**Travel to Libraries for Dissertation Writing Completion**

On April 18, 2022, I applied for the Hellenic Society Individual Grant for support to travel to two libraries—the Hardt Foundation Library in Vandoeuvres, Switzerland and the Blegen Library at the American School of Classical Studies in Athens. The trip was originally planned for two months from June to July 2022, but for some strange reasons, my visa was denied. For those travelling from countries in Africa to Europe, this is one hurdle we encounter in our attempts to access the Classics. I eventually made the trip from 1st to 26th November, 2022, dividing my time between Vandoeuvres and Athens.

During the period of my stay, I started working on the fourth chapter of my dissertation, provisionally titled, “The Individual and Community in Plato’s *Republic*”. In this chapter, my proposition is that an interpretation of the gender equality argument in *Republic* V is incomplete without consideration for how the relationship between individual and community is construed in the search for justice, and that such a consideration from the viewpoint of Afro-communitarianism may provide nuanced perspectives on the debate. Thus, the chapter focussed on a general account of the relationship between individual and community in the *Republic*, before narrowing down to the relationship between the individual *phylax* and the community of Guardians.

While the visits were short and hampered by ill-health, I was able to consult primary and secondary materials that were inaccessible to me in South Africa and Ghana, scanning allowable pages for use on my return home. Being my first time in Athens, I had the opportunity to visit some of the ancient sites including the Agora and the Parthenon on the very day of my departure.

The visits indeed afforded me time away from teaching and academic duties to concentrate on my dissertation, and I am grateful to the Society for the grant which funded part of my budget. I must also thank the Hardt Foundation for the research scholarship, as well as Professor Mark Lawall, who facilitated a waiver of the fees and full boarding at the American School in Athens in collaboration with the Canadian Institute at Athens.

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