of the business activities of the Greeks in the Eastern Mediterranean, the Black Sea region

and Southern Russia was crucial. She conducted research in many archival collections in Greece and abroad. Roura demonstrated unique scientific openness and shifted dynamically to enable wider scientific partnerships in an effort to communicate with other historiographical traditions and to promote common historical characteristics and affinities in the wider region of the Black Sea and the Eastern Mediterranean.

All those who were fortunate enough to meet Roura will always remember her perspicacious spirit and her smile, full of vitality and optimism. Her colleagues at the Section of Neohellenic Research have pledged to organize a scientific gathering to highlight and honour Roura's valuable contributions to economic and social history, business history, the history of the diaspora and industrial archaeology.

