



The Hellenic Observatory Newsletter 2007

Issue 5
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Editorial

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It is with great pleasure that we welcome you to the Hellenic Observatory's fifth annual newsletter which covers what has been the HO's most active and we like to think – most successful year. It is estimated that since 2001 we have attracted some 7,000 people to HO events, be they public lectures, conferences, workshops or research seminars, either in London or in Athens. We now boast three full-time academics housed in the HO, up to 5 research fellows over the academic year, 4 visiting fellows, a full-time administrator and two research assistants. This we believe is a critical mass which will allow us to develop the HO's research profile and continue with our wide ranging series of public events.

The centrepiece of our public events in 2006-7 was the Hellenic Observatory's Annual Lecture which was delivered by the **Prime Minister of Greece, Dr Kostas Karamanlis**. It was the first time that the serving Greek Prime Minister spoke to an HO audience. His lecture on '**Greece and the European Union: Partners in European Reform**' attracted an audience of over 900 people to the LSE's Peacock Theatre – our biggest ever audience – for a stimulating lecture and question and answer session.

In 2007 we also held our **Third Biennial PhD Symposium on the Social Sciences and Contemporary Greece**. This brought together over one hundred PhD students from Europe and beyond, who presented papers deriving from their doctoral research on issues relating to contemporary Greece, Cyprus and South Eastern Europe in a wide range of disciplines. As part of the proceedings, plenary speeches were given by **Professors Fotis Kafatos, George Tsebelis and Nikiforos Diamandouros**.

It has become an annual event that the Observatory collaborates with the LSE Alumni Association in Greece to stage a conference in Athens. This year the theme of the conference, which was again held at the Bank of Greece and hosted by Governor, **Dr Nicholas Garganas**, was '**The European Sustainable Development Strategy and Greece**'. The Observatory held a further event in Athens, co-organising with the British Council a debate on the theme of: '**Creating Competitive European Universities for the 21st Century**'.

We also collaborated with the Association for Cypriot, Greek & Turkish Affairs to host a panel discussion on the topic of '**Economic Convergence and**

a Cyprus Settlement', and participated in the inaugural Keith Kyle Memorial Lecture delivered by the then Minister for Europe **Mr Geoff Hoon**. The topical issue of migration and Southeastern Europe was tackled in a one day workshop entitled '**Migration and New European Enlargement: Bulgaria and Romania**', bringing together policy-makers and academics from the UK and South-eastern Europe for a stimulating debate.

In the midst of these public events the HO has also developed its research activities. The **A.C. Laskarides Post-Doctoral Research Fellowship**, created by a generous donation from **Athanassios Laskarides** will allow us to support emerging scholars working in the area of Greece and South-eastern Europe for the next five years. In addition, a grant from the **National Bank of Greece** has enabled us to create a Southeastern Europe Research Fund to promote studies of the region. The HO has embarked on a project on '**Measuring Institutional and Non-Institutional Aspects of Labour Market Flexibility in Greece**', supported by funding from the **Greek Ministry of Economy and Finance**. HO staff has also been involved in a new collaborative research project with **KAPA Survey Research** in Athens in measuring public attitudes towards '**Poverty in Greece**'. The longer-term project on '**Muslims in Thrace**' which we launched last year is continuing apace.

The mainstay of our regular activities is the Tuesday evening **Hellenic Observatory Research Seminar** which brings together our public events and research agendas and encourages dialogue and discussion between students, academics, policy makers the world of business, and the broader Greek community in London.

With respect to our **HO research publications** we are relaunching our Discussion Papers which will now be known as *GreeSE: Hellenic Observatory Papers on Greece and Southeast Europe*, which will showcase many of our research projects.

We hope you will be interested in our activities and that you may also wish to join us in some or all of them. You can obtain further information about us from our new, revamped HO website. Do please visit the site to learn of our new programme for 2007-8.

Kevin Featherstone
Director

Spyros Economides
Deputy Director

Hellenic Observatory Annual Lecture

Prime Minister Kostas Karamanlis gives Observatory's Annual Lecture: Greece and the EU are partners in reform



Dr. Kostas Karamanlis, the Prime Minister of Greece, gave the 2006 Annual Lecture of the Hellenic Observatory on 20 November at the LSE. The lecture was entitled, 'Greece and the European Union: Partners

in European Reform' and was attended by some 900 guests in the Peacock Theatre. It was something of a gala occasion, with Professor George Alogoskoufis (Minister of Economy and Finance) and Mrs. Dora Bakoyanni (Minister of Foreign Affairs), Mr. Theodoros Roussopoulos (Minister of State and Chief Government Spokesman); H.E. Mr. Simon Gass (UK Ambassador in Athens) and a range of VIP guests attending. The lecture received much media coverage.

Dr. Karamanlis reflected on the prevailing political uncertainty in Europe, following the rejection of the EU's Constitutional Treaty in France and in The Netherlands and the bleak prospects for its adoption in the UK and other countries. He gave strong support to a deepening of the integration process, but one that was linked more closely to the citizens of Europe. Thus,

"Our vision for Europe should be directed at two levels, distinct at first sight but actually interactive. On the one hand, a united, political Europe with a strong voice in international affairs. On the other, a Europe that will use its potential to the benefit of its citizens, that will be relevant to their needs and hopes and that will stimulate them to be active and involved. We need to work together with the citizens of Europe for a "Europe of the Citizens". In other words, the challenge that we are facing today is not only to build a strong Union of States, but also a strong Union of Citizens. For example, our common aim of making Europe the world's most dynamic and competitive economy must go hand in hand with the creation of new jobs, social cohesion, improved living standards and environmental protection guarantees."

Moreover, he gave strong endorsement to the EU's Lisbon Agenda for a more open and competitive European economy. This was an agenda that paralleled his own programme for Greece. And the Greek economy had shown

substantial improvement: "Today, the Greek economy is more open and more competitive than ever. It has one of the highest GDP growth rates in the Eurozone. Total exports increased by 13% in 2005 and 22% in the first half of 2006. In the same period, total investment increased by 10%. Also, in the first 8 months of 2006, Foreign Direct Investment increased almost tenfold compared to the same period last year, reaching 3.6 billion Euros. Large investment projects, especially in tourism and energy, delayed for years due to slow and unclear bureaucratic procedures, have now been advanced decisively. Indicative of the improvement is the fact that in 2005 a net increase of 28,400 firms was recorded. Last but not least, according to the 2006 IMD Report the competitiveness of the Greek economy showed a remarkable improvement by 8 places. It was the third largest improvement noted in the IMD scoreboard after China and India. Unemployment is gradually declining. In the second

quarter of 2006, it was reduced to 8.8%, after many years of double digit rates."

Thus, the reform momentum within Europe and within Greece ran in parallel. And Greece was undergoing a transformation: "Greece is in a process of change. Results thus far show



From Left: Professor Kevin Featherstone; Dr Spyros Economides; Dr Kostas Karamanlis; Sir Howard Davies

that we are on the right track. We are implementing a series of reforms across the board, which are the result of extensive social dialogue. Preparing our country for the challenges of tomorrow is our main conduit for change. Our vision is to establish Greece as a business and energy hub, a financial and transport centre, a leading partner in South Eastern Europe, a cultural and tourist destination. Greece has created a new business environment friendly to entrepreneurship and private initiative. It has created new opportunities for domestic and foreign investors. It has created a new working environment for young, educated people. It is a friendly, modern and secure country. A country that knows how to listen and interpret the signs of times and how to adapt to them by change and reform following a clear vision and a targeted plan." Dr. Karamanlis answered a range of questions from the audience following his lecture and attended an informal reception afterwards. Sir Howard Davies, Director of the LSE, gave a speech of thanks.

A full transcript of the PM's speech can be obtained from the following website: <http://www.lse.ac.uk/collections/hellenicObservatory/pdf/lectures/Karamanlis%20Speech.pdf>

Observatory wins endorsement from PM

We are proud to record the support the Observatory receives from different sections of Greek society. This year we very much appreciated the kind words of the Prime Minister, Dr. Kostas Karamanlis

"I would like to stress the important contribution of the Hellenic Observatory in better understanding modern Greece. Since it was founded in 1996, the Observatory has been gradually evolving into a prominent research centre for the analysis of economic, social, institutional and political aspects of Greece. I am convinced that the programme will continue to flourish and provide us with valuable research insights". **Dr Kostas Karamanlis, Prime Minister of the Hellenic Republic, in his LSE Lecture**



From Left: Professor Kevin Featherstone; Mrs Dora Bakoyanni; Mrs Natasa Karamanlis; Dr Kostas Karamanlis

Hellenic Observatory Athens Conference 2007

The European Sustainable Development Strategy and Greece

On Monday 4 June 2007 the HO held its 3rd Annual Spring Conference in Athens. The conference series, which was launched following the appointment of Dr Vassilis Monastiriotis as HO Lecturer in the Political Economy of Greece and Southeast Europe in 2004, has established itself as a central event in the Observatory's calendar of activities in Greece and has consistently attracted large audiences and significant publicity in the press. Continuing on the tradition of featuring topical policy issues, this year's conference, held on the eve of the 2007 World Environment Day and soon after the March 2007 European Council (which focused especially on climate change and energy policy, signifying a particular conjuncture of developments in the area of energy, climate change and sustainable development), focused on the interplay between economic development, the energy sector and environmental sustainability.

More specifically, the conference explored how the European policy framework (the European Sustainable Development Strategy in particular) impacts on and informs the design and implementation of energy and development policy in Greece. This question was addressed in two sessions, one looking at the European dimension and a second focusing on the Greek experience. The first session, which was opened by **Dr Nicholas Garganas**, Governor of the Bank of Greece and Chair of the Advisory Board of the Hellenic Observatory, and **Mr Dimitris Paraskevas**, President of the Greek LSE Alumni Association, and convened by **Dr Vassilis Monastiriotis**, hosted the keynote speeches. These



Professor Kevin Featherstone; Dr Nikolaos Garganas and Mr Dimitris Paraskevas

combined with a robust and appropriately designed regulatory framework, so that both prices and regulations will harmoniously steer the economy towards the development and use of more environmentally friendly and efficient forms of energy. It was emphasised in the conference that policy interventions to this end should go beyond the narrow confines of energy policy, to include other less obvious policy areas - for example, housing policy (with incentives for the building of carbon-neutral homes). On the other hand, the experts discussion also highlighted some inherent weaknesses of the Greek reality, including the continuous reliance of domestic energy production on lignite and the inability to systematically exploit the natural and renewable energy sources (that are in abundance in Greece) mainly due to the lack of the necessary infrastructures and technologies. The conference, which was co-organised with the Hellenic LSE Alumni Association, attracted over 200 participants (including, among others, the former Commissioner Mr Palaiokrassas, the British Ambassador in Athens Mr Gass, the former minister Mr Papantoniou, and the vice-chairman of the Capital Markets Commission Mr Gabrielides) as well as significant publicity in the press. We are grateful to Fortis Bank, Lexus – Toyota, the Public Natural Gas Corporation, Alpha Bank, and the Newspaper *Kathimerini* for sponsoring the event. Further details on the 2007 conference and announcements regarding the 2008 event can be found at :

http://www.lse.ac.uk/collections/hellenicObservatory/Events/Conferences/Athens_conferences.htm.



*From Left to Right:
Dr Spyros Economides; Mr. Yiannis Palaiokrassas; Professor Kevin Featherstone; Mr. Timo Makela*

were given by **Mr Timo Makela**, Director for Sustainable Development of DG Environment (he was replacing the Commissioner **Mr Stavros Dimas** who due to ill health was unable to attend) and **Professor Iain Begg**, Professor of European Integration at LSE. **Dr Yiannis Valinakis**, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, opened the second session with an analysis of the Greek policy framework for energy and the environment. His speech was followed by a panel discussion amongst representatives of key social (ISTAME), environmental (Greenpeace-Greece), energy (Hellenic Petroleum, Greek Public Power Corporation, Greek Regulation Authority for Energy) and financial actors (Alpha Bank), chaired by the Director of the Hellenic Observatory, **Professor Kevin Featherstone**.

Key findings of the conference were the need for an incentives-based price policy on energy that will be successfully

LSE Alumni Association in Greece

On 13 October 2006, the LSE Alumni Association in Greece held a major public event at the Zappeion in Athens. Some



1,200 guests attended - former students and public figures - for a debate and a reception to mark a generous donation to the School's New Academic Building by E. Paraskevas Associates.

Hellenic Observatory Research Seminars 2007

The Hellenic Observatory Research Seminar series provides a forum for academic and policy research addressed mainly to student and academic audiences within London, but also to the wider Greek community. Topics cover mainly current economic, public policy and foreign policy issues related to Greece, Cyprus and southeast Europe region but also extent to topics on culture and history.



The seminars attracted large audiences from the student and wider Greek community in London and generated some interesting debates that continued into the evening in LSE's George IV pub. Copies of last year's seminar presentations can be found in our Research Seminars website (see link below).

The first seminar for 2007/08 will be on Tuesday 16 October at 6 pm. This year's list of speakers includes Dr Dimitris Triantafyllou (ICBSS, Athens),

In 2006/07 our seminar series hosted a number of high-profile speakers. These included Prof Theodore Lianos, Economic University of Athens (*Balkan Migration to Greece*), Prof Christos Hadjiemmanouil, President, Hellenic Olympic Properties (*Post-Olympic Utilisation of the Athens 2004 Venues*), Prof Platon Tinios, University of Piraeus (*Social and Economic Aspects of Ageing and Social Protection*), Prof Rigas Doganis, former CEO of Olympic Airways (*Insights into the Governance Issues of Greek SOEs*), Dr Charalambos Tsardanidis, Institute of International Economic Relations (*HiPERB: a challenge for Greek foreign policy*), Mr Elias Ioakeimoglou, Economic Advisor, Institute of Labour (*Wage Differentials in Greece*), Mr Takis Politis, Scientific Advisor of IOVE (*Entrepreneurship in Greece*), and our three Senior Research Fellows (Dr E Markova, *Gaining from Migration: the cases of Albania and Bulgaria*; Dr D Dimitrakopoulos, *Institutions and the Implementation of EU Policy in Greece*; and Prof N Zahariadis, *Subsidising European Industry: is Greece an exception?*).

Dr James Ker-Lindsey (Kingston University), Prof Vladimir Gligorov (Vienna Institute of International Economics), and Prof Rumen Gechev (University of National and World Economy, Sofia) and our Research Fellows Dr Effie Fokas, Dr Fragkiskos Filippaios, Dr Kostantinos Tzioumis and Dr Yiannis Psycharis. For the full programme of the 2007/08 seminar series please visit http://www.lse.ac.uk/collections/hellenicObservatory/Events/Seminars/Seminars_main.htm or contact us at hellenicobservatory@lse.ac.uk. We look forward to seeing you at forthcoming seminars.

The seminars are open to all with no ticket required. They are held every second Tuesday during the two teaching terms in room J116 at Cowdray House (see <http://www.lse.ac.uk/resources/mapsanddirections/findingyourwayaroundLSE.htm> for directions).

HO Research Projects

Institutional and non-institutional aspects of labour market flexibility in Greece

In collaboration with Prof Chris Pissaridis from the Economics Department, we have secured funding from the Greek Ministry of Economy and Finance for a new research project on the Greek labour market. The project will seek to provide new measures of the institutional and non-institutional aspects of labour market flexibility in the country, thus linking existing research by the OECD and LSE's Centre for Economic Performance with work done independently by Dr Vassilis Monastiriotis. The OECD/CEP database on labour market institutions has been extremely influential in international empirical macroeconomic and labour economics research but, due to data unavailability, Greece has figured only occasionally in this literature. This shortcoming has meant that many of the lessons about economic policy learned from the data set have not been directly relevant for observers of the Greek economy. The project will seek to fill this gap and, moreover, provide a complimentary set of measures of what in the literature is referred to as 'effective' (as opposed to institutional) flexibility, that will cover aspects of the price mechanism (*wage flexibility*), labour demand/utilisation (*working time flexibility*) and labour supply (*geographical/job mobility*). The project is due to start in October 2007 with the first results expected in early 2008.

Muslims in Thrace: Project Report

Since September 2006, the Hellenic Observatory has been hosting a major research project on the Muslim minority in Thrace during the 1940s. The project is funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) and is led by Professor Kevin Featherstone (LSE) and Dr. Dimitris Papadimitriou (Manchester). Dr Argyris Mamarelis and Dr. George Niarchos are also employed by the project as Research Fellows.

Over the past nine months the research team engaged in extensive archival research in the Historical Archives of the Greek Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Public Record Office in London, the National Archives in Washington DC and the Library of Princeton University. During the summer months Dr. Mamarelis and Dr. Niarchos will be based in Thrace where they will access local archival material and conduct interviews with local resistance and civil war veterans from all sections of the community. In February 2007 Dr. Papadimitriou and Dr. Mamarelis presented an outline of the project's research objectives at Yale University and in June 2007 some first tentative findings from our fieldwork were presented at the conference of the Network for the Study of Civil Wars in Aegina. In October 2007 all members of the team will be organising a special panel on Thrace during the 1940s in the forthcoming conference of the Modern Greek Studies Association in New Haven, US.

All members of the research team wish to thank the AHRC for its generous support as well as all those who have contributed (with advice, testimonies and archival material) to our better understanding of this fascinating region during the turbulent years of the 1940s.

Hellenic Observatory PhD Symposium 2007

The Third PhD Symposium on Contemporary Greece

One of the core commitments of the HO is to encourage and facilitate research in the social sciences, focusing on contemporary Greece. Equally important to us is the fostering of new ideas by emerging scholars, who are carrying out research in this area. One of our most popular and by now established, scholarly events is the biennial PhD Symposium held under the auspices of the HO at the LSE. This year, on 14-15 June, we held our 3d PhD Symposium concentrating on the broad themes of 'Structures, Context and Challenges'. Due to popular demand and for academic reasons, this year's symposium was extended to a second day. This turned out to be a very useful extension as this year we had more applicants to participate, and present, at the Symposium than in the previous two conferences held in 2003 and 2005 respectively.

In the final programme we had to schedule 28 panels over the two days, to accommodate over 110 presentations by PhD students, who were speaking on topics relevant to their current doctoral research or recently completed PhDs. The participating students came from the UK, Greece, the rest of Europe, North America, and Australia. We were equally lucky to be able to draw on the high quality pool of Greek academics employed in UK universities to chair the panels and act as discussants on the papers of the student presenters. Indeed, this is one of the main ambitions of the PhD Symposium; to allow doctoral students to discuss their research questions and thesis design with established academics from different institutions who may have some expertise in their area of interest. In this way we hope to provide a forum for PhD students working in an area which may not be in the mainstream of the research community of their home institution to be exposed to debate and dialogue with established figures from other institutions and to use them as a sounding board for issues pertaining to their research.



PhD Student Presentations

This is a significant complement to the other main ambition of the PhD symposium which is to bring together PhD students, who are conducting research on contemporary, and allow them to discuss their work, to exchange ideas, to create networks and to appreciate that

they are not conducting their postdoctoral research in a vacuum – there are others out there with common interests, research questions and concerns. The specialist panels covered a wider range of topics and were extremely well attended (the full programme of the panel session and the Symposium in general can be found at

http://www.lse.ac.uk/collections/hellenicObservatory/Events/phd_Symposia/3rdSymposium/3rd_symposium_main.htm).

Bracketing the panels session we had the pleasure of hosting three eminent plenary speakers. **Professor Fotis Kafatos**, President of the European Research Council (and Professor of Immunogenomics at Imperial College London) spoke on the general topic of Education, **Research and the Global Knowledge Society: Can Greece Compete?** Our second plenary speaker was **Professor George Tsebelis**, Anatol Rapoport Collegiate Professor of Political Science, University of Michigan, whose lecture was entitled, **'Veto Players and Greek Politics'**. Last but not least we had the pleasure of



Prof. Nikiforos Diamantouros

hearing **Professor Nikiforos Diamantouros**, European Ombudsman and Professor of Comparative Politics at the University of Athens. The title of his lecture was: **'Confining Conditions, Critical Junctures and Evolutionary Breakthroughs: Reflections on Greece's Transition to Modernity'**.

These three eminent scholars and public servants provided an excellent context and a variety of academic and intellectual influences and approaches which provoked much debate and discussion. The HO would



Professor George Tsebelis

like to think that it has established a unique event in the Symposium. The interest of the PhD students who wished to present at this year's two-day session was impressive, as was their participation and quality of presentations. The interest shown by the academics who came along and chaired sessions, and discussed and debated with the students, was equally impressive, especially at a time of the year when most of them have succumbed to exam marking fatigue. We would like to thank them all for the participation, as we would the plenary speakers.

Most of all we would like to thank the sponsors of the event, the **Onassis Foundation**, **Niarchos Foundation**, and the **Bodossakis Foundation** for their generous support. Their assistance allowed us not only to host the event and invite eminent speakers, but most importantly to cover – as much as possible – the travel costs and expenses of the heart of the Symposium, the PhD students. We look forward to seeing you at the next Symposium scheduled for 2009.

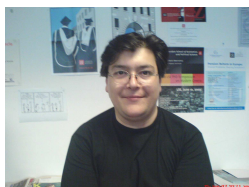
LISTSERV for Research Students

Please join our server list to maintain a dialogue between fellow specialists. For more information, visit our website.

(<http://www.lse.ac.uk/collections/hellenicObservatory/WhatsListserv.htm>)

Hellenic Observatory Research Fellows

FELLOWS 2006-2007



"The Hellenic Observatory has provided a singular combination of intellectual stimulation, excellent research facilities and convivial environment for my research. Its staff has played a central role in turning an often solitary experience into a joyous one".

Dr. Dimitrakopoulos Dionyssi, National Bank of Greece, Senior Research Fellow



"The Observatory provided the space, resources, and intellectual stimulation to make this a memorable experience. I appreciate the welcoming attitude of the outstanding staff and Director in addition

to the very interesting topics covered during the Tuesday evening lecture series. This was truly a research environment at its best".

Dr. Zahariadis Nikolaos, National Bank of Greece, Senior Research Fellow



"Working at the HO, in an enjoyable and stimulating environment, has been both exciting and rewarding. It is almost impossible to explain in

a paragraph how enriching this experience has been in all respects. I am also grateful to the Greek Ministry of Economy and Finance for making it possible with their fellowship".

Dr. Eugenia Markova, Ministry of Economy and Finance, Senior Research Fellow.

FELLOWS 2007-2008

Dr. Kostantinos Tzioumis, National Bank of Greece Senior Research Fellow, "Equity Markets: Greece and the EU"

Dr. Yiannis Psycharis, National Bank of Greece Senior Research Fellow, "Regional Allocation of Public Investment in Greece"

Dr. Filippaios Fragkiskos, Ministry of Economy and Finance "Greek FDI in South-eastern Europe"

The fellowships for 2008-2009 will be advertised in the press and on the HO website in January 2008

A.C. Laskarides Research Fellowship

Mr. Athanasios Laskarides, an alumnus of the LSE has generously agreed to fund a new post doctoral research fellowship in the Hellenic Observatory. The A.C. Laskarides Post-Doctoral Research Fellowship is intended to encourage emerging scholars, interested in the study of contemporary Greece and South East Europe and to assist them at the beginning of their academic careers. The fellowship will be awarded annually to enable junior academics to carry out research at the observatory, on the basis of approved projects, and under the direction of the HO's permanent faculty. The first A.C.Laskarides research fellow, starting in September 2007 will be **Dr Effie Fokas** who recently received her PhD from the LSE. She will be working on the relationship between minorities and changing identities in Greece.

A. G. Leventis Foundation Fellowship

As the result of a grant from the **A.G.Leventis Foundation**, the Hellenic Observatory is pleased to announce the establishment of a second Post-Doctoral fellowship to compliment the Laskarides research fellowship. The aim of the Leventis foundation fellowship is to assist in the early career development of a young scholar with a recently completed PhD. We hope that by hosting this fellowship we will be able to provide the academic environment and research facilities of the HO, and the LSE in general to promote the research of the holder of the fellowship. The fellowship is due to commence in October 2007 and the first holder of the fellowship will be **Dr. Kostantina Maragkou** who recently completed her PhD at the university of Cambridge.

HO Studentships

The Bodossaki Foundation has been a long-standing and generous supporter of students researching various aspects of contemporary Greece in the social sciences.

The Bodossaki Foundation PhD Studentship at Hellenic Observatory has been made available annually, to one student, and is tenable for up to three years. This studentship is a key ingredient in the HO's ability to attract and retain the emerging generation of scholars working on contemporary Greece and its environs. Starting in October 2006, **Sotiris Zartaloudis** has won the award to conduct his research on *'Labour Market and Pension Reforms in Greece and Portugal: A story of Europeanisation'*

The Gregory Tzirakian Scholarship, which was established two years ago, and is available to Greek PhD students at the LSE is currently held by **George Evangelopoulos**. His PhD Research is on *"The Agency/Structure Debate in International Relations"* We are extremely grateful to Mr Tzirakian for his kind support.

HO Internships

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

Enquiries to: HellenicObservatory@lse.ac.uk

Konstantinos Papadimitriou

Konstantinos is studying towards a BA in Politics and International Relations at Royal Holloway College. He joined the Hellenic Observatory for a month in the spring of 2007 and provided valuable help with our Newsletter and the Symposium. We thank Konstantinos for his support and wish him all the best in his studies and future endeavours.

Visiting Fellows and Researchers

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

Hellenic Observatory International Conference



A one-day international conference, entitled **'Migration and New European Enlargement: Bulgaria and Romania'** was held on 18 May 2007 at the LSE.

The conference was dedicated to the timely and highly contested issues of Bulgarian and Romanian migration fol-

lowing the two countries' EU accession in January this year. The Hellenic Observatory Director, Professor Kevin Featherstone welcomed the participants of the event and the Acting Romanian Ambassador in London, Mrs Raduta Matache, gave a keynote opening speech. Discussions that followed were organized in three panels, namely 'Expectations and realities of migration flows following enlargement'; 'Migration, borders and policy responses in South-East Europe'; and, 'Who gains? Who loses? Effects of migration on the origin countries'.

Speakers included Tim Colley (Enlargement and South-East Europe Group, Foreign and Commonwealth Office), Daryana Kotzeva (Bulgarian Embassy in London), Michael MacMillan (Border & Immigration Agency, Home Office), Danny Sriskandarajah (ippr), Dzenk Sejfula (Secretariat for European Affairs, FYROM), Nadya Dimitrova (ICMPD and European Institute, Bulgaria), Elspeth Guilde (University of Nijmegen, Holland and Kingsley and Napley, London), Jeff Dayton-Johnson (Development Centre, OECD, Paris), Vesselin Mintchev (Bulgarian Academy of Science) and Monica Alexandru (University of Bucharest, Romania). Some of the important issues that emerged at the end of the discussions were: the lack of reliable migration data; the need for more grass root migration research that would allow for more realistic predictions on migration figures regardless of how difficult the forecasting process can be; and concluded that both Bulgaria and Romania were found to be in the migration stage where they did not constitute any migration threat for the rest of Europe. (<http://www.lse.ac.uk/collections/hellenicObservatory/Events/Conferences/>)

Can our Universities deliver?

The Observatory joined forces with The British Council in Athens, on 25 January 2007, to hold a debate on the theme of: 'Creating Competitive European Universities for the 21st Century' (<http://www.lse.ac.uk/collections/hellenicObservatory/Events/Conferences/universities.htm>). This was a highly topical theme, given the unrest in Greek universities following the Government's reform initiatives. The debate brought together three leading speakers on the subject.

Professor Nicholas Barr of the LSE's European Institute is a long-term advisor to governments in the UK on university reform and was a key intellectual influence on the new student loans scheme. He opened the debate with a short lecture entitled, 'Financing higher education: lessons from economic theory and international experience'. He argued that our countries pursue three goals in higher education: larger quantity of graduates; higher quality of graduates; and, constant or falling public expenditure. He argued that governments can achieve any two but only at the expense of the third. The only sustainable way to achieve all three is to supplement public funding with private finance. Hence, his advocacy of the student loans scheme.

Professor Panos Tsakloglou (Professor of Economics, Athens University of Economics and Business) spoke of the economic and social aspects of university education in Greece. In particular, he highlighted the inequalities associated with university education, providing extensive data to support his case. Greece needed to adapt to the needs of a high skilled economy by reforming its university provision.

Professor Thanos Veremis, Chairman of the National Education Council (ESYP) and Professor of Modern History at the University of Athens outlined his experience of promoting reform in the Greek university system. He argued that there were many desperately needed changes in the way state universities were run, but that the idea of allowing private universities was something of a 'red herring'. There were large majorities of staff and students who wanted to work in an effective and quality learning environment, but the opposing minorities were better organised and had entrenched interests to defend.

Hellenic Observatory and ACGTA Seminars

Economic Convergence and a Cyprus Settlement

Aiming at encouraging the public, policy and academic debates on the Cyprus issue, we collaborated with the Association for Cypriot, Greek & Turkish Affairs to host, on 6 February 2007, a panel discussion on the topic of *Economic Convergence and a Cyprus Settlement*. The seminar, which was kindly chaired by Mary Honeyball, MEP, focused on the developing economic links between the two communities in Cyprus and on their potential contribution to economic development and convergence in the island. The panel comprised Mr Costas Apostolides, Dr Mustafa Besim and Dr Max Watson. The panelists were all involved in the Economic Committee of the UN-sponsored negotiations for a "Comprehensive Settlement of the Cyprus Problem" in 2004 (Dr Watson was Economic Adviser to the UN team). They played a leading role in the formation of the Wolfson Cyprus Group, whose purpose is to encourage research and further understanding of the economics of a Cyprus settlement, and have cooperated together on a number of conferences and workshops on the topic. The seminar was attended by over 80 participants and, naturally, led to a long and passionate discussion with interesting and challenging questions from the floor. PowerPoint files of the papers presented in the seminar can be found at http://www.lse.ac.uk/collections/hellenicObservatory/Events/Conferences/HO_ACGTA07.htm

Keith Kyle Memorial Lecture on British-Cypriot Relations



In the memory of Keith Kyle, an acclaimed journalist and historian and a long friend of Cyprus, who passed away on 21 February 2007, the Association for Cypriot, Greek &

Turkish Affairs established a new public lecture series in collaboration with the Hellenic Observatory. The 1st Keith Kyle Memorial Lecture was delivered by the then Minister for Europe Mr Geoff Hoon, with a lecture on the topic of *British-Cypriot Relations*. For more details on this and other public events at the Hellenic Observatory please visit our Public Lectures pages at http://www.lse.ac.uk/collections/hellenicObservatory/Events/publiclectures/lectures_main.htm

Latest news

HO Annual Lecture

Mr. Kostas Simitis, Former Prime Minister of Greece

Date: 23 October 2007
Time: 18:30
Venue: Old Theatre Old Building
LSE



Byron Theodoropoulos Lecture

Mrs. Dora Bakoyanni, Foreign Minister of Greece

Date: 5 November 2007
Time: 18:45
Venue: Old Theatre, Old Building
LSE



The SEE Stability Pact Special Co-ordinator at LSE

Dr Busek will speak on *The Regional Co-operation Council and the Future of Regional Cooperation in Southeast Europe* at 2pm on Monday 3 December 2007 (room U8, Tower 1, LSE). The topic of his speech is selected to coincide with the establishment, in early 2008, of the SEE

Regional Cooperation Council. For details email hellenicobservatory@lse.ac.uk.

"I'm aware of the work carried out by the Hellenic Observatory. The Hellenic Observatory's teaching and research, as well as the many public events it organizes, help to promote the awareness and understanding of contemporary Greece and to build bridges between our respective academic communities. I congratulate Professor Kevin Featherstone for his good work. The Hellenic Observatory is real asset for Greece in London". Mrs Dora Bakoyanni, Minister of Foreign Affairs. Comments made at LSE Alumni Association event, Zappeion Athens October 2006

New Hellenic Observatory Paper Series: GreeSE

The Hellenic Observatory Discussion Paper Series was re-launched in spring 2007 with a new title, reflecting the expansion of the Observatory's research focus, activities and collaborations. The new series covers the wider area of Southeast Europe and hosts research and policy papers from members of staff and external submissions. The aim of the series is to provide a forum for such research.

GreeSE: Hellenic Observatory Papers on Greece and Southeast Europe is freely available electronically from <http://www.lse.ac.uk/collections/hellenicObservatory/pubs/GreeSE.htm>. Recent and forthcoming articles include *Greece's new Balkan Economic Relations: policy shifts but no structural change* by V Monastiriotis and A Tsamis; *Institutions and the Implementation of EU Public Policy in Greece: the case of public procurement* by D Dimitrakopoulos; *Subsidising Europe's Industry: is Greece the exception?* by N Zahariadis; *Economic Policy in EMU: Community Framework, National Strategies and Greece* by T Papaspyrou; *Patterns of spatial association and their persistence across socio-economic indicators: the case of the Greek regions* by V Monastiriotis; *Anti-Americanism in*

Greece: Reactions to 9/11, Afghanistan and Iraq by S Stavridis; and *Growing Together? prospects for economic convergence and reunification in Cyprus* by M Watson.

Hard copies (costing £5 including packaging and posting) can be ordered from the Hellenic Observatory office. To enquire about possible contribution to the series please contact Dr Vassilis Monastiriotis at v.monastiriotis@lse.ac.uk.

Who's Who

Prof. Kevin Featherstone

Eleftherios Venizelos Professor & Director of the HO

Dr Spyros Economides

HO Deputy Director & Senior Lecturer, International Relations and European Politics

Dr Vassilis Monastiriotis

Lecturer in the Political Economy of Greece and South East Europe

Ms Sofia Christofidou

HO Administrator

Ms Eleni Xiarchogiannopoulou

Research Assistant

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Mr. Dimitris Paraskevas, President of the LSE Alumni in Greece

Professor Christopher Pissarides, LSE

Hellenic Observatory website re-launched!

We have re-structured our web pages to add more functionality and make more accessible the information contained in our website. Please scroll around our pages to find out information about our activities and mission: visit <http://www.lse.ac.uk/collections/hellenicObservatory/Default.htm>. You can also register to join our mailing list (email hellenicobservatory@lse.ac.uk with 'Subscribe to HO mailing list' in the subject line).