

 $12_{\rm th} \, {\rm panhellenic} \, {\rm symposium} \, {\rm of} \, {\rm epicurean} \, {\rm philosophy}$ 

19-20 February 2022 - Internet Broadcast, Athens, Greece

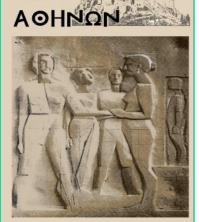
### **The Scientific Humanism of Epicurus**

### Christos Yapijakis, DMD,BS,MS,PhD

Founding Member

Friends of Epicurean Philosophy "Garden of Athens"

- Associate Professor of Genetics School of Medicine National Kapodistrian University of Athens
- Advisory Board Member
  Research Laboratory of Applied Philosophy
  National Kapodistrian University of Athens



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### $12_{\rm th \ PANHELLENIC \ SYMPOSIUM \ OF \ EPICUREAN \ PHILOSOPHY}$

19-20 February 2022 - Internet Broadcast, Athens, Greece

### The Scientific Humanism of Epicurus

### In an era that humanity faces

- the universal epidemics of coronavirus and psychological stress
- environmental hazards, socioeconomic crisis and wars

What is the best philosophical guidance for humanity in the post-Covid era?



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### The Scientific Humanism of Epicurus

What is the best philosophical guidance for humanity in the post-Covid era?
 Recent research data show an international trust in Science more than anything else

nature human behaviour ARTICLES https://doi.org/10.1038/s41562-021-01273-8

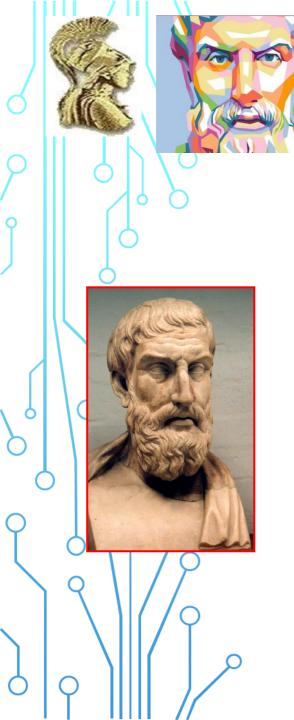
Check for updates

Published: 07 February 2022

The Einstein effect provides global evidence for scientific source credibility effects and the influence of religiosity

Suzanne Hoogeveen <sup>1</sup><sup>2</sup>, Julia M. Haaf<sup>1</sup>, Joseph A. Bulbulia<sup>2</sup>, Robert M. Ross <sup>3</sup>, Ryan McKay <sup>4</sup>, Sacha Altay<sup>5</sup>, Theiss Bendixen <sup>6</sup>, Renatas Berniūnas<sup>7</sup>, Arik Cheshin <sup>8</sup>, Claudio Gentili <sup>9</sup>, Raluca Georgescu <sup>10</sup>, Will M. Gervais<sup>11</sup>, Kristin Hagel<sup>12</sup>, Christopher Kavanagh<sup>13,14</sup>, Neil Levy <sup>3,15</sup>, Alejandra Neely <sup>16</sup>, Lin Qiu<sup>17</sup>, André Rabelo <sup>18</sup>, Jonathan E. Ramsay<sup>19</sup>, Bastiaan T. Rutjens <sup>1</sup>, Hugh Turpin<sup>13</sup>, Filip Uzarevic<sup>20</sup>, Robin Wuyts<sup>1</sup>, Dimitris Xygalatas <sup>21</sup> and Michiel van Elk<sup>22</sup>

There is a need for a common pragmatic and humanistic philosophy that concurs with Science



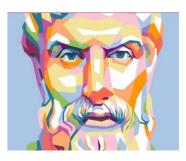
### $12_{\rm th \ PANHELLENIC \ SYMPOSIUM \ OF \ EPICUREAN \ PHILOSOPHY}$

19-20 February 2022 - Internet Broadcast, Athens, Greece

### The Scientific Humanism of Epicurus

- The best philosophical guidance is
  Scientific Humanism (Επιστημονικός Ανθρωπισμός)
- Combination of Science (objective, empirical knowledge) with Bioethics (based on human nature) for social utility and individual happiness (ευδαιμονία)
- In fact as expressed with clarity and consistency by the ancient Athenian philosopher Epicurus (Επίκουρος)

### **Epicurus the Athenian** (341-270 BCE) Proto-Enlightenment philosopher



- Empiricist
- Naturalist
- Humanist

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TEPHTON OYESEKTW!

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atoms and void, atomic weight, atomic nature of senses, emerging chemical properties based on atomic structure, molecular basis of disease, necessity and chance, free will, evolution of species based on natural selection, multitudes of worlds in the universe, justice as a social contract, progress of civilization etc.

- Criteria of truth: Senses, Emotions, Collective Perceptions
- Aiming in happiness (ευδαιμονία) i.e. mental tranquility (αταραξία) and absence of physical pain (απονία)
   By Means

of the empirical study of nature (naturalistic science) and resulting prudence (practical wisdom, φρ ονη σις) of virtue (αρετή) and friendship (φιλia)



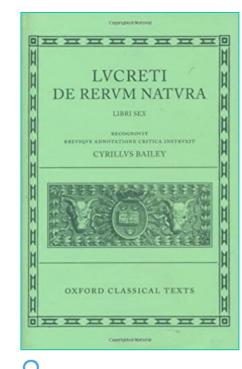
### The Epicurean Philosophy (300 BCE-400 CE)

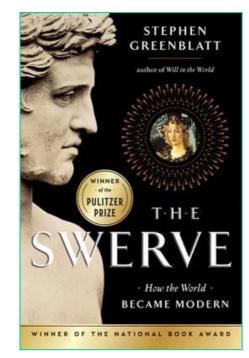
was the first international, multilingual, humanistic movement that influenced thousands of people (Greeks, Romans, Syrians, Jews, Celts etc) in three continents during seven centuries in the Hellenistic and Roman eras.

During the Middle Ages (400 - 1400) Epicurus' teachings were distorted and forgotten

### The Epicurean revival (1417-1650)

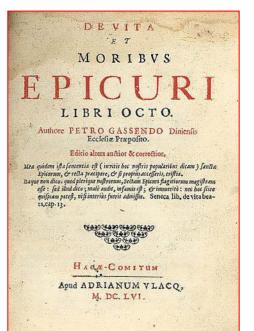
 The discovery of Lucretius' *De rerum natura* (1417) in Renaissance led to the revival of Epicurean philosophy (1650) by Galileo's friend Gassendi (astronomer, philosopher, and Christian priest)











### The Epicurean origin of Modernity(1650-1800)

The revival of Epicurean philosophy (1650) by Gassendi

• led to Empiricism, Enlightenment, Science

Rigas

Velestinlis

inspired people involved in the American, French and Greek revolutions



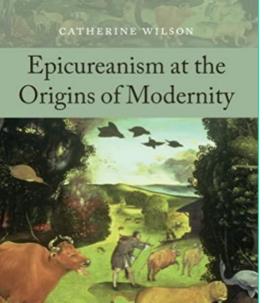
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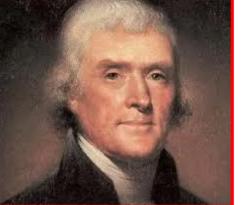
Authore PETRO GASSENDO Dinienfi Ecclefiz Przpofito.

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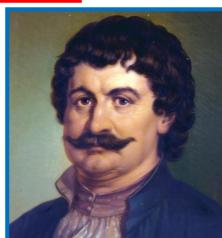
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Apud ADRIANUM VLACQ, M. DC. LVI.





Thomas Jefferson





### The Epicurean origin of Modernity(1650-2000)

• The Epicurean revival by Gassendi led to Empiricism, Enlightenment, Science, Modernity





TRO GASSENDO Dinienfi

HACZ-CONITUM

### **Scientific Humanism**

(features shared with Epicurean philosophy)

- Naturalism
- Philanthropy (human value)
- Biological ethics (Bioethics)
- Freedom of choice (of religion too)
- Justice as Social Contract
- Aiming at Quality of Life
- Right to pursue Happiness

## **Epicurus'** *Happiness* is equivalent to *Health* according to W.H.O.

**Epicurus description of Happiness** (ευδαιμονία) mental tranquility and absence of physical pain

Health is a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity.

World Health Organization (W.H.O)







#### FAAHNIKH AHMOKPATIA ΠΕΡΙΦΕΡΕΙΑ ΑΤΤΙΚΗΣ

Σύγχρονη και ασύγχρονη εκπαίδευση Φιλοι



ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΔΗΜΟΚΡΑΤΙΑ Εθνικόν και Καποδιστριακόν Πανεπιστήμιον Αδηνών - JAPYOEN TO 1837 -

#### ΕΡΓΑΣΤΗΡΙΟ ΕΦΑΡΜΟΣΜΕΝΗΣ ΦΙΛΟΣΟΦΙΑΣ Εφηβικής Υγείας και Ιστρική

#### Το Πρόγραμμα - Εκπαίδευση - Log In

Γιώργος Χρούσος סעלדועסב אמפקאידויןב דוזב למדסואלב באסאוןב דמע בפאואמל אמי Καποδιατριακού Πανεπιστημίου Αθηνών και Καθηγητής Παιδιατρικής, Ουαιολογίας και Θιασυαικής στην Ιατρική Ζχολ του Πανεπιστήμίου Τζώστζτασυν (ΗΠΑ).

> είναι μπαξύ των 250 πλάον καταξιωμένων κλινικών εσευνητών του κόσμου και αναμάστηκε "Δο Στρες" για τις πρωτοποριακές του ανακαλύψεις των νευροβιαλογικών κα ενδακρινολογικών μηχανισμών του στρες.

(δρυτής και Διευθυντής του Μεταπτυχιακού "Ωπιστήμητου

Στρες και Προαγωγή Υγείας" στην Ιστρική Σχολή του ΕΚΠΑ επ

Επιστημονικός Σύμβουλος Προγράμματος



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C. Yapijakis, E. D. Protopapadakis, & George Chrousos · Conatus 6, no. 3 (2020): 65-77 DOI: http://dx.doi.org/XXXXXXXXXXXXX

#### Philosophical Management of Stress based on Science and Epicurean Pragmatism: A Pilot Studv

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**Innovative unique and successful program** (since November 2020) based mainly on Science and Epicurean philosophy



( )

#### Υπεύθυνος Προγράμματος Ευάγγελος Πρωτοπαπαδάκης

Φιλοσοφική Διαχείριση Στρες

Διαυθυντής Εργαστηρίου Εφαρμοσμένης Φιλοσοφίας, Αναπληρωτής Καθηγητήςστο Τμήμα Οιλοσοφίας της Οιλοσοφικής Σχολής του βθυκού και Καποδιστριακού



*≝*ΕΣΠ/

#### Συντονιστής Προγράμματος Χρηστος Γιαπιτζακης

Αυαπληρωτής Καθηγητής Οενετικής στην Ιατρική Στολή του βθυκού και Καποδιστριακού Πανετιστηγίου Αθηνών και Μέλας της Συμβαυλαυτικής Επιτροπής του Εργαστηρίου Εφαρμοσμένης Οιλοσοφίας του ΕΚΠΑ. Μέλος της Διοικούσας Επιτροτής του Μεταπτυχιακού "Enterthin too 2next set Greenwort Bailer" the letterside Σνολής του ΕΚΠΑ στο στοίο διδάσκει την τελευτοία. Βιτία "Οιλασοφική Διαχείριση του Στρες".

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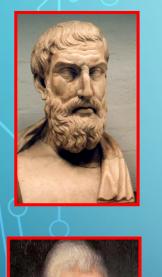


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### The **pursuit of happiness** is a fundamental human goal according to the **United Nations**







Distr.: General 12 July 2012

Sixty-sixth session Agenda item 14

#### Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 28 June 2012

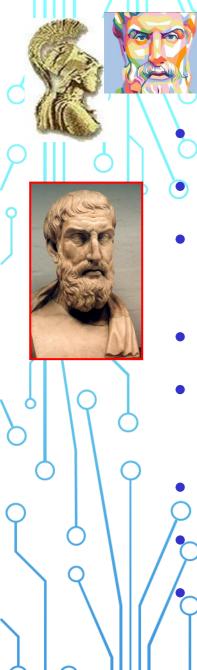
[without reference to a Main Committee (A/66/L.48/Rev.1)]

#### 66/281. International Day of Happiness

The General Assembly,

*Recalling* its resolution 65/309 of 19 July 2011, which invites Member States to pursue the elaboration of additional measures that better capture the importance of the pursuit of happiness and well-being in development with a view to guiding their public policies,

Conscious that the pursuit of happiness is a fundamental human goal,



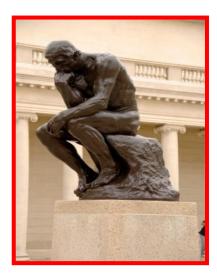
### Conclusion

- Among ALL ancient philosophies, Epicurean philosophy:
- Is the most compatible with Science and Naturalism
- Is the most compatible with Humanism
- Is the most compatible with **Social Contract** and **Human Rights, Animal Rights** and **Environmental** Issues
- Is the most compatible with Cognitive psychotherapy
- It has proven its worth during Renaissance,
  Enlightenment and early Modern Era
  - It is both Greek and Universal



- It promotes utility and happiness of all people
  - Therefore, in the post-COVID era the **best guidance** is **Scientific Humanism** based on **Epicurus' philosophy**

# Thank you for your attention!



#### Χρήστος Γιαπιτζάκης

#### επικογροΣ

Επιστημονικός Ανθρωπισμός και Ευδαιμονία

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Γιαπιτζάκης Χ. **Επίκουρος: Επιστημονικός Ανθρωπισμός και Ευδαιμονία.** Εκδόσεις 24 Γράμματα, Αθήνα, 2020

(Yapijakis C. Epicurus: Scientific Humanism and Happiness. 24 Grammata Publications, Athens, 2020)