

LSE

THE LONDON SCHOOL
OF ECONOMICS AND
POLITICAL SCIENCE ■



**HELLENIC
OBSERVATORY**
European Institute

Research at LSE ■

25
YEARS
EST. 1996

**CELEBRATING THE
HELLENIC OBSERVATORY'S ANNIVERSARY**

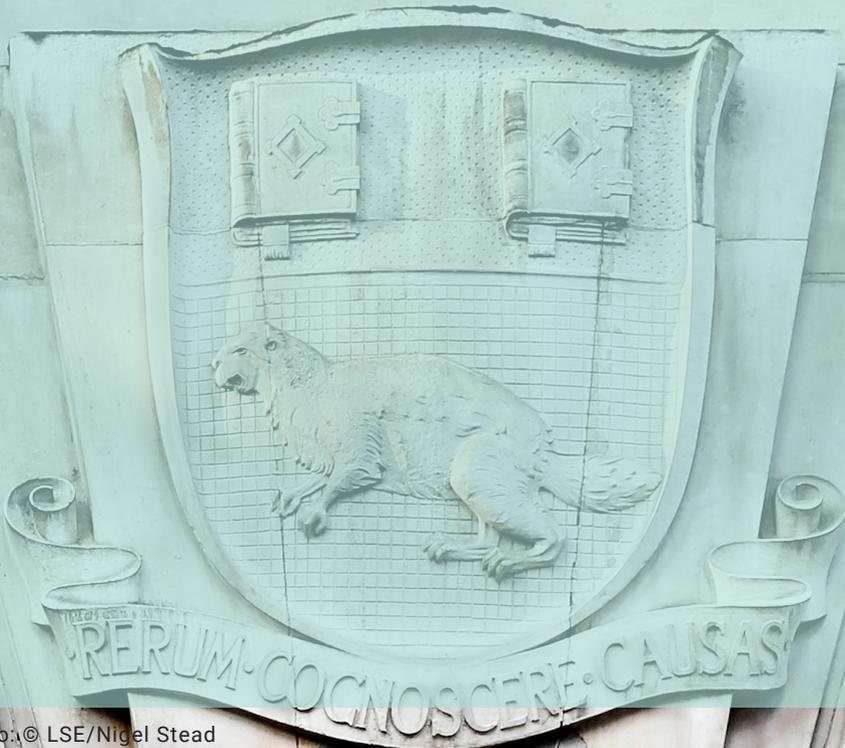


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PREFACE

This special publication marks the 25th anniversary of the Hellenic Observatory at the LSE and, in parallel, the creation of the Eleftherios Venizelos Chair in Contemporary Greek Studies. There is much here to celebrate: a wide range of public activities, different networks of partners, and high-quality research. These pages help us to remember the diverse achievements of the Hellenic Observatory over the years.

Let me pay tribute to those who created the Observatory and the Chair. At the outset, let me acknowledge the efforts of my predecessor, Loukas Tsoukalis, in launching the work of the Observatory. He brought much prestige to the Chair. A continuing presence during my period has been that of Dr Spyros Economides as Deputy Director of the Hellenic Observatory. His support and contribution has been invaluable.

Over the years, the activities of the Observatory have given it a strong public and international profile. We're proud that our webpages attract so many thousands of visitors each year and that they come from as far away as China, India, Mexico, and North America; that an international audience downloads our publications over 30,000 times per year; and that many thousands also watch recordings of our public events.

We were created to be a bridge: connecting different professional and academic communities. Our engagement has been extensive. We have been pleased to welcome so many senior and younger scholars; to have created and sustained the biannual PhD Symposium on Greece and Cyprus, linking networks of new researchers; and, to have connected practitioners and academics in important discussion.

We hope that the original creators of the Chair and the Observatory feel that we have fulfilled their aspirations. Their foresight was unique: the LSE has no other platform like the Observatory and there is no direct parallel in another international university. The LSE has long had special ties to Greece, and we have endeavoured to build on these. As part of this relationship, we have been very fortunate to work closely with the Hellenic Alumni Association of the LSE. The School is rightly proud of its many prominent alumni in Greece and Cyprus.

An important part of the Observatory's distinctiveness has been its Advisory Board. This comprises both external figures and senior LSE academics. The Board has given tremendous support to the Observatory

over the years and I have been personally very appreciative of its advice and steer. We have been very fortunate that the Chair of the Board has been each successive Governor of the Bank of Greece, alongside many other distinguished figures. The Board gives the Observatory a very special character.

It has been the joy of my professional life to lead the Hellenic Observatory. I have been very fortunate to have worked with such a supportive, energetic and committed team – offering far more than could have been reasonably expected. Visitors are often surprised how ‘small’ the Observatory is – their surprise is testament to how much extra the HO team brings to our work. And, with our work, I have been able to meet and know such a wide range of guests, partners, and friends in Greece and Cyprus. Their support has been invaluable and I thank them here for their encouragement.

If you have been part of our Observatory community, I’m sure you’ll find in these pages happy memories. And, if you’re new to the Observatory, I’m confident you’re in for some pleasant surprises. So, let’s toast and celebrate the 25 years of the Hellenic Observatory, while also looking forward with confidence and promise.

Kevin Featherstone,
Hellenic Observatory Director, September 2021

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The Hellenic Observatory Team, Summer 2019

First Row (left to right): Areti Eleftheria Chatzistergou, Sofia Vyzantiadou, Michalis Cottakis, Vassillis Monastiriotis, Myrsini Fotopoulou
Second Row (left to right): Ioannis Laliotis, Philipp Katsinas, Spyros Economides, Katerina Glyniadaki
Third Row (left to right): Kevin Featherstone, Ismini Demades

INTRODUCTION

Established in 1996, the Hellenic Observatory is a research unit based at the European Institute of the London School of Economics and Political Science. 2021 marks its twenty-fifth anniversary. To celebrate the occasion, this booklet presents and assesses its work and activities since its founding, explores its achievements and commemorates its highest moments.

As a university research hub studying Greece and Cyprus within the LSE, the Observatory engages in high quality, policy-relevant research, whilst facilitating public debate and important conversations between academics, policy makers and the general public both in the UK, Greece and Cyprus and at an international level. It has developed its identity by steering an agenda that is relevant and distinctive, placing Greece in a wider European perspective, seeking to enhance policy dialogue and learning.

Thus, the Hellenic Observatory is a busy forum where public and professionals mix and where the big issues concerning Greece are discussed and addressed, not unlike other think tanks. Yet, based at the LSE a major aspect of what makes the Hellenic Observatory distinct is how it conducts its work and activities within the LSE tradition of original, robust, evidence based social research for the betterment of society .

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London walk during our lunch break, Winter 2018

Saša Randelović, Philipp Katsinas, Ioannis Laliotis, Spyros Economides, Ismini Demades, Sofia Vyzantiadou, Myrsini Fotopoulou, Areti Chatzistergou, Michalis Cottakis (left to right)

01.

FOUNDING THE HELLENIC OBSERVATORY

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In the mid-1990s, a campaign was launched to establish a Chair on Contemporary Greece that was neither concerned with the ancient or classical past, nor the arts and humanities, but would rather champion the study of contemporary Greek society, politics and economics. The initiative was launched by Professor Elias Mossialos, then a Senior Lecturer, alongside the then Head of the European Institute, Dr. Howard Machin, and Greek academics Nikos Mouzelis, Professor of Sociology and Dr Spyros Economides, then Lecturer of International Relations at the LSE.

Greek LSE Academics, students and leading alumni in Greece supported the campaign to raise an endowment: amongst them, Dr Spiros Latsis, Ioannis Boutos, then Governor of the Bank of Greece; Nikos Garganas, then Deputy Governor of the Bank of Greece; and George Papandreou, then Minister for National Education and Religious Affairs. The campaign lasted two years. Generous donations were made by some thirteen Greek institutions, private and public organisations, firms and banks. On 10 October 1996, the Eleftherios Venizelos Chair in Contemporary Greek Studies was inaugurated by George Papandreou.

One might wonder why the Chair was named after Eleftherios Venizelos?

Eleftherios Venizelos was the most prominent and influential Greek politician and statesman of the early 20th century. Under his leadership Greece doubled in area and population during the Balkan Wars (1912–13), gained territorially and diplomatically after World War I. Venizelos emerged as a leading European statesman. The series of radical reforms he initiated led to the modernization and transformation of Greece. When the Chair was founded, there was a widespread sense in the LSE and the European Institute at the time that a hub or forum was needed in which to discuss and debate critical issues of the modern Greek society and economy. The School agreed with the donors that naming the Chair in this way was a fitting tribute and one to indicate the Chair's focus on modern Greece. The establishment of the Chair represented a major initiative in the academic field. It was the first chair of its kind outside Greece.

The Chair was to be a fully tenured, academic post in LSE, established in perpetuity. Alongside the Chair, was to be a research unit, the Hellenic Observatory, to promote the study of contemporary Greece.

The first holder of the Chair, from 1998 till 2001, was Professor Loukas Tsoukalis. Alongside his appointment



Loukas Tsoukalis



Kevin Featherstone

came the creation of the Hellenic Observatory team comprising Othon Anastasakis, Athina Markomichelaki and Demetra Nicolaidis. When Loukas returned to his position at the University of Athens, he was succeeded in 2002 by Professor Kevin Featherstone, who remains the Director of the Observatory today, with Dr Spyros Economides serving as its Deputy Director.



Spyros Economides

Over the years, the Hellenic Observatory has grown significantly, and is now the largest 'Departmental Research Unit' (DRUs) in the School: it has expanded its staff, greatly increased its public events programme, and developed its research outputs. In addition to Featherstone and Economides, Dr. Vassilis Monastiriotis is a core member of the academic team. The Observatory is managed by Sofia Vyzantiadou and supported by Areti Chatzistergou as Administrator. Its research staff includes Philipp Katsinas, Research Officer and an annual appointee to the Hellenic Bank Association Post Doctoral Fellowship.



Vassilis Monastiriotis



Sofia Vyzantiadou



Areti Chatzistergou



Philipp Katsinas

01.2

OUR PURPOSE AND VALUES

As it has grown, the Observatory has remained true to its original purpose:

- To promote high-quality research and publications, within the social sciences on Greece and Cyprus.
- To facilitate informed public debate on contemporary Greece and Cyprus, by serving as a lead and facilitator for the organisation of conferences, seminars and workshops.
- To foster cooperation between the relevant academic communities of Greece and the UK and beyond.
- To support and encourage a new generation of scholars with specialist knowledge and post-graduate training.

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To achieve these aims, the Observatory performs a number of roles:

Research unit: producing high-quality outputs in diverse outlets on an individual or group basis.

Facilitator: of workshops, conferences etc. with a view to stimulating research.

Networker: co-ordinating research projects with partners contributing additional expertise.

Contractor: directed by its established research priorities, the Observatory initiates, commissions and oversees specific small policy projects by external collaborators.

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THE YEARS OF EXPANSION

When the Hellenic Observatory was founded, new offices in Cowdrey House were established. Only a few employees would be hosted there in the beginning: its Director, an Administrator, two research officers, and a Visiting Fellow.

Loukas Tsoukalis soon realised that success in such an endeavour as the Hellenic Observatory, is not dependent on hard work and academic excellence alone. As he put it, quoting the words of St Paul 'love of money is the root of all evil', but the lack of it is certainly at the root of many a failure¹. An impecunious 'Observatory' would soon witness a sharp reduction in its visual acuity and would end up observing and recording only its own gradual decline. So, fundraising has been an important and time-consuming part of Hellenic Observatory's work from its first days. During the period he served as a Director, the Observatory raised funds to finance conferences and publications, new research posts and student scholarships.

When Professor Kevin Featherstone took up the post of the Director of the Hellenic Observatory in May 2002, one of his main focuses was to expand its staff numbers and resources. 'The



Observatory can do so much more with a little extra investment' has been his mantra. 'We are uniquely placed to promote public debate, produce high quality independent research, and to train some of tomorrow's leaders².

Professor Featherstone's new drive quickly attracted increasing confidence and support. Spyros Economides became Deputy Director of the HO, helping it to do more. The Observatory's Advisory Board created a new post of 'Research Fellow' soon after, which allowed senior academics from outside the UK to come to the Observatory and focus on major research projects. The Hellenic Observatory had started expanding.

1.Loukas Tsoukalis, Hellenic Observatory Report 2000, pg.3.

2.The Hellenic Observatory Newsletter 2003, pg.4.

A NEW ACADEMIC POST

In 2004, the Observatory created another post, that of the Lecturer in the Political Economy of Greece and South-East Europe. The purpose of the post was to allow the Observatory to better reflect the changing economic position of Greece within the region, both in its teaching and in its research. The School appointed Dr. Vassilis Monastiriotis, who has since then been a core staff member of the Hellenic Observatory team, having taken several initiatives on behalf of the Observatory in his area of expertise.



A few years after Professor Featherstone's appointment to the chair, the Observatory boasted three full-time academics housed in the HO, two research officers and postdoctoral fellows, a research assistant, and several visiting fellows.

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THE CREATION OF A NEW DRU – LSEE

With this widening focus, in 2009, the Hellenic Observatory and its staff played the lead role in the launch of a new research unit within the School's European Institute, 'LSE Research on South Eastern Europe (LSEE)'. The unit shares a similar range of disciplinary interests as the Observatory, focussing on the political, economic and foreign policy agendas of the region, especially in relation to the European Union. In recent years, LSEE has prioritised its research along three broad streams: social policy, regional policy and labour markets; European integration, macroeconomic policy and institutional reform; and, international relations, minorities, security and state-building.



Will Bartlett



James Ker Lindsay



Tena Prelec

LSEE also organizes a series of public events both at the LSE and in the region, providing a forum for international research collaboration across these thematic areas. Throughout the years, LSEE has produced a wide variety of publications and it has led a research network which aims to promote independent research into issues of social cohesion in the region, known as the LSEE Research Network on Social Cohesion in South East Europe. It has also worked with various organisations in the region on research projects and dissemination activities, including with various national Central Banks, the Regional Cooperation Council, the CEFTA Secretariat, the UNDP and various EU bodies.

A GROWING RESEARCH PROFILE: PROGRAMMES AND SCHOLARSHIPS

Keen to build upon a growing research profile, the Observatory managed to develop and sustain its funding to support new research projects and fellowships: annual fellowships funded by the National Bank of Greece (2006-2016) and the Greek Ministry of Economics and Finance (2007-2012), were awarded each year to enable junior or senior academics to undertake research at the Observatory, on the basis of approved projects; Post-Doctoral Fellowships, funded by the A.C. Laskarides Foundation and the A.G. Leventis Foundation invited emerging scholars working in the area of Greece and Southeastern Europe to conduct their research at LSE.

In 2007, Mrs Ismini Demades joined the Hellenic Observatory as its Manager – a role she performed very effectively for some 12 years - and she made significant contributions to reforming the structure of the HO's activities adding a new professionalism. With this extra capacity, came a growing flexibility in the kinds of research initiatives and public events and activities the Hellenic Observatory



Ismini Demades

could undertake, consistent with its international outlook.

In 2011 the Hellenic Observatory managed to further expand its research on Cyprus, with a generous donation received by Mr Andreas Hadjiyiannis to establish a new Research Fellowship on Contemporary Cyprus. This Fellowship ran for a period of 5 years and was offered to 2 Senior Research Fellows on a shared basis: Dr Rebecca Bryant and Dr Nikos Skoutaris. This was the first



Rebecca Bryant



Nicos Skoutaris

- 11 time that the Hellenic Observatory was able to offer a fellowship for research on contemporary Cyprus and it proved very timely as in 2013 Cyprus received much foreign attention, as it was obliged to accept a bailout in the context of its debt crisis.

Though its funding fell with the Greek crisis and it adjusted with new priorities, the Observatory continues to seek to provide opportunities for new researchers and for visiting academics. Currently, it offers one post-doctoral fellowship per year: The Hellenic Bank Association Post-Doctoral Fellowship. It also commissions projects annually through its Hellenic Observatory Research Calls Programme and the A.G. Leventis Research Innovation Programme on Cyprus. The original mission is retained. And, it seeks to strengthen its research capacity in the coming years.

NURTURING A NEW GENERATION OF SCHOLARS

One of the more important spin offs of the Hellenic Observatory has been the encouragement it has given to up-and-coming young researchers. From its early years, the Hellenic Observatory sought to support students in their desire to carry out postgraduate and doctoral studies with a focus on various aspects of contemporary Greece in the social sciences. To fulfil this, it benefitted from significant studentships: The Bodossaki Foundation, Mr Grigoris Tzirakian and his family, OPAP, the Greek Organisation of Football Prognostics SA. The holders of these scholarships have since moved on to become senior academics, government ministers, key policy advisors, etc.

The 'Hellenic Observatory PhD Symposium on Contemporary Greece and Cyprus', which has been held at the School biennially since 2003, is another effort along these lines. The Symposium serves as a platform that provides the opportunity to PhD candidates not only to present their doctoral research to an informed audience, exchange knowledge and develop a creative dialogue, but also enables them to meet and interact in order to promote knowledge with peers and more established scholars in their respective fields from across Europe and beyond. So far, 9 PhD Symposia have been held attracting more than 520 PhD students from many different countries including Greece, Cyprus, UK, Spain, Portugal, UK, Czech Republic, Australia, China etc. More than 25 key experts have provided their insights in plenary sessions and facilitated the debate in current topics. Traditionally, the first plenary session is given by Professor Kevin Featherstone who outlines how to undertake a PhD on a topic related to Greece or Cyprus.





A few years ago, in the summer of 2019, the Hellenic Observatory moved to its new home, the LSE's newly built Centre Building, at the heart of the LSE Campus, along with a fantastic range of new seminar and lecture theatres and modern facilities. Yet, the Cowdray House offices are fondly remembered. It was in those offices where the HO began and grew.



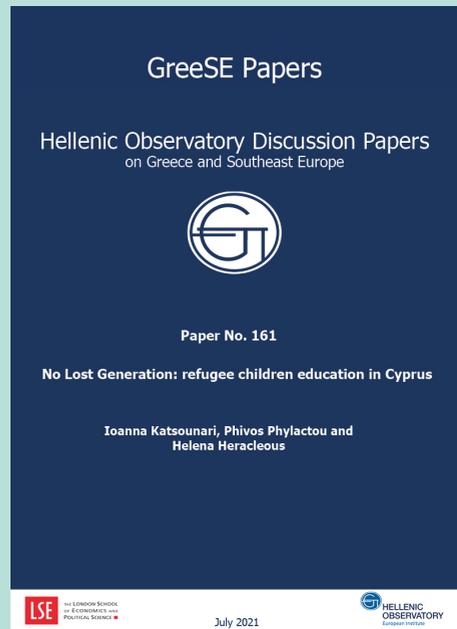
Photos: © LSE/Nigel Stead

03.

OUR RESEARCH

A very important dimension of the HO's activities is our research, of course, which includes the individual research by staff members; research by our fellows; research projects supported by the HO; and our working paper series, 'GreeSE' Papers, which has recently published its 162th paper. This represents a mix of researchers and of disciplines and, together, it has established the HO as the major international centre for social scientific research on contemporary Greece and Cyprus. Over the last 25 years, the HO has delivered numerous research projects and has produced substantial amounts of reports and papers, covering a wide variety of topics within three main fields: economics, politics and social policy, and external relations and foreign policy.

Our paper series 'GreeSE: Hellenic Observatory Papers on Greece and Southeast Europe', launched in 2007, is published monthly and has become a regular home for research conducted by current and past affiliates, visiting fellows and award-holders and grew its visibility, now reaching an average 36,000 downloads per year. The Series has served as an important medium for discussing current issues - some examples: a recent special issue with papers on the economic impacts of COVID-19; a paper on 'Historical Cycles of the Economy of Modern Greece from 1821 to the Present' by Prof. George Alogoskoufis, while we have been celebrating the 200 years since the outbreak of the Greek Revolution; papers covering timely topics, such as digital literacy in Greece.



POLITICAL ECONOMY OF GREECE

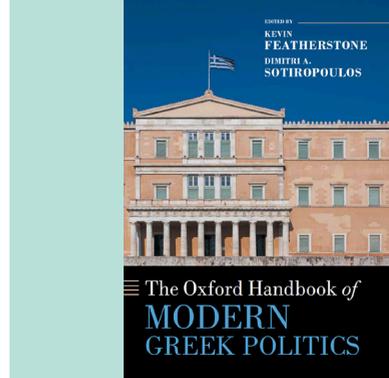
Research conducted by our staff and fellows have tackled policy problems in areas like regional disparities and policy; wage differentials and wage determination; unemployment and labour market flexibility; public investment and fiscal decentralisation; foreign direct investment and economic growth; retirement and expenditure; the Greek crisis and the restructuring of the Greek Economy. Additionally, many HO projects added to the value of our research in this area: 'Inflation and Prices in Greece', by Prof. Nikos Apergis; 'Economic Growth in Greece' by Prof. Apostolis Philippopoulos, 'Evaluating the Impact of Labour Market Reforms in Greece during 2010-2018', by Prof. Nikos Vettas and many others.

Much of the research conducted has policy-relevant significance. Dr Vassilis Monastiriotis, for example,

POLITICS & PUBLIC POLICYMAKING IN GREECE

In the area of public policy our research has covered mainly aspects of governance and structural reforms, including work on the strength of the core executive; the limits to Europeanisation; evidence-based policy and the reform technology; and others.

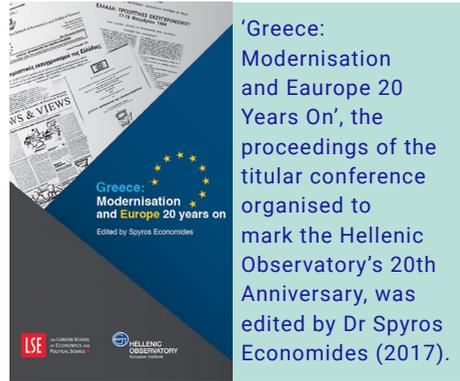
Exhibiting the LSE tradition in which HO works, it is worth noting that many of our projects made significant intervention into public debate and



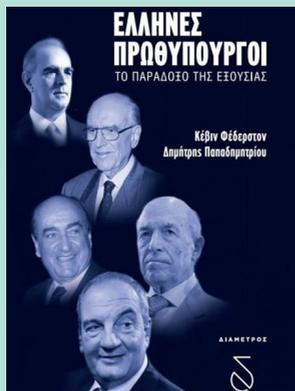
Kevin Featherstone co-edited with Dimitri A. Sotiropoulos, 'The Oxford Handbook of Modern Greek Politics', which was published in 2020, with an array of contributors and 43 chapters.

has been part of the Committee of Experts advising the Greek government on the setting of the new minimum wage in Greece. Dr Monastiriotis' work was influential in both rounds of minimum wage adjustments that took place in recent years, including the 11% increase of February 2019 and the further increase, by 2%, announced in August 2021 by the Greek government (effective from January 2022).

Presidential Decree survived two successive governments. An OECD Report, citing Prof. Featherstone, made the same argument, and the reforms were reaffirmed by Greece's major creditors (the International Monetary Fund [IMF], the European Union [EU] and the European Central Bank [ECB]) for the second 'bailout'.



'Greece: Modernisation and Europe 20 Years On', the proceedings of the titular conference organised to mark the Hellenic Observatory's 20th Anniversary, was edited by Dr Spyros Economides (2017).



Subsequent research with the then Hellenic Observatory Research Fellow, Dimitris Papadimitriou, deepened the focus on reform capacity. The research, which covered all governments since 1974, was encapsulated in the book 'Prime Ministers in Greece: The Paradox of Power', 2015, which became available in Greek in 2019: 'ΕΛΛΗΝΕΣ ΠΡΩΘΥΠΟΥΡΓΟΙ: Το Παράδοξο της Εξουσίας'.

FOREIGN POLICY

The HO has always been conscious of the importance of studying Greece in its international context and has devoted much attention to Greece's external relations in a regional, European and broader, global context. This, of course, has resulted in the sponsoring research and the publication of Discussion Papers and 'GreeSE' Papers, on many of the core areas of Greek foreign policy. Some have dealt with the nature of Greek foreign policy-making: Ioannis Stefanidis, writing on pressure groups and Greek Foreign Policy; Melina Skouroliakou's work on public diplomacy; Stelios Stavrides's work on 'The Europeanisation of Greek Foreign Policy' or Kostas Ifantis, Dimitrios Triantaphyllou, Andreas Kotelis working on Greek Elites' Perceptions towards Turkey. Of course, there have been visiting researchers working on core issues such as Greek-Turkish relations (Alexis Heraclides) and on the Cyprus problem (James Ker-Lindsay). The HO has also always encouraged policy-relevant research and dialogue between

academics and practitioners which neatly came together in the GreeSe Paper written by Yannis Valinakis on Greece' European Policy Making, highlighting the importance of the European context to Greece's external relations. Indeed, much attention has also focused on Greece's Balkan policy as part of its foreign policy. This contributed significantly to the creation of LSEE, discussed above, and also to major research projects such as that sponsored by the HO research programme on 'Deciphering the Formulation of Greek Economic Diplomacy Towards the Western Balkans' which is currently in progress.

The importance of the foreign policy dimension to the work of the HO is best found in the work of Spyros Economides, who whilst Deputy Director, has published extensively on various aspects of this field including: the Europeanisation of Greek Foreign Policy, Greece in Europe from a foreign policy perspective, Greece's Strategic Culture and most recently, his overview of 'Greek Foreign Policy since the Metapolitefsi', in The Oxford Handbook of Modern Greek Politics.

RESPONDING TO THE GREEK CRISIS

Unavoidably, the Greek Crisis has formed a great part of our agenda as well. The causes and consequences needed to be properly understood in Greece's domestic and international context. As a way of initiating a broad and open discussion, the Hellenic Observatory commissioned a series of short papers from a range of scholars, analysts and commentators in 2008, when the riots in Greece escalated,

offering a wide range of explanations and diverse interpretations of the cause of and their impact, opening a coherent, longer- term discussion, which allowed us to address some key problems in contemporary Greek society.

In the years that were to follow, we witnessed three 'bailouts' and five elections in Greece, with several changes of government, several iterations of plans for government cutbacks, repeated strikes and riots. A tragic situation, with profound implications for the development path of the country and for the future viability of the eurozone. These were surely years when discussion and study of the politics and economics of Greece became de rigeur for so many across the world and, inevitably, formed our agenda.

The Hellenic Observatory responded to this rapidly-developing agenda

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Louka Katseli delivering her lecture 'Lessons Learnt from the Greek Crisis', January 2016

with a range of activities: series of public debates at the LSE on the Greek crisis and the euro-zone - including former ministers and Poul Thomsen, then Head of the 'Troika' for Greece - as well as events and conferences in Greece, for example a one-day conference in Corinth entitled, 'Whither Social Policy? Social Policy in Greece in times of Crisis' (in conjunction with the University of the Peloponnese); incorporated a range of academic views from Professors Lapavitsas and Varoufakis, on the one hand, and Azariadis and Drs Argyrou and Dimitrakopoulos, on the other. A series of HO publications on the crisis was also in place: for example, GreeSE Special Issue 'The Greek crisis in focus: Austerity, Recession and paths to Recovery', edited by Vassilis Monastiriotis. HO staff frequently contributed to the international media on the Greek crisis and its implications, from Australia to Russia, Japan, Chile, Norway, France to the USA. A series of research seminars on related matters was also in place: e.g. budget management in Greece;

RESEARCH DISSEMINATION

One of the cornerstones of the HO's public activities encouraging the dissemination of research is the fortnightly research seminars held during the Michaelmas and Lent Terms. More than 200 seminars and around 190 researchers -ranging from the academic and policy-relevant world, mixing established academics with younger, emerging scholars, HO visiting fellows and those invited specifically for this series- have presented their research and exchanged ideas of contemporary interest and academic importance. Our seminars allow an audience of LSE students and faculty and members of the wider London community interested in Greece, to listen to and engage with a variety of speakers both from the UK and beyond. It is impossible to do justice to the breadth of topics covered, the number of speakers who presented their work and ideas, and the level of debate generated by these research seminars.



'The Return of Street Politics? Essays on the December Riots in Greece', edited by Spyros Economides and Vassilis Monastiriotis

competitiveness and institutional weaknesses; labour market regulation; the attraction of FDI; and the phenomena of street protests. Against such a background, the *raison d'être* of the Hellenic Observatory could never have been stronger. The LSE's own motto - *rerum cognoscere causas* (to know the causes of things) applied so well to the mission of the Observatory.



'The Restructuring of the Greek Economy:2010-2014', Panos Tsakloglou, February 2015



'Advance or Regression? Gender balance and the crisis in Greece', Platon Tinios, Antigone Lyberaki, Spyros Economides, December 2016



'What Do Greek Political Elites Think about Europe and the Crisis?' Dimitri A. Sotiropoulos, Kevin Featherstone, January 2015



Towards a National Competition and Competitiveness Policy for Greece ,Yannis Katsoulakos, Vassilis Monastiriotis, January 2019



'Analysing Crisis Discourse in Greece: who should we blame?', Stella Ladi, Kevin Featherstone, March 2019



'What Drives People to Accept or Resist Austerity? Evidence from a survey experiment in Greece' Theofanis Exadaktylos, January 2020

04.

FOSTERING PUBLIC DEBATE

To convene seminars, hold public events, and discuss up-to-date topics and accessible research is at the core of the Hellenic Observatory's activities. The Hellenic Observatory's public lectures programme has, thus, featured over 200 events, where some of the most influential figures connected with Greece or Cyprus can be heard. Let's remember some of them!

MEMORABLE PUBLIC LECTURES AT LSE



'The Role of Religion in a Changing Europe', Ecumenical Patriarch Vartholomeos, November 2005



7th HO Annual Lecture: 'Greece and the European Union: Partners in European Reform', PM Kostas Karamanlis, November 2006



2nd Byron Theodoropoulos
Lecture: 'Greece and Europe',
Dora Bakoyanni, November 2007



'Lessons learned from the Greek Crisis:
reflections from George Papanandreu',
November 2018



'The Role of Education in Greece's
Recovery', Anna Diamantopoulou,
February 2011



'Greece's Way out of the Crisis',
Alexis Tsipras, March 2013



'Local Governance in Times of Crisis',
Yiannis Boutaris, 2014



'Economic Blues: the Left in
government times', Euclid Tsakalotos,
November 2015



14th HO Annual Lecture: 'The Greek Economy: current developments and future prospects', March 2015



16th HO Annual Lecture: 'Defeating populism, defending the truth and unleashing the potential of the Greek economy', Kyriakos Mitsotakis, May 2017

OUR ATHENS & CYPRUS EVENTS

ATHENS LECTURE SERIES

A fine example of the Hellenic Observatory's outreach is the series of public lectures it has arranged in Athens, in collaboration with the Megaron Plus programme at the Megaron cultural centre in Athens (2014-2017), the Athens Chamber of Commerce and Industry (2018) and more recently with the National Bank of Greece (2018-now). This series is traditionally supported by the Hellenic Alumni Association of LSE. The public lectures are open to all and they involve professors from across the LSE presenting their work and responding to comments from a senior Greek academic as a discussant and from the audience – a forum of lively debate on topics of international concern.

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MEGARON PLUS



'Prime Ministers and the Paradox of Power in Greece', Dimitris Papadimitriou, Kevin Featherstone, Alexis Papahelas, October 2015



'Why Thucydides is our Contemporary: what his history has to tell us about the Face of War today', Christopher Coker, March 2016

ATHENS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY



'Lifestyle Solidarity: corporate branding, celebrity culture and the digital media', Kevin Featherstone, Lilie Chouliaraki, Dimitri A. Sotiropoulos, Nikos Sofianos, May 2018

'Trump and the Future of American Power', Peter Trubowitz, March 2018

NATIONAL BANK OF GREECE



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'From the Mediterranean Crisis to Brexit: transformations and challenges of citizens' European identity', Michael Bruter, January 2019

'The Future of Eurozone: what reforms are needed', Paul De Grauwe, Kevin Featherstone, Helen Louri Dendrinou, March 2019



'Where is the world economy going and what can we do about it? Dame Minouche Shafik in conversation with Mr Costas P. Michaelides', February 2020

Left to right: Harris Lampropoulos, Costas Michaelides, Minouche Shafik, Eleni Doundoulaki, Anastasia Vaki, Kevin Featherstone

WORKING WITH THE LSE HELLENIC ALUMNI ASSOCIATION & THE LSE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION CYPRUS

The alumni communities in Greece and Cyprus are part of a global network of change makers, leaders and influencers, with a profound impact on the societies

and sectors in which they live and work. The Hellenic Observatory has been committed to engaging with the Alumni both in Greece and Cyprus, fostering networking and cooperation opportunities and collaborating in hosting events.



The LSE Director, Dame Minouche Shafik, with members of the LSE Hellenic Alumni Association during a reception held at the National Bank of Greece, February 2020



'Cyprus and the Technology Transformation: breaking ground in the new economic & social environment', Co-organised with the LSE Cyprus Alumni Association, May 2016

WORKING WITH OTHERS

We have been very pleased and have consistently sought to collaborate with external partners and other research centres and institutes for special conferences and events: for example, the British School at Athens; the British Hellenic Chamber of Commerce; the Hellenic Bankers' Association of the UK; the Fletcher School at Tufts University; the Neapolis University, Pafos and the University of Cyprus and many others.



Closed Workshop co-organised with Fletcher School, Tufts University December 2018



Panel Discussion at the University of Cyprus, titled 'Growth strategies for Greece and Cyprus', November 2018



Co-hosted with the Hellenic Bankers Association-UK
Poul Thomsen in conversation with Kevin Featherstone on 'The IMF and the Greek Crisis: myths and realities', September 2019

05.

THE HELLENIC OBSERVATORY AT A GLANCE

Take a look at our most informative facts and figures for this 25-year period.



SOCIAL MEDIA FOLLOWERS
8,500

RESEARCHERS, FELLOWS AND ASSOCIATES
154

EXTERNAL RESEARCHERS
101

RESEARCH PROJECTS
87

PAPER DOWNLOADS PER YEAR
31,240

RESEARCH PAPERS
188

PUBLICATIONS
86

06.

PRIDE IN OUR PAST; CONFIDENCE IN OUR FUTURE

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Over twenty-five busy years, the Hellenic Observatory has established its reputation by engaging critically with big and important issues concerning Greece and Cyprus. Its work has been policy-relevant, topical, and importantly, it has been conducted both with detachment from government power as well as involvement with it, avoiding partisan politics as it has striven to facilitate genuine debate and open discourse between academics, broader publics, and practitioners. Indeed, by being part of the LSE, the HO has gained impartiality and autonomy, and it has also drawn inspiration from an LSE tradition and approach to the social sciences. Issuing from and working within the LSE tradition, its work has remained true to its values and missions, connecting academic knowledge with the people who use it, fostering a diversity of views and perspectives, and creating public engagement with empirically informed policy research.

We can assess our work as described on our mission, by weighing the record of our activities and projects over our 25 years:

Research unit: producing high-quality outputs in diverse outlets on an individual or group basis.

- 180 papers published in our paper series.
- 36,000 papers are downloaded on average each year.

Facilitator of workshops, conferences, book launches, panel discussions, public lectures and research seminars with a view to stimulating research and encouraging public debate:

- 400 events and research seminars have been held with more than 450 speakers attending.
- 50 of those events were hosted overseas, impacting directly on the Greek and Cypriot communities.

- 38,839 people are estimated to have joined our events.
- 9 PhD Symposia have been organised at LSE, with 560 participants.

Networker: co-ordinating research projects with partners contributing additional expertise.

Directed by its established research priorities, the Observatory has initiated, commissioned and overseen specific small policy projects by external collaborators.

Contractor: the Observatory has supported and encouraged new generations of scholars with specialist knowledge and post-graduate training.

- More than 60 Research Fellows, Postdoctoral Researchers and Research Officers have been appointed to conduct research at LSE.
- More than 60 academics or policy practitioners have been offered a Visiting position.
- 34 Scholarships have been offered to students in support of part or the total of their postgraduate and doctoral studies at LSE.
- For our efforts to support scholars and academics, we have received our fair share of praise (see Appendix V).

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'FEATHERSTONE' AWARD

Another, perhaps more formal recognition of the Hellenic Observatory's accomplishments:

Our director, Professor Kevin Featherstone, was bestowed the award 'Commander, Order of the Phoenix of the Hellenic Republic' on Tuesday 17 September 2013. A great honour for him and the Observatory. Little did he know, that some years later, in April 2021, he would be bestowed a second award, that of 'Grand Commander, Order of the Phoenix of the Hellenic Republic', for his contribution to the strengthening of Greek-British relations and the promotion of Greece in the United Kingdom. The award was presented to him by H.E. Mr Ioannis Raptakis, Ambassador of Greece, on April 19th, day of Philhellenism and International Solidarity, a day chosen for its symbolic meaning as Greece celebrates the 200 years since the outbreak of the Greek Revolution of 1821 and the Greek War of Independence. Professor Featherstone is one of the few that holds two insignia. 'Our work in the Hellenic Observatory has always been a "team effort" and this award is a recognition of our collective performance. I'm honoured to receive it on behalf of my colleagues and me', Professor Featherstone said.

The Hellenic Observatory faces the future with a strong past. The debt crisis in Greece has prompted global interest in its economic policy and management, as well as its political strategies and choices. The Observatory has responded to this wider interest and it seeks to expand its future role. As it does so, it can continue to be a research champion, a leader in public debate and engagement, and a contributor to policy knowledge and exchange. It is a lead, a facilitator, and a networker. In these ways, it endeavours to deliver on the original vision of those who established the Chair and the Observatory 25 years ago.

**Commander, Order of the Phoenix of the
Hellenic Republic
17 September 2013**

Vassilis Monastiriotis, Kevin Featherstone,
Ismini Demades, Spyros Economides (left to
right)

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**Grand Commander, Order of the Phoenix of
the Hellenic Republic,
19 April 2021**

Sofia Vyzantiadou, Ambassador Ioannis Raptakis,
Kevin Featherstone, Nina Featherstone, Spyros
Economides (left to right)

The 'Order of the Phoenix' is awarded to Greek citizens who have excelled in the arts and literature, science, public administration, shipping, commerce, and industry, and to foreigners who have helped raise Greece's international prestige.



APPENDICES



APPENDIX I: ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS

CURRENT ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS

Professor Yannis Stournaras (Chairman), Governor, Bank of Greece
Professor Kevin Featherstone, Director, Hellenic Observatory, LSE
Dr Spyros Economides, Deputy Director, Hellenic Observatory, LSE
Dr Vassili G. Apostolopoulos, CEO, Athens Medical Group
Professor Chrisanthi Avgerou, Professor of Information Systems, LSE
Mr Spyros N. Filaretos, Executive General Manager – COO, Alpha Bank
Professor Gikas Hardouvelis, Chairman, National Bank of Greece
Mr Athanasios C Laskaridis, President & CEO, Laskaridis Shipping Company
Dr Spiro J. Latsis, Member, LSE Board of Governors
Professor Eleni Louri-Dendrinou, Professor of Economics, Athens University of Economics and Business
Professor Achilleas Mitsos, Professor of International Economic Relations, University of the Aegean
Professor Elias Mossialos, Brian Abel-Smith Professor of Health Policy, LSE
Mr Evangelos G Mytilineos, Chairman, Mytilineos Holdings S.A.
Professor Lucas Papademos, Former Prime Minister of Greece; Former Vice President - European Central Bank
Professor Sir Christopher Pissarides, Regius Professor of Economics, LSE
Professor Dimitri Vayanos, Professor of Finance, LSE

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PAST ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS

John Platsidakis
Paul Taylor
Nicos Mouzelis
George Provopoulos
Theodore Karatzas
Takis Arapoglou
Panayiotis Thomopoulos
Demetrios Mantzounis
Dimitris Paraskevas
Damian Chamlers
Vasileios Rapanos
Charis Stamatopoulos
Athina Markomichelaki
George Zantias
Louka Katseli
Nikolaos C. Sofianos
Eleni Doundoulaki
Costas Michaelides

FORMER ADVISORY BOARD CHAIRMEN

Lucas Papademos (until 6/2002)
Nicholas C. Garganas (until 6/2008)
Georgios Provopoulos (until 6/2014)

APPENDIX II: DONORS

HELLENIC OBSERVATORY DONORS & PARTNERS

Agricultural Bank of Greece	A.G Leventis Foundation
Alpha Credit Bank	London Hellenic Society
Vassili G. Apostolopoulos	Ministry of Education, Greece
Athens Chamber of Commerce & Industry	Ministry of Finance, Greece
Bank of Greece	Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Greece
Bodossaki Foundation	National Bank of Greece
Commercial Bank of Greece	Neapolis University, Cyprus
Defence Analyses Institute	Alexander S. Onassis Public Benefit Foundation
Delta Dairy S.A	OPAP S.A.
Ergobank	Open Society European Policy Institute
Euromerchant Bank	Piraeus Chamber of Commerce and Industry
Eurobank Cyprus	PwC Cyprus
Eurobank EFG	Society for the Promotion of Contemporary Hellenic Studies
Andreas N. Hadjiyiannis	Stavros Niarchos Foundation
AON Hewitt Cyprus	Gregory Tzirakian
Hellenic Petroleum S.A.	University of Nicosia, Cyprus
Hellenic Bankers Association, UK	VIANEX S.A
Hellenic Bank Association Greece	Vienna Institute for International Economic Studies
Hellenic Alumni Association LSE	Viohalco S.A.
Ionian and Popular Bank of Greece	
Athanasios C. Laskaridis	
A.C. Laskaridis Charitable Foundation	
John S. Latsis Public Benefit Foundation	

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DONORS TO THE LECTURESHIP IN THE POLITICAL ECONOMY OF GREECE AND SOUTHEAST EUROPE

Athens Medical Group
Coca Cola Hellenic Bottling Company
Eurobank
Germanos Group of Companies
Global Finance S.A.
Greotel Hotels
Hellenic Petroleum
Viohalco S.A.

APPENDIX III: HELLENIC OBSERVATORY RESEARCHERS & VISITING FELLOWS

HELLENIC OBSERVATORY RESEARCHERS

Anastasakis Othon (1999-00), Research Officer
Kamaras Antonis (1999-00), Research Officer on Balkan Economies
Papadimitriou Dimitris (2002-03), Research Fellow on Greece and the EU
Stavrianidis Stelios (2002-2003), Honorary Research Fellow
Klarevas Louis (2003), Research Fellow on Greece and European Security
Sotiropoulos Dimitri A. (2003), Research Fellow
Triantaphyllou Dimitris (2003-04), Research Fellow on Greece and European Security
Bratsis Peter (2003), Research Fellow
Paraskevopoulos Christos (2003), Research Fellow
Xiarchogiannopoulou Eleni (2003-11), Research Officer
Tsakoglou Panos (2004-05), Senior Research Fellow
Dimitrakopoulos Dionysis (2006-07), NBG Senior Research Fellow
Zahariadis Nikolaos (2006-07), NBG Senior Research Fellow
Markova Eugenia (2006-07), Ministry of Economy and Finance Research Fellow
Tzioumis Konstantinos (2007-08), National Bank of Greece Senior Research Fellow
Psycharis Yiannis (2007-08), National Bank of Greece Senior Research Fellow
Filippaios Fragkiskos (2007-08), Ministry of Economy and Finance Senior Research Fellow
Christodoulakis Nikos (2008-09), NBG Senior Research Fellow
Lavdas Kostas (2009), NBG Senior Research Fellow
Christopoulou Rebekka (2008-09), Senior Research Fellowship in Political Economy
Pappas Nikos (2008-09), Senior Research Fellowship Political Economy
Ker- Lindsay James (2008-09), Institute of Defence Analysis (IAA) Senior Research Fellow
Ifantis Kostas (2008-09), Institute of Defence Analysis (IAA) Senior Research Fellow
Prevelakis George (2009-10), NBG Senior Research Fellow
Papadimitriou Dimitris (2009-10), NBG Senior Research Fellow
Vlami Prodromos (2010), Senior Research Fellow in Political Economy
Pelagidis Theodore (2009-10), Senior Research Fellow Political Economy
Veremis Thanos (2009-10), Senior Research Fellow on Greek Security and Foreign Policy
Lyrintzis Christos (2010-11), NBG Senior Research Fellow
Heraclides Alexis (2010-11), NBG Senior Research Fellow
Tsoukis Christopher (2010-11), Senior Research Fellow in Political Economy
Panagiotidis Theodore (2010-11), Senior Research Fellow in Political Economy
Valinakis Yannis (2011-12), Senior Research Fellow in Political Economy
Exadaktylos Theofanis (2011-12), Senior Research Fellow in Political Economy
Leontitsis Vasilis (2011-12), NBG Research Fellow in Contemporary Greek Studies
Kosmidis Spyros (2011-12), NBG Research Fellow in Contemporary Greek Studies
Bryant Rebecca (2012-13), A.N. Hadjiyiannis Senior Research Fellow on Cont. Cyprus
Skoutaris Nikos (2012-13), A.N. Hadjiyiannis Senior Research Fellow on Cont. Cyprus
Knight Daniel M. (2012-13), NBG Research Fellow
Kornelakis Andreas (2012), Hellenic Observatory Discussion Paper Series Editor
Laliotis Ioannis (2018-19), Hellenic Observatory Research Officer
Philipp Katsinas (2020-present), Hellenic Observatory Research Officer

HELLENIC OBSERVATORY POST-DOCTORAL FELLOWS

Fokas Effie (2007-08), A.C. Laskarides Post-Doctoral Research Fellow
Maragkou Konstantina (2007-08), A.G. Leventis Foundation Post-Doctoral Research Fellow
Bozhilova Diana (2008-09), A.C. Laskarides Post-Doctoral Research Fellow
Vraniali Effrosyni (2009-10), A.C. Laskarides Post-Doctoral Research Fellow
Prasopoulou Elpida (2010-11), A.C. Laskarides Post-Doctoral Research Fellow
Chalari Athanasia (2011-12), A.C. Laskarides Post-Doctoral Research Fellow
Kyris George (2012-13), Neapolis University Post-Doctoral Fellow
Antoniou Dimitris (2013-14), National Bank of Greece Post-Doctoral Research Fellow
Evangelopoulos Georgios (2013-14), NBG Post-Doctoral Research Fellow
Vasilaki Rosa (2014-15), National Bank of Greece Post-Doctoral Research Fellow
Chrysosgelos Angelos (2015-16), National Bank of Greece Post-Doctoral Research Fellow
Tsiftoglou Anna (2015-16), NBG Greece Post-Doctoral Research Fellow
Lampropoulou Nikolitza (2017-18), Hellenic Bank Association Post-Doctoral Fellow
Katsinas Philipp (2018-19), Hellenic Bank Association Post-Doctoral Fellow
Papalexatou Chrysoula (2019-20), Hellenic Bank Association Post-Doctoral Fellow
Soudias Dimitris (2021- present), Hellenic Bank Association Post-Doctoral Fellow

RESEARCH ASSISTANTS

Arvanitopoulos Theodoros (2013-14)
Moschopoulos George (2013-14)
Theodorakopoulos Angelos (2013-14)
Sourvanos Dimitris (2014-2017)
Michalis Cottakis (2017- 2019)

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VISITING FELLOWS AND PROFESSORS

VISITING FELLOWS

Woodward Susan (2000)	Nafpliotis Alexandros (2012)
Bratsis Peter (2002)	Visvizi Anna (2013)
Papadakis Nikos (2005-06)	Simiti Marilena (2013)
Koulouridas Athanasios (2005-06)	Pegasiou Adonis (2012-14)
Maragkou Konstantina (2006-07)	Sotiropoulos Dimitri A. (2012-14)
Provata Anthi (2007)	Skoutaris Nikos (2013-15)
Lazarou Elena (2008)	Casey Bernard (2011-15)
Skouroliakou Melina (2010)	Ellinas Antonis (2015)
Panagiotides Theodore (2011-12)	Katsourides Yiannos (2017)
Katsourides Yiannos (2011)	Magioglou Thalia (2015-17)
Vlami Prodromos (2011)	Martín Cortés Irene (2018)
Kandylaki Agapi (2011-12)	Sarimehmet Duman Özgün (2016-18)
Chardas Anastassios (2011-12)	Manoli Panagiota (2018)
Venieris Dimitris (2011-12)	Papakonstantinou Katerina (2019-20)
Economidou Claire (2011-2012)	Quartyl Janeiro Robert (2019-21)

Rizou Maria (2020-22)
Barkas Panagiotis (2021-22)

VISITING SENIOR FELLOWS

Judah Tim (2009)
Özkirimli Umut (2009)
Papantoniou Yannis (2009-10)
Leledakis Kanakis (2010-11)
Verney Susannah (2010-11)
Charalambous Giorgos (2011)
Diamantopoulos Thanassis (2012)
Caraveli Helen (2012)
Leontidou Lila (2012)
Koniordos Sokratis (2013)
Valinakis Yannis (2013)
Arapoglou Vassilis (2016)
Tinios Platon (2015-16)
Karagiannis Emmanuel (2016-17)
Knight Daniel (2014-17)
Economidou Claire (2018)
Monokroussos Platon (2016-17)
Ellinas Antonis (2018)
Dellis Konstantinos (2019)
Arapoglou Vassilis (2019)
Kazamias Georgios (2020)
Chalari Athanasia (2020-22)
Demetriou Olga (2021)
Kounadeas Theodore (2021)
Athanasia Hadjigeorgiou (2021-22)

VISITING PROFESSORS

Louri- Dendrinou Helen (2014 & 2020)
Dinenis Elias (2013-15)
Lyberaki Antigone (2016)
Phellas Constantine (2017)
Gerapetritis George (2018)
Christodoulakis Nikos (2018-19)
Katsoulacos Yannis (2018-19)
Tsakoglou Panos (2020)

VISITING PROFESSORS IN PRACTICE

Monokroussos Platon (2016-2021)
Aspden Peter (2021)
Bartzokas Anthony (2021-22)

SCHOLARSHIPS

BODOSSAKI FOUNDATION PHD SCHOLARS

Theodoropoulou Sotiria (1999-00)
Antoniades Andreas (2000-01)
Moumountzis Kyriakos (2005-06)
Vassilopoulou Sofia (2006-07)
Zartaloudis Sotiris (2007-08)
Kornelakis Andreas (2008-09)

OPAP SCHOLARSHIPS PHD STUDENTS

Papadopoulos Theocharis (2010-11)
Triantopoulos Christos (2011-12)
Politof Cleio (2012-13)
Giakoulas Dimitris (2013-14)
Zeaki Maria (2013-14)

OPAP SCHOLARSHIPS MASTER STUDENTS

Balaska Panagiota (2009-10)
Pitsilkas Charalampos (2009-10)
Emmanouilidou Foteini (2010-11)
Kourouka Evangelia (2010-11)
Loukidou Aikaterini (2010-11)
Dritsa Maria (2011-12)
Myrodiadis Konstantinos (2011-12)
Papalexatou Chrysoula (2012-13)
Iliopoulou Margarita (2013-14)

GREGORY TZIRAKIAN PHD SCHOLARSHIP

Evangelopoulos George (2006-07)
Trantidis Aris (2008-09)
Manis Athanasios (2010-11)

HELLENIC OBSERVATORY VISITING RESEARCH STUDENTS

Sakkas Stelios (2015-16)
Ousantzopoulou Kaliope (2015-16)
Koutsoupakis Dimitrios (2016-17)
Panoutsopoulos Tasos (2017-18)
Dimakopoulou Vasiliki -Eirini (2017-18)
Fotopoulou Myrsini (2018-19)
Zirganou- Kazolea Lina (2019-20)

HELLENIC OBSERVATORY PhD SCHOLAR (FULL TIME)

Glyniadaki Katerina (2015-19)

NATIONAL BANK OF GREECE

Georganta Korina (2000-01)

LSE HELLENIC ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

MSc SCHOLAR

Kaplani Santra (2008-09)

APPENDIX IV: HELLENIC OBSERVATORY PROFESSIONAL SERVICES STAFF

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MANAGERS

Demades Ismini (2007-19)
Vyzantiadou Sofia (2018-present)

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Vambouli Eleni (1999)
Nicolaou Demetra (1999-03)
Loukopoulou Katerina (2003-04)
Kantirou Maria (2004-5)
Palapanidou Athina (2005)
Nikita Maria (2006-07)
Christofidou Sofia (2007)
Antonopoulou Ioanna (2010-13)
Liouta Polly (Events Coordinator, 2013-18)
Stankova Aleksandra (2013-18)
Kontogeorgou Ioanna (Events Coordinator, 2015)
Vyzantiadou Sofia (2017)
Chatzistergou Areti Eleftheria (2018- present)

APENDIX V: COMMENTS AND ENDORSEMENTS

Mrs Dora Bakoyanni, Minister of Foreign Affairs

Comments made at the LSE Hellenic Alumni Association event, Zappeion Athens, October 2006: *'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.'*

Dr Kostas Karamanlis, Prime Minister of the Hellenic Republic

'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 Athanasia Chalari, A.C. Laskaridis Post-Doctoral Fellow

'The year I have spent at the Hellenic Observatory was the most intellectually fulfilling and rewarding experience. This year enabled me to share the excitement of my endeavours with political, and social scientists and receive the most proficient support regarding my own research plans and activities. The group of people comprising the HO, offer the friendliest, supportive and academically stimulating environment that a researcher could ever hope for.'

Dr Spyros Kosmidis, National Bank of Greece Research Fellow

'The HO provides top quality academic research in a friendly and collegial environment. During my time there I enhanced my understanding of the political dimension of the Greek crisis. At the same time, my interactions with the HO members of staff helped me see modern Greece through alternative angles, seminars while the stimulating and public lectures sparked off fruitful - endless - discussions about Greece's future. Overall a fantastic experience!'

Professor Yannis Valinakis, Ministry of Finance Greece Senior Research Fellow

'My time at the LSE was a very rewarding and refreshing experience. The HO is a thriving research community that inspires academic work; it gave me the opportunity to get acquainted with and engage in stimulating discussions with fellow scholars and approach European affairs in an interdisciplinary manner.'

Katerina Glyniadaki, Hellenic Observatory PhD Scholar

'I feel very lucky for having received the 2015-2019 PhD scholarship from the Hellenic Observatory. It was a unique opportunity for me to pursue my research interests at a doctoral level and to interact with, and learn from, brilliant scholars from all over the world. While completing a PhD thesis is a naturally demanding and challenging process, I was very lucky to have the support of the HO and its members. I was able to grow and develop, primarily as a scholar, but also as a person. It was an extremely rich and enhancing experience, for which I am grateful.'

Helen Louri – Dendrinou, Visiting Professor

'I can only make positive comments about HO's organization and smooth functioning and the quality and variety of events organized. Although there are basically only 5 people (3 academics and 2 in management) they run one of the most active units at the LSE, I believe. And I would like to thank them for hosting me.'

Angelos Chryssogelos, NBG Post-Doctoral Research Fellow

'For somebody interested in Greek affairs, the HO provides a unique environment to discuss Greece but always within the broader context of European politics.'

Antonis Ellinas, Visiting Senior Fellow

'I am thankful for the opportunity to see again the HO team, for the resources made available and, more generally, for the hospitality. I am impressed with how much the HO team is achieving with relatively and comparatively few resources.'

Myrsini Fotopoulou, Visiting Research Student

'I found that the visiting scheme significantly helped forward my research. Interaction with other PhD students, researchers and academics, support by institutional personnel and facilities, and the diverse ways of sharing knowledge inside the institution offered a distinctive experience!'

Papakonstantinou Katerina, Visiting Fellow

'I strongly believe the HO team is a proactive and carrying team that welcomes people and make them feel accepted. I am grateful to the HO team that they offered me a fellowship since I am not member of any institution and therefore, I am usually excluded from such opportunities. I assume there are other people like me who would like to be part of the wider academic community. In that sense I believe that HO could be the reference point for all UK residing researchers, academics and PhD holders with an interest in Greece, Cyprus and the diaspora and engage them in different research projects, seminars, meetings, webinars etc.'

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People have said for our events:

'Greatly intellectually stimulating and insightful. Many thanks!'

'Thanks to all the speakers and the LSE for organizing this illuminating programme.'

'Wonderful stream. Thank you LSE and Hellenic Observatory.'

'Watched from Bulgaria. Thank you so much for this great discussion!'

Participants to our PhD Symposium:

'The HO PhD Symposium is an extraordinary initiative that gives the opportunity for researchers to exchange their knowledge and ideas but also build collaboration. Thank you LSE and Hellenic Observatory!'

'My sincere appreciation to the Hellenic Observatory for the opportunity to present part of my Ph.D. dissertation. Special thanks to Prof. Kevin Featherstone for his crucial advice about the "30sec challenge...", to all distinguished Professors for their inspirational contribution and to A. G. Leventis Foundation for its support. Last but not least, a big thank you to my colleagues of our session for their kind attention and fruitful comments/questions on my field. My very best wishes to you all!'



**HELLENIC
OBSERVATORY**

European Institute

Research at LSE ■

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