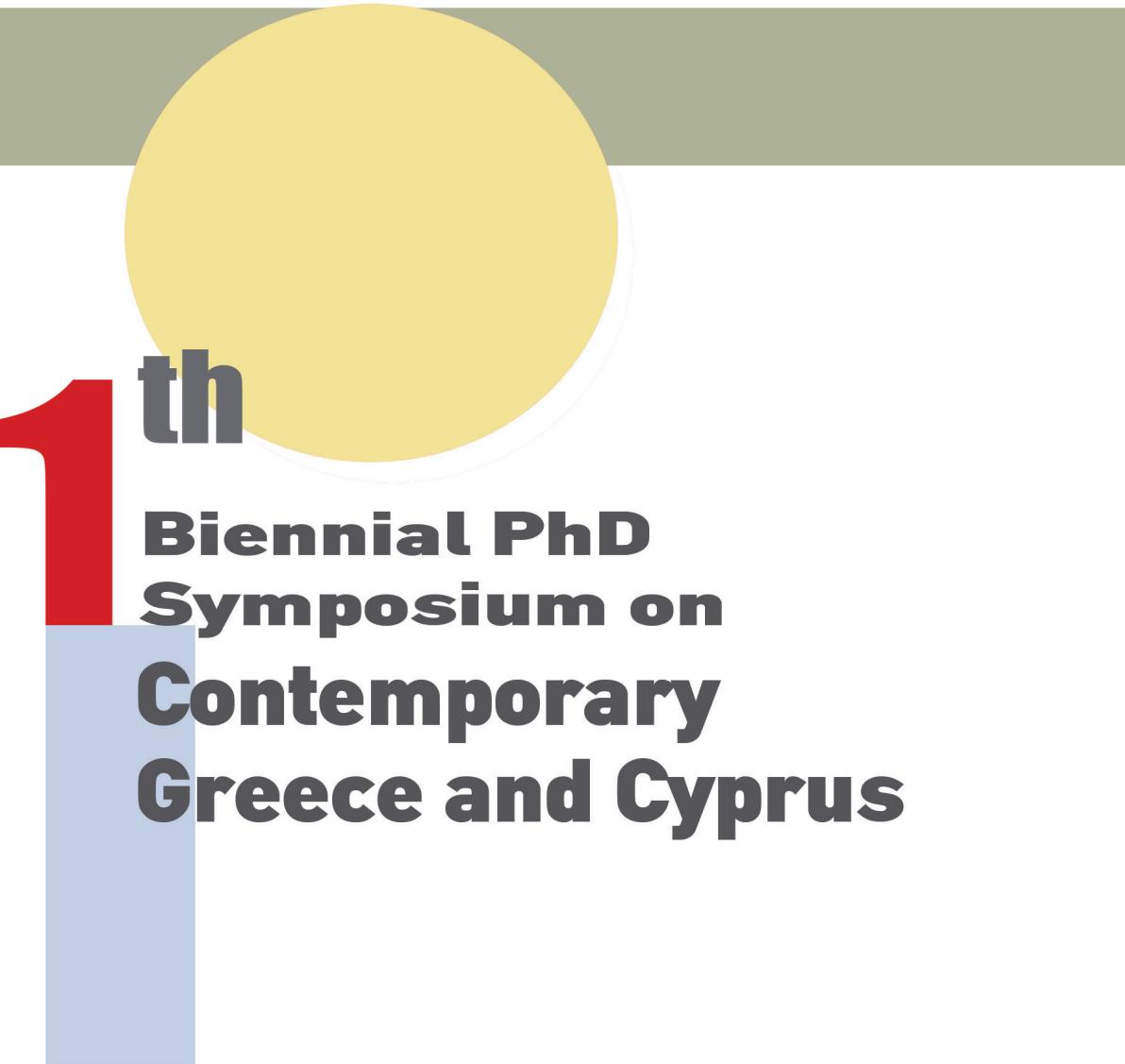




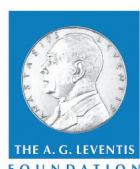
THE LONDON SCHOOL
OF ECONOMICS AND
POLITICAL SCIENCE ■



Hellenic Observatory Centre
for Research on Contemporary
Greece and Cyprus
Research at LSE ■



29 May 2025





11

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Introduction

We are delighted to welcome you to the 11th Biennial Hellenic Observatory PhD Symposium on Contemporary Greece and Cyprus—the first to take place under the auspices of the new LSE Centre for Research on Contemporary Greece and Cyprus, which succeeded the Hellenic Observatory in September 2024. The establishment of the new Centre marks a significant evolution in LSE's commitment to the study of Greece and Cyprus, building on more than two decades of academic excellence and public engagement through the activities of the Hellenic Observatory.

The PhD Symposium has long been a landmark activity of the Hellenic Observatory. Launched in 2003, it has grown from a small student conference into a well-established international forum for doctoral research on Greece and Cyprus. It offers participants a valuable opportunity to present their work, receive feedback from leading scholars, and engage with academic peers. Many past participants have gone on to distinguished academic careers and public roles, attesting to the Symposium's lasting impact on early-career researchers.

The Symposium's broad thematic scope reflects the depth and diversity of current scholarship on Greece and Cyprus, spanning politics, society, the economy, and more. This year's Symposium continues that tradition, featuring a rich and diverse programme with contributions from an impressive cohort of emerging scholars.

We are particularly grateful to the A.G. Leventis Foundation for its ongoing support, including the provision of travel grants that enable wide international participation. Our sincere thanks also go to the academic colleagues who have chaired panels and mentored participants.

As Director of the new LSE Centre for Research on Contemporary Greece and Cyprus, I am especially proud to welcome this year's students. The continued success of the Symposium reflects not only the richness of research on Greece and Cyprus, but also our shared commitment to supporting the next generation of scholars.

Professor Vassilis Monastiriotis

Director, Hellenic Observatory - Centre for Research on Contemporary
Greece & Cyprus; Eleftherios Venizelos Chair of Contemporary Greek Studies
Professor of Political Economy, European Institute, LSE.

Organiser

Hellenic Observatory - Centre for Research on Contemporary Greece & Cyprus

The LSE Centre for Research on Contemporary Greece and Cyprus, established in 2024, is an evolution of the Hellenic Observatory and one of the few global research centres dedicated to the study of modern Greece and Cyprus in the social sciences. Led by the Eleftherios Venizelos Chair on Contemporary Greek Studies—the first of its kind outside Greece—the Centre is structured around three core clusters: Politics & Geopolitics, Economy & Public Policy, and Society, Identity & Rights. It builds on the Hellenic Observatory's work in governance, international relations, and labour markets, while expanding into new societal and policy challenges such as gender equality, digital transformation, green transition, and civic engagement.

The Centre also incorporates the LSE's Research Group on Southeast Europe (LSEE), reflecting its commitment to the broader region. It maintains its historic role as a research hub, talent incubator, and platform for public dialogue, with activities including public lectures in London, Cyprus, and Greece, research seminars, external research calls, and its biennial PhD Symposium. Its work spans primary research for academic contribution and research translation for policy impact, all while upholding a non-partisan approach to encourage genuine debate among scholars, the public, and policymakers.

Our vision for the new Centre blends its rich history with its promising future, reflecting the following core principles:

Independence: The Centre's research and activities are grounded in a non-partisan approach, facilitating genuine debate among academics, the public, and practitioners.

Excellence: The Centre produces world-class, high-quality research and publications within the social sciences focused on Greece and Cyprus, reflecting LSE's global excellence.

Impact: The Centre promotes research and knowledge exchange that is translated into actionable insights influencing policy and effecting positive change.

Education: The Centre supports and encourages a new generation of scholars with specialist knowledge and postgraduate training.

Public Engagement: The Centre facilitates informed public debate by organising academic and policy lectures, panel discussions, seminars, and workshops ensuring that our research resonates beyond academia.

Networking & Collaborations: The Centre fosters cooperation and encourages research synergies among academic communities in Greece, Cyprus, the UK, and beyond.



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for more info go to
www.lse.ac.uk/hoc

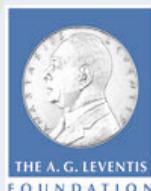
PhD Symposium

The Hellenic Observatory PhD Symposium has been organised biennially since 2003 for students pursuing social sciences research on Greece and Cyprus. The aims of the symposia are to promote the exchange of knowledge between young researchers and to offer students a first opportunity to present their work and gain valuable feedback and critiques from an international audience comprising peers and experts. Over the years the Symposium has become an established educational forum, and we are proud that many of its participants, who went on to pursue successful careers, consider their experience from the Symposium an important milestone in their development.

The PhD Symposia offer students a unique opportunity to test their ideas and findings with a wider international audience, and to establish new collaborative links across disciplines. Additionally, it enables young researchers to engage with the academic community of the LSE, and several other distinguished scholars who participate as discussants at the Symposium. The Hellenic Observatory PhD symposia are unique in their thematic focus on Greece and Cyprus which allows the exploration of research questions from several social science field perspectives. They provide an exceptional foundation for the development of innovative ideas.

Supported by

The A. G. Leventis Foundation was established in 1979 to fulfil the wishes of the late Anastasios Leventis. In Cyprus, Greece and wider south-eastern Europe, the Foundation's main emphasis has been on the restoration of a number of monuments of various periods and on support for education and culture. Elsewhere in Europe, and further afield, there has again been a concentration on education, with a particular focus on the communities of the Greek diaspora. An international programme of support for Greek studies has been developed over the years in parallel with efforts to study and enhance the presentation of Cypriot antiquities in museums around the world. The Foundation has active international programmes on environmental conservation and sustainable agriculture, with emphasis on developing countries.



for more info go to
www.leventisfoundation.org



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11th Hellenic Observatory PhD Symposium

Programme

Time	Event	Venue
9:00 - 9:30	Registration	Fist Floor Foyer
9:30 - 10:30	Plenary - How to write a PhD on Greece/Cyprus Vassilis Monastiriotis, Director, Hellenic Observatory - Centre for Research on Contemporary Greece & Cyprus	MAR.1.10
10:30 - 11:00	Break	Fist Floor Foyer
11:00 - 12:30	Parallel sessions A	
A.1	Gender Dynamics Irini Moustaki (LSE)	MAR.2.09
A.2	Media and Identity Philipp Katsinas (LSE)	MAR.2.06
A.3	Business and Financial Risks Kostas Zachariades (Queen Mary, University of London)	MAR.1.09
A.4	Culture and Identity Athanasia Chalari (LSE)	MAR.2.05
A.5	Community Resilience Roula Nezi (University of Surrey)	MAR.2.07
A.6	Experimental and Counterfactual Methods Georgios Melios (LSE)	MAR.1.07
12:30 - 14:00	Lunch	First Floor Foyer
14:00 - 15:30	Parallel sessions B	
B.1	Gender Studies Georgios Samaras (King's College London)	MAR.2.09
B.2	International Affairs and Political Leadership Spyros Economides (LSE) & Sofia Vasilopoulou (King's College London)	MAR.2.06
B.3	Business Studies Anastasia Dimiski (LSE)	MAR.2.05

on Contemporary Greece and Cyprus

B.4	Foreign Policy Othon Anastasakis (University of Oxford)	MAR.1.07
B.5	Cultural Diplomacy Kevin Featherstone (LSE)	MAR.1.09
B.6	Cultural Heritage Management and Sustainability Theodoros Arvanitopoulos (Cardiff Business School)	MAR.2.07
15:30 - 16:00	Break	First Floor Foyer
16:00 - 17:30	Parallel sessions C	
C.1	Education, Inequality and Social Inclusion Maria Kaparou (University of Southampton)	MAR.1.09
C.2	Collective Memory Konstantina Maragkou (Newcastle University)	MAR.1.07
C.3	Collective Bargaining and Precarity Maria Koumenta (Queen Mary, University of London) & Ilias Kyriopoulos (LSE)	MAR.2.09
C.4	Greece and EU Processes Sotirios Zartaloudis (University of Birmingham) & Theofanis Exadaktylos (University of Surrey)	MAR.2.06
C.5	Political Cleavages in Cyprus Nikos Skoutaris (University of East Anglia)	MAR.2.05
17:30 - 18:00	Break & Group Photo	First Floor Foyer
18:30 - 19:45	Keynote Lecture: Post-Authoritarian Norms and the Ideological Legacy of Dictatorships Elias Dinas (European University Institute)	Wolfson Theatre
19:45 - 20:00	Award of Nicos Mouzelis Prize for Best Paper & Certificates	Wolfson Theatre
20:00 - 21:30	Reception	



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Plenary Session

How to write a PhD on Greece/Cyprus

MAR.1.10
Marshall Building, 9.30am



SPEAKER

**Professor
Vassilis Monastiriotis**

Completing a PhD is both a challenge and a journey. In this hallmark PhD symposium lecture, Professor Vassilis Monastiriotis draws on his extensive experience as a researcher, supervisor, and policy expert to offer essential guidance on completing a PhD, covering the key stages of research design, development, and writing. With a focus on the complexities of social science research, particularly in Greece and Cyprus, this session provides PhD candidates with the tools to refine their research approach and strengthen their academic contribution.



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Keynote Lecture

Post-Authoritarian Norms and the Ideological Legacy of Dictatorships

Wolfson Theatre, Cheng Kin Ku Building (CKK), 6.30pm



SPEAKER

**Professor
Elias Dinas**

Elias Dinas holds the Swiss Chair in Federalism, Democracy and International Governance and he is Director of Research at the Department of Political and Social Sciences of the European University Institute. He holds a PhD in Political Science from the European University Institute (2010) and his research interests include the dynamics of political socialization, the downstream effects of institutional interventions and the legacy of authoritarian rule on the ideological predispositions of citizens in new democracies. He has also a keen interest in research methodology. His work has been published, among others, in the American Political Science Review, the American Journal of Political Science, and in the Journal of Politics and Political Analysis.



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Panel Sessions

Session A | 11.00am – 12.30pm

A.1 Gender Dynamics

Chair: Irini Moustaki (LSE)

Room: MAR.2.09

Paul Melas University of California, Los Angeles	The Women of Mount Athos, Greece: Devotional Connections Across a Gender Restrictive Border
Tomasz Lidzbarski University of Gdansk	Partners, Lovers, Wives, and 'Slaves'. Polish-Greek Intermarriages on the Ionian Islands
Niki Kosmetatou National and Kapodistrian University of Athens	Gender Models in Greece and their Effect on Employment Variances and Financial Inequalities

A.2 Media and Identity

Chair: Philipp Katsinas (LSE)

Room: MAR.2.06

Emmanouil Amariotakis Panteion University of Social and Political Sciences	The Domestic Space as a Cultural Mirror: Collective Intelligence and Television Series
Evgenia Villioti Panteion University of Social and Political Sciences	Greek Movie Critics in the 1990s: their Part in the Emergence of New Media
Dimitrios Souliotis National and Kapodistrian University of Athens	Media Populism in Greece during the COVID-19 Pandemic

A.3 Business and Financial Risks

Chair: Kostas Zachariades (Queen Mary University of London)

Room: MAR.1.09

George Kalogrias University of Piraeus	Firm Profitability and non-financial information: The case of Greece and Cyprus
Ioannis Ploumpis National and Kapodistrian University of Athens	Assessing the Importance of Internal Audit and ESG in Mitigating Financial Risk
Konstantinos Stathopoulos Athens University of Economics and Business	Macroeconomic Factors and the Life Insurance Sector in Greece: An Analytical Perspective

A.4 Culture and Identity

Chair: Athanasia Chalari (LSE)

Room: MAR.2.05

Panagiota Nikolaidou University of the Aegean	Cultural Trauma as Effect of the Genocide of the Pontic Greeks and its Transgenerational Transmission
Olympia Konstantopoulou Panteion University of Social and Political Sciences	The Social and Cultural Role of Radio in Greece, 1938-1966
Ali Zahid University of Leeds	Waves Across the Mediterranean: Transnational Solidarity Resurrecting the Legacy of the Spanish Civil War during the Greek Civil War

A.5 Community Resilience

Chair: Roula Nezi (University of Surrey)

Room: MAR.2.07

Georgios Kalomoris University of the Aegean	AORISTOS: Cultural and Community Planning for the Digital Mountain of Psiloritis. From Local Heritage and Rural Memory to the phygital environment of BiennaleCrete.
Dimitris Chalastanis National Technical University of Athens	"Urban resilien(ce)ship" in Motion during the Continuum of "Crises": Insights from Athens, Greece
Vassiliki Tzanakou Athens School of Fine Art	Echoes of Austerity: Art, Survival, & Transformation In Greece (2009-2019)

A.6 Experimental and Counterfactual Methods

Chair: Georgios Melios (LSE)

Room: MAR.1.07

Marianna Kondylidou University of the Peloponnese	Do Reforms Influence Corruption Perceptions? How NPM-type reforms affect the corruption perceptions in Greece
Ioannis Mastrominas European University Institute	"Status advantage": Within-party MP status and career progression of elected politicians
Georgios Chasitzoglou Aristotle University of Thessaloniki	Humor in Brand Apologies: Building the Theoretical Foundations to Understand how Humor can Enhance Consumer Brand Forgiveness

Session B | 2.00pm – 3.30pm

B.1 Gender Studies

Chair: Georgios Samaras (King's College London)

Room: MAR.2.09

Panos Georgiou European University Cyprus	The Impact of Pinkwashing on LGBTIQ+ Consumer Wellbeing and the Role of Authentic Marketing in Ethical Branding
Dimitrios Mitsopoulos Columbia University	Selling Sex in Interwar Salonica: Remaking of the City and Moral Panic
Chrystala Morfi University of Central Lancashire	Deepfakes, Gender Bias, and Cybersecurity: An Interdisciplinary Perspective

B.2 International Affairs and Political Leadership

Chairs: Spyros Economides (LSE)
& Sofia Vasilopoulou (King's College London)

Room: MAR.2.06

Vasileios Rousopoulos National and Kapodistrian University of Athens	Political Leadership, Populism, and Communication Media: A comparative analysis of the Political Discourse of Andreas Papandreou and Alexis Tsipras
Alexandros Oikonomidis University of Peloponnese	The Western Stance of post-Cold War Greece: from Simitis' "Modernization" to Mitsotakis' "Return to Normalcy"
Andreas Belegris University of Piraeus	Interactions Between the International System and Political Parties in the Conduct of Foreign Policy: The Case of the Prespa Agreement

B.3 Business Studies

Chair: Anastasia Dimiski (LSE)

Room: MAR.2.05

Christos Bentsos University of Piraeus	Business Strategy of Greek Shipowners in the LNG shipping
Themistoklis Kampouris Tu Berlin	What is the "Right" Geographic Market Definition?
Krisztina Annamária Eleftheriou-Hocsák European University Cyprus	Perceptions on Sustainable Entrepreneurship of Tourism SMEs Operating in the Coastal-and Maritime Areas - the Case of the Mediterranean Island of Cyprus

B.4 Foreign Policy

Room: MAR.1.07

Chair: Othon Anastasakis (University of Oxford)

Iraklis Nikolaos Gerogiokas University of Nicosia	Turkish Soft Power and Public Diplomacy in Western Thrace and the Dodecanese Political attitudes.
Evangelos Demos University of Sydney	The Geopolitics of Greek Foreign Policy: From the Great Idea to Great Ideas?
Chrysanthi Stefanidou University of Macedonia	Greek – Russian Relations 1990 – 2008 – A Neoclassical Realist Analysis

B.5 Cultural Diplomacy

Room: MAR.1.09

Chair: Kevin Featherstone (LSE)

Maria Tselepotou University of Cyprus	Tourism Diplomacy and the Promotion and Branding of Cyprus as a Destination
Elli Papazoi University of Graz	Archaeology as a Pillar of Cultural Diplomacy: Greece-Cyprus Relations through Heritage Collaboration
Vasiliki Tatouli University of Limerick	Come Vagabond with Me: Nikos Hadjikyriakos Ghika's Transnational Literary Contributions

B.6 Cultural Heritage Management and Sustainability

Room: MAR.2.07

Chair: Theodoros Arvanitopoulos (Cardiff Business School)

Margarita Chomatianou University of the Aegean	Cultural Policy through New Lenses of Analysis; Technological Acceleration in the Era of Metamodernism'
Meilin Lyu National and Kapodistrian University of Athens	Climate Change and Natural Disaster Management Policy Implications for Greek Cultural Heritage
Athina Fatsea Ionian University	The Role of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Climate Governance: Policy Frameworks and Political Discourse in Greece

Session C | 4.00am – 5.30pm

C.1 Education, Inequality and Social Inclusion

Chair: Maria Kaparou (University of Southampton)

Room: MAR.1.09

Antonios Chrysostomou National and Kapodistrian University of Athens	Lessons from the Investigation of the Greek Third Sector: Revealing and Addressing the Difficulties of Examining the Role of NGOs in the Fight Against Poverty and Social Exclusion
Georgios Kitsoleris De Montfort University	Rethinking the Role of Education in Greece as a Mechanism for Intergenerational Socio-economic Mobility
Evangelia Tzagkourni University of Crete	Technology-enhanced Instruction for Teaching Vocabulary to Greek Preschool Learners of English as a Foreign Language

C.2 Collective Memory

Chair: Konstantina Maragkou (Newcastle University)

Room: MAR.1.07

Marie Pouillès Garonzi Université Lyon II	The Unresolved Past: The Frozen Cyprus Conflict and its Spatial and Memorial Ubiquity
Gulsah Savas Cakmakci Marmara University	The Cyprus Problem in the Discourses of Greek Cypriot MPs and the Impact of These Discourses on Collective Memory
Alyssa Mendez University of Chicago	No to the New Uprooting: Simone Weil and Ecological Education in Agrafa, Greece

C.3 Collective Bargaining and Precarity

Chairs: Anastasia Dimiski (LSE) & Ilias Kyriopoulos (LSE)

Room: MAR.2.07

Vasiliki Kakosimou Harokopeio University of Athens	Labor Precarity of Migrants in Greece
Martha Kapazoglou University of Amsterdam	Enduring Deregulation: Precarious Public Sector Workers in Greece
Andreas Moustakas University of Patras	The Rise and Fall of Sectoral Collective Bargaining: Re-negotiation and Wage Floors

C.4 Greece and EU Processes

Room: MAR.2.06

Chairs: Sotirios Zartaloudis (University of Birmingham)
& Theofanis Exadaktylos (University of Surrey)

Nikolaos Ntarzanos University of Piraeus	Greece's Role in the CSDP: Industrial, Operational and Institutional Dimensions
Fotios Papadopoulos University of the Peloponnese	Greece's Participation in the European Space Agency: Legal and Institutional Dimensions of European Integration
Miltiadis Lapatsanis University of Macedonia	Epistemic Communities and Digital Governance in Greece

C.5 Political Cleavages in Cyprus

Room: MAR.2.05

Chair: Nikos Skoutaris (University of East Anglia)

Osman Koçak Near East University	Articulation of Discourses on Europeanisation on Identity Politics: The Case of Northern Cyprus
Jasmine Faudone Dublin City University	Conflicts and Borders in Cyprus: Implementing the UK's Withdrawal Agreement Protocol
Theodosis Pipis University College London	Far Right Populism in Southern Europe: The Case of ELAM



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Contributors

The success of the PhD Symposia would not have been possible without the invaluable contribution of the academics and researchers who have generously committed their time and offered their knowledge, expertise and skills during the reviewing process and the panel discussions. We are grateful to all the friends of the Hellenic Observatory Centre who have worked with us and supported our efforts since the first Symposium in 2003.

For the 11th Hellenic Observatory Symposium, we are especially thankful to the following friends and colleagues:



Othon Anastasakis is the Director of the European Studies Centre and South East European Studies at Oxford (SEESOX), as well as a Senior Research Fellow at St Antony's College and the Oxford School of Global and Area Studies (OSGA). He leads two major research projects: the Greek Diaspora Project at SEESOX and the Migration Diplomacy and EU-Turkey Relations. He holds degrees in Economics (University of Athens), Comparative Politics (Columbia University), and Comparative Government (LSE), along with studies in French and Spanish literature. His research focuses on Balkan politics, EU-Turkey relations, Greek foreign policy, regional geopolitics, and diaspora studies.



Theodoros Arvanitopoulos is a Lecturer (Assistant Professor) in Economics at Cardiff University. His academic interests focus on energy economics, economic geography, and applied econometrics. His research on Greece and Southeast Europe centres on the Green Transition, exploring the role of industrial strategy and technological innovation in climate change mitigation. Theodoros has extensive experience in policy-oriented research, having led research projects funded by the European Commission's Joint Research Centre and the Qatar Foundation. He has collaborated on research projects with the OECD, the UK Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, and the UK Climate Change Committee.



Athanasia Chalari is a Lecturer at New York University (London), Programme Manager of Culture, Education, and Psychology, and a Senior Visiting Fellow at the Hellenic Observatory, the LSE Centre for Research on Contemporary Greece. She holds a PhD in Social Theory from the University of Warwick, an MPhil from Cambridge, an MA from Essex, a BA from Kent, and a Sociology degree from Panteion University. She has held research and teaching positions at LSE, Harvard, Toronto, York, Tokyo, and Waseda. Her work focuses on structure and agency, the Greek crisis, youth, brain drain, and COVID-19's impact on Greece, with current research on Brexit's impact on the Greek diaspora in the UK.



Anastasia Dimiski is Economy & Public Policy Research Officer at the Hellenic Observatory - Centre for Research on Contemporary Greece and Cyprus. Anastasia holds a PhD in Applied Econometrics from the Department of Economics and Finance at the University of Guelph, where her doctoral work explored econometric methods applied to various economic contexts. Her research interests include Applied Econometrics, Economics of Education, Environmental Economics, and Macroeconomics. Prior to joining LSE, Anastasia worked as a Post-Doctoral Researcher at the Economics Research Centre, Department of Economics, University of Cyprus, where she was involved in impactful projects addressing economic policy challenges in Cyprus.



Spyros Economides is Associate Professor in International Relations and European Politics at the London School of Economics and Research Coordinator of the Hellenic Observatory's Politics & Geopolitics Cluster. He was previously a Research Associate at the Centre for Defence Studies at King's College London and the International Institute for Strategic Studies. He has been a Visiting Professor at Dartmouth College (USA), and at the Universities of Zagreb and Belgrade, as well as a Visiting Fellow at the EU Centre in Singapore. His research focuses on the 'West' in international relations, EU external relations and security, Europeanisation and foreign policy, and the EU's role in the Western Balkans. He also writes and comments regularly on Greek foreign policy and regional affairs.



Theofanis Exadaktylos is Professor in European Politics at the Politics and International Relations Department, University of Surrey. He holds a PhD in Politics from the University of Exeter. His doctoral thesis was on the Europeanization of national foreign policies of the member states with particular focus on Greece and Germany. He holds an MSc. in European Political Economy: Integration from the London School of Economics, and a BA in Economics and International Relations (Europe and the former USSR) from Tufts University. Previous work includes issues of real and nominal convergence in the least affluent countries of the Union, the political economy of transition and enlargement, the political economy of Southeastern Europe: democratization and Europeanization.



Kevin Featherstone is Emeritus Professor at the European Institute and Professorial Research Fellow at the Hellenic Observatory, LSE, where he served as Director from 2002 to 2024. He has held visiting positions at the University of Minnesota, NYU, Harvard, and the European University Institute. His contributions have been recognized with honors including the Grand Commander, Order of the Phoenix (2021), an honorary doctorate from the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens (2022), and Honorary Greek citizenship (2023). He was the first foreign member of Greece's National Council for Research and Technology (2010–2013) and advised on Greek government reorganization (2010–11). His research focuses on EU politics, modern Greek politics, Europeanization, and euro-zone governance, with regular contributions to Greek and international media.



Maria Kaparou is an academic at Southampton Education School, where she teaches undergraduate and postgraduate programmes and supervises PhD students in educational leadership and management globally. She has held roles as Associate Director of Education programmes and Employability Lead. Recognized for her innovative teaching, Maria received the University of Warwick Award for Teaching Excellence (2013) and was nominated for Most Engaging Lecturer (SUSU, 2022). Her research interests include instructional leadership, education policy, school improvement, and leadership in international schools. Maria won the BELMAS Best Thesis Award (2015) and a doctoral bursary (2011–2013). She is also a reviewer for international journals, a coordinator for the ICSEI MoREI Network, and a member of various educational research associations.



Philipp Katsinas is an urban geographer whose work focuses on the transformation of housing systems, particularly the social and spatial impacts of finance and tourism on urban economies. He is currently a Visiting Fellow at the Hellenic Observatory and a postdoctoral researcher on the REDEFINE project at the Open University, where he examines the effects of infrastructural projects through the lens of urban and economic geography. He has held teaching and research positions at the London School of Economics, Queen Mary University of London, Birkbeck University of London, and King's College London. His research interests include housing financialisation, gentrification, touristification, infrastructure privatisation, and public space. He is also a member of the City Collective for the journal City, contributing to debates in critical urban studies.



Maria Koumenta is an Associate Professor (Reader) in Work and Labour Market Analysis at Queen Mary, University of London. Her research focuses on labour economics and labour market policy, with particular interest in pay inequality, gender and ethnic pay gaps, social mobility, occupational regulation, and non-standard forms of employment. She has led numerous research projects funded by the UK government, the European Commission, and the OECD, and has provided expert testimony and policy advice to UK government departments, parliamentary committees, and international organisations such as the European Commission, World Bank, and OECD. She has published in leading journals including Labour Economics, British Journal of Industrial Relations, Human Relations, and the Industrial Relations Journal. Dr. Koumenta holds a PhD from the LSE and was previously an Associate Researcher at its Centre for Economic Performance.



Ilias Kyriopoulos is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Health Policy at the London School of Economics (LSE). His research explores how economic uncertainty and policy affect population health and health systems, with a particular focus on health inequalities and the economics of mental health and well-being. His work has appeared in leading journals such as the Journal of the Royal Statistical Society, Health Economics, Social Science & Medicine, and The Milbank Quarterly. Ilias previously held roles as a Fellow and Research Associate at LSE and worked as a Health Economist at the Athens School of Public Health. He has provided research and consultancy support to international organisations including the European Commission, OECD, UNDP, and the World Bank. He holds a PhD from LSE and has been an Onassis and Greek State Scholarship Foundation scholar.



Konstantina Maragkou is a Contemporary Historian with research interests in political and diplomatic aspects of the Cold War. Following studies at Cambridge University, she has held academic appointments at LSE, NYU, Yale, and Newcastle Universities. Her first book examined British relations with the Greek Colonels, and she currently works on her second monograph that investigates the impact of the anti-Colonels' campaigns on the international Human Rights regime. Following the unearthing of a private archive, she has also started a project on the evolution of female activism on human rights and environmental issues.



George Melios is an applied economist and Research Officer at the Hellenic Observatory. He is also a Senior Research Fellow at the Institute for Global Prosperity (UCL) and a Research Advisor to the Gallup Organisation. Previously, he was based at the Department of Psychological and Behavioural Science at the London School of Economics. His research lies at the intersection of political economy, behavioural science, and public economics, with a particular interest in political behaviour, electoral violence, and social norms. His work explores how identities form and influence both economic and political outcomes. He focuses on the foundations of democracy, examining how institutions function, how citizens interact with them, and how they can be improved. His research addresses the electoral cycle through participation, preference formation, policy impact, and collective decision-making under institutional stress.



Vassilis Monastiriotis is Director of the Hellenic Observatory at the LSE, Eleftherios Venizelos Chair of Contemporary Greek Studies, and Professor of Political Economy at the European Institute. An economist and economic geographer, he specialises in labour economics, economic geography, and political economy. He has advised the European Commission, CEFTA, the EBRD, and Greek policy bodies on regional and wage policy. His work appears in journals such as Oxford Economic Papers, Regional Studies, and the European Journal of Political Economy. He has held visiting posts at Harvard, Cambridge, and Groningen, and received funding from the ESRC, British Academy, and EU. He is a founding member of the LSE Research Unit on South Eastern Europe and Co-Editor of Spatial Economic Analysis.



Irini Moustaki is Professor of Social Statistics at the London School of Economics. She holds a BSc in Statistics and Computer Science from Athens University of Economics and Business, and an MSc and PhD in Statistics from LSE. Her research focuses on latent variable and structural equation models, including contributions on missing data, longitudinal analysis, outlier detection, and advanced estimation methods. She has worked on cross-national and epidemiological studies, co-authored two books, and published widely in leading journals such as JRSS A and C, Psychometrika, JASA, and Biostatistics. She received an honorary doctorate from Uppsala University in 2014 and holds honorary roles in Hong Kong and the Psychometric Society. She serves on OECD and IEA advisory groups and has given keynote talks internationally.



Roula Nezi is Senior Lecturer in Political Science at the University of Surrey and a Senior Fellow of the Higher Education Academy. Her research focuses on public opinion, political attitudes, electoral behaviour, political parties, and party systems, with a further interest in survey methodology and quantitative methods. Her work has been published in a wide range of leading peer-reviewed journals and contributes to the broader understanding of democratic engagement and political representation. Dr Nezi is an elected Trustee of the UK Political Studies Association, where she leads on Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion. She also serves on the steering committee of the ECPR Standing Group on Public Opinion and Voting Behaviour and has co-convened the Greek Public Opinion and Parties Group. She was awarded the PSA Innovation in Quantitative Methods Teaching Prize and named Early Career Teacher of the Year (FASS) in 2020.



Georgios Samaras is a Lecturer in Public Policy at the International School for Government and Policy Institute, King's College London. He previously taught Political Economy at King's during 2022/23 and earned his PhD in Political Science there in 2022. His research explores far-right extremism, with a focus on Golden Dawn's rise during Greece's economic crisis and its effects on voting and online mobilisation. He currently leads a Greek voting behaviour study funded by the ETERON Institute and is a Senior Research Associate at the ENA Institute in Athens. He has lectured at UCL and LSE and serves as a political adviser in Greece. His broader work examines extremist communication strategies and policy responses to anti-democratic movements.



Nikos Skoutaris holds the Chair of European Constitutional Law at the University of East Anglia. He earned his PhD and MRes from the European University Institute, following an LLM at Maastricht University and an LLB from the University of Aberdeen. He has taught at the University of Tilburg, Maastricht University, and the LSE. His research focuses on how the EU's constitutional framework addresses external and internal self-determination. His first monograph explored the EU's engagement with unrecognised entities, while his forthcoming book examines regional legislative autonomy. He has also studied the constitutional impact of Brexit on the UK's nations and advised the European Parliament's GUE/NGL group. His expertise spans EU Law, Comparative Constitutional Law, Secession, and Conflict Resolution.



Sofia Vasilopoulou (PhD, LSE) is Professor of European Politics at King's College London. Her research focuses on Comparative Politics, Political Behaviour, Party Politics, and EU Politics. She studies political dissatisfaction, party competition, Euroscepticism, and far-right politics. Her work has appeared in leading journals such as Political Behaviour, European Union Politics, Journal of Common Market Studies, and West European Politics. She is the author of Far-Right Parties and Euroscepticism (2018) and co-author of The Golden Dawn's Nationalist Solution (2015). She also co-edited The Routledge Handbook of Political Parties (2023) and is Joint Editor-in-Chief of the European Journal of Political Research. Her broader interests include elections, public opinion, and party strategy in Europe.



Konstantinos (Kostas) E. Zachariadis is Professor of Financial Economics at Queen Mary University of London. He was previously Associate Professor (Reader) at Queen Mary and Assistant Professor (Lecturer) in Finance at the LSE, affiliated with the Paul Woolley Centre. He is a Research Associate at LSE's Financial Markets Group and Systemic Risk Centre, and an Academic Member of the ECGI. His research spans Market Design, Corporate Governance, and Institutional Investors, with publications in the Review of Economic Studies, Journal of Finance, and Journal of Financial Economics. He has taught Investments, Corporate Finance, Strategy, and Hedge Funds across all levels. He holds a PhD and MSc from Northwestern University and a Diploma in Engineering from Aristotle University. He is a Fulbright Scholar, IEEE Fellow, and RSA Fellow.



Sotirios Zartaloudis is Associate Professor in Comparative European Politics at the University of Birmingham. He was previously Lecturer in Politics at Loughborough University and in International Politics at the University of Manchester. He holds a PhD in European Studies and an MSc in European Politics and Governance from the LSE, and a BA in Sociology from the University of Crete. His research focuses on comparative politics and political economy, with emphasis on the EU, Europeanisation, and the Eurozone crisis. He has published a monograph with Palgrave Macmillan and articles in journals such as the European Journal of Political Research, Journal of Common Market Studies, and Journal of European Public Policy. He has extensive teaching experience at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels.



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Nicos Mouzelis Award

The Nicos Mouzelis Award for Best Paper was inaugurated in 2017 at the 8th Hellenic Observatory PhD Symposium. The Award was established in recognition of Professor Mouzelis' contribution to the education and development of young researchers and to the study of contemporary Greece.

Professor Nicos Mouzelis has long established links with the Hellenic Observatory Centre and was one of its founding members. During the 90's he campaigned along with other LSE academics for the establishment of an LSE research unit that would devote itself to the furtherment of research on Greek political, social, and economic issues and the promotion of international academic collaborations. The Hellenic Observatory was established as a result of these efforts and Professor Nicos Mouzelis served as a member of its Advisory Board until 2015 contributing invaluable to its development as a premier research centre on contemporary Greece and Cyprus.

Today, Nicos Mouzelis is Emeritus Professor of Sociology at LSE and continues to write and publish, adding to his already rich record of contributions to the fields of sociology, sociology of organizations, sociology of development and social theory (visit mouzelis.gr for a full list of publications). Professor Mouzelis remains a close friend and supporter of the Hellenic Observatory. The Nicos Mouzelis Award for Best Paper is offered to one of the PhD students presenting at the Symposium in recognition of outstanding research potential, and in honour of Professor Mouzelis' long standing academic contribution and support of the Hellenic Observatory Centre.

In memoriam: Achilleas Mitsos



This year's Symposium carries a special note of remembrance for Professor Achilleas Mitsos, who played a significant role in the life of the Hellenic Observatory and in the early development of the PhD Symposium. As one of the founding members of the Observatory's Advisory Board in 1996, he was deeply committed to its mission and remained an active and generous supporter until his passing, regularly attending meetings and offering his insight with characteristic clarity and goodwill.

His distinguished career included senior roles at the European Commission, Visiting Professorships at LSE and the University of Pittsburgh, and a Professorship in International Economic Relations at the University of the Aegean. In addition to these accomplishments, Achilleas never lost sight of his role as teacher and mentor. He was the keynote speaker at the first HO PhD Symposium in 2003, a role he embraced with characteristic enthusiasm. He remained closely involved in subsequent years, chairing panels and encouraging young scholars. He had a genuine passion for supporting the next generation of researchers, taking real joy in dialogue, exchange, and intellectual curiosity. He was a gifted thinker, a generous colleague, and a dedicated teacher whose wit, insight, and warmth left a lasting impression.

His contribution to the spirit and values of this Symposium endures. We remember him with deep appreciation and gratitude.



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