The El’s Hellenic Observatory has announced a call for research project proposals on the themes of:

- Reform of Public Administration in Greece
- Social Insurance Provisions in Greece
- Foreign Policy

The HO invites researchers with a recognised interest in contemporary Greece to submit an application for funding in order to carry out a project on one of the themes highlighted above. This call has been made possible by funding generously provided by the National Bank of Greece. This initiative is consistent with the Observatory’s mission to promote public policy research and to foster academic collaboration and networks and follows on from previous successful calls made in 2009 and 2011. The Call is open to all researchers with a university affiliation, who hold a doctorate (PhD degree) and have at least two years of post-doctoral research experience. Applications from groups of researchers are also eligible, but in this case all members of the research team should meet the eligibility criteria. Applications from researchers who have had an affiliation with the HO at any time over the past two years as well as from researchers with a current LSE affiliation are not eligible.

Deadline for submissions: Sunday 14 July 2013 (5pm GMT) to Hellenicobservatory@lse.ac.uk.

For more details, see the Hellenic Observatory’s website.
LSEE welcomes **Dr Oya Dursun-Özkanca**, a new LSEE Visiting Fellow who will be with us between 29 April - 5 July 2013.

Dr Oya Dursun-Özkanca (PhD, University of Texas at Austin) is an Assistant Professor of Political Science and the Director of the International Studies Minor at Elizabethtown College, PA. Her research interests include Turkish foreign policy, transatlantic security, NATO, Security Sector Reform, peacebuilding operations in the Balkans, EU enlargement, and the Common Foreign and Security Policy of the EU. She is the author of a number of scholarly articles in peer-reviewed journals, such as *Civil Wars*, *European Security, Journal of Intervention and Statebuilding*, *Perspectives on European Politics and Society, Journal of Balkan and Near Eastern Studies*, and *Johns Hopkins University Bologna Center Journal of International*, and various edited volumes. Dursun-Özkanca recently served as a guest editor of a *European Security* journal special issue (Vol. 21, Issue 2, 2012), titled “*The EU and Security Sector Reform Practices: Challenges of Implementation*”; and as a guest co-editor of a *Civil Wars* journal special issue with Dr. Stefan Wolff (Vol. 14, Issue 4, 2012), titled “*Assessing Regional and International Organizations’ Interventions in Civil Wars: Capabilities and Context*”.

The Hellenic Observatory welcomes **Vassiliki Tzanatou**, the new HO Assistant who started work on Monday 22 April. Vassiliki studied Political Science and Public Administration at the University of Athens, and completed her postgraduate studies in Political Communications at Goldsmiths College, University of London. She is a member of the Hellenic Association of Political Science and has researched and supported research at the Laboratory of Political Communications, University of Athens. Her interests include the political and social transformations of Greece since the end of its dictatorship, the influence of the Internet on political participation, and the relationship between the arts and politics, with particular attention paid to the aesthetization of power. After two years of working in the pharmaceutical industry, Vassiliki decided to return to back to where she feels like home, London, and contribute to the promotion of education.
A new LEQS paper (no. 60) has been recently published (April 2013). ‘Europe: From emancipation to empowerment’ was written by Alexander Somek.

Abstract:

Marx is dead. But so is Hayek. With neoliberalism crumbling, Europeans are beginning to wonder what it is that is really wrong with the current European Union. The paper proposes the following answer: To this day, European integration has not been a process of emancipation. This shortcoming, however, is not written on the Union’s face. It requires, pursuant to best psychological traditions, a careful analysis of symptoms. One indication of the absence of emancipation is, indeed, the Union’s rhetorical embrace of empowerment.

In April 2013, LEQS also published a revised version of Paper no. 28 entitled ‘Unity in Diversity as Europe’s Vocation and Conflicts Law as Europe’s Constitutional Form’ written by Christian Joerges.

Abstract:

“Unity in Diversity” was the fortunate motto of the otherwise unfortunate Draft Constitutional Treaty. The motto did not make it into the Treaty of Lisbon. It deserves to be kept alive in a new constitutional perspective, namely the re-conceptualisation of European law as new type of conflicts law. The new type of conflicts law which the paper advocates is not concerned with selecting the proper legal system in cases with connections to various jurisdictions. It is instead meant to respond to the increasing interdependence of formerly more autonomous legal orders and to the democracy failure of constitutional states which result from the external effects of their laws and legal decisions on non-nationals. European has many means to compensate these shortcomings. It can derive its legitimacy from that compensatory potential without developing federal aspirations.

The paper illustrates this approach with the help of a topical example, namely the conflict between European economic freedoms and national industrial relations (collective labour) law. The recent jurisprudence of the ECJ in Viking, Laval, and Rüffert in which the Court established the supremacy of the freedoms over national labour law is criticised as a counterproductive deepening of Europe’s constitutional asymmetry and its social deficit.

The introductory and the concluding sections generalise the perspectives of the conflicts-law approach. The introductory section takes issue with max Weber’s national state. The concluding section suggests a three-dimensional differentiation of the approach which seeks to respond to the need for transnational regulation and governance.


The book focuses on what Asia and Europe can learn from each other in the global search of a new financial model, not what Asia can learn from European integration. The book covers both public sector (regulatory, monetary as well as exchange rate) policies and developments in the private sector. The book provides examination of financial issues from a non-Anglo-American point of view and contains analysis on China’s banking sector with comments by the Bank of Japan’s leading China expert.

- LSEE’s Dr James Ker-Lindsay wrote 'Understanding State Responses to Secession', *Peacebuilding*, Volume 1, Number 2, 2013.
- **Prof Paul De Grauwe** and Yuemei Ji recently wrote the article ‘Are Germans really poorer than Spaniards, Italians and Greeks?’ for *VOX.*
We are pleased to announce Dr Bob Hancké’s new book: ‘Unions, Central Banks, And Emu: Labour Market Institutions And Monetary Integration In Europe’.

The book examines the crisis of EMU through the lenses of comparative political economy. It retraces the development of wage-setting systems in the core and peripheral EMU member states, and how these contributed to the increasing divergence between creditor and debtor states in the late 2000s. Starting with the construction of the Deutschmark bloc, through the Maastricht process of the 1990s, and into the first decade of EMU, this book analyses how labour unions and wage determination systems adjusted in response to monetary integration and, in turn, influenced the shape that monetary union would eventually take.

Before the introduction of the Euro, labour unions were disciplined by central banks and governments, after social conflict in the north of the continent and with the use of social pacts in the others. Since controlling inflation had become the main goal of macro-economic policy, national central banks acted as a backstop to keep militant unions and profligate governments under control. Public sector wages thus were subordinated to manufacturing wages, a set-up policed by export sector unions, aided by the central bank. With the introduction of the single currency, the European Central Bank replaced the national central banks and, as a result, their capacity to control labour unions disappeared. The strong links between wages in the public sector unions and wages in the manufacturing export sector weakened dramatically in many countries, wage inflation re-emerged, and the stage was set for the current account divergences at the basis of the crisis of EMU.

**New Publications**

**Events**

**Thursday 2 May 2013, 18.30-20.00, Old Theatre, LSE**

*Britain and the EU: an ever-closer union of peoples?*

**Sir Malcolm Rifkind**

Chair: Prof Maurice Fraser
LSE European Institute Perspectives on Europe Series public lecture

**Tuesday 7 May 2013, 13.30-15.00, Wolfson Theatre, NAB, LSE**

*Countering the crisis: fixing the monetary union and upgrading EU employment policy*

**László Andor**, EU Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion
Chair: Prof Iain Begg
LSE European Institute Perspectives on Europe public lecture
Tuesday 7 May 2013, 18.00-19.30, COW 1.11, Cowdray House
‘Economic and European Perspectives of Western Balkan Countries’
Dr Slavica Penev, Institute of Economic Sciences, Belgrade
Dr Fikret Čaušević, Department of Economic, University of Sarajevo
Dr Peter Sanfey, EBRD (European Bank for Reconstruction and Development)
London
Chair: Dr Vesna Bojičić-Dželilović
Department of International Development, LSE
Organised by LSEE Research on South East Europe

Wednesday 8 May 2013, 18.30-20.00, Hong Kong Theatre, LSE
‘The Lost Continent: Europe’s Darkest Hour Since World War Two’
Gavin Hewitt, BBC’s Europe Editor
Chair: Dr Piers Ludlow
LSE European Institute Perspectives on Europe public lecture and book launch

Tuesday 14 May 2013, 17.30-19.00, New Theatre, LSE
‘The Passage to Europe’
Luuk van Middelaar
Discussant: John Peet
European Institute/Policy Network Eurocrisis@LSE lecture series

Tuesday 14 May 2013, 18.00-19.30, COW 1.11, Cowdray House
‘Turkish Foreign Policy and the Balkans: Implications on Transatlantic Security’
Dr Oya Dursan-Ozkanca, Assistant Professor of Political Science, Elizabethtown College and LSEE Visiting Fellow
Organised by LSEE Research on South East Europe

Tuesday 28 May 2013, 18.00-19.30, COW 1.11, Cowdray House
‘EU Leverage and National Interests in the Balkans: The Puzzles of Enlargement Ten Years On’
Dr Milada Vachudova, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill
Organised by LSEE Research on South East Europe
Sixty-Second Interview

….with Fadil Ersözer, current MSc European Studies (PGEU) student

Fadil, thank you for being our May interviewee for the Digest. You are an MSc student of the PGEU stream. Can you tell us please what were your expectations of the MSc programme at the LSE before you arrived and whether these expectations have been fulfilled so far?

FE: My expectations were to study in a challenging environment, where I would urge myself to develop better academic thinking, to take courses from leading names in academia, to have friends from different cultural backgrounds, and to experience the quality of education at the LSE, which has a prestigious reputation. Most of my expectations have been fulfilled so far. I think we have a really good range of opportunities at the LSE. I am really impressed with the frequency of seminars and public lectures given by highly distinguished names.

You come from north Cyprus. Can you tell us a little bit about your home country and your home town? What would a visitor like to see there?

FE: Cyprus is a small, adorable island. It is always sunny, it has long beaches, hospitable people and rich culture, nice tourist places, tasty food… It is a great place to go for a summer holiday. My hometown is Güzelyurt (Morphou), a small town surrounded by orange groves. Best time to visit is spring, when it is green. Unfortunately, the 40-year long division of the island (between north and south) is still not solved. This is a huge political problem as well as an economic loss for not just both sides, but for all parties in the Mediterranean. Waiting a solution yet to come, Cyprus is an amazing place to visit nevertheless!

How are you finding life in London? What is the best part about living in London for you?

FE: London is a great city for both studying and living. I like the fact that London is highly multicultural – it gives one a wide range of options to do. Music, art, film, theatre, sport, great outdoors… I am enjoying each day. Well-developed public transport makes living easier too. The best part about living in London for me is its green parks.

Are you engaged in any student activities at the LSE? Have you made a lot of new friends from different parts of the world and Europe?

FE: I am a member of LSE Turkish Society. I attend activities organised by LSE and the various Student Union societies. Recently I attended ‘LSE’s got talent’ show and a debate about Arab Spring.
Have you made or started making any plans for the future after the MSc?
FE: I am going to start my PhD (in Politics) at the University in Manchester.

What do you like to do in your free time? Any hobbies?
FE: In my free time, I like visiting new areas and places in London that I haven’t been before, going out with friends, and reading. My hobbies are playing guitar, singing, and photography.

Where would you go if you were invisible for a day?
FE: I would explore the wildlife in Africa to observe it in person.

If you were offered the trip of a lifetime, where would you like to go and why?
FE: I would go to Bora Bora island. It would be great to swim, shoot landscape photographs and generally, enjoy a holiday there.

Fadıl, thank you very much and best of luck with everything!

Staff Calendar

5-8 May: Dr Vassilis Monastiriotis is presenting a paper on ‘Size of Public Sector and Local Private Sector Responses’ at the 2013 Regional Studies Association European Conference in Tampere, Finland.

6 May: Prof Iain Begg is speaking at the University of Salzburg on the theme ‘The Common Good in Economic Governance. Why is it so hard to agree it?’

7 May: Prof Paul De Grauw is a keynote lecture at Institute of International and European Affairs in Dublin.

9 May: Visiting Senior Fellow Anthony Teasdale is speaking on ‘Environmental decision-making in the European Union: who exercises power?’ in a seminar at the Department of Geography and Environment, University of Oxford.

9-11 May: Prof Sara Hobolt is presenting two papers at the European Union Studies Association (EUSA) Thirteenth Biennial Conference, Baltimore, Maryland, USA. The titles of the papers are: ‘The Public Constraint on EU Governance During and Beyond the Crisis’ and ‘Career Paths and Legislative Activities of Members of the European Parliament’ (the latter with Bjørn Høyland (Department of Political Science, University of Oslo) and Simon Hix, LSE).

11 May: Dr Simon Glendinning is also presenting a paper at the same conference (EUSA) in Baltimore on the subject ‘European Philosophy and European Union’.

13 May: LSEE’s Dr James Ker-Lindsay is attending a conference on ‘Energy in the Eastern Mediterranean: Can it Facilitate Dispute Resolution?’ organised by the Centre for Economics and Foreign Policy Studies (EDAM) and Friedrich Ebert Stiftung, in Istanbul, Turkey.
13 May: **Prof Iain Begg** is speaking at a meeting in Istanbul entitled 'The Future of Europe and Turkey', organised by the Istanbul Policy Center and partners, on 'The future of the Eurozone: a banking and fiscal union and beyond'.

14 May: **Dr Jonathan White** is giving an invited seminar presentation on 'Emergency Europe' at ARENA Oslo.

16 May: **Dr Jonathan White** is giving an invited seminar presentation on 'Emergency Europe and the Problem of Opposition' at Uppsala, Sweden.

16 May: Hellenic Observatory’s **Dr Nikos Skoutaris** is participating as a respondent speaker in the CLEER Presidency Lecture on the 'Experiences from the Cyprus Presidency of the Council of the EU in the area of EU External Relations'.

16-17 May: LSEE’s **Dr James Ker-Lindsay** is speaking on 'The EU as a Factor of Stability in the Western Balkans', at the conference entitled 'Bridging the Balkans: Celebrating a Centenary of Diplomatic Relations since the London Conference, May 1913-May 2013', taking place at King's College London.

22 May: Visiting Senior Fellow **Anthony Teasdale** is speaking on 'Impact Assessment in the EU and member states' in a seminar at the Ecole nationale d'administration (ENA), Strasbourg.

23-24 May: **Prof Iain Begg** is speaking at a meeting organised by the Jean Monnet Centre in Athens on the theme of 'Exiting the crisis: realistic proposals'.

23-24 May: **Prof Paul De Grauwe** is attending a conference at the Bank of Greece in Athens.

24 May: LSEE’s **Dr James Ker-Lindsay** is attending a conference on '10 Years after Thessaloniki: An Appraisal of the EU Perspective and Challenges in the Western Balkans', organised by the Irish Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade and the Irish Institute for European Studies, Dublin, Ireland.

27 May: **Dr Simon Glendinning** is speaking on European integration and 'The New Europe’ at the Hay Philosophy Festival ‘HowTheLightGetsIn’.

30 May: EI's Visiting Fellow **Dr Anne Corbett** is a speaker at the conference 'Erasmus: Quels enjeux, quel avenir' which takes place at the Universite Pierre Mendes-France, in Grenoble. The French Minister for Higher Education will be delivering a major policy statement.

30 May: **Prof Paul De Grauwe** is a keynote lecture at the Spring Meeting of the Young Economists (SMYE) at Aarhus University.

31 May: LSEE’s **Dr James Ker-Lindsay** is attending a policy workshop 'Power-Sharing Lessons for Divided Societies' at the Conflict Analysis Research Centre, Department of Politics and International Relations, University of Kent.
Prof Iain Begg

Iain Begg was interviewed by the Voice of Russia on 5 April on Russia’s relationship with the EU.

Iain also gave an interview to Associated Press commenting about Margaret Thatcher’s legacy. ‘The Big Bang paved the way for the spectacular growth of the financial services industry in the U.K.’, Iain said.

Dr Anne Corbett

Anne Corbett wrote an article on 13 April for University World News entitled ‘The European Union – A free market in minds?’.

Prof Paul De Grauwe

Paul De Grauwe spoke to the Reuters on 8 April and said that ‘This [failure] is the result of an accumulation of pressure from other countries, and Cyprus can have been the straw the broke the camel’s back’.

Critics warn that years more of such cuts could do lasting damage to the economies, social fabric and political stability of weak nations. "The depression that is being imposed on these countries may last quite a long time," Paul told the Wall Street Journal on 25 April.

In another interview to the Financial Times on 25 April, Paul has reportedly said that the benefits of retaining a currency on one’s own are visible in the post-crisis interest rates paid on long-term public debt.

In a Washington Post article on 30 April entitled ‘Slovenia Bank Rescue at 20% of GDP Means No Escaping EU Aid’, Paul said ‘“Now that the bankers have run away from the periphery, German and French politicians no longer care about bank creditors. Germany now says taxpayers shouldn’t bear the costs of bank restructuring, but what it really means is German taxpayers shouldn’t. Slovenian or Cypriot people are stuck with the costs since German bankers are gone’. 
El in the News

♦ Prof Kevin Featherstone

On 7 April, in a regular Op-Ed in Kathimerini (Greece), Kevin Featherstone commented on the implications of the Euro-Zone’s Cyprus deal.

Also, in the 21 April Op-Ed, Kevin and Prof Krimigis (Johns Hopkins University and NASA) also wrote that Greece’s future development model will depend on whether the Greek government can establish a more effective approach to research and innovation. This will require accumulated weaknesses to be overcome, a ‘sea-change’ of approach, and extensive organisational reforms.

♦ Dr James Ker-Lindsay

James spoke to Bloomberg on 3 April about the prospects for Cyprus reunification in light of the economic crisis.

James gave an interview to ABC Radio (Australia) on 11 April on the fatal shooting incident in Serbia in which 13 were killed.

James was quoted in Ahram Online (Egypt) on 15 April discussing the dialogue between Turkish President Erdogan and leaders of Turkey’s Kurdish population.

James was also interviewed by De VolksKrant (Netherlands) on 19 April on the decision of the Cyprus government to award passports to depositors who lost money.

James Ker-Lindsay discussed the 10th anniversary of the opening of the Green Line in Cyprus, for the Cyprus Mail on 21 April.

James spoke to Christian Science Monitor on 25 April about a recent Serbia-Kosovo deal and said ‘This is not recognition, but it is a big step towards it’.

On 28 April, James also spoke to RTV Slovenija about the Serbia-Kosovo deal [title: Only Nationalists can conclude the Agreement between Serbia and Kosovo].

♦ Dr Vassilis Monastiriotis

Dr Vassilis Monastiriotis gave an interview to Remco Tomesen for the Dutch BNR News radio. An article quoting the interview appeared on 16 April in the BNR website [title: ‘Tourists and investors rediscover Greece’].

♦ Dr Nikos Skoutaris

Hellenic Observatory’s Dr Nikos Skoutaris published an opinion piece on the Cyprus crisis entitled ‘5+1 reflections on the Cyprus crisis’ (in Greek).
Alumni News

**Dane Davis** (MSc European Political Economy, 2010/11). Soon after graduating from the LSE in December 2011, he joined the CRU Group, a leading market analysis and management consulting firm in the world of commodities. Since 2012, he has been employed in the Seattle office of CRU Strats, the management consulting wing of the CRU Group.

As a consultant, he has worked with many of the world’s leading banks and mining companies to provide top quality research and advice.

In his spare time, Dane has partnered with a fellow friend and colleague, Thomas Gift, to improve his master’s dissertation to a publishable academic level. He has also completed a novel about the effects of the student loan crisis in the United States. The novel is currently being edited by a third party, and he hopes to publish it soon!

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