

# The Hellenic Observatory Newsletter 2005



## Editorial

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Welcome to this third issue of our newsletter. The Hellenic Observatory continues to grow and develop. We can look forward to a strong programme of activities in the coming year. We hope that you'll wish to join us for some of our events and to check our webpages for further material.

In the last academic year, we benefitted from several internal changes. Dr. Spyros Economides joined us full time, from the Department of International Relations here at the LSE, and he has become the Observatory's Deputy Director. You will see from these pages the strength of contribution he has made already and I look forward to working with him in the future.

We were also able to appoint Dr. Vassilis Monastiriotis as Lecturer in the Political Econ-

omy of Greece and South East Europe. As previously reported, his post has been funded by a consortium of external donors in Greece. Vassilis has already taken several initiatives on behalf of the Observatory in his area of expertise and these will further develop in the coming years.

As the Observatory develops, we hold firm to our core purpose. This is to promote debate and study on Greece and Cyprus, in the appropriate regional setting, within the perspective of the social sciences. Major issues confront them within south east Europe and within the European Union.

But, the Observatory is also able to look forward to a period in which it further develops its role. We hope that these developments will enhance its research function and

As in past years we have had a very full and successful range of activities, attracting participants, audiences and interest from a variety of backgrounds from the UK and beyond. Our major public events of the year centred on the inaugural London Hellenic Society Annual Lecture where we hosted the Mayor of Athens Mrs Dora Bakoyannis and the Sixth Annual Lecture of the Hellenic Observatory where we welcomed back Professor Loukas Tsoukalis of the University of Athens and a previous holder of the Eleftherios Venizelos Chair at the LSE. Two further public lectures by Stelios Haji-Ioannou, a graduate of the LSE, and founder of Easyjet and other 'Easy' projects, and Dr Yannis Papantoniou (formerly Minister of National Economy and Minister of Defence) also drew generous and

lively audiences to the Observatory.

In June this year, the Observatory also held a major conference dedicated to the work of PhD students researching on Greece. The 2<sup>nd</sup> LSE PhD Symposium on Modern Greece: Current Social Science Research on Greece proved to be a major success attracting over 80 presenters and some 120 participants overall. A major policy seminar held in Athens in April 2005 looked at the issue of labour market flexibility, business and academic audience to what we hope is one of many such events to be held in Athens. Back in London, the Observatory continued to attract strong audiences to our research seminars which were held fortnightly throughout the Michaelmas and Lent terms.

Apart from its public events the Observatory is still keen to build upon a growing research profile. We have in the past year stepped up our efforts to attract funding for research projects and fellowships. We were particularly pleased to have had as a Senior Research Fellow, Professor Panos Tsakoglou of the Athens University of Economics and Business, who made an important contribution to the Observatory during the last academic year. We would like to thank the

National Bank of Greece for its generous sponsorship which will allow us to maintain this Fellowship for a further three years. In addition we would like to thank various organisations for the financial support they have lent us through the year by sponsoring our activities, publications and students. Special thanks to the Bodossakis, Niarchos and Onassis Foundations, EFG Eurobank Ergasias and the Kalofolias Group.

## THE LONDON HELLENIC SOCIETY ANNUAL LECTURE

Following on so soon after the conclusion of a very successful Athens Olympics, Mrs Bakoyannis's lecture on *What Makes an Olympic City? Lessons and Legacies from the Athens Experience*, which was held on 4 November 2004 and chaired by the Director of the School Howard Davies, drew a huge attendance in the Old Theatre of the LSE. Such was the demand that there was an overspill theatre with a live video link.

In her lecture, the Mayor of Athens highlighted the atypical nature of the Athens bid because of the expectations arising from the classical heritage of the Games and the small size of the Greek population and economy relative to other host cities. Mrs Bakoyannis stressed that in the run up to the Games, concern and criticism of Athens's readiness to host the Olympiad, added to a general anxiety, which was



*Dora Bakoyannis, Mayor of Athens*

met with the answer, 'We are going to surprise the world'. In discussing the legacy of the Games, the Mayor indicated that the upgrading of the infrastructure of Athens and other parts of Greece would be of major benefit to the country both as a tourist destination but also in general economic terms and for the citizens of Athens and other host sites. But she also emphasised that the legacy was not restricted to material benefits. Environmental and planning issues

figured high on the Olympic agenda and as such the resulting changes would enhance the quality of day to day life of Athenians and others. More importantly, she pointed out that the biggest legacy of the Games was not the only economic benefit or international perceptions of Greece, but that Greeks managed to change their own perception of themselves by defying criticism and holding such successful Games.

The timeliness of the lecture, and its relevance to a cosmopolitan LSE audience and broader London community (aware of its own Olympic bid) was reflected in the extremely lively and broad ranging question and answer session which followed the lecture, in which many members of the audience searched for answers from the Athens experience for future



*Dora Bakoyannis, Mayor of Athens and George Rodopoulos, President of the London Hellenic Society*

## The HO Annual lecture



Our Sixth Annual Hellenic Observatory Lecture, held on 6 December 2004, was also extremely well-attended reflecting both the reputation of our speaker, Professor Loukas Tsoukalis, and the significance of his theme, *European Integration: What is at Stake Now (for British, Greeks and others)?*. At a time when discussions on Europe's future both constitutionally and geographically figure highly, Professor Tsoukalis provided a forceful overview of the challenges facing the European Union and the citizens of Europe in pursuit of the European project. Professor Tsoukalis tackled all the weighty issues of the day from the democratic deficit to economic policy,

from enlargement to transatlantic relations. Building on his book, *What Kind of Europe?*, Professor Tsoukalis stressed that Europeans rather than European nation states are faced with a series of stark choices about their future and that these choices which are inherently and essentially political irrespective of nationality. The lecture ended with Professor Tsoukalis proposing that irrespective of the outcome of national referenda on the Constitutional Treaty, it was now time to have an open, public debate on the future of Europe. The discussion which followed the lecture spanned the range of issues developed in the lecture and looked more closely at what was at stake for Greece both in terms of the future of European integration and

## The Observatory welcomes Stelios



Stelios Haji-Ioannou, one of the best known businessmen in the U.K., spoke of his personal background and career as an entrepreneur. He explained how he had developed his innovative business strategy - low cost, no frills services – across different sectors and his plans for expansion. He compared his own strategy to that of others, large and small, and responded to queries about business innovation at the present time.

The audience filled the Hong Kong Theatre and comprised a cross section of the School and local Greek communities. A large num-

## Greece's modernisation process

On 12 May 2005, the Observatory welcomed back Dr Yannis Papantoniou, who had previously spoken at the LSE in his capacity of Minister of Defence in the Simitis Government. Dr Papantoniou's talk on *Greece's Modernisation Process: Visions and New Realities* attracted a keen audience drawn from the LSE's Greek student body and many more from the broader Greek community in London. Part of the former Minister's lecture was devoted to accounting for the policy of successive Pasok administrations, with specific focus on the economy: Euro-zone membership; reduction in fiscal deficit; structural reform and privatisation and changes in accounting for defence spending. Dr Papantoniou also developed his views on Greece's interna-

tional position concentrating on relations with Turkey, the latter's path to accession negotiations and the general issues of where we go from here in relation to Cyprus.

The former Minister's main focus was the process of modernisation in Greece, arguing that substantial progress had been made under Pasok, but emphasising that radical reform was needed in four areas if this, in his view, critical agenda were to be pushed forward. These areas he suggested were: decentralisation and adding market mechanisms to



certain public services including for example, the state university system and state hospitals; performance related incentives for public administration personnel; independent authorities to regulate for example, the mass me-



## Labour market flexibility



*Dr. Vassilis Monastiriotis*

Over the last decade Greece has managed a significant reversal of its economic situation, achieving high rates of economic growth and a notable convergence with the European Union. Following its suc-

cessful accession to the Economic and Monetary Union in 2000, Greece faces today new challenges and opportunities. Significant structural problems continue to characterise the Greek economy and raise questions about its prospects to compete successfully in the international economy. This creates new challenges for public policy, which is called to urgently address these structural problems and create the basis for the further development of the Greek economy.

Against this background, the Hellenic Observatory has launched a programme of research activities that seek to bring together academics, practitioners and policy-makers to address key issues of public policy in Greece. As part of this programme the Hellenic Observatory organised last April a policy seminar in Athens on the topic of labour market flexibil-



*Dr. N. Garganas, Bank of Greece, Mr N. Nanopoulos, Eurobank-Ergasias, Prof. G. Alogoskoufis, Minister of National Economy, Prof. S. Nickell, Bank of England & LSE, Prof. K. Featherstone, LSE.*

ity. The seminar, which was chaired by Professor Kevin Featherstone, Director of the Observatory, and sponsored by EFG Eurobank Ergasias, aimed at reviewing the international experience on the issue and examining what lessons, if any, could be drawn for Greece.

The opening speech, by Prof. George Alogoskoufis, Minister of Economics and Finance of Greece and an LSE alumnus, highlighted the importance of the issue of labour market reform and welcomed the initiative of the Hellenic Observatory to organise such an event. The keynote speech, by Prof. Stephen Nickell of LSE and the Bank of England, laid out the European dimension of the issue and its relation to long-term unemployment and inactivity. The contributions by Dr V. Monastiriotis (LSE), Dr S. Gavroglou (OAED) and Dr D. Nicolitsa (University of Athens) focused on the peculiarities of the Greek economy and the extent of flexible labour use in the country and highlighted possible areas for reform.

The seminar also hosted the views of the representatives of the two major players in the Greek labour market, Mr U. Kyriacopoulos (president, Federation of Greek Industries) and Mr

## HO Research Seminars 2004-05

The Hellenic Observatory continued its series of research seminars in the 2004/05 academic year with a diverse set of contributions from colleagues from Greece and the UK. The 2004/05 series kicked off with an extremely interesting analysis by Prof. Peter Loizos, Professor Emeritus of LSE, of the result of the Cyprus referendum on the Anan Plan. This seminar, together with a number of other contributions later in the term, reflected the interest of the Hellenic Observatory on issues of foreign affairs and Greek-Turkish relations in particular as well as the topicality of the themes covered by the HO seminar series. The 2004/05 seminar series, however, also reflected the widening of focus of the Hellenic Observa-



tory to issues relating to the political economy and economic geography of Greece. Contributions within this theme were made by Prof. P. Tsakoglou, Senior Research Fellow at the Hellenic Observatory, visiting from the Athens University of Economics and Business, Prof. L. Labrianidis, from the University of Macedonia, Dr M. Argyrou, from Brunel University, and Dr V. Monastiriotis who joined the HO at the start of the academic year. Finally, other contributions covered issues of culture and history, especially in relation to migration, entrepreneurship and religion. Owing to their wide coverage, the seminars attracted a diverse audience, including students and academics from LSE and other colleges of the University

## List of Seminars 2004-2005

### **The Pros and Cons of Greek Foreign Direct Investments.**

Dr. Lois Labrianidis, *Professor of Economic Geography, University of Macedonia.*

Tuesday, 15 March 2005

### **Evaluating Greek Immigration Policies in the 1990s.**

Dr. Gerasimos Konidaris, *Lecturer in International and Comparative Politics, University of Sheffield.*

Tuesday, 22 February 2005

### **Culture and Entrepreneurship in Historical Perspective: Nineteenth Century Greek Merchant Communities.**

Dr Sakis Gekas, *Teaching Fellow, Economic History Department, LSE.*

Tuesday, 8 February 2005

### **Education and Inequality in Greece.**

Professor Panos Tsakloglou, *Senior Research Fellow, Hellenic Observatory, LSE.*

Tuesday, 25 January 2005

### **The Effects of Greek accession to the Euro on the Greek economy.**

Dr. Michael Arghyrou, *Lecturer in Economics, Brunel University*

Tuesday 7 December 2004

### **Historiography and Greek-Turkish Reconciliation: Is it Possible for Greeks and Turks to find a common historical narrative?**

Bruce Clark, *Religion Correspondent, The Economist*  
Tuesday 30 November 2004

### **Geographical and Political Economy Perspectives on Regional Disparities in Greece.**

Dr. Vassilis Monastiriotes, *Lecturer in the Political*

## The 2nd PhD Symposium on modern Greece

One of the core purposes of the Hellenic Observatory is to foster research and teaching on contemporary Greece in the social sciences. In pursuing this, one of the central events organised by the Observatory, every second year, is our PhD Symposium. This brings together PhD students, who are researching a wide variety of aspects of the social sciences in relation to contemporary Greece, from across the length and breadth of Europe and beyond, and allows



*Professor Stathis Kalyvas, Yale University, USA*

them to present their research to an audience not only of their peers but also more established scholars in their respective fields. On 10 June 2005, the Observatory held the 2<sup>nd</sup> LSE Phd Sym-



posium on Modern Greece, focusing on current social science research on Greece. As with the first Symposium held in 2003, this proved to be an exciting and intellectually fruitful event, bringing to the Old Theatre of the LSE, and dozens of other teaching rooms across the campus, over 120 participants and the extraordinary figure of over 70 presenters.

The Symposium revolved around the panel sessions, of which there were sixteen, in which the PhD students – and those with recently acquired doctorates – presented their research and engaged in debate with their peers and other Symposium participants. Each panel was Chaired by one or two established scholars who were there both to enable the discussion and provide their own comments and suggestions on the panelists research findings. The panels

were split up according to the focus of the research interests of those who had successfully applied to take part in the conference. It is no surprise, to those of you who work on issues related to contemporary Greece, that there was much interest in foreign affairs, matters relating to Greece and the EU and aspects of domestic Greek politics – and of course an number of high quality panels were devoted to those subjects. Other panels were devoted to economics, history, social policy and public administration. More interestingly, there was a great wave of research interest in fields which do not traditionally attract so much attention. As such there were at least seven panels in total dedicated to media and communications, issues of migration and minorities and culture and identity. This, I think it fair to say, is a reflection of the social and political changes - if not challenges – which are currently facing Greece and

which have led to a burgeoning academic interest in exploring their implications for the evolution of Greek society and the Greek state.

Bracketing the panels, we were also honoured to have three plenary or keynote speakers, Professors Nikos Mouzelis, Stathis Kalyvas and Nikos Zahariadis, who spoke on both theoretical and empirical aspects of research on contemporary Greece and set the scene on the state of play in the social science research community studying various aspects of modern Greece.

While the details of the programme of the days events and the papers of the individual presenters are available online through the Observatory website at the LSE it may be useful just to stand for a moment and emphasise the importance of this event. We at the Observatory – as you may expect – believe this to be a unique event. It is a day – and perhaps should be more than a day – dedicated exclusively to the work of a new generation of scholars. It allows them to come into contact with their peers from around Europe – and growingly beyond – who are working on similar subject and to exchange views and experiences. It also allows the partici-

## New Fellows

The Hellenic Observatory welcomes in 2005-2006 two new Visiting Fellows, Dr Nikos Papadakis and Dr Athanassios Koulouridas.

### A warm welcome for the Greek students of LSE

In the run up to the Christmas vacation, the Observatory organised a reception for the LSE's Greek postgraduate and research students. This was the perfect opportunity for many of the students to meet each other and for us to in-

## Six months at the Hellenic Observatory



Last year, after four years as Head of my Department and six years without sabbatical leave, it was my turn to take a year off. Despite the fact that my family had just grown from three to four, I was looking for a good University, preferably in the UK, to spend some time in. Therefore, when I found out that the post of Senior Research

Fellow at the Hellenic Observatory was available, I did not hesitate at all to apply (with the consent of my family!). I knew the Observatory and its members from various conferences and other research activities and I was convinced that, if selected, I was going to have a very productive time there.

It turned out that it was an excellent choice. The Hellenic Observatory, as part of the LSE, is located in one of the best centres of research in the world. The environment is very stimulating, the research facilities superb and the members of the Observatory friendly and extremely helpful. The only problem was that with so many seminars, public lectures and other such activities around, it was not always easy to choose and, furthermore, there was a danger of spending my time going from event to event rather than doing my own research. Last but not least, London is undoubtedly one of the most exciting cities on earth. All in all, I had a great time as Senior Research Fellow at the Hellenic Observatory and I would wish to recommend it strongly to any colleague working on Greece and interested in having a productive break from his or her normal duties.

## Advisory Board

The Hellenic Observatory has an Advisory Board to help promote its activities:

**Dr. Nikolaos Garganas**, Bank of Greece

**Professor Lucas Papademos**, European Central Bank

**Professor Kevin Featherstone**, Director of the Hellenic Observatory, LSE

**Dr. Spyros Economides**, Deputy Director of the Hellenic

**Observatory, LSE**

**Mr Takis Arapoglou**, National Bank of Greece

**Professor George Provopoulos**, Commercial Bank of Greece

**Dr Spiros Latsis**, EFG Eurobank Ergasias



## Corruption in Greece

**Dr Maria Gavouneli**, lecturer in International Law at the University of Athens and Advisor to the Minister of Justice of the Hellenic Republic, spoke on the theme of '**Corruption in International Law: the Case of Greece**', at the Institute of Advanced Legal Studies. The lecture, held on 1 March 2005, was chaired by **Professor Kevin Featherstone**, Director of the Hellenic Observatory.

Dr Gavouneli, a leading specialist in the field, talked of the definitions and understandings of corruption in different political settings. She then related these to the experience of Greece and examined the latter's distinctiveness in recent times.



*From left: Prof. Kevin Featherstone, LSE, Dr Maria Gavouneli, University of Athens and Dr Constantin Stefanou, Institute of Advanced Legal Studies.*

### Visiting Fellows and Researchers

The Hellenic Observatory welcomes enquiries from post-doctoral students and senior academics interested in visiting us for a short period of research. Enquiries should be made via:

### Internships

The Hellenic Observatory also welcomes enquiries from current students interested in working for a short period as an intern, servicing the activities of the Observatory. Enquiries to:

### Who's Who 2005/6

#### **Prof. Kevin Featherstone**

Eleftherios Venizelos Professor & Director of the HO

#### **Dr Spyros Economides**

HO Deputy Director & Senior Lecturer, Contemporary Greek Studies

#### **Ms Maria Kantirou**

HO Administrator

#### **Ms Eleni Xiarchogiannopoulou**

## Good bye...and thanks!

Dr John McLoughlin, of the LSE's Office of Development & Alumni Relations, is about to leave the School after many years service. John has been a tremendous supporter of the Hellenic Observatory and we are very grateful for all his good work on

For further information about the Hellenic Observatory, see our web-pages:

<http://www.lse.ac.uk/collections/hellenicObservatory/Default.htm>

Or write to: The Administrator

Hellenic Observatory  
London School of Economics and Political Science  
Houghton Street  
London WC2A 2AE  
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Telephone: +44 (0)20 7955 6066

#### **Research students:**

Please join our server list to maintain a dialogue between fellow specialists.

For more information, visit our web site (<http://www.lse.ac.uk/collections/hellenicObservatory/Default.htm>) and click on 'Hellenic Research Email List' under **Quick Links**.

## Latest news

**PUBLIC LECTURE** Thursday 3 November, 6.30pm

Old Theatre, Old Building

### London Hellenic Society annual lecture

#### The Role of Religion in a Changing Europe

The spiritual leader of the second largest Christian Church, Patriarch Bartholomew, is to deliver the second annual lecture of the London Hellenic Society at the LSE. The spiritual head of more than 250 million orthodox Christians worldwide, he is also the 270th successor of the 2,000 year-old local Christian Church founded by St. Andrew. His location in Istanbul is reflected in his historic title, "Archbishop of Constantinople, New Rome and Ecumenical Patriarch".



The title of his lecture will be *The Role of Religion in a Changing Europe*. The Patriarch is well placed to speak on this topic. His own title as 'Ecumenical' Patriarch is the focus of long-term differences with the Turkish State. The current debate over Turkey's accession to the European Union involves issues of Turkey's treatment of minorities and the 'Europeanness' of Turkey. The Patriarchate is itself evidence of the historic connection between Turkey and Europe.

His All Holiness Patriarch Bartholomew has worked to advance reconciliation among the different faith communities and has spoken extensively on the relationship between the Christian faith and a number of international issues. This lecture looks at the changing perspectives on 'Europe' and its cultural identity; the relationship between faith and public issues.

***This event is free and open to all but a ticket is required. One ticket per person can be requested from 10am on Monday 24 October. For more information, email Events at [events@lse.ac.uk](mailto:events@lse.ac.uk).***

### New Annual Lecture Series

We are delighted to announce that on 2 December 2005 we will be inaugurating a new lecture series in honour of Ambassador Byron Theodoropoulos. This lecture series will be devoted to issues of foreign and security policy in acknowledgement of the contribution Ambassador Theodoropoulos has made to the worlds of diplomacy, foreign policy and academia. The inaugu-

## Research Seminars Autumn 2005

### Euro-Turkish Relations and Cyprus

Professor Andreas Theophanous, *Director Research and Development Centre, Intercollege, Cyprus*

Tuesday, 11 October 2005

### Col. Papadopoulos and the Seduction of the 'Mother of Parliaments'

Professor Richard Clogg, *Emeritus Fellow St. Antony's College, University of Oxford, UK*

Tuesday, 25 October 2005

### Complying with the EU? the politics of reforming Olympic Airways, 1994-2003

Professor Kevin Featherstone, *Hellenic Observatory,*

LSE

Tuesday, 8 November 2005

### The Political Economy of the Regional Allocation of Public Investment in Greece, 1976-2004

Dr Yiannis Psycharis, *Assistant Professor*

*Department of Planning and Regional Development, University of Thessaly, Greece.*

Tuesday, 22 November 2005

### Structural Reforms in Greece: lessons from the Irish model for the implementation of the Lisbon Strategy

Professor Eleni Louri, *Athens University of Economics and Business and Office of the Prime Minister, Greece*