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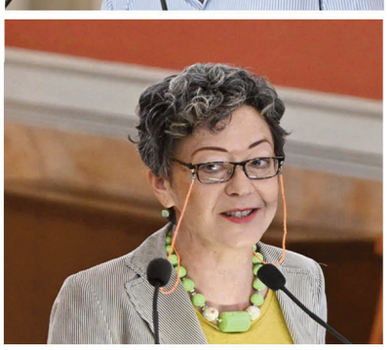


LSE CENTRE FOR RESEARCH ON CONTEMPORARY GREECE & CYPRUS

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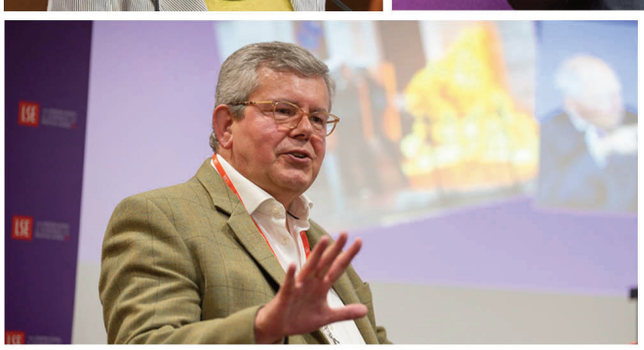
















ANNUAL REVIEW 2025/26

Hellenic Observatory Centre for Research on Contemporary Greece and Cyprus

Research at **LSE**


LSE
The London School of Economics and Political Science
LSE

editorial



September 2026 marks a significant milestone for the Hellenic Observatory: thirty years since the establishment at LSE of the Eleftherios Venizelos Chair of Contemporary Greek Studies, the first of its kind outside Greece, and two years since the launch of the LSE Centre for Research on Contemporary Greece and Cyprus, the new hypostasis of the Hellenic Observatory.

Over the last two years, the Centre has developed rapidly from a new institutional initiative into a fully functioning LSE Research Centre, producing and supporting impactful research, fostering academic collaboration, and serving as a bridge between scholarship and public policy. The academic year covered in this report, 2025/26, unfolded against a backdrop of international uncertainty. Geopolitical tensions, economic pressures and technological change continued to shape developments across Europe and beyond. In Greece and Cyprus, important political and economic developments reinforced the need for rigorous, evidence-based research and informed public debate. It is in this context that the Centre's mission acquires renewed significance: to advance knowledge, inform public discussion and contribute constructively to policy debates through high-quality research and open dialogue.

Our activities during the year reflected this commitment. Public and policy engagement expanded significantly in the UK and internationally. We welcomed distinguished speakers including the Greek Minister of National Economy and Finance, Kyriakos Pierrakakis, the Greek Minister of Labour and Social Security, Niki Kerameus, and the former European Commissioner Anna Diamantopoulou. We also relaunched the flagship LSE Athens Lectures in partnership with the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, continued the development of Greece in Numbers with IOBE and Yale University, and contributed to major policy forums including the Delphi Economic Forum and the Cyprus Forum.

Our educational mission also broadened considerably. The PhD Affiliate Scheme and our predoctoral programme are creating new opportunities for emerging scholars working on Greece and Cyprus. Together with our established PhD Symposium, postdoctoral opportunities and collaboration with the Greek Politics Specialist Group of the Political Studies Association, these initiatives are helping build the next generation of researchers and strengthen scholarly networks in the field.

Research remains at the heart of everything we do, and 2025/26 saw significant expansion in both scale and scope. New projects supported through competitive funding schemes, including Horizon Europe and the British Academy, complemented ongoing collaborations with institutions such as the Bank of Greece, the Institute of Regional Development, ICAP Advisory and ETERON. Through our Research Fund, we supported ten projects spanning economics, politics and society, addressing topics ranging from climate related transition risks and digital infrastructure to housing, inequality and political behaviour. Our external calls programme similarly enabled innovative research on democratic trust, migration governance and gender empowerment. Together, these activities strengthened the Centre's research portfolio, expanded opportunities for collaboration, and reinforced our position as a leading hub for the study of contemporary Greece and Cyprus.

The expansion of our activities has been matched by the growth of our academic community, including postdoctoral researchers, predoctoral Research Assistants, doctoral and faculty affiliates, Visiting Fellows, Research Associates and a dedicated professional services team.

As we enter a new academic year, we do so with confidence in what has been achieved and ambition for what lies ahead. Our mission remains clear: to generate excellent scholarship on Greece and Cyprus; to support and inspire the next generation of researchers; and to contribute meaningfully to public understanding and policy debate. The journey continues.



Professor Vassilis Monastiriotis

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





events













Greece’s economic and digital transformation: in conversation with Kyriakos Pierrakakis

Friday 14 November 2025

For its inaugural public event of the last academic year, the Centre welcomed **Kyriakos Pierrakakis**, Greece’s Minister of Economy and Finance for a thought-provoking discussion on the country’s economic turnaround and digital transformation. Co-hosted with the **Hellenic Bankers Association UK (HBA UK)**, the event brought together academics, policymakers and financial professionals to explore Greece’s evolving growth story.

In conversation with Professor **Vassilis Monastiriotis**, Minister Pierrakakis reflected on Greece’s remarkable journey from the sovereign debt crisis to becoming one of Europe’s strongest performing economies. He argued that the country’s recovery has been driven not by a single reform, but by a profound shift in mindset, combining fiscal discipline, structural reforms and the determination to avoid repeating the mistakes of the past.

He described Greece as moving beyond a “story of recovery” towards one of long-term renewal. A central theme of the discussion was the transformative role of digital government. Drawing on his experience as former Minister of Digital Governance, Kyriakos Pierrakakis emphasised that successful digitalisation is essentially about redesigning public services around citizens’ needs rather than simply introducing new technology. Greece’s Gov.gr platform, which has streamlined hundreds of public services, was presented as an example of how thoughtful policy design, strong preparation and effective implementation can fundamentally improve government performance.

Looking ahead, the Minister highlighted productivity, innovation and deeper European integration as the next priorities for sustaining growth. He advocated for completing the EU’s Savings and Investments Union, strengthening the Single Market and supporting European technological champions, while continuing reforms that enhance competitiveness and social cohesion. The discussion concluded with an engaging audience Q&A covering capital markets, demographic challenges, digital innovation and Greece’s role in shaping Europe’s economic future.





Skills training and quality jobs in Europe: insights from Greece

Friday 8 May 2026

The transformation of the Greek labour market, and the policies supporting employment growth, skills development and social inclusion were the focus of a discussion with **Niki Kerameus**, Greece's Minister of Labour and Social Security. Chaired by Professor **Vassilis Monastiriotis**, the event examined how active labour market policies, upskilling and reskilling programmes, and social dialogue can contribute to better skills matching and the creation of quality jobs.

Drawing on recent labour market data, Minister Kerameus highlighted the significant decline in unemployment in Greece since 2019, and the rise in full-time employment. She argued that these developments have been driven by a broad programme of active labour market policies, including large-scale upskilling and reskilling initiatives, targeted employment schemes, reforms to vocational education and training, and digital tools designed to connect job seekers more effectively with employers.

The discussion also explored broader structural challenges facing the Greek economy. Focus was given to efforts to better connect workers with employers through career days, digital job-matching tools and the Rebrain Greece initiative, which seeks to strengthen links with highly skilled Greeks abroad.

Attention also turned to the importance of co-operation between government, employers and employees, with the Minister outlining recent progress in collective bargaining and social dialogue.

The future of work was also a key topic of the discussion, with artificial intelligence emerging as a key focus of the conversation and its potential to reshape labour markets. Minister Kerameus stressed that technological progress must be accompanied by sustained investment in skills and careful consideration of its long-term implications for labour markets and social protection systems. The event concluded with an engaging audience discussion covering topics including productivity, foreign investment, higher education, social dialogue and demographic change.



Identity battles on social media: trending in the Western Balkans and beyond

Thursday 30 October 2025

As social media increasingly shapes political identities and public debate, questions about how online platforms influence conflict, reconciliation, and activism have become more pressing. Hosted by the Hellenic Observatory's Research Group on South Eastern Europe (LSEE), the panel discussion explored how digital spaces are transforming identity politics across the Western Balkans and beyond. Bringing together perspectives from media studies, anthropology, and gender studies, the discussion examined the ways in which social media platforms can simultaneously reinforce divisions, foster new forms of belonging, and create opportunities for civic engagement and social change. Speakers Dr **Sanja Vico** (University of Exeter), Dr **Ivana Stepanović** (Institute of Advanced Studies Kőszeg) and Dr **Natasha Dimitrovska** (Monash University) analysed how social media mediate national, regional, and gender identities, from the everyday performances of nationalism and cosmopolitanism among diasporic communities to the emergence of transnational "Balkan" identities shaped by influencers and platform algorithms. The panel also examined online feminist activism, highlighting both the opportunities for solidarity and civic engagement and the challenges posed by misogyny, anti-gender movements, and digital harassment. Moderated by Professor **Denisa Kostovicova** (LSE), the event considered whether social media primarily deepen polarisation or create new possibilities for dialogue, reconciliation, and political participation. Reflecting on the legacies of the Yugoslav wars, the role of influencers, and the impact of platform design, the discussion underscored the complex and often contradictory influence of social media on identity formation, civic mobilisation, and democratic life in Southeast Europe.



Greek, not green: green politics and environmental attitudes in Greece – another Greek exceptionalism?

Thursday 6 November 2025

This panel focused on Green political representation, asking why ecological politics have remained on the margins despite mounting climate challenges and a fragmented political landscape. Bringing together perspectives from political activism, academia, civil society and party politics, the discussion examined the historical development of the Greek Green movement, public attitudes towards environmental issues, and the structural obstacles facing Green political actors.

Speakers **Yiannis Paraskevopoulos** (former co-spokesperson of Ecologist Greens), **Professor Iosif Botetzagias** (University of the Aegean), **Theodota Nantsou** (WWF Greece) and **Petros Kokkalis** (then Secretary of Political Party 'Kosmos'), reflected on the successes and missed opportunities of Green politics in Greece, highlighting the movement's organisational fragmentation, strategic divisions and difficulties in building a durable electoral base. The discussion examined whether Green parties have struggled to define a distinct political identity in a landscape long dominated by larger parties, and considered the extent to which periods of electoral success reflected sustained support for environmental politics or broader protest against the political establishment.



Moderated by Professor **Vassilis Monastiriotis**, the panel also challenged the assumption that Greeks are indifferent to environmental issues. Drawing on survey evidence, speakers argued that concern about climate change, environmental protection and sustainability is widespread but often accompanied by deep distrust of political institutions and parties. Looking ahead, the discussion explored whether Green politics in Greece can gain wider appeal by linking environmental action more directly to everyday concerns such as energy costs, housing, economic security and quality of life, while presenting the green transition not as a cost but as an opportunity for social and economic renewal.

The future of social protection in Europe: welfare state risks and policy responses for Europe and Greece

Thursday 5 February 2026

How can Europe's welfare states remain resilient amid demographic change, technological disruption, and growing social inequalities? These questions were explored in a panel discussion featuring **Anna Diamantopoulou**, President of DIKTIO and former European Commissioner, Professor **Sir Julian Le Grand** of the Marshall Institute at LSE, and **Panos Tsakloglou,** Professor at the Athens University of Economics and Business and former Deputy Minister of Social Insurance.

The discussion focused on the future of the European welfare systems amid the unprecedented pressures they are facing, including population ageing, labour market transformation driven by automation and artificial intelligence, climate-related risks, and shifting geopolitical conditions. Speakers reflected on the strengths and limitations of existing welfare models, highlighting the need for reforms that move beyond traditional income support towards a more holistic approach centred on social investment.

Emphasis was given to Greece, where long-standing structural weaknesses, demographic decline, and the legacy of the economic crisis continue to challenge the social protection system. Panellists stressed

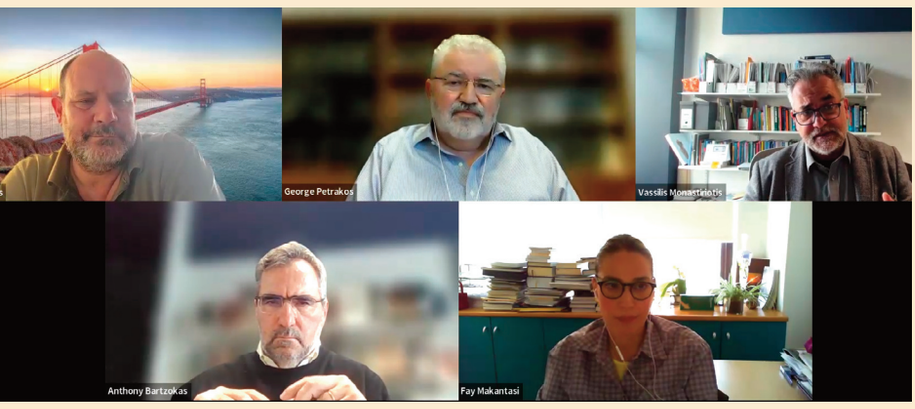


the importance of investing in early childhood support, lifelong learning, skills development and long-term care, while also addressing fiscal sustainability and inequality. Chaired by Professor **Vassilis Monastiriotis**, the discussion concluded with a lively exchange with the audience on migration, demographic change, productivity and the political challenges of implementing reform, underscoring the need for forward-looking policies that can safeguard social cohesion in an increasingly uncertain world.

From absorption to productivity: lessons from RRF experience

Tuesday 12 May 2026

This panel discussion examined the role of the EU's Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF) in supporting economic recovery and long-term structural transformation, focusing on Greece as one of the programme's largest beneficiaries. Speakers included Dr **Fay Makantasi**, Research Director, diaNEOsis; **Nikos Mantzoufas**, Associate Partner, EY-Parthenon and **George Petrakos**, Professor of Spatial Econ-mics, University of Thessaly. Moderated by **Athony Bartzokas,** Professor of Economics, University of Athens and chaired by Professor **Vassilis Monastiriotis**, the discussion explored the effectiveness of RRF implementation, Greece's capacity to deliver reforms and investments with lasting productivity impact, lessons from governance and monitoring mechanisms, and implications for the design of future EU funding instruments. The discussion highlighted Greece's strong performance in securing approvals, completing milestones and mobilising investment through the RRF, supported by a centralised governance model and partnerships with domestic and international financial institutions. Panellists reflected on evidence of positive effects on growth, employment and investment, while questioning whether these gains are translating into sustained productivity improvements. Attention was given to persistent structural challenges, including low total factor productivity, limited R&D intensity, barriers to SME digitalisation and technology transfer, and uneven labour market participation. Speakers concluded that long-term success depends on administrative capacity, implementation quality, and the ability to convert investment into lasting competitiveness and sustainable growth.



Cyprus untied? New prospects and old challenges for the resumption of talks

Tuesday 9 June 2026

What opportunities exist for renewed dialogue on the Cyprus issue, and can emerging political and geopolitical developments help overcome longstanding obstacles to reunification? These questions were explored in an event chaired by Professor **Vassilis Monastiriotis** featuring Professor **Neophytos Loizides** (University of Warwick), Dr **Sinem Arslan** (Visiting Fellow, Hellenic Observatory) and Professor **Alex Michaelides** (Imperial College Business School). Loizides highlighted a cautious optimism surrounding the Cyprus negotiations. Drawing on recent public opinion research, he argued that support for a bizonal, bicommunal federation has increased in both communities and emphasised the importance of innovative approaches, including citizen assemblies and participatory mechanisms, in rebuilding trust and shaping future negotiations. Arslan examined shifting dynamics within the Turkish Cypriot community and its relationship with Turkey. Presenting findings from extensive fieldwork and public opinion surveys, she highlighted growing dissatisfaction with political intervention from Ankara alongside persistent concerns over security and intercommunal trust. While support for the status quo remains low, security considerations continue to shape attitudes towards potential settlement



models. Michaelides focused on the economic dimensions of reunification, stressing the need for greater public discussion and transparency regarding institutional design, fiscal arrangements, property restitution, and long-term economic governance. He argued that addressing uncertainty through detailed planning and credible economic frameworks would be essential in building public confidence in any future agreement. The discussion highlighted both the complexity of the Cyprus question and the importance of sustained dialogue, evidence-based policymaking, and civic engagement in advancing prospects for a lasting and viable settlement.

Book Launch: Greek Prime Ministers in the eye of the storm

Wednesday 29 April 2026

What happens to political leadership and government institutions when a country is pushed to the brink? This question was at the heart of a Hellenic Observatory book launch for *Greek Prime Ministers in the Eye of the Storm: Crisis Management and Institutional Change*, featuring the authors Professor **Kevin Featherstone** (LSE) and Professor **Dimitris Papadimitriou** (University of Manchester), alongside discussants Professor **Stella Ladi** (Queen Mary University of London and Panteion University) and **Declan Costello** (DG ECFIN, European Commission). The event was chaired by **Professor Yaprak Gürsoy** (LSE).

Drawing on more than 200 hours of interviews with senior policymakers, including all four Greek prime ministers who governed during the 2009-2019 crisis, the book examines how successive governments navigated one of the most severe economic crises in modern European history. Rather than focusing on the economic outcomes of the bailout years, the speakers explored the institutional dynamics of crisis management. The central question was whether the extraordinary pressures of the sovereign debt crisis strengthened the authority of prime ministers and prompted lasting reforms to Greece's system of government. The authors argued that contrary to expectations in the crisis management literature, the crisis did not fundamentally centralise power or transform the core executive. Instead, successive governments relied largely on personalised leadership, trusted informal networks and ad hoc decision-making, while deeper institutional reform remained limited. The discussion also reflected on the longer-term legacy of the crisis. Panellists considered whether meaningful institutional learning occurred only after the bailout period, highlighting reforms introduced from 2019 onwards and debating the extent to which these represent genuine structural change rather than adaptations layered onto enduring political practices. The event concluded with a lively audience discussion on European crisis governance, political accountability, media narratives and the broader lessons the Greek experience offers for understanding state resilience and institutional reform across Europe.



LSE Athens Lectures



The 2025/26 academic year marked the relaunch of the LSE Athens Lectures, a flagship Hellenic Observatory initiative aimed at fostering dialogue between LSE research and audiences in Greece. Building on the success of the original series (2014–2021), the relaunched programme offers a platform for informed public dialogue on some of today's most important social, political and economic challenges. Organised in partnership with the **National and Kapodistrian University of Athens** and supported by the **LSE Hellenic Alumni Association**, our **sponsors**, and e-media partner **Kerkyra Publications – Economia Publishing**, the series reinforces the Observatory's commitment to fostering evidence-based debate and strengthening academic links between the UK and Greece.

Hellenic Observatory Centre
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Beliefism: how to stop hating the people we disagree with

Wednesday 26 November 2025

For the inaugural LSE Athens Lecture, we welcomed Professor **Paul Dolan** to discuss his latest book, *Beliefism: How to Stop Hating the People We Disagree With*. Drawing on behavioural science, psychology and economics, Dolan introduced the concept of "beliefism", the tendency to divide people into opposing camps based on a single belief or identity marker. He argued that political, social and cultural differences often overshadow the complexity of individual character and experience, encouraging polarisation and groupthink. While recognising the human desire for certainty and belonging, he stressed that "well-functioning societies celebrate difference" and warned against dismissing those with opposing views. Responding to the lecture, Dr **Lamprini Rori** (NKUA) considered how beliefism shapes political debate in Greece, particularly in relation to social media and democratic discourse. The discussion also engaged questions of tolerance, free speech and artificial intelligence, ending with a hopeful call to build stronger connections through shared experiences.

Gender roles and parental time allocation

Friday 27 February 2026

The second event of the series brought together academics, students and policymakers for a discussion on gender equality, family life and the labour market. Professor **Almudena Sevilla CBE** presented research on parental time allocation and the persistence of gender inequality, while Professor **Irene Kamberidou** (NKUA) reflected on the implications for Greece. Sevilla introduced the concept of "on-call care", the constant responsibility, supervision and emotional availability that parenting requires, but which often remains invisible in conventional measures of childcare. Her findings show that this hidden form of care falls disproportionately on mothers and continues well into children's teenage years, helping to explain enduring gender gaps in employment and earnings despite expanded childcare provision and parental leave policies. Kamberidou highlighted the persistence of unequal care responsibilities in Greece and the need for broader cultural and institutional change. Audience contributions, including from Professor Yannis Stournaras, Governor of the Bank of Greece, extended the discussion to financial literacy, workplace expectations and the role of fathers in caregiving.

Critical raw materials in the EU: autonomy, technological transitions and economic growth

Thursday 28 May 2026

The third LSE Athens Lecture of the year welcomed Professor **Simona Iammarino** for a discussion on critical raw materials and their significance for Europe's technological and industrial future. Professor **Anthony Bartzokas** (NKUA) joined as discussant. Iammarino examined the growing strategic importance of critical raw materials such as lithium, cobalt, gallium and rare earth elements, which are essential for technologies underpinning the green and digital transitions. Drawing on findings from a decade-long research programme, she discussed how dependence on these resources affects innovation, competitiveness and regional development, while also assessing the ambitions and limitations of the EU's Critical Raw Materials Act. Bartzokas highlighted the importance of investment, financing and industrial policy. The discussion addressed Europe's relationship with China, energy costs, innovation and international partnerships, emphasising the need for coordinated long-term strategies to strengthen economic resilience and strategic autonomy.

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LSE Hellenic Alumni Association

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joint events & contributions

During the academic year 2025/26, the Hellenic Observatory continued to engage with academic, policy and public discussions on contemporary Greece through a wide range of events and partnerships. From supporting student-led initiatives and alumni engagement to contributing to major policy forums and international academic discussions, the Centre brought its expertise to debates on Greece's economy, labour market, European integration, social change and public life. The following highlights showcase the Centre's engagement throughout the year:

Welcome to the city, HAALSE

Monday 3 November 2025, Athens

The Hellenic Alumni Association of the London School of Economics (HAALSE) hosted its *Welcome to the City* event in Athens as part of the LSE Global programme, welcoming recent graduates to the alumni community and reconnecting alumni across generations. Professor **Vassilis Monastiriotis** took part in a panel discussion on *What Advice Would You Give to Your Younger Self?*, sharing personal reflections and career advice with attendees at the Stelios Foundation Conference Hall.

LSE Hellenic Alumni Association

Debate: Brexit

Friday 5 December 2025, London

Marking Debate House's first international event, *Debate: Brexit* brought together academics, alumni, civic organisations and members of the public in London for a wide-ranging discussion on the legacy of Brexit. Co-hosted by Debate House and the LSE Hellenic Alumni Association (HAALSE), with the support of the Stelios Philanthropic Foundation UK and of the Hellenic Observatory, the high-profile event featured a keynote speech by the Centre Director, Professor **Vassilis Monastiriotis**.



LSESU Hellenic Conference 2026

Saturday 7 – Sunday 8 February 2026, London

The annual Conference of the LSE Students' Union Hellenic Society has become an important annual forum for discussion on contemporary Greece, bringing together a varied audience of academics, professionals, policymakers and students for a weekend of engaging discussions on contemporary political, economic and social developments in Greece and beyond. The Hellenic Observatory continued its longstanding engagement with the Conference, contributing to this year's programme through a discussion featuring Professor **Vassilis Monastiriotis** and Emeritus Professor **Nikos Christodoulakis**, former Minister of Finance. Their conversation reflected on Greece's economic trajectory and the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead.

LSE HELLENIC CONFERENCE
in partnership with King's College

Short Stay Athens Conference 2026

Thursday 19 – Friday 20 February 2026, Athens

At the Short Stay Athens Conference 2026 that took place on19-20 February 2026, Dr **Philipp Katsinas** represented the Centre and discussed the rapidly evolving short-term rental sector in Greece through the lens of available data, highlighting key trends, patterns, and evidence gaps. The presentation explored the strengths and limitations of existing datasets and discussed how improved data collection and transparency could support more informed research, policy-making, and industry decision-making on the impacts of short-term rentals and tourism.

stama® | ShortStay Conferences

Delphi Economic Forum XI

Wednesday 22 – Saturday 25 April 2026, Delphi

In April, the Centre was knowledge partner of the 11th Delphi Economic Forum, participating once again in one of Greece's leading policy events. As part of the Centre's contribution to the programme, LSE President and Vice-Chancellor Professor **Larry Kramer** joined Emeritus Professor **Kevin Featherstone** for a discussion on *Universities in an Age of Polarisation*, examining the role of universities and the social sciences in navigating the political and social divisions of an increasingly polarised world. The Centre's Director, Professor **Vassilis Monastiriotis**, also participated in a roundtable on *The Future of the European Gig Economy*, bringing the Centre's expertise to discussions on the evolving world of work.



After #MeToo Feminist politics in the age of backlash

Tuesday 2 June 2026, Athens

On 2 June, the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens hosted an international roundtable to mark the publication of *Το #MeToo στα Μέσα Επικοινωνίας* (#MeToo in the Media ed. by Prof. Lilie Chouliaraki and published by Nissos publications, Athens). The event brought together leading scholars including Professor **Liza Tsaliki** (NKUA), Professor **Lilie Chouliaraki** (LSE), Professor **Sarah Banet-Weiser** (University of Pennsylvania), Professor **Rosalind Gill** (Goldsmiths), Dr **Kathryn Claire Higgins** (Goldsmiths). Chaired by Dr **Lamprini Rori** (NKUA), the discussion explored feminist politics in an era of backlash and reflected on the lasting impact of the #MeToo movement on public debates around gender, media and social change. The international roundtable was organised by the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens in collaboration with the Hellenic Observatory, as part of the HOC-funded project Femicides in Greek Media, led by Professor Lilie Chouliaraki.



Patras Applied Microeconomics (PAM) Workshop

Wednesday 1 – Friday 3 July 2026, Patras

The Hellenic Observatory was pleased to support the Patras Applied Microeconomics (PAM) Workshop 2026, contributing to a vibrant forum for cutting-edge research in applied microeconomics. Bringing together academics and researchers from Greece and abroad, the workshop fostered discussion on policy-relevant topics, including labour economics, the economics of education, and health economics. Through its continued support, the Centre reaffirmed its commitment to advancing high-quality research, fostering scholarly collaboration, and promoting evidence-based policymaking.

seminars

The Hellenic Observatory's Research Seminar Series provides a platform for the presentation and discussion of innovative research on Greece, Cyprus, and the wider region. Bringing together established academics and emerging scholars from diverse disciplines, the series fosters intellectual exchange and constructive debate, offering participants the opportunity to test ideas, refine methodologies, and receive valuable feedback from peers. This year's topics spanned politics, economics, foreign affairs, and social issues, reflecting the breadth and depth of contemporary research on Greece and Cyprus.

The contribution of the digital economy and skills to local economic development in the EUSAIR region

Wednesday 15 October 2025



Will Bartlett, *Editor-in-Chief, Economic Annals, Faculty of Economics and Business, University of Belgrade*

The "EU Strategy for the Adriatic-Ionian Region" (EUSAIR) macro-region spans nine Southern European countries from Greece through the Western Balkans to the eastern seaboard of Italy. The presentation addressed the contribution of investment in the digital economy and skills to economic growth in this region. A model of the factors driving economic growth was estimated using a panel dataset covering 39 NUTS2 subregions of EUSAIR over a ten-year period. It distinguished between EU member states and accession states. In the latter, key drivers of growth are the mobilisation of the inactive labour force, investment in the information and communications technology (ICT) sectors and the proportion of young people who receive vocational education and training (VET). In the EU member states the proportion of STEM graduates in the workforce is the most important factor. The presentation also distinguished between capital-city regions and peripheral regions. It showed that investment in ICT sectors has a stronger effect on growth in the peripheral regions than in capital-city regions, while the mobilisation of inactive workers and the proportion of STEM graduates has a stronger effect in the latter regions. In conclusion, the catch-up of peripheral regions in the accession states could be best promoted by investing in ICT sectors and supporting VET education among young people.

Masculinity under pressure

Wednesday 22 October 2025



Georgios Samaras, *Lecturer (Assistant Professor) in Public Policy, King's College London*

What drove men to Golden Dawn? Georgios Samaras presented his study, arguing that socioeconomic deprivation alone cannot account for the party's appeal. Instead, he shows how the post-2009 crash reshaped work, status, and family roles for men, and how that strain was channelled by far-right actors into grievance, protection, and order narratives. It was a strongly gendered sense of loss guided men towards a far-right party that promised to restore pride and status during Greece's economic crisis. Drawing on 35 interviews with Golden Dawn voters recruited through the party's organising networks in Athens, the paper develops a gendered account of far-right mobilisation and examines how voters interacted with the party and made sense of their perceived loss. It argues that these gendered processes were embedded in the far-right ideology that shaped Golden Dawn's appeal during the crisis years.

Brain drain, skills mismatch and the fiscal multiplier

Wednesday 29 October 2025

Eugenia Vella, *Assistant Professor, Athens University of Economics and Business*



Eugenia Vella presented joint work with **George Liontos** (AUEB) and **Konstantinos Mavrigiannakis** (University of Cyprus) examining the relationship between high-skilled emigration, skills mismatch and fiscal policy during Greece's economic crisis. The research examines how the large-scale emigration of highly educated Greeks affected the depth of the recession, the effectiveness of fiscal policy and the evolution of skills mismatch in the labour market. Using a dynamic macroeconomic model calibrated to the Greek economy, the study shows that the emigration of highly skilled workers amplified the recession by reducing investment and aggregate demand, increasing the impact of fiscal consolidation on economic activity. At the same time, the outflow of skilled labour mitigated the rise in skills mismatch by reducing the number of overqualified workers competing for lower-skilled jobs. Applying the model to the Greek case, the researchers estimate that, in the absence of high-skilled emigration, Greece's skills mismatch rate could have been around three percentage points higher in 2016. The findings provide new insights into the long-term economic consequences of the Greek crisis and offer important lessons for the design of fiscal and labour market policies in countries facing sustained high-skilled emigration.

Conditionality lending vs performance-based budgeting: lessons from public sector reform in Greece

Wednesday 12 November 2025



Angelos Angelou, *Assistant Professor of European Political and Economic Governance, Panteion University*

The seminar by Angelos Angelou presented joint research with **Stella Ladi** (QMUL & Panteion) and **Dimitris Tsarouhas** (Virginia Tech) examining whether the EU's Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF) has improved the implementation of structural reforms across member states. Focusing on reforms that had remained incomplete following earlier economic adjustment programmes, the study investigates whether the RRF's distinctive governance model has helped governments deliver long-delayed policy reforms. Drawing on evidence from Greece, Po-rtugal, Ireland, Cyprus and Spain, the research finds that the RRF has facilitated progress on a range of previously stalled reforms, particularly in areas such as public administration, public procurement, labour market reform and social policy. Compared to earlier forms of EU conditionality, the RRF appears to have strengthened implementation through a combination of greater national ownership, clearer reform objectives, and the direct linking of funding to measurable milestones and targets. The findings suggest that the RRF has become more than a crisis-response instrument. By tying reform delivery to financial support, the RRF has introduced a new model of EU governance that has encouraged governments to advance reforms that had proven politically or administratively difficult to implement in the past, while highlighting the continuing importance of domestic political and institutional constraints.

From ostensible to actual media plurality: an examination of content plurality in Greece's fragmented media system

Wednesday 19 November 2025

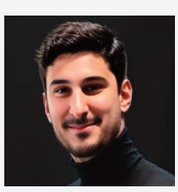


Yani Kartalis, *Assistant Professor, University of Copenhagen*

Yani Kartalis presented research on media plurality in Greece, examining whether the country's highly fragmented digital media landscape translates into genuine diversity of news content. The project, funded by the Hellenic Observatory Research Calls Programme on Greece, combines large-scale computational methods with empirical analysis to investigate how ownership structures shape media content, drawing on a comprehensive new dataset covering more than one hundred Greek online news outlets and millions of news articles published throughout 2024. The findings suggest that despite the large number of online news providers, diversity in content remains limited. News outlets display relatively similar patterns of topic coverage, substantial reproduction of news agency material, and considerable clustering in the framing of political news. The analysis also finds that media outlets under common ownership exhibit greater similarity in content, sentiment and stance towards the government than independently owned outlets, highlighting the influence of ownership on editorial output. By introducing a novel dataset and innovative LLM-based methods for analysing media content, the project provides new empirical evidence on the paradox of media pluralism in Greece and establishes a valuable foundation for future research on the country's media ecosystem.

Propaganda, mobilisation and electoral repression in Greece

Wednesday 3 December 2025



Georgios Melios, *Research Officer, Hellenic Observatory, LSE*

Following the end of the Greek Civil war, Greece experienced one of the most politically turbulent periods in its modern history, the 1961 elections of "violence and electoral oppression". In this seminar, Georgios Melios, drawing on joint work with **Vassilis Logothetis** (University of Ioannina), examined the role of communist propaganda in shaping political coordination and electoral outcomes between 1956 and 1961, leading up to the electoral oppression of 1961. They show how radio propaganda helped the Left emerge as the country's second-largest political force in the 1958 elections, and how the state responded to this unprecedented electoral breakthrough. Using a combination of historical evidence, contemporaneous data and econometric analyses, the study investigates the effects of different forms of political repression on both government and opposition forces, highlighting their long-term consequences of such actions on co-ntemporary beliefs and political outcomes.

Words and votes in the Greek Parliament, 1865-1915: a discursive-network theory of legislative order

Wednesday 10 December 2025



Aristeidis Grivokostopoulos, *PhD candidate in Economic History, LSE; Doctoral Affiliate, Hellenic Observatory*

Greece before WWI is typically characterised as a period of crises, clientelism, and weak institutions. But what if have been looking in the wrong place? Aristeidis Grivokostopoulos presented a paper that shifts attention from executive turnover to the legislature itself, drawing on newly digitised parliamentary archives of speeches and roll-call votes. These records preserve individual-level voting behaviour of a kind rarely available for a nineteenth-century parliament of the European periphery. How do legislators coordinate when party boundaries are fluid and no whips enforce discipline, and what sustains cohesion when factions form around persons rather than programmes? These questions bear on the origins of party systems and how legislatures work under weak institutions, with relevance for contexts ranging from post-colonial parliaments to contemporary party system collapses.

Natural resources co-management, green transition and divided societies: zones of agreement in the Cyprus case

Wednesday 21 January 2026



Charis Psaltis, *Professor of Social and Developmental Psychology, University of Cyprus*



Neophytos Loizides, *Professor of International Conflict Analysis, University of Warwick*

Charis Psaltis and Neophytos Loizides presented the findings of a project funded by the Hellenic Observatory's A.G. Leventis Research Innovation Programme on Cyprus, examining public attitudes towards different peace settlement arrangements and models of regional energy cooperation. The research explores how different combinations of governance, security, territorial arrangements and energy projects shape public support for potential peace settlements, using a conjoint survey experiment with 800 Greek Cypriot respondents, alongside deliberative citizens' assemblies. The project also included data from the Turkish-Cypriot community, allowing comparisons across both communities. Using conjoint analysis, researchers identified 118 variations of the Guterres Framework that could attract referendum support above 55% among both Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots. These scenarios are available for public exploration through the interactive Cyprus Co-njoint Predictions Tool. The findings show that territorial arrangements and credible international security guarantees remain the strongest drivers of support for a settlement. At the same time, renewable energy cooperation enjoys broad public support and emerges as an effective confidence-building measure, creating new opportunities for dialogue, reconciliation and regional stability in the Eastern Mediterranean.

The question of democratic backsliding in Greece under New Democracy rule: a case of "liberal illiberalism"?

Wednesday 28 January 2026



Angelos Chryssogelos, *Senior Lecturer, Politics and International Relations, London Metropolitan University*

A highly politicized debate has emerged in Greece in recent years about quality of democratic governance under a strong single-party government faced with a fragmented opposition. At their most damning, some arguments see developments in Greece as falling within the framework of backsliding and illiberalism, concepts that have become prominent in the international debate. Building on conceptual and empirical work conducted with **Yannis Tsirmpas** (UoA), this seminar explored recent trends in various indicators of democratic health in Greece and discussed how they can be understood conceptually. The presentation showed that many indexes of quality of democracy, institutional independence, media pluralism and public perceptions of democracy have indeed regressed in Greece since 2019, itself a paradox given the current government's avowed commitment to liberal and European norms of good governance. Whether this backsliding can be accurately described through concepts like illiberalism however is an open question. Democracy in Greece seems to be currently affected by a unique constellation of party system unipolarity and a permissive international environment that rewards a government aligned with the goals and norms of the country's European and international partners. Under this constellation, illiberal outcomes are produced even with liberal actors in power.

The new era of polycrisis? Small states, international relations, and Greek foreign policy

Wednesday 4 February 2026

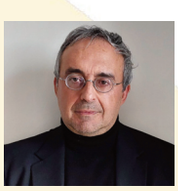


Alexandros Zachariades, *Research Associate, "Disappearing Act(DISACT)", University of Cyprus*

Alexandros Zachariades presented joint work with **Spyros Economides** (LSE) on what the now-ubiquitous vocabulary of "permacrisis" and "polycrisis" means for the foreign policy of small states. While these terms capture a contemporary sense of overlapping and compounding instability, the paper argues that crisis has in fact long been central to International Relations, running from E.H. Carr's The Twenty Years' Crisis through to the nuclear brinkmanship of the Cold War. Its central claim is that permacrisis is not an exceptional systemic moment but, for small states, simply a condition of normality. Taking Greece as its case study, the paper traces how successive systemic crises, from Cold War bipolarity to the post-Ukraine reordering of European security and renewed conflict in the Middle East, have continually intersected with enduring regional disputes in the Aegean, Cyprus, and the wider Eastern Mediterranean. Rather than treating these as discrete shocks, it shows how together they form a continuous backdrop against which Greek foreign policy is made. The analysis concluded that small-state foreign policy is structurally shaped by permanent crisis, even as states retain limited but meaningful agency within those constraints.

The Greek anti-vaccination social movement and the "underdog" culture

Wednesday 11 February 2026



Manussos Marangudakis, *Professor, Department of Sociology, University of the Aegean*

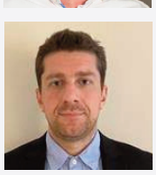
Manussos Marangudakis presented findings from a major research project examining the emergence of the Greek anti-vaccination resistance during the COVID-19 pandemic as a socially embedded, culturally meaningful response rather than a purely medical or informational failure. Combining survey data of over 1,200 respondents, social media network analysis, interviews, and discourse analysis, the research situates vaccine resistance within long-standing patterns of mistrust toward institutions, clientelism, social fragmentation, and an "underdog" cultural tradition hostile to liberal modernity. The study shows how vaccine hesitancy converged with broader anti-systemic narratives is transforming public health opposition into a morally charged challenge to institutional authority and democratic governance. It also identifies distinct patterns of resistance, ranging from sceptical rationalists and conspiracy theorists to activists and anxiety-driven refusers, highlighting the different moral frameworks through which authority and expertise were evaluated. Funded by the Hellenic Observatory Research Calls Programme on Greece, the project highlights the importance of culturally sensitive, long-term approaches to rebuilding public trust and strengthening social cohesion in times of crisis.

Rethinking environmental implementation deficits in Greece through the capacity–intentionality framework

Wednesday 18 February 2026



Athanassios Gouglas, *Senior Lecturer and Programme Leader, MPA Programme, University of the West of Scotland*



Michail Melidis, *Lecturer, Department of Politics, University of Exeter*

Thanasis Gouglas and Michail Melidis presented research examining Greece's environmental policy performance and governance over the past three decades, with particular focus on the impact of the economic crisis. Drawing on a multi-year research project combining European Union environmental infringement data and 42 interviews with policymakers, civil servants, EU officials and environmental stakeholders, the research reassesses the drivers of environmental performance in Greece. The study argues that while Greece has made notable progress in areas such as biodiversity protection and climate policy, significant implementation deficits remain, particularly in waste management and wastewater treatment. It introduces a new "capacity-intentionality" framework, showing that environmental outcomes depend not only on administrative capacity but also on the willingness of political actors, public administrations, businesses and citizens to support and sustain reform. The findings suggest that the economic crisis did not fundamentally worsen Greece's environmental performance but instead exposed and amplified existing structural weaknesses, while shifting political priorities away from environmental protection towards economic recovery. The research offers a new perspective on how governance, institutional capacity and political agency shape environmental policy implementation in Greece.

The financial health of non-financial corporations in Greece

Wednesday 4 March 2026



Marina Eliza Spaliara, *Professor, Adam Smith Business School, University of Glasgow*

Drawing on research on the financial health of Greek non-financial corporations, this seminar explored how access to finance shapes business performance, investment, and growth in Greece. Marina-Eliza Spaliara examined the evolving financing conditions for Greek firms after the sovereign debt crisis and how credit constraints affect real economic outcomes. The research draws on more than 300,000 observations from the ECB Survey on the Access to Finance of Enterprises (SAFE) covering firms across the euro area between 2010 and 2025. The findings show that access to finance in Greece has improved, with bank non-performing loans falling sharply and credit growth recovering. However, challenges remain, particularly for SMEs and micro-enterprises. Greek firms are more likely to face credit rejection or to refrain from applying for loans due to concerns about approval. These constraints are closely linked to firm characteristics, financial conditions, and perceptions of banks' willingness to lend. A key finding is that financing gaps continue to have tangible effects on business behaviour. Firms with unmet financing needs are less likely to invest, expand inventories, or grow, highlighting the importance of access to credit for productive investment, economic development, and long-term productivity.

Democracy and Independent Authorities in Greece: checks and imbalances

Wednesday 11 March 2026



Dimitri A. Sotiropoulos, *Professor of Political Science, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens*

Dimitri A. Sotiropoulos examined the question why, in Greece today, independent public authorities, such as the Ombudsman, the Personal Data Authority, and the National Council for Radio and Television, among others, have failed to act as checks and balances against the aggrandisement of the Executive that has been common under successive Greek governments. Focusing particularly on the constitutionally guaranteed authorities, the speaker drew on the relevant legislation, parliamentary pronouncements of Greek parties, press items, and reports of European organisations. He argued that the insufficient performance of independent authorities should be interpreted in the context of lack of resources and infrastructure, but above all it should be interpreted in the light of long-term patterns of political culture and the party system. Such patterns are widespread mistrust towards all political institutions, that has depreciated trust levels towards the above authorities too, and extreme political party polarisation, that has turned the staffing of independent authorities into another political arena.

Landholding inequality and the political economy of place: the case of Greece

Wednesday 18 March 2026



Kira Gartzou-Katsouyanni, *Leverhulme Early Career Fellow, Department of Politics and International Relations, University of Oxford*

Kira Gartzou-Katsouyanni presented joint research with **Lamprini Rori** (UoA) on how the distribution of land shapes the organisation of tourism in Greek coastal areas, and with what political consequences. This project is funded through a Leverhulme Trust Early Career Fellowship and the Hellenic Observatory Research Fund. Based on geospatial data from the Hellenic Cadastre and Google Places, as well as electoral data at the level of municipal units, the research shows that where coastal land was historically divided into many small plots, a large petty bourgeoisie of owners of small tourism businesses has developed. Such communities, which have benefited from a wide dispersion of skyrocketing tourism rents in the last decade, tend to have pro-market, pro-establishment views, reflected in disproportionately high support for New Democracy. In contrast, localities where coastal land is highly concentrated are more likely to have developed resort economies and to experience tourism mainly in the form of costs, while a larger proportion of rents are siphoned out of the local economy. Such places show a disproportionate tendency to vote for far-right parties. These findings have implications for the political consequences of strategic investments in the tourism sector and the politics of democratic resilience in tourism-dependent economies.

On the role of innovation in the generation of value-added trade opportunities

Wednesday 25 March 2026



Kyriakos Drivas, *Associate Professor, University of Piraeus*

Kiriakos Drivas presented the findings from two complementary studies funded by the Hellenic Observatory Research Calls Programme. The research explores the role of innovation in shaping economic development, export performance and entrepreneurship in Greece. The first study examines how different stages of innovation technology, market and design activities relate to export specialisation. The findings highlight the importance of technological capabilities and market-oriented innovation in helping countries diversify their exports and develop new areas of competitive advantage. The research also underscores the need for stronger innovation ecosystems through better collaboration, mentoring and targeted policy interventions. The second study draws on an extensive survey of Greek inventors to investigate the motivations, challenges and opportunities they encounter throughout the patenting and commercialisation process. The findings reveal notable differences in patenting motivations across inventors from different industries, while also identifying barriers related to costs, expertise and access to support. Together, the two studies offer valuable insights into the links between innovation, entrepreneurship and economic growth, prompting a lively discussion on innovation policy and the opportunities for Greece to build on its emerging strengths in research, technology and knowledge-intensive sectors.

Remote work, remote-feasible jobs and worker well-being across 141 countries

Wednesday 20 May 2026

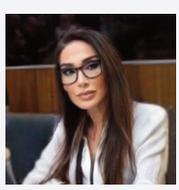


Christos A. Makridis, *Associate Professor, Arizona State University, Senior Researcher, Gallup; Associate Faculty, Complexity Science Hub*

Christos Makridis presented research on the global structure of remote work and its relationship with worker well-being, using data from the Gallup World Poll for 2024 and 2025. Unlike most existing studies, which focus on college-educated workers in advanced economies, this research draws on nationally representative data from 141 countries and includes full-time, part-time, self-employed, and informal workers within a single harmonised dataset. A key contribution is the distinction between remote feasibility -whether a job can be performed remotely- and remote intensity, measured by the number of days worked remotely per week. The findings show that remote work is globally widespread rather than confined to wealthy countries, averaging 0.83 days per week, with 31% of jobs reported as remote-feasible. The apparent well-being advantage of hybrid work largely disappears once remote-feasible job status is taken into account, suggesting that access to higher-quality, remote-capable jobs matters more than remote intensity itself. Employee engagement emerges as a more robust outcome, particularly for highly remote workers in middle-income countries. Greece was presented as an illustrative case study. A significant negative relationship between high levels of remote work and engagement (-0.363, $p=0.022$) suggests possible challenges linked to isolation, overwork, or blurred work–life boundaries. The findings imply that remote work alone is unlikely to improve well-being unless accompanied by effective management and sustained employee engagement.

From guarantor to governor: Türkiye, patronage, and agency in Northern Cyprus

Wednesday 3 June 2026



Dr Sinem Arslan, *Visiting Fellow, LSE Centre for Research on Contemporary Greece and Cyprus - Hellenic Observatory*

In 2020, Türkiye intervened openly in the leadership elections of the self-declared Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus in support of its preferred candidate, Ersin Tatar. Although Türkiye's involvement in Turkish Cypriot politics has a long history, the 2020 election marked a turning point: intervention became more visible and widely contested. Since then, Türkiye's role has become increasingly institutionalised, especially through Economic and Financial Protocols and the Development and Economic Cooperation Office, extending into political, economic, bureaucratic, military, and social domains. The presentation examined this transformation through the lens of patron–client relations. Drawing on a representative public opinion survey of 1,000 respondents and 70 in-depth elite and expert interviews with politicians, chief negotiators, diplomats, journalists, academics, and civil society actors, it analysed the mechanisms of Türkiye's intervention and the ways in which Turkish Cypriot actors navigate patron-state interference. The findings indicate that Turkish Cypriots remain deeply dependent on Türkiye for security and access to the international system, while becoming increasingly critical of Ankara's involvement in domestic affairs. The presentation argued that, despite profound structural dependence, Turkish Cypriot agency has not disappeared. Rather, it varies across political actors and over time, taking the form of compliance, negotiation, refusal, and public contestation.

research



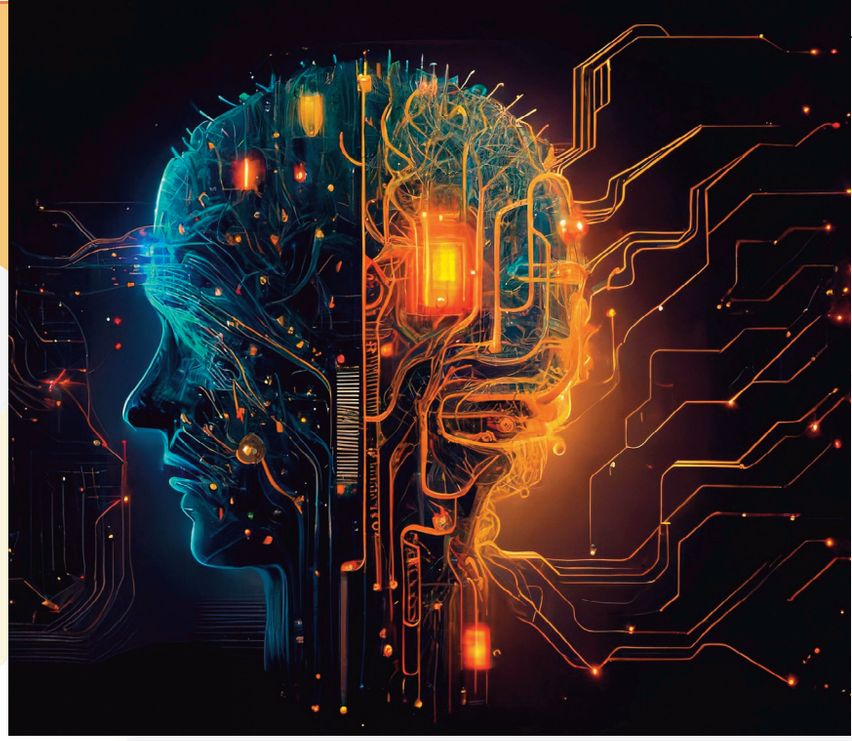
Since its launch, the Centre has sought to broaden its research activity across the social sciences, extending beyond its traditional strengths in economics, politics and international relations to encompass wider questions of society, identity and culture. This expansion has been guided by three cross-cutting themes, centred on **Gender, Growth and Citizenship**, which increasingly provide a common framework for our interdisciplinary research agenda.

Over the past year, this strategy has translated into a steadily growing and increasingly diverse research portfolio. While some areas of activity, such as labour market research, have expanded more rapidly than others, the Centre now supports work across an unusually broad range of topics relevant to contemporary Greece and Cyprus. On the Gender theme, our first internally funded project reached publication in 2026 (Chouliaraki *et al.*, *Hierarchies of Victimhood in Greek Femicide News*, *International Journal of Media and Culture*). At the same time, our Citizenship research agenda gained significant momentum through the award of two major competitive grants. The first, funded under Horizon Europe (WIDERA), is a three-year project on **Quality Institutions and Mechanism Design for Democratic Engagement**, marking our first institutional collaboration with the University of Cyprus and opening new avenues for research cooperation on the island. The second, funded by the British Academy, examines **Turkey, Patronage and Agency in Northern Cyprus**, combining theoretical innovation with pressing policy relevance.

Closer to home, the Centre's Internal Research Fund now supports ten projects spanning topics from climate-transition risks and the geography of datacentres to housing, land use and political behaviour, health inequalities, diasporic identity formation, analyses of parliamentary speeches, and the macroeconomic effects of tariff shocks. Alongside these, a growing range of external collaborations has enabled research on industrial policy, state aid and regional development, unemployment insurance, labour mobility and brain drain, investment incentives, and the economic footprint of the short-let sector in Greece. Meanwhile, thanks to the continuing support of the A. G. Leventis Foundation, our renewed external research calls programme has expanded into new areas of sociology, migration and gender studies, including 0a recent Call on the topic of class inequalities and the reproduction of privilege.

Altogether, the Centre now hosts around **30 active research projects**, supporting a large and growing community of scholars undertaking original, policy-relevant research on Greece and Cyprus. Research from these projects has already been presented at leading international conferences, while a number of major academic publications, reports and policy outputs are currently in preparation. A summary of our first flagship report as a Research Centre, on the impact of AI exposure in the Greek labour market, is featured in the Research Highlight on the following page. Further information on the Centre's research portfolio can be found on our website: lse.ac.uk/ho/research.

AI in the Greek labour market



Artificial intelligence is rapidly transforming workplaces around the world, raising new questions about employment, skills, productivity, and inequality. Yet little is known about how these changes are likely to unfold in Greece. Through a collaboration between the Hellenic Observatory and the Research Department of the Bank of Greece, this project seeks to understand the extent of AI adoption and exposure in the Greek labour market and to identify the workers, occupations, sectors, and regions most likely to be affected by the new technological wave.

The project combines evidence from international research, labour market statistics, and emerging data sources to construct the first comprehensive assessment of AI exposure in Greece. A distinctive feature of the research is the development of a composite AI exposure measure that synthesises fifteen leading international exposure indexes, allowing for a more robust and reliable assessment than any single measure can provide.

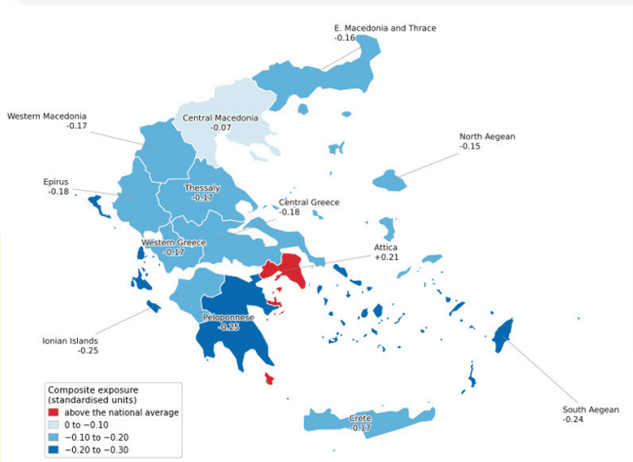


Figure *Composite AI exposure by NUTS-2 region, 2025*

The findings reveal that AI exposure in Greece is substantial but unevenly distributed. Around one in five workers, approximately 920,000 people, are employed in occupations that most international measures classify as highly exposed to AI. Exposure is concentrated in knowledge-intensive activities such as finance, professional and scientific services, information and communication, and parts of public administration. More than half of all exposed employment is located in Attica, reflecting the concentration of high-skill service activities in the capital region.

Perhaps most strikingly, AI exposure is highest among the highly educated. More than one-third of university graduates work in highly exposed occupations, compared with fewer than three percent of workers with the lowest levels of educational attainment. This represents a reversal of previous waves of automation, which were more strongly associated with routine and lower-skilled work.

Importantly, exposure does not imply job loss. Rather, it identifies occupations whose tasks overlap substantially with the capabilities of AI systems. In a country where the use of AI by individuals is growing rapidly but adoption by firms remains comparatively limited, these findings highlight a window of opportunity for policy action on skills, training, and workplace adaptation. Future stages of the project will explore how AI exposure affects wages, employment prospects, occupational mobility, and the demand for AI-related skills in Greece.

Research team:
Vassilis Monastiriotis, George Melios, Aristeidis Grivokostopoulos, Apostolos Chrysafis-Progopoulos
Collaborators:
Ioannis Laliotis, Filippos Petroulakis, George Papadopoulos
Funding: **Bank of Greece**

HOC Research Fund

The Centre continued to nurture new research initiatives this academic year through its Internal Research Fund. Established in 2025 with the generous support of Mr Michalis Stassinopoulos, the Fund provides flexible support for short-term, exploratory projects undertaken by Centre members, encouraging innovative lines of inquiry and future research development. To date, ten projects have received funding, reflecting the breadth of expertise within the Centre and its commitment to advancing knowledge on contemporary issues in Greece and Cyprus. By investing in early-stage research, the Fund helps lay the groundwork for future academic and policy impact. In 2025/26 five new projects were supported through the Fund:

Housing inequality shocks and democratic norms

by George Melios and Georgios Kavetsos

Over the past decade, Greece's Golden Visa programme has attracted billions in foreign investment through property purchases, supporting economic recovery after the financial crisis. This project examines its unintended social and political consequences, investigating whether the programme has contributed to rising property prices and housing shortages, and whether these changes have fuelled discontent with government and support for populist political movements. Using property market data, election results, and an original public opinion survey, the research will assess how the programme has reshaped neighbourhoods, housing affordability, and political attitudes since 2013. The findings will inform evidence-based policymaking on balancing investment, housing access, social cohesion, and democratic participation in Greece and across Europe.

The physical and transition risks of extreme weather events in Greece

by Stelios Sakkas and Georgios Manalis

The project investigates how extreme weather events and climate change affect Greece's macroeconomy and public finances, how these effects spread across specific sectors and economic variables, and in turn investigates policy responses. Its core aim is to quantify economic losses (e.g., GDP impacts), fiscal costs, and implications for the debt burden, while also identifying the main transmission channels that turn climate shocks into broader macroeconomic and budgetary stress. Overall, the project seeks to deliver a systematic, evidence-based assessment of climate-related shocks in Greece, linking granular weather data to sectoral impacts and macro-fiscal outcomes, and translating those findings into insights for mitigation and adaptation strategy under fiscal constraints and long-run uncertainty.

Household health expenditure in Greece

by Ilias Kyriopoulos

Household health expenditure is central to assessing financial resilience, as high out-of-pocket (OOP) costs can reduce consumption, increase debt, and deepen inequality. This is pa-rticularly relevant in Greece, where OOP expenditure accounted for 34% of total health expenditure in 2023, the third-highest in the OECD. The economic crisis, austerity measures, the pandemic, and inflation have reshaped health financing while leaving households exposed to significant private costs. This project fills an important evidence gap by analysing household-level data from 2008-2024, examining spending trends, composition, drivers, and the financial protection impacts of catastrophic and impoverishing health expenditures across population groups.

Anchoring the Cloud: local ecosystem readiness for Data Centres in Greece

by Konstantinos E. Zachariadis

This project treats data centres not as isolated infrastructure assets but as potential catalysts for a broader local ecosystem, one capable of generating skilled employment, stimulating firm-level adoption of AI and cloud technologies, and anchoring Greece more firmly in the digital economy. The central questions are deceptively simple. Which firms and sectors stand to benefit most from proximity to local data infrastructure, and through which channels - reduced latency, energy grid synergies, data sovereignty requirements, or access to specialised technical talent? Do Greek regions currently possess the absorptive capacity to turn impending investment into genuine digital transformation? And crucially, how does that capacity vary across the country's regions, and where are the gaps largest?

Resort capitalism or smallholder tourism?

How does the distribution of coastal land influence the type of tourism that develops in different places, and with what consequences for the local residents' voting behaviour?

Tourism is a dynamic sector that has contributed substantially to Greece's recovery since the Eurozone crisis, but its social and environmental sustainability is being increasingly contested as its economic importance grows.

This project contributes to this discussion by analysing the local-level economic and political consequences of distinct tourism models associated with different degrees of historic landholding concentration. Based on subnational analysis in Greece, the researchers show that in areas where coastal land is highly concentrated, resort-based tourism models have developed. Conversely, in areas where coastal land is fragmented in a multitude of small plots, a distinct model of smallholder tourism can be identified, where small- and medium-sized enterprises are dominant. These two models have distinct implications for the distribution of land rents and for the economic opportunities they generate within local communities, and consequently also for the local residents' preferences along both the left-right and pro-/anti-establishment dimensions of politics.

The research team links the land distribution, smallholder and resort-based tourism models, and local political preferences through quantitative analysis using a set of rich, original data sources. Those include geospatial plot-level data from the Hellenic Cadastre, microdata on occupational structure from the National Social Security Fund (EFKA), an original survey on individuals' political preferences that we will conduct within coastal areas in Greece, as well as electoral results at the level of municipal units.

At a time when the Greek economy relies increasingly on tourism, the project contributes to topical debates at the intersection of tourism, economic policy, and land management, and particularly to discussions about spatial planning in touristic areas and the policy framework surrounding strategic investments.

This project is funded by the Hellenic Observatory Centre through the HOC Research Fund, and the Leverhulme Trust through an Early Career Fellowship.

Research team: **Kira Gartzou-Katsouyanni** and **Lamprini Rori**



Research Innovation Programme on Greece & Cyprus



In 2025, the Hellenic Observatory launched the Research Innovation Programme on Greece & Cyprus, made possible through the generous support of the A.G. Leventis Foundation. Building on the success of its previous research funding initiatives, the programme was established to support innovative research addressing some of the most pressing economic, political, and social challenges facing Greece and Cyprus. The following pages showcase the first projects awarded funding under the new programme's first Call, through a rigorous peer-review process by the Centre's academic staff and Research Advisory Group, reflecting the Observatory's continued commitment to high-quality, policy-relevant research:

Demand for and effects of Islamic law on European Muslims: evidence from Northern Greece

Vasiliki (Vicky) Fouka, *Bing Professor of Human Biology, Associate Professor of Political Science and Senior Fellow at the Stanford Institute for Economic Policy Research*

Europe's Muslim population has grown steadily, prompting debate about the compatibility of Islamic religious and political doctrine and the principles of liberal citizenship. This project examines a unique case in Western Thrace, Greece, where a 2018 legal reform gave members of the Muslim minority the option to resolve family disputes through civil courts rather than exclusively under Islamic law. Although the reform applies to all family matters, it has been used primarily for divorces, empowering women to seek divorce under more favourable terms thereby increasing their agency and reshaping intra-household bargaining dynamics.

The research explores whether Muslims choose civil courts over Islamic law (Sharia) when given the option and what this reveals about their attitudes towards institutions. It also investigates the social and economic causal impacts of such a transition – particularly on women – through the mechanism of female empowerment.

Preliminary findings show strong uptake of the reform, with a gradual shift from religious authorities to civil courts. Women spent less time on domestic work and became more likely to enter self-employment, especially in more traditional communities. A forthcoming survey with Kapa Research will provide a richer, micro-founded explanation of how legal empowerment translates into institutional trust and socio-economic change within the minority community.

Flexicuritizing migration in a small state under geopolitical stress: a policy-ready framework for Greece (with Cyprus/Malta as light comparators)

Georgia Dimari, *Adjunct Lecturer, Department of Political Science, University of Crete, Senior Researcher, Centre for Political Research and Documentation (KEPET), University of Crete*

FlexMIG develops and tests a policy-ready framework for migration governance in a small, geopolitically exposed EU member state, Greece. It examines whether a flexicuritisation approach, understood as combining proportionate security with faster status determination and early integration and activation, can deliver improved outcomes in effectiveness, legitimacy, and cost. The primary case is Greece, due to its sustained exposure to regional instability, recurrent instrumentalisation of migration flows, and the constraints and incentives that pertain to EU-level governance. Cyprus and Malta are included as light comparators, since they face similar constraints small states, including limited administrative capacity and heightened exposure to external shocks, while also displaying meaningful variation in institutional design, reception arrangements, and public discourse.

A core contribution of FlexMIG is the translation of flexicuritisation into measurable indicators and actionable policy components. Rather than treating flexicuritisation as a broad normative aspiration, the project specifies a set of monitorable variables, such as processing duration, administrative cost estimates, detention and non-custodial use rates, and indicators of early employment entry. This enables systematic assessment, comparability across cases, and direct applicability in policy design.

Overall, FlexMIG aspires to move beyond abstract debate and, thus, to deliver implementable pathways that preserve necessary control functions while reducing avoidable administrative burdens, improving predictability, and strengthening everyday legitimacy, particularly under conditions of geopolitical stress that can amplify volatility in small states.

Heresthetic attention and democratic trust: how integrity salience shapes accountability in Greece and Cyprus

Margarita Katsimi, *Professor, Department of International and European Economic Studies, Athens University of Economics and Business*

Democratic accountability increasingly depends on shifts in public attention between policy performance and political integrity. In many European democracies, corruption allegations, governance failures, migration pressures, and fast-moving media cycles have made public trust increasingly volatile. This project examines these dynamics in Greece and Cyprus, two EU democracies that have experienced repeated crises shifting public attention between policy performance and political integrity.

Building on research in political science, the project investigates how changes in media attention shape citizens' trust in institutions, evaluations of political leaders, and electoral behaviour. It asks whether heightened attention to integrity issues reduces institutional trust, weakens support for incumbent governments, and alters perceptions of political competence. It also explores whether regions more exposed to external shocks, particularly migration inflows, experience stronger shifts in political narratives and voting patterns.

A key contribution of the project is the development of indicators of political salience that the information environment in which democratic accountability operates. By identifying how shifts in attention influence trust and electoral behaviour, the project contributes both to academic debates on democratic resilience and to policy discussions on transparency, crisis communication, and institutional governance.

Greece in Numbers:
A data hub for contemporary Greece

Now in its second year, Greece in Numbers has grown into a widely used resource for anyone seeking reliable, accessible information on the Greek economy and society. Launched in 2025 through Hellenic Observatory's partnership with the Foundation for Economic & Industrial Research (IOBE) and Yale University's Hellenic Studies Program, the platform brings together official statistics from a wide range of public sources and presents them through clear visualisations and concise explanations in both English and Greek.

The project originated in the debates surrounding the Greek debt crisis, when the absence of a common and readily accessible evidence base often made it difficult to ground public discussion in essential data. Against this background, Greece in Numbers was developed with the aim of bringing together, structuring and presenting empirical evidence on Greece's economy and society in a coherent and accessible format, helping to provide a stronger foundation for informed discussion.

Over the past year, the platform has expanded both its audience and its content. Weekly visitors to Greece in Numbers have tripled as new and enhanced sections were added to its data resources, covering topics such as the labour market, public finances, education, justice, energy, international trade, living standards, and demographic change. The platform also draws on administrative and other publicly available data on several issues of public interest that can be difficult to locate, interpret or use. In just one year since its launch, the continuous expansion of the platform's data and coverage has quickly established it as a valuable reference resource for researchers, students, journalists, policymakers and the wider public.

Greece in Numbers is governed by a Steering Committee composed of Professor **Manolis Galenianos**, who leads the project as Director (Royal Holloway, University of London; Research Associate, Hellenic Observatory), Professor **Nikos Vettas** (General Director, IOBE; Athens University of Economics and Business), Professor **Vassilis Monastiriotis** (Director, Hellenic Observatory; LSE), Professor **Costas Arkolakis** (Director, Hellenic Studies Program; Yale University), Professor **Christos Genakos** (Cambridge University), and Professor **Dimitris Vayanos** (LSE).

Our commitment to the platform's continued development reflects the Centre's broader mission to strengthen empirically grounded research and debate among both specialist and non-specialist audiences.

Greece in Numbers also publishes weekly updates on topical issues and key developments through clear, data-driven graphs and concise, neutral explanations. Follow Greece in Numbers on LinkedIn, Facebook and X for regular updates and insights.

www.greeceinnumbers.com



LSEE: a hub for research on South Eastern Europe

Research on South Eastern Europe

Research at LSE

Continuing to play a central role within the Centre in 2025/26, LSEE provided a platform for high-quality research, regional engagement, and policy impact across the region. Through its academic and public activities, the group maintained a strong presence in academic and policy discussions, bringing together researchers, practitioners, and decision-makers to address pressing political, social, and security challenges facing the region.

A highlight of the year was the roundtable Memorialisation and Politics in the Western Balkans, held on 27 February 2026. Supported by the British Council, the event brought together LSE researchers, UK policymakers, and regional practitioners working on remembrance, oral history, museums, education, and post-conflict dialogue. Discussions focused on the role of state and civil society initiatives in fostering more inclusive approaches to memorialisation. The event built on earlier policy engagement involving researchers and practitioners, including FCDO representatives, led by LSEE and the ERC-funded JUSTINT project.

On 12 March, LSEE welcomed Kosovo's Minister of Environment and Spatial Planning, Fitore Pacolli Dalipi, for a private discussion on developments in the Western Balkans and the Belgrade-Pristina Dialogue. The Minister also joined students on the course The Balkans in Europe, creating a valuable opportunity for direct exchange between policymakers and the academic community.

LSEE also contributed to advancing the field through the workshop Imagining the Future of Research on South East Europe, co-organised on 1 April 2026 with the South East Europe Working Group of the British International Studies Association (BISA) and King's College London. Bringing together researchers from across the region, the workshop explored emerging research priorities and future directions for South East European studies. Alongside these activities, the Centre hosted a discussion on social media and identity politics in the Western Balkans and contributed to the Carnegie Foundation-funded project on democratic resilience through policy events and publications, including the policy paper *From Nuclear Deterrence to Democratic Resilience (October 2025)*.

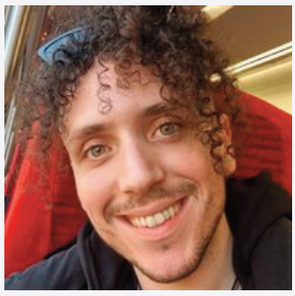


Furthermore, research undertaken by LSEE scholars over the past year examined memory politics, transitional justice, post-Yugoslav reconciliation, and political change in South East Europe, alongside skills development, labour market challenges, inclusive growth, regional competitiveness, war economy's gender circuits and EU integration in the Western Balkans. Research also explored the role of business in supporting peace and development in Bosnia and Herzegovina, further strengthening LSEE's contribution to academic and policy debates across the region. Lastly, research drawing on the Western Balkans advanced emerging discussions on principles of open social science.

Doctoral Affiliates Scheme: Supporting emerging researchers on Greece and Cyprus

The Centre launched the Doctoral Affiliates scheme as part of its mission to advance high-quality research on Greece and Cyprus and to support the next generation of scholars in the field. Introduced as a pilot initiative in the 2024/25 academic year open to LSE PhD candidates, the scheme offers affiliation with the Centre, academic mentoring, a small research grant and opportunities to engage actively in the Centre's research community, events, and publications.

Doctoral Affiliates 2025/26



Alex Birintzis

Alex (any pronouns) is a PhD Researcher at the LSE Department of Media and Communications. Their research focuses on how Greek transgender, gender diverse and/or intersex people negotiate their national belonging and what role mobility plays in the way individuals experience their connection with space, gender and identity overall. In other words, how they claim space in heteropatriarchal nations(-states) and what functions movement takes in their lives. Drawing from gender and sociological theories, their project examines the perception and negotiation of home and community and sheds light on power dynamics, homonormative national standards and mobility away from and against oppression. The aim of their project is to provide communities with the platform to express their experiences and counter dominant narratives of cisheteronormativity as the national default; to actively listen to experiences and life perspectives that allow us to clearly see what Greece- similar to other nations that resort to hetero and/or homonormative standards- "also is" and to claim (national) space.

Alex has completed a BSc in Educational and Social Policy (major in Special Education) at the University of Macedonia in Thessaloniki and an MA in Human Rights at the UCL Department of Political Science and is currently working at Amnesty International where they have contributed to major human rights research outputs and campaigns.



Aristeidis Grivokostopoulos

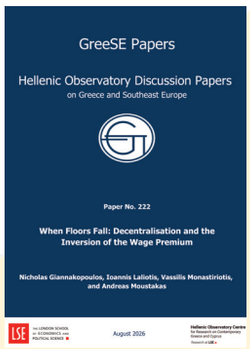
Aris' doctoral research at the LSE Department of Economic History examines the political economy of sovereign debt in Greece during the first wave of globalisation, roughly the half-century before the First World War. These were the decades when Greece borrowed heavily on the markets of London and Paris, defaulted in 1893, and, after military defeat in 1897, was placed under an International Financial Commission that handed control of much of its public revenue to foreign creditors. Aris studies how this mix of foreign borrowing, creditor supervision, and domestic politics shaped both the state's finances and the daily workings of its parliament. The project rests on a new body of evidence drawn from the recently digitised proceedings of the Hellenic Parliament, which record more than seven hundred votes and close to a thousand debate sessions, read alongside bond prices from the London Stock Exchange. His aim is to understand how fiscal crisis and outside intervention were felt inside Greek political life, where they met resistance, and where they took hold. The period is distant, but the themes of debt, austerity, and external oversight will be familiar to anyone who has followed Greece in recent years.

Aristeidis has completed his MSc in Financial History at LSE. Before joining academia, he worked in the financial services and technology, for industry-leading companies such as Morgan Stanley and Creandum.

publications

GreeSE papers

The Hellenic Observatory Papers on Greece and Southeast Europe (GreeSE Papers) continued to provide a platform for timely and policy-relevant research during the academic year 2025/2026. Published online and maintaining its interdisciplinary character, the series brought together contributions from economics, politics, public policy, governance, and social studies, addressing some of the most pressing challenges facing the region.



The series reached its 222nd issue this academic year, featuring research on a broad range of topics:

222. When Floors Fall: Decentralisation and the Inversion of the Wage Premium. **Nicholas Giannakopoulos, Ioannis Laliotis, Vassilis Monastiriotis and Andreas Moustakas** (August 2026)

221. Earnings Dynamics Through Boom, Crisis, and Recovery: Evidence from Greece. **Efi Adamopoulou, Manolis Galenianos, Nicholas Giannakopoulos, Pantelis Kammas, and Ioannis Laliotis** (July 2026)

220. Out of the abyss: Has Greece fully recovered from the crisis?. **Peter Sanfey and Dimitris Sourvanos** (June 2026)

219. Recurrence as a Governance Signal: Diagnostic Network Metrics for Public Procurement Oversight in Greece. **Ioannis G. Fountoukidis, Eleni L. Dafli, Ioannis E. Antoniou, and Nikos C. Varsakelis** (May 2026)

218. Slow but Tangible Progress: The Economic Dividends of Decarbonisation in Cyprus. **Theodoros Zachariadis and Elias Giannakis** (April 2026)

217. Beyond Left and Right: Quantitative Evidence of the Establishment–Anti-Establishment Dimension in Greece. **Christos Papagiannis, Stefanos Tyros and Sofia Vasilopoulou** (March 2026)

216. Modelling Greek Firms' Survival Rates and Identifying "Zombies". **Kyriakos Andreou, Andreas Fousteris, Sotirios Kokas, Alexandros Kontonikas and Emmanouil Pyrgiotakis** (February 2026)

215. U.S. Tariffs and Greek Exports. **Stelios Giannoulakis, Angelos Kanas, Marina-Eliza Spaliara and John Tsoukalas** (January 2026)

214. Cypriot Identity as an Alternative: Grassroots Perspectives on Cypriotness and Nationalism. **Antonis Pastellopoulos** (December 2025)

213. Natural resources co-management, green transition and divided societies - Zones of agreement in the Cyprus case using a conjoint survey experiment. **Charis Psaltis, Neophytos Loizides, Andreas Michael, Nikandros Ioannidis, Edward Morgan Jones and Laura Sudulich** (November 2025)

212. The café economy: Structural transformation in Greece in the wake of austerity and "reforms". **Michalis Nikiforos, Vlassis Missos, Christos Pierros and Nikolaos Rodousakis** (October 2025)

211. Fuel price effects on motor vehicle collisions: Evidence from Greece. **Andreas Psarras, Theodore Panagiotidis and Andreas Andronikidis** (September 2025)

Staff publications (September 2025 - August 2026)

While our research group produces a wide range of publications across their respective discplines, the following is a selection of recent works that are directly relevant to Greece, Cyprus, and Southeastern Europe:

Anastasopoulou, M. (2026). *A century of Asia Minor refugees in Greece: Flight, fight, and fraternity*. Oxford University Press, Oxford.

Pratsinakis, M., Panagiotopoulou, A., **Anastasopoulou, M.**, & Anastasakis, O. (2025). *The Greek diaspora in Germany: Migration, integration, identity, relations with Greece, and the prospect of return*. diaNEOsis Research and Policy Institute.

Arvanitopoulos, T., Bulian, S., Wilson, C., Jordan, A. J., Tosun, J., & Vasilakos, N. (2026). *Climate policy portfolios that accelerate emission reductions.* Nature Communications, 17, Article 1989.

Bartlett, W., & Krasniqi, B. A. (2026). *Regional cooperation and competitiveness in the Western Balkans: Alternative approaches to industrial policy and skill formation*. Southeastern Europe, 1–27.

Bartlett, W. (2026). *Social and economic disparities in the Western Balkans*. In: Vida ak, I. (Ed.), The Western Balkans and the Challenges of EU Accession: The Resilient Transformation (1st ed.). Routledge.

Bartzokas, A., & Kostis, P. C. (2026). *AI adoption, structural constraints and inclusive growth: Evidence from Greece*, Working paper, No. 17, University of Athens, Department of Economics, International Economics and Development Laboratory (IEDL), Athens

Bojicic-Dzelilovic, V. (2026). *Western Balkans as the Frontline of Russian Hybrid Warfare*. Global Policy, 1–12.

Bojicic-Dzelilovic, V., & Pickering, P. (2026). *Learning Lessons About Aid Effectiveness in Post-War Contexts: The Case of Bosnia and Herzegovina.* Southeastern Europe.

Chouliaraki, L., Koulaxi, A., & Georgiou, M. (2026). Who counts as a victim? Hierarchies of victimhood in Greek femicide news. *Popular Communication*, 1-21.

Chryssogelos, A., & Tsirbas, Y. (2025). *Greece under New Democracy rule: A case of "liberal illiberalism"?* . In: Barlai, M., Griessler, C.E., Herbers, M.R., Bos, E., Filzmaier, P. and Hainzl, C. (eds.) Democratic Backsliding in Europe. Baden-Baden: Nomos, Andr ssy Studien zur Europaforschung.

Dragović-Soso, J. (2025). *Agust n Cosovschi, Les sciences sociales face à la crise. Une histoire intellectuelle de la dissolution yougoslave (1980-1995).* Revue d' Histoire des Sciences Humaines, 46, 239–242.

Dragović-Soso, J. (2026). *Memory activism and the victimhood paradox in Bosnia and Herzegovina: commemorating the "War Child" in the resistance against ethnic nationalism*. East European Politics, 42(2), 209–228.

Ellinas, AA. (2026). *The Memory Work of a Far-Right Party: Contention, Convention and Memory Appropriation*. Government and Opposition, 61, e14, 1–24.

Fokas, E. (2026). *Deconstructing the shadow of Lautsi: Religious symbols in Greek public spaces.* Journal of Church and State, 68(2).

Gartzou-Katsouyanni, K., & Schelkle, W. (2026). *The curse of the beauty spot: Governing the commons of tourist destinations*. The Political Quarterly, 97(2), 256–264.

Katsinas, P., Sakali, C., & Vrantsis, N. (2026). *Marginal housing financialisation in Thessaloniki: Rent gaps, tourism and the hesitance of institutional investors.* European Urban and Regional Studies, 33(3), 357-372.

Mohan, G., Hu, R., **Katsinas, P.**, & Rogers, S. (2025). *A tale of two ports: relational power in COSCO's European port investments.* Territory, Politics, Governance, 1–18.

Alexandri, G., Gourzis, K., **Katsinas, P.**, Sakali, C., Dagkouli-Kyriakoglou, M., & Vrantsis, N. (2026). *The gentrification, touristification and housing financialization nexus in Southern European cities*. European Urban and Regional Studies, 33(3), 291-299.

Kostovicova, D., & La Lova, L. (2025). *Vicarious denial: war crimes and online deliberation in Serbia for and against Ukraine.* East European Politics, 41(4), 587–609.

Kostovicova, D., La Lova, L. William Waters, T. (2025). *Enemy of Justice: Secrecy in Domestic War Crimes Trials in Serbia,* Journal of Genocide Research, 1-25.

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Athanasakis, K., Loupas, M. A., & **Kyriopoulos, I.** (2026). *A discount rate for economic evaluations for Health Technology Assessment in Greece*. Health Policy and Technology, 15(3), Article 101169.

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Kyriopoulos, I., Tsarsitalidou, S., & Mossialos, E. (2025). *Effect of retirement on COVID-19 vaccination in Europe: a quasi-experimental study*. npj Vaccines, 10(1), Article 241.

Kyriopoulos, I., Athanasakis, K., Tsoli, S., et al. (2025). *Addressing public health and health system challenges in Greece: reform priorities in a changing landscape*. The Lancet Public Health, 10(10), e794-e803.

Fabbe, K. E., **Kyrkopoulou, E.**, & Vidali, M. E. (2025). *Between human dignity and security: Identifying citizen and elite preferences and concerns over refugee reception*. Comparative Political Studies, 0(0).

Genakos, C., **Kyrkopoulou, E.** & Papaioannou, E. (2026). *'An Olympic Opportunity'*. CEPR Discussion Paper No. 21319. CEPR Press, Paris & London.

Ladi, S., Gardiner, K., Angelou, A., & Panagiotatou, D. (2026). *Fear in public policy compliance: Citizens' response to crisis-induced policies.* European Policy Analysis, 12(2), Article e70039.

Matsaganis, M. (2026). *Has Greece gone from basket case to poster child?,* Current History, 125(869), 116-119.

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Flevotomou, M., Leventi, C., & **Matsaganis, M.** (2026). *Work (dis)incentives for social benefit recipients in Greece.* Economic Bulletin, 63, 7-25.

Alibegovi , D. J., **Monastiriotis, V.**, & Nikolov, M. (2025). *Mayor's political party affiliation and local outcomes: Evidence from SEE.* East European Politics, 41(3), 485– 510.

Myrodias, K. (2026). *Does the EU perform well in crises? Rethinking 'failing forward' in the Eurozone crisis and Covid-19.* Journal of European Integration, 1-22.

Psarras, A., **Panagiotidis, T.**, & Andronikidis, A. (2025). *Fuel price effects on motor vehicle collisions: Evidence from Greece.* The Journal of Economic Asymmetries, 32, Article e00438.

Papadimitriou, D. (2025). *1993: Pasok's Great Comeback*. In: Ioannidis, P., Tsaoussakis, E. (eds) Half Century of Elections in Greece. Political Campaigning and Communication. Palgrave Macmillan, Cham.

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Sotiropoulos, D. A. (2026). *Regulatory governance in the era of populist ascendancy: A tug-of-war between independent public authorities and central government in Greece*. Governance: e70143.

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Gatopoulos, G., Louka, A., Polycarpou, I., & **Vettas, N.** (2026). *Policy lessons from labor market reforms during crisis: Success and failure of the Greek bailout programs.* Journal of Policy Modeling, 48(4), 107024.

Zachariades, A. (2025). *Between a rock and a hard place: Small states, vulnerabilities and Greek foreign policy.* International Politics.

Hellenic Observatory & Greek Politics Specialist Group
Early Career Scholar Competition

The Hellenic Observatory and the Greek Politics Specialist Group (GPSG) of the Political Studies Association jointly organised the Early Career Scholar Competition, which recognises outstanding research by early career scholars and aims to support new contributions to the study of Greek politics and related fields.

The 2026 competition attracted a strong and diverse field of submissions, highlighting the quality and breadth of current research in the discipline. The prize was awarded to Spyros Bouzoukis, a PhD Candidate in Modern and Contemporary Greek History at the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, for his paper, "The Greek decision to pursue a more active policy in the Middle East, 1955-56: Cyprus, the Baghdad Pact, and the need to counter Turkey".

Political Studies Association
Greek Politics

LSE

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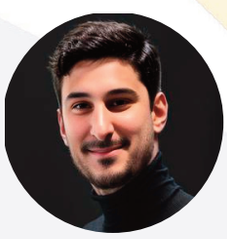


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Professor Lucas Papademos Former Prime Minister of Greece; Former Vice President - European Central Bank

Professor Sir Christopher Pissarides Regius Professor of Economics, Department of Economics, LSE

Michael N. Stassinopoulos Executive Member of the BoD, Viohalco S.A.; Chairman of the BoD, ElvalHalcor; Hellenic Copper and Aluminium industry S.A.

Dimitris Tsitsiragos Chairman of the Board, Alpha Bank

Professor Dimitri Vayanos Professor of Finance, LSE

Professor George P. Zanias Chairman of the Board, Non Executive Director, Eurobank SA

in the news

Κυπριακό: ανάμεσα στη λύση και το φόβο, our event *'Cyprus untied? New prospects and old challenges for the resumption of talks'* was featured in this article by Viron Karidis. The Books' Journal, booksjournal.gr, 15 June 2026.

Brexit: Το μάθημα που δεν πήραμε από την Ελλάδα, OpEd, Kevin Featherstone, Kathimerini, 14 June 2026.

Greece's Splintering Politics Raises Specter of Messy Election, Vassilis Monastiriotis' research was quoted in this Bloomberg article, 31 May 2026.

Βρετανία: Παρουσίαση της ελληνικής αγοράς εργασίας από τη Ν. Κεραμέως στο London School of Economics, our event with Minister Niki Kerameus held at LSE on Friday, 8 May, was featured in capital.gr, 9 May 2026.

Κέβιν Φέδερστοουν: Το σοκ Τραμπ και πώς θα επηρεάσει την οικοδόμηση του μέλλοντος της Ευρώπης, interview to Marilia Papathanasiou, To Vima, 22 March 2026.

Κέβιν Φέδερστοουν: ***Στην Ελλάδα εξακολουθούν να υπάρχουν συστημικές αδυναμίες,*** interview to Marilia Papathanasiou, To Vima, 15 March 2026.

«Το κίνημα των Γλυπτών» με «αρχιστράτηγο» τον Σμαραγδή! Kevin Featherstone, interview to Maria Andreou, *Espresso News*, 17 January 2026.

Πώς θα ήταν ένας κόσμος χωρίς το BBC; OpEd, Kevin Featherstone, Kathimerini, 16 November 2025.

Kontra News, Vassilis Monastiriotis' interview to Nikos Panagiotopoulos, on the structural challenges facing the Greek economy, Kontra Channel, 8 November 2025.

staff news

We are pleased to celebrate the achievements and recognition received by our colleagues:

Chrisanthi Avgerou and Irini Moustaki elected British Academy Fellows

Professor Chrisanthi Avgerou and Professor Irini Moustaki were among the six LSE academics elected as Fellows of the British Academy in 2025 in recognition of their outstanding contributions to the humanities and social sciences. Professors Avgerou and Moustaki are part of the Hellenic Observatory community, contributing to the Centre's work through their valuable service on its Advisory Board and Management Committee respectively.

Elias Papaioannou elected European Economic Association Vice-President

Professor Elias Papaioannou (Hellenic Observatory Research Associate) was elected as European Economic Association Vice-President following the 2026 Management Council Elections. He will serve as President-Elect in 2027 and will assume the presidency in 2028.

Kevin Featherstone awarded honorary doctorate by the University of Nicosia

Professor Kevin Featherstone was awarded the degree of Doctor of Philosophy (honoris causa) by the University of Nicosia in recognition of his 'outstanding contribution to European Politics and Greek Studies'. The prestigious honour was conferred during the University's School of Law's Graduation Ceremony on 22 June 2026.









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EUROBANK
NATIONAL BANK OF GREECE
Metlen Energy & Metals
Piraeus

Spiro J. Latsis
Anne Marie Louise (Marianna) Latsis