THE LONDON SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS AND POLITICAL SCIENCE

HELLENIC OBSERVATORY

NEWSLETTER 2022/23



HELLENIC OBSERVATORY
European Institute
Research at LSE

editorial

The Hellenic Observatory goes from strength to strength. This last year, we have sustained a high profile for public events, research publications, and a major international PhD symposium on Greece and Cyprus. After the restrictions of COVID, we have engaged with new and previous audiences. It has been very pleasing to return to 'normal' public activities.

At the same time, the Hellenic Observatory has continued its transition in three important respects. Firstly, I am delighted that the LSE has appointed my colleague, Vassilis Monastiriotis, to the Eleftherios Venizelos Chair in Contemporary Greek Studies. You can find more news on his appointment on page 3. The LSE had a first-rate list of applications to choose from and it is to Vassilis' credit that he won through. In 2023/24, Vassilis will have a well-earned sabbatical leave and so I will continue as Director of the Hellenic Observatory until September 2024.

The second aspect of our transition is that we expect to complete a new funding endowment for the Hellenic Observatory, to cover core staffing positions. We are tremendously grateful to our supporters in this venture. We will make announcements in due course.

Thirdly, we expect the LSE will upgrade the status of the Hellenic Observatory to that of a 'research centre'. This should provide many new opportunities for our further development.

Each of these developments are very pleasing in that they not only secure the future of the Hellenic Observatory, but they also steer our path.

The Observatory is a team effort and I must record my great thanks to my colleagues for their support. Of special mention, in addition to Vassilis Monastiriotis, are Spyros Economides, Deputy Director; Maria Komninou, Manager; and, Areti Chatzistergou, Administrator, for their outstanding work. We also very much appreciate the support the Observatory receives from across the LSE. Successive LSE Directors have offered their invaluable help – none more so than our recently retired Director, Dame Minouche Shafik. And the back up we receive from the office of Philanthropy and Global Engagement (PAGE) and its Global Director of Development, Helen Jones, is outstanding.

As usual, this Newsletter records the variety and extent of the activities the Hellenic Observatory undertook in 2022/23. But it also signals our future activities and we very much hope you will be attracted to them and we look forward to connecting with you.

On a personal note, I will remain connected to the Hellenic Observatory for some time yet and I look forward to continuing to contribute to its mission.



Professorial Research Fellow
Director, Hellenic Observatory

Eleftherios Venizelos Chair on Contemporary Greek Studies (April 2023)



In April 2023 the Hellenic Observatory was delighted to announce that Vassilis Monastiriotis has been appointed to the Eleftherios Venizelos Chair in Contemporary Greek Studies in the LSE's European Institute. The Eleftherios Venizelos Chair in Contemporary Greek Studies and the Hellenic Observatory are closely interlinked. The Chair was established 25 years ago as the first social sciences tenured post outside Greece to champion the study of contemporary Greek society, politics and economics. The Hellenic Observatory was developed as a linked Research Unit to help the Chair fulfil their mission through a range of research, training and outreach activities. After 25 years the Hellenic Observatory has developed into a premier research hub on contemporary Greek studies and V. Monastiriotis will become its Director as of September 2024. Vassilis Monastiriotis, in his former capacities of Associate Professor in Political Economy at the European Institute and Director of the LSE Research Unit on Southeast Europe (LSEE), had been a core member of the Hellenic Observatory staff for many years, contributing significantly to its success. We look forward to welcoming Vassilis to his new role and to working with him in continuing the successful journey of the Hellenic Observatory.

Professor Kevin Featherstone will continue leading the Hellenic Observatory as its Director until September 2024 and will remain an active member of its core staff in the years to follow. Professor Featherstone welcomed Vassilis in his new role and commented:

"I am very pleased Vassilis Monastiriotis has been appointed to the Eleftherios Venizelos Chair. He has shown tremendous commitment to the Observatory for many years and I look forward to continuing to work with him. I am very confident about the future of the Hellenic Observatory and its ongoing contribution to research and public debate on contemporary Greece. It has a unique role to play and it is well-placed to perform at the highest level".

From a Philhellene, a Hellene: Professor Kevin Featherstone awarded honorary Greek citizenship (February 2023)

Professor Kevin Featherstone was granted honorary Greek citizenship for his academic work on Greece and for his significant contribution to the promotion of research and debate on contemporary Greece and Cyprus.

In a special ceremony held at Maximos Mansion, on Tuesday 21 February, he took the Greek Citizen oath before the Prime Minister, Kyriakos Mitsotakis and the Secretary General of Citizenship, Athanasios Balerbas.

Speaking in Greek, Professor Featherstone thanked everyone who helped him on his journey and noted:

"Γεννήθηκα, Άγγλος -σίγουρα ένα λάθος– αλλά σήμερα έγινα Έλληνας. Είναι μεγάλη μου τιμή που είμαι Έλληνας τώρα, σημαίνει πολλά για μένα και είμαι πολύ περήφανος. Ευχαριστώ όλους όσους με βοήθησαν στο ταξίδι μου. Η Ελλάδα είναι μία χώρα, ένας λαός, μία ιδέα που έχω μάθει να αγαπάω πολύ. Μου έχει δώσει τόσα πολλά. Ευχαριστώ πάρα πολύ».



"I was born English - surely some mistake - but today I became Greek, and it is a great honour for me to be Greek now; it means a lot to me, and I am very proud. Thanks to everyone who helped me on my journey. Greece is a country, a people, an idea that I have learned to love very much. It has given me so much. Thank you very much."

The Greek Prime Minister, Kyriakos Mitsotakis expressed his joy that a friend of Greece, a scholar of modern political history, who, through his writing and interventions has assisted in improving the overall quality of the Greek Republic, became officially a Greek citizen.

You can watch the ceremony on our YouTube Channel (@HellenicObservatoryLSE) and read related news clippings on our News webpage.

Professor Kevin Featherstone presented with HAALSE award (October 2022)

At a special event at the Residence of the British Ambassador in Athens, organised by HAALSE (Hellenic Alumni Association of LSE), the Director of the Hellenic Observatory, Professor Kevin Featherstone, was offered the "Academic Excellence & Philhellenism Award" for his great contribution to the study of contemporary Greece, the LSE Community and the deepening of the British-Hellenic relations. The award was presented by the Chairman of HAALSE and Hellenic Observatory Advisory Board member, Dr Vassili G. Apostolopoulos. Other distinguished LSE alumni who were presented with awards on this special occasion included the Minister of Foreign Affairs Nikos Dendias, Marianna Latsis, Chloe Laskaridis and Hellenic Observatory Advisory Board member Evangelos Mytilineos.

HELLENIC OBSERVATORY events

Greece – the Way Forward: in conversation with Kyriakos Mitsotakis
28 November 2022





The Hellenic Observatory hosted the Prime Minister of Greece, Kyriakos Mitsotakis, in a landmark event for its 25th anniversary celebrations, on 28 November 2022.

In front of a packed audience in the Sheik Zayed Theatre, Mr Mitsotakis discussed with Professor Kevin Featherstone the challenges facing Greece and Europe, his vision for the country and changing geopolitics in the region. Mr Mitsotakis recalled fond memories of his own time as an exchange student at LSE and praised the Hellenic Observatory for its "tremendous contribution to the study of modern Greece".

In a lively conversation, the Prime Minister answered challenging questions on a wide range of topical issues including the state of the Greek economy, immigration and push backs, Europe and the energy crisis, the phone-tapping case and freedom of press in Greece.

In response to a question on the economy, Mr Mitsotakis praised the work of LSE's Professor Sir Christopher Pissarides, who was sitting in the audience and who authored a significant report identifying important reforms for Greece over the next decade following the country's debt crisis.

Another topic covered in the discussion was the reunification of the Parthenon Sculptures where the Prime Minister said there was "progress" and a sense of "momentum" in talks with Britain. He noted that there could be a "win-win



solution" for the reunification of the Sculptures in Greece while taking into consideration the concerns of the British Museum.

Going forwards, Mr Mitsotakis said he felt Greece has turned a corner and that we were at the beginning of a good period for the country.

The event was attended by international media and attracted a large audience online, as it was livestreamed. You can watch the video on our YouTube Channel (@HellenicObservatoryLSE).

panel DISCUSSIONS

In 2022/23 the Hellenic Observatory hosted two Panel Discussions contributing through a social sciences perspective to two topics that have historically caused much controversy and remain very topical to date: the Greek-Turkish War in Anatolia and the return of the Parthenon Marbles.

Wednesday 02 November 2022

The Parallax of 1922: The Greco-Turkish war in history, memory and international politics

The autumn of 2022 marked the centenary of the end of the Greek-Turkish War in Anatolia. The Greco-Turkish War of 1919-1922 became one of the most significant conflicts in a decade of ethnic violence otherwise known as the Greater War decade (1912-1922). The failure of the Greek expansionist project in Anatolia and the destruction of the Greek orthodox communities in Asia Minor became the success of the Turkish nationalist transformation of the Ottoman empire giving rise to complex regional and international dynamics captured by the ensuing Lausanne treaty (1923). The Greek-Turkish 1922 is a tale of trauma and triumph; of war, violence, and national pride and humiliation; a story of displacements and population transfers that heralded the consolidation of the national state and catapulted the pursuit of national homogeneity to the mainstream of international politics. A panel comprised of esteemed experts discussed the legacies of 1922 in history, public discourse, and policy-making. The panelists included Dr **Giorgos Giannakopoulos**, Lecturer in Modern History, City University of London; Professor **Yaprak Gürsoy**, Chair of Contemporary Turkish Studies, LSE; Dr **Ioannis N. Grigoriadis**, Associate Professor and Jean Monnet Chair of European Studies, Bilkent University; Dr



Ozan Ozavci, Assistant Professor of Transimperial History at Utrecht University, and Dr **Elizabeth Thompson**, Mohamed S. Farsi Chair of Islamic Peace at the SIS School of International Service, American University, Washington D.C. The discussion, chaired by Professor **Kevin Featherstone**, extended to topics encompassing history, political science, and international relations. This panel discussion attracted significant attendance and provided a platform for engaging discourse on the historical, academic, and policy-related aspects surrounding the events of 1922.

Monday 17 October 2022

Where best for the Parthenon Marbles? Identity and the cultural repatriation of national treasures

After the Black Lives Matter protests, initiatives have been undertaken to facilitate the repatriation of national treasures to their countries of origin. In the case of the Marbles, the British Museum has shown a willingness to explore new options, while the Greek Prime Minister has consistently emphasized the issue. This Hellenic Observatory event brought together experts from the UK policy making and research communities to discuss the return of the Parthenon Marbles: **Paul Cartledge,** Emeritus A.G. Leventis Professor of Greek Culture, Clare College, Cambridge University; **Lord Vaizey of Didcot**, Member of the Lords Communications & Digital Committee; and Dr **Tatiana Flessas**, Associate Professor in Cultural Heritage and Property Law, LSE Law School. Professor Cartledge opened the discussion by providing a highly informative and insightful overview of the topic, delving into the current state of affairs. Lord Vaizey shed light on the political aspects surrounding the potential return of the Parthenon Marbles to Athens, drawing from his experience as the Culture and Digital Minister for the Conservative government from 2010 to 2016. Dr Flessas, who has significant expertise in cultural heritage conflicts



worldwide, elaborated on the legal dimensions related to the potential repatriation of the Parthenon Marbles. The ensuing discussion stimulated a lively and extensive Q&A session, with attendees addressing various aspects, including political, economic, constitutional, diplomatic, and legal considerations relevant to this captivating topic. The speakers concluded by highlighting the key implications of returning the Marbles to Athens and the challenges that lie ahead.

Visit lse.ac.uk/ho/podcasts to listen to the podcasts.



In 2022-23 the Hellenic Observatory Phd Symposium reached its 10th anniversary. The PhD Symposium is a Hellenic Observatory initiative that was introduced in 2003 for students pursuing social sciences research on Greece and Cyprus. Since then, it became an established educational forum that has hosted over 600 students. The PhD Symposia offer students a unique opportunity to test their ideas and findings with a wider international audience, and to establish new collaborative links across disciplines. Additionally, it enables young researchers to engage with the academic community of the LSE, and several other distinguished scholars who participate as discussants at the Symposia. The Hellenic Observatory PhD Symposia are unique in their thematic focus on Greece and Cyprus which allows the exploration of research questions from several social science field perspectives. They provide an exceptional foundation for the development of innovative ideas.

This year the Call for submission of abstracts attracted a large number of applications and on the day, 62 PhD students from around the world met in LSE to present their work and receive feedback from an interdisciplinary audience comprising peers and experts. The presentations covered a broad range of fields within the social sciences, all linked together by their focus on Greece and/or Cyprus, and included topics from econometrics, applied economics, management, social policy, political science and governance, immigration, foreign policy, social psychology and culture.

The programme featured two outstanding plenary sessions. In the Keynote Plenary Session, Professor **Stathis Kalyvas** (Oxford) explored interpersonal and institutional trust, a fundamental component of democratic societies and, indeed, a research and policy question with significant relevance for both Greece and Cyprus. The PhD Research Plenary Session was given by Professor **Kevin Featherstone** (LSE) who discussed questions of methodology and planning in the delivery of a PhD thesis, with specific reference to social science research on Greece & Cyprus.

Contributors

The success of the PhD Symposia would not have been possible without the invaluable contribution of the academics and researchers who have generously committed their time and offered their knowledge, expertise and skills during the reviewing process and the panel discussions. We are grateful to all the friends of the Hellenic Observatory who have worked with us and supported our efforts since the first Symposium in 2003. For the 10th Hellenic Observatory Symposium, we are especially thankful to the following friends and colleagues:





Anastasakis Othon, *Director, European Studies Centre; Director, SEESOX; Senior Research Fellow, St Antony's College, Oxford University*

Anastasopoulou Marilena, *College Lecturer in History, Pembroke College, University of Oxford*

Arvanitopoulos Theodoros, *Hellenic Observatory Research Officer, LSE*

Chalari Athanasia, *Visiting Senior Fellow, Hellenic Observatory, LSE*

Danatzis Ilias, *Lecturer (Assistant Professor) in Marketing Analytics, King's Business School, King's College London*

Galenianos Manolis, *Professor of Economics, Department of Economics, Royal Holloway University of London*



Gartzou-Katsouyanni Kira, *Hellenic Bank Association Postdoctoral Research Fellow, LSE*
Georgakopoulou-Nunes Alexandra, *Professor of Discourse Analysis & Sociolinguistics, School of Education, Communication & Society, King's College London*
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Tsourapas Gerasimos, *Senior Lecturer in International Relations, School of Social & Political Sciences, University of Glasgow*
Zartaloudis Sotiris, *Associate Professor in Comparative European Politics, School of Government, University of Birmingham*

Nicos Mouzelis Award for Best Paper

The proceedings concluded with the announcement of the **Nicos Mouzelis Award for Best Paper**, which was offered to **Karmen Misiou**, Researcher at the **European University Institute**, who presented her paper "Never on Sunday! The impact of public holiday legislation on non-core groups' status & identity", examining how an ethnoreligious outsider, the Sephardi community of Salonica in the 1920s, responded to a particular policy of national homogenisation: the Sunday closing law.

The Nicos Mouzelis Award for Best Paper was established in 2017 in recognition of Professor Mouzelis' contribution to the education and development of young researchers and to the study of contemporary Greece. Professor Nicos Mouzelis has long established links with the Hellenic Observatory and was one its founding members. During the 90's he campaigned along with other LSE academics for the establishment of an LSE research unit that would devote itself to the furtherment of research on Greek political, social, and economic issues the promotion of international academic collaborations. The Hellenic Observatory was established as a result of these efforts and Professor Nicos Mouzelis served as a member of its Advisory Board until 2015 contributing invaluably to its development as a premier research centre on contemporary Greece and Cyprus. Professor Mouzelis remains a close friend and supporter of the Hellenic Observatory. The Nicos Mouzelis Award for Best Paper is offered to one of the PhD students presenting at the Symposium, in recognition of outstanding research potential and in honour of Professor Mouzelis' long-standing academic contribution and support of the Hellenic Observatory.



10th HO PhD Symposium Keynote Lecture
May 2023

The Paradox of Trust in a "Low Trust" Society: Insights from a Greek Study

Stathis Kalyvas
Gladstone Professor of Government, All Souls College, University of Oxford



Widely used measures of trust rank Greece as one of Europe's least trusting societies. Time and again, when in the framework of large-scale surveys, Greeks are asked whether most people are trustworthy, they are found to be among the least trusting people in Europe. These survey results get widely reported in the public sphere, reinforcing feelings of mistrust, while low interpersonal trust is generally seen as a severe obstacle to policy reforms and economic development in Greece.

In his keynote lecture, Professor **Stathis Kalyvas** presented joint research with Dr **Effrosyni Charitopoulou** which challenges the depiction of Greece as a low-trust society. Based on a multi-methods approach, which included a survey replication, ethnographic research, a lab experiment, and a field experiment, Charitopoulou and Kalyvas sought to better understand whether large-scale surveys measure trust attitudes accurately, and whether low-trust attitudes in fact lead to low-trust behaviour. They found that people in Greece actually exhibit high levels of trust in their personal interactions, despite reporting low levels of interpersonal trust in surveys. For example, in a field experiment, nearly half of the people who were asked to hand their phone to a stranger in need, did so, while another quarter offered help, short of handing their phone. These results are inconsistent with surveys where more than 9 out of 10 respondents claim that most people are untrustworthy.

How can we explain this paradox? According to the researchers, the explanation for Greece's low score in surveys of interpersonal trust lies in the particular meaning of trust within Greek society. In Greece, trusting someone entails an expectation for a degree of psychological commitment by the other person that borders on love: one could not reasonably expect such a high threshold to be satisfied by a stranger. There are two reasons why a high level of trusting behaviour is nevertheless observed in the field. Firstly, displaying mistrust towards another person, such as a stranger in need, is normatively stigmatized in Greece, as it is equated with a lack of respect. Secondly, snap interactions are often sufficient for someone to stop being seen as a stranger, and to be considered a "known" person: thus, even if generalized trust is low, particularized trust sets in relatively rapidly. Overall, the project invites us to revise our perceptions about social trust in Greece, and to rethink how we measure attitudes cross-nationally in social science.







Visit lse.ac.uk/ho/podcasts to watch the video.

HELLENIC OBSERVATORY
content partner

Delphi Economic Forum VIII
26-29 April 2023



This year, the Hellenic Observatory supported the Delphi Economic Forum VIII as content partner. During the four-day Forum, Professor **Kevin Featherstone** chaired highly topical sessions. He analysed if Europe can meet its illiberal challenge and what Europe's response should be with Professor **Dimitri A. Sotiropoulos** (ELIAMEP and University of Athens), Professor **Grzegorz Ekiert**, (Harvard University) and Dr **Heather Grabbe** (Institute for Human Sciences, Vienna). Furthermore, he discussed Brexit with **Maroš Šefčovič** (European Commission) and 7 Years of Brexit: how does UK fit into Europe with Denis Mac Shane (Former Minister of Europe, Author). Lastly, he delved into the accountability of national intelligent services with **Lord Jonathan Evans** (House of Lords, UK).



Cyprus Forum
29-30 September 2022

The Hellenic Observatory also participated in the Cyprus Forum 2022 with a joint HO/ELIAMEP panel discussion on attitudes and activism towards climate change among young people in Greece and Cyprus. Professor **Spyros Spyrou** (European University Cyprus) and Dr **Eleni Theodorou** (European University Cyprus) presented data from their project 'There is No Plan(et) B: youth activism in the ight against climate change in Cyprus', funded by the Hellenic Observatory's Research Programme, sponsored by the **A.G. Leventis** Foundation, and along with **Cleopatra Kitti** (ELIAMEP), Dr **Lydia Avrami** (ELIAMEP) and **Othon Kaminaris** (ELIAMEP) analysed how young people see the challenges of climate change and what the steps forward should be.

HELLENIC OBSERVATORY
research seminars





Keeping up with a long record of hosting highly topical research, this academic year we welcomed to our Series academics and scholars from across various disciplines who presented research on a diverse breadth of themes. Professor **Calliope Spanou** (National and Kapodistrian University of Athens) along with Dr **Jens Bastian** (German Institute for International and Security Affairs) kicked off the Series with the presentation of the collective volume edited by Professor Spanou titled "Crisis, reform and the way forward in Greece". The speakers presented interesting facts on reforms in Greece and discussed their effectiveness in transforming the Greek economy. Professor **Sofia Vassilopoulou**, (King's College London) presented her research on the development of political trust and satisfaction with democracy, comparing three southern European economies: Greece, Spain, and Portugal and noted that preliminary results indicate that while trust in institutions has been restored to pre-crisis levels in Portugal, it remains low in both Greece and Spain, despite substantial economic recovery in Spain. Turning the focus on leisure industries in Greece, Dr **Phillip Katsinas** (LSE) discussed how it was one of the few sectors that thrived during the period of crisis and austerity while presenting his research on the privatisation of public space by leisure industries. In another interesting seminar Dr **Dimitris Katsikas** argued that the successes and failures in the implementation of the public sector remuneration system reform can be explained with reference to the existence of entrenched clientelistic ties between political parties and client organisations, such as trade unions in the public sector. In his presentation, Professor **Panayotis Tsakonas** outlined four foreign policy approaches that Greece employed vis-à-vis its neighbour from the restoration of democracy in 1974 until the Eurozone crisis and argued in favour the Greek government adopting a "smart balancing" strategy towards Turkey, aimed at impeding Turkey's ability to benefit from aggressive policies and at delegitimising its behaviour in the eyes of the international community.

We were also delighted to host three seminars presenting the findings of research conducted under the auspices of the Hellenic Observatory Research Calls Programme: Dr **Ioannis Kaplanis** (Athens University of Economics and Business) examined 'Crisis and Entrepreneurship: business dynamics, firm level, sectoral and regional determinants' and discussed the individual firm, sectoral, and regional-level characteristics that might influence the resilience of existing firms and the survival rate of new firms. Professor **Nikolaos Vettas** (IOBE, Athens University of Economics & Business) and his co-authors utilised a rich dataset from the OECD's Program for International Student Assessment (known as the PISA program) for their project 'Intergenerational Mobility in Education in Greece' and the results revealed significant associations between student outcomes and educational resources at home, cultural possession at home, parental emotional support and private school attendance. Last but not least, Professor **Sokratis Koniordos**, (University of the Peloponnese), Professor **Dimitri A. Sotiropoulos**, (National and Kapodistrian University of Athens) and Dr **Roula Nezi** (University of Surrey), presented their research on 'The Paradoxes and Mixed Record of Culture Wars in Contemporary Greece'. While their findings highlight an emerging polarization between different societal groups based on culture and political ideology, Greeks tend to adopt a pragmatic stance on cultural conflicts. Therefore, it was argued that culture wars primarily reflect political party conflicts rather than a broader confrontation within society.

SUMMARIES

Exiting the Crisis: the challenges of reform agency in Greece

Tuesday 11 October 2022

Calliope Spanou, *Professor of Administrative Science, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens*

Jens Bastian, *CATS Fellow, German Institute for International and Security Affairs*



Professor Calliope Spanou presented and discussed a recently published collective volume she edited, titled "Crisis, reform and the way forward in Greece". Dr Jens Bastian, one of the collective volume's authors, presented interesting facts on reforms in Greece, and discussed their effectiveness in transforming the Greek economy. The speakers delved into Greece's political economy over the past decade and examined a critical question: did this challenging period provide an opportunity for significant institutional and societal change? Macroeconomic adjustment programs and the requirements for structural reforms were described as a "Sisyphean task". The completion of the adjustment programs in mid-2018 and the subsequent exit from "Enhanced surveillance" in June 2022 raised questions about Greece's capacity for reform, its achievements, and the broader dynamics of stability, change, external pressure, and domestic agency. During the presentation, the speakers highlighted success stories, identified sectors that could benefit from further improvement, and outlined opportunities and challenges for the future. The engaging discussion that followed allowed attendees to gain a deeper understanding of the role of reforms in transforming the Greek economy and society.

Entrepreneurship and Firm Resilience in Times of Crisis: evidence from Greece

Tuesday 25 October 2022

Ioannis Kaplanis, *Research Fellow, Athens University of Economics and Business*

The impact of the financial crisis on entrepreneurship and business dynamics varied across countries, depending on factors such as the resilience of their businesses, implemented policies, and the prevailing productive structure. In Greece, the severity and duration of the recession were unprecedented among modern middle and high-income economies. Dr Ioannis Kaplanis presented the findings of this Hellenic Observatory funded research project, focusing on the individual firm, sectoral, and regional-level characteristics that might influence the resilience of existing firms and the survival rate of new firms. By analysing data from patents and trademarks, the findings indicated that the crisis increased the likelihood of firm exits by 5% to 16%. Larger firms with substantial fixed assets, lower financial leverage, operating in concentrated industries, and those that are innovation- and export-oriented tended to have better chances of survival compared to their counterparts. Dr Kaplanis provided valuable insights into the historical performance and survival rate of Greek businesses over the past two decades. The speaker also reflected on how the economic crisis shaped the business climate and impacted entrepreneurship. These findings are significant for designing business policies not only in Greece but also in other countries facing similar crises. The attendees were particularly interested in drawing parallels with other countries and examining the role of trademarks and patents in promoting business survival during the years of the crisis.

Political Trust and Satisfaction with Democracy in Greece in Comparative Perspective (1986-2020)

Tuesday 8 November 2022

Sofia Vassilopoulou, *Professor of European Politics, Department of European and International Studies, King's College London*

Professor Sofia Vassilopoulou presented her research on the development of political trust and satisfaction with democracy, comparing three southern European economies: Greece, Spain, and Portugal. These three countries share various political, cultural, and economic similarities. They are all peripheral countries in Europe with similar levels of socioeconomic development, have experienced right-wing authoritarianism, and are characterized by a strong left-right divide. While they have experienced periods of high trust in institutions and satisfaction with democracy since their democratization, these levels have also been significantly volatile and have declined sharply during the economic crisis. Professor Vassilopoulou used Eurobarometer survey data from 1986 to 2020 for all three countries in her research. She presented insightful graphs comparing the levels of institutional trust and democratic satisfaction across the three countries over time and among different age groups. Preliminary results of the research indicate that

while trust in institutions has been restored to pre-crisis levels in Portugal, it remains low in both Greece and Spain, despite substantial economic recovery in Spain. The attendees were particularly intrigued by the similarities and differences observed among these countries, and they were eager to understand the policy implications for other European countries that have experienced similar political developments in recent decades.

The Privatisation of Public Space by Leisure Industries and Commercial Gentrification in (post) Pandemic Greece

Tuesday 22 November 2022

Philipp Katsinas, *Visiting Fellow, LSE*

Dr Philipp Katsinas presented his research on the privatisation of public space by leisure industries in Greece with focus on Thessaloniki and discussed how the leisure industries were one of the few sectors that thrived during the period of crisis and austerity. This was due to their labour-intensive character and precarious working conditions, which contributed to the tourism development of major cities. Dr Katsinas' research further examined how the privatization of public space by leisure industries, driven by the legal framework, socio-economic characteristics of a place, and investment decisions by entrepreneurs, has led to the creation of rent gaps. This, in turn, has incentivized landlords and entrepreneurs to open leisure industries on ground floors, resulting in a significant impact on the city's public space and its use. He presented compelling photographic evidence of urban regeneration and argued how the lack of law enforcement reinforced the observed phenomenon. The audience was particularly interested in understanding the implications of this urban phenomenon in other parts of Europe. Interesting parallels were drawn with the cities of Napoli and Barcelona where the local population also experiences the negative implications from the privatisation of public space by leisure industries.

Crisis, Clientelism and Institutional Resilience: reflections on a public sector reform under the MoUs

Tuesday 24 January 2023

Dimitris Katsikas, *Assistant Professor of International & European Political Economy, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens*

Dr Dimitris Katsikas' research addressed a puzzle from the area of public administration reform: why did some aspects of the reform of the remuneration system for public-sector employees, such as the introduction of a technically complex single payment scheme across the public sector, got successfully implemented, while other aspects, such as the abolition of gross remuneration inequalities among specific categories of public servants and the introduction of an effective personnel evaluation scheme did not? Dr Katsikas presented the findings of this project and argued that the successes and failures in the implementation of the public sector remuneration system reform can be explained with reference to the existence of entrenched clientelistic ties between political parties and client organisations, such as trade unions in the public sector. Even when politicians are willing to implement horizontal cuts across the public administration, they seek to protect their client groups from reforms that hurt their particular interests. Indicatively, the employees and trade unions of the Ministries of Finance and National Economy have long used their power in terms of tax collection to cultivate clientelistic ties with politicians. Before the crisis, this resulted in median wages that were 49% and 37% higher in the two ministries respectively, compared to the median wage for all ministries. These privileges largely survived the public sector remuneration reform through the introduction of the so-called 'personal difference' scheme, which was a benefit that protected the difference between public servants' pay under the old regime and the new unified remuneration system. Following a similar line of reasoning, the introduction of a single remuneration grid linked to grade, tasks, and performance evaluation was not introduced because it would reduce the ability of politicians to distribute rewards to client groups.

Intergenerational Mobility in Education in Greece

Tuesday 28 February 2023

Nikos Vettas, *General Director of the Foundation for Economic and Industrial Research (IOBE); Professor, Athens University of Economics & Business*

Professor Vettas presented his group empirical research project on the role of socioeconomic status and other factors on the cognitive performance and aspirations of Greek high-school students, which utilised a rich dataset from the OECD's Program for International Student Assessment (known as the PISA program). The results revealed significant associations between student



outcomes and educational resources at home, cultural possession at home, parental emotional support, and private school attendance. The effects of parental education and occupation were also important but varied depending on the domain and the specific parents involved. The study found that the association between basic socioeconomic characteristics and educational performance during adolescence remained significant and relatively stable before, during, and after the Greek economic crisis. This highlights the need to develop a coherent strategy to address educational disparities based on socioeconomic status. Attendees showed great interest in understanding the role of parental influence and the educational system in intergenerational mobility. Professor Vettas also sought insights into how the financial crisis and more recently, the Covid crisis, have impacted students' aspirations and performance. Attendees showed great interest in understanding the role of parental influence and the educational system in intergenerational mobility.

Greece's Strategy Vis-à-Vis Turkey: from 'hard' to 'smart balancing'?

Tuesday 14 March 2023, 6.00pm

Panayotis Tsakonas, *Professor of International Relations, Security Studies & Foreign Policy Analysis, National & Kapodistrian University of Athens*

In his presentation, Professor Panayotis Tsakonas outlined four foreign policy approaches that Greece employed vis-à-vis its neighbour from the restoration of democracy in 1974 until the Eurozone crisis. All approaches relied on a combination of reliance on Greece's armed forces (internal balancing) and the leverage that it derives from its participation in international organisations (external balancing). Firstly, some Greek governments (esp. those of Andreas Papandreou) used a strategy of containment, aiming to deter Turkey by weakening its international standing while engaging in limited dialogue. Secondly, other governments (e.g. Konstantinos Karamanlis and Konstantinos Mitsotakis) used a strategy of management that aimed to achieve a situation of "crisis stability" in the Aegean, including by engaging in dialogue with Turkey. Thirdly, the Simitis government pursued a strategy of "active socialization", which centred on Turkey's engagement with the EU accession process and aimed to resolve the Greek-Turkish dispute, including by committing to accept a compromise solution that would be decided by the International Court of Justice in the Hague. Finally, during the Kostas Karamanlis years (2004-9), Greece shifted its strategy to one of "passive socialization", continuing to engage with Turkey via the EU but lifting the pressure to resolve the Greek-Turkish dispute and removing Greece's commitment to abide by a compromise solution decided by the Hague. During that period, Turkey started reorienting its foreign policy from Europe to the Middle East.

Since the attempted coup in 2016, Turkey has slid further towards becoming an illiberal democracy, while there is a perception that it is acting in a less predictable and reliable way towards its neighbours. In this context, Tsakonas argued in favour of the Greek government adopting a "smart balancing" strategy towards Turkey, aimed at impeding Turkey's ability to benefit from aggressive policies and at delegitimising its behaviour in the eyes of the international community. Smart balancing involves a degree of hard balancing tools, such as a limited arms build-up and investing in strategic partnerships with key neighbouring states, but it also places a greater emphasis than Greece currently exercises on soft balancing, and especially on engaging in a positive agenda when it comes to Turkey's relation with the EU.

Exploring 'Culture Wars' in Greece: mapping new conflicts and voter support

Wednesday 22 March 2023

Sokratis Koniordos, *Emeritus Professor of Sociology, Department of Political Science & International Affairs, University of the Peloponnese*
Roula Nezi, *Senior Lecturer in Political Science at the University of Surrey*
Dimitri A. Sotiropoulos, *Professor of Political Science, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens*

Professor Sokratis Koniordos, Professor Dimitri A. Sotiropoulos and Dr Roula Nezi, presented their HO funded research projects on culture wars and affective polarisation in Greece. Professors Koniordos and Sotiropoulos presented their findings from four case studies of 'culture war' conflicts based around national identity, migrants and refugees, gender, and the response to COVID-19 restrictions. Dr Nezi discussed how the concept of affective polarisation is prevalent in Southern European countries that were hit hardest by the economic recession. Professors Koniordos and Sotiropoulos argued that contemporary Greece has not experienced all-consuming culture wars but rather softer conflicts or tensions. Conversely, Dr Nezi contended that affective polarization, expressed as a group identity beyond partisanship, can fuel inter-group conflicts over cultural issues. Their findings highlight an emerging polarization between different societal groups based on culture and political ideology. However, Greeks tend to adopt a pragmatic stance on cultural conflicts. Therefore, culture wars primarily reflect political party conflicts rather than a broader confrontation within society. The presentation sparked lively discussions, with participants raising questions about trends within the Greek electorate and how culture and political ideology can influence voting decisions.

Visit lse.ac.uk/ho/researchseminars for more information and to listen to the seminars' podcasts.

HELLENIC OBSERVATORY research programmes

Hellenic Observatory Research Calls Programme on Greece

With generous donations from the **A.C. Laskaridis Charitable Foundation (ACLCF)** and **Dr Vassili G. Apostolopoulos**, this Programme supports high-quality academic and policy related research within the social sciences on Greece. The Programme continues for its 6th year and so far, sixteen projects have been funded, of which twelve have been completed. The projects have created significant outputs and offered concrete policy suggestions on topics ranging from intergenerational mobility, culture wars, Greek economic diplomacy, e-government initiatives and industrial policy to sustainable growth and a Greek Green Deal. The Programme's Call for research proposals has a different thematic focus each year and the 2022/23 Call invited applications on the following themes: migration crisis; vaccine hesitancy; and, the effects of the pandemic on vulnerable populations. The following projects received funding under this Call and commenced in September 2022:

The Greek Anti-Vaccination Social Movement and the 'Underdog' Culture

Manussos Marangudakis, *University of the Aegean*

The study examines the socio-cultural forces that shape the Greek anti-vaccination movement as the combined effect of (a) mistrust of relevant public institutions and their leaders, (b) the proliferation of conspiracy theories in social media, (c) the religiosity cultivated by the "little Orthodox traditions" and their ad hoc charismatic leaders, and (d) by the international online anti-vaccination network of information disorder. The hypothesis the researchers wish to test is that the anti-vaccination movement constitutes only one expression of a wider "underdog" culture the epicenter of which is the anti-globalization movement.

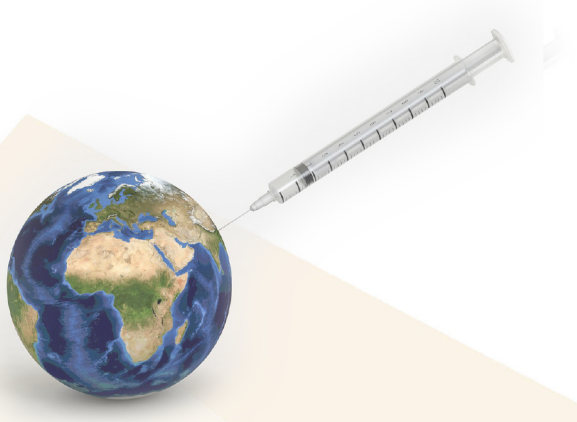
Expectations of Unvaccinated Health Workers in Greece: a qualitative study

Katerina Sideri, *Panteion University of Social and Political Sciences*

The researchers aim to conduct in depth interviews with unvaccinated health care workers in Greece so as to shed light on the reasons for which they remain unvaccinated. Working within the tradition of science and technology studies (STS) we take the view that people draw upon personal associations to enact and express civic concern with an issue (see Wynne 1992), the enactment of public concern involves the articulation of threats to actors' way of life, personal values, relationships, lived experiences, broader societal values and institutional structures (Paul et al., 2022; Bijker 2017). This line of thinking urges us to reconsider the institutional design of technical democracies. We need to dig deeper so as to understand the causes of distrust towards technical government and the ways in which public(s) (in Deweys' sense) conceive of and want to be part in the politics of innovation. To this effect, the



present research essentially seeks to understand the inner dynamics, values and experience of the public of unvaccinated health workers by means of conducting in depth interviews with 50 individuals. Bearing in mind that the main policy objective of governments during pandemics include the vaccination of the population so that the public health system does not break down and the economy continues functioning, the project will address the question of effectiveness of mandatory vaccination of health workers and whether such top down regulatory measures further polarize society, to finally discuss alternative regulatory approaches and governance structures.



"Nothing About Us Without Us": preparing a disability-inclusive pandemic response and recovery in Greece

Emmanouil Pikoulis, *National and Kapodistrian University of Athens*

According to the United Nations, a disability-inclusive pandemic response and recovery should be led by individuals with disabilities, forging partnerships, tackling injustice and discrimination, expanding access to technology, and strengthening institutions to create a more inclusive, accessible, and sustainable post-COVID-19 world. In Greece, small steps towards this direction are gradually being developed. According to the European Commission, limited evidence is available on a national level about the impact of COVID-19 on vulnerable groups, particularly for disabled people. This study aims to bridge the gap. Research methodology will have an experiential co-design character to become as inclusive as possible, focusing on the following research objectives:

- Identify and map challenges, gaps, and discontinuity of the emergency health provision, as well as the specific prerequisites required by individuals with disabilities, to maintain their health, safety, dignity, and independence in the community throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

- Provide evidence and policy recommendations about the way health care provision can be strengthened to ensure health for all in the post-COVID-19 era and showcase the importance of inclusion of people with disabilities in emergency preparedness as an essential element of risk reduction and sus-sustainable development.

2023-24 Call

to the Hellenic Observatory Research Calls Programme

Under this Call, the Programme will fund three (3) projects with research grants of up to £8,000 for a term of 12 months. The deadline for applications is in October 2023 and the successful projects are expected to start in January 2024.

The 2023-24 Call invited applications for projects on the following Research Themes:

- Economic extroversion and integration into global and regional value chains
- Housing affordability, housing investment, and the residential rental market in Greece
- A paradox of media (un)freedom in Greece?

For more information visit lse.ac.uk/ho/research

A.G. Leventis Research Innovation Programme on Cyprus

Launched in 2019 with the generous support of the **A.G. Leventis Foundation**, this research initiative has a clear focus on Cyprus and complements the Research Calls Programme. It supports innovative research on issues of contemporary academic and policy-relevant significance, while fostering collaboration with LSE based academics. So far, the research projects have focused on a range of cutting edge topics, providing important policy suggestions for addressing societal issues, including: the phenomenon of precariousness; the COVID-19 anti-vaccination movement; mobile citizenship and (non)border regimes in post-COVID-19 Cyprus, and de-colonizing archaeology-related photographic archives. Our new projects have shifted their focus on the highly topical issue of Cyprus and the EU sanctions on Russia:

Cyprus and the EU Sanctions on Russia: macroeconomic impacts and policy recipes for a sustained recovery

Stelios Sakkas, *Economics Research Centre, University of Cyprus*

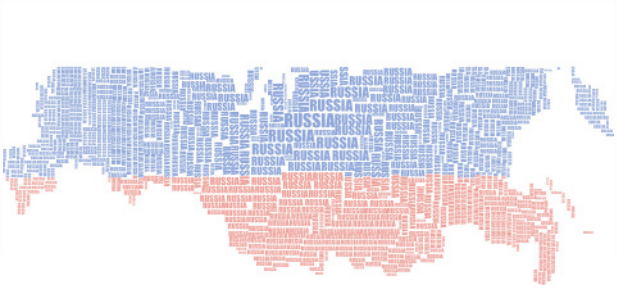
Cyprus is highly exposed to the fallout from the war in Ukraine through trade with Russia. This new challenge comes against the background of the lingering effects of the pandemic and financial vulnerabilities dating from the 2012–13 crisis. The large tourism sector and other contact-intensive activities were affected by Covid-related mobility restrictions. Financial linkages to Russia have been reduced since the financial crisis, but exposures through trade in services—mainly tourism and professional services—is very high since tourism and related services contribute more than 25% of the Cypriot output.

All this is taking place in an uncertain economic environment where increases in utility and transportation prices, spilling over from imported energy prices, make households and firms to deanchor their inflation expectations and will likely dampen consumer confidence. After all these consecutive shocks combined with the tight fiscalspace, it is imperative to refuel the economy, this time, on a more sustainable basis by making the best possible use of the Recovery and Resilience package funds.

In this context, the purpose of this project is to build a micro-founded macroeconomic model for Cyprus to address:

- The macroeconomic impact of the ongoing war in Ukraine through trade with Russia and in particular the impact of the war on export of services (mainly tourism), prices of imported goods and foreign direct investment.

- In turn, given the current situation, policy recipes for a sustained economic recovery from now and in particular the set of structural policies in the context of the Next Generation EU-Recovery and Resilience Plan.



Cyprus and the EU Sanctions on Russia: emancipation or entrapment? Elites and public opinion perceptions & the way forward

Revecca Pedi, *University of Macedonia*

The aim of this project is to investigate the geopolitical implications of the EU sanctions on Russia for the Republic of Cyprus (ROC). It will focus on the question of whether such a decision is an entrapment of the ROC within its EU shelter or constitutes a moment of emancipation, where Cyprus can break with its past and follow a Western orientation. This project is situated in the field of small state studies and draws on shelter-seeking theory and foreign policy analysis, mainly focusing on elites and public opinion perceptions. Against this background, three distinct, yet interrelated, objectives are set:

- Identify the geopolitical challenges, including threats and opportunities, that ROC faces, or will face, due to the sanctions and compare them to those that other small European states confront. Keeping in mind that small states within shelters benefit from small-state cooperation and coalition building to succeed in agenda setting, the researchers will compare ROC's situation with that of other small states within the EU and the region in order to identify potential grounds for cooperation or contention with other small states.

- Explore and compare the elites' and public's perceptions of ROC's interests, threats, and opportunities, as well as their views on the main actors in the international system and regionally.

- Formulate relevant policy proposals in order for Cyprus to decrease its vulnerability and safeguard its interests, security, and status.



2023-24 Call

to the A.G. Leventis Research Innovation Programme on Cyprus

Under this Call, the Programme will fund three (3) projects with research grants of up to £8,000 for a term of 12 months. The 2023-24 Call invited applications for projects under the umbrella Research Theme "The trilemma of environmental sustainability, energy security (geopolitics), and cost-competitiveness" that will explore one or more of the following issues:

- Evaluate and assess the plans for energy diversification and green transition projects under the RRF. How do the 2030 net-zero targets impact the Cypriot economy and its production structure?

- Is there a trade-off between long-term environmental sustainability and energy security? How can the case of Cyprus inform policymakers regarding optimal mitigation and/or adaptation strategies at a global level?

- To what extent have green transition and energy security debates become intertwined with national and/or regional security imperatives in the Eastern Mediterranean? Can we draw on comparable evidence from similar global cases to better understand the dynamics at play?

For more information visit lse.ac.uk/ho/research

HELLENIC OBSERVATORY
staff research



Professor Kevin Featherstone published articles in two major journals: (with Spyros Economides & Tom Hunter) 'The Changing Discourses of EU Enlargement: A Longitudinal Analysis of National Parliamentary Debates', Journal of Common Market Studies; and (with Dimitris Papadimitriou) 'When do Crises Centralise Decision-Making? The core executive in the Greek economic crisis', Journal of European Public Policy. He is currently writing a new book (with D. Papadimitriou) on 'Prime Ministers in a Crisis', examining crisis management within the Greek 'core executive' from 2009 to 2018 (for Oxford University Press, 2024).

Dr Spyros Economides' research on Greece focuses on his interest in foreign policy. He is writing an article entitled 'Greek Foreign policy in an era of "permacrisis"' (with Alexandros Zachariades). His chapter on 'Greece and the End of the Cold War' will appear in the Oxford Handbook on Modern Greek History. He is also working on a piece examining 'Konstantinos Karamanlis: leadership and foreign policy'. He has recently published (with Kevin Featherstone and Tom Hunter) an article entitled 'The Changing Discourses of EU Enlargement: A Longitudinal Analysis of National Parliamentary Debates' in the Journal of Common Market Studies. His interest in EU foreign policy is also reflected in his other recent publication, 'European Foreign Policy and The Role of Member States: Europeanisation or Renationalisation?' which appeared in the latest edition of International Relations and the European Union (Oxford University Press). He is currently embarking on a major research project on 'Geopolitics, Values and the Re-emergence of "the West", which reassesses the meaning of the term, 'the West' in the context of the war in Ukraine.





Professor Vassilis Monastiriotis' research revolves around the themes of labour market performance, regional growth, public investment and economic development. His latest publications include a paper examining the role of public investment in mobilising private investment in emerging Europe (Eastern European Economics, with S. Randjelovic), which provided evidence for a synergetic relationship (crowd-in effect) both in the long- and in the short-run, with the short-run effect significantly mediated by a country's degree of capital market integration; and a paper in Health Economics (with I. Laliotis and G. Moscelli) which, leveraging on data from Greeceand state-of-the-art counterfactual techniques, showed a significant influence of ambient light conditions on serious car accidents, thus highlighting the benefits that better ambient light conditions could have on overall road safety. His current work focuses on regional growth accelerations (presentations at the 2003 RSA and ERSA conferences) and on the growth and investment effects of Cohesion policy at the intensive and extensive margins (presentation at the 3rd Joint EU Cohesion conference of the European Commission).

Dr Theodoros Arvanitopoulos' research lies at the the intersection of energy demand and supply dynamics, and examines the contribution of economic growth and technological innovation on climate change mitigation. He focuses both on the macro level – assessing economics sectors and innovation processes – and the micro level – investigating interconnections between local conditions and climate change mitigation. He is particularly interested in understanding the dynamics of energy security and climate change mitigation in South-East Europe, and more specifically in Greece. Focusing on Greece, he has examined the role of geographical and socio-economic characteristics on regional synchronicity in economic growth trajectories at the prefectural level. To investigate his research questions, employs predominantly quantitative methods and mathematical models. These tools allow to derive meaningful insights and draw robust conclusions. Given the policy relevance of this work, he have actively consulted and engaged in research projects for the European Commission, the UK Government, the UK Climate Change Committee, and the OECD. He has published in academic journal such Energy Economics, Urban Studies, and Regional Studies.



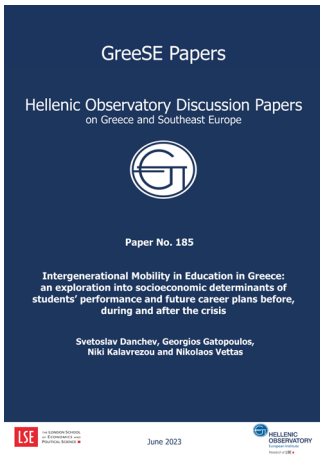
In relation to his work at the Hellenic Observatory Theodoros commented: "The Hellenic Observatory provides an exceptional environment for early-career researchers enabling them to advance their research agenda and benefit from meaningful mentorship, for which I am grateful for. As the Hellenic Observatory Research Officer, I am also responsible for overseeing research projects funded by the Hellenic Observatory Research Calls Programme and the A.G. Leventis Research Innovation Programme. It is a captivating and fulfilling experience to engage directly with emerging and experienced scholars who are exploring diverse policy-related topics. I greatly value the opportunity to not only gain insights from their research on Greece and Cyprus but also to contribute to their knowledge through this interaction."



Dr Kira Gartzou-Katsouyanni, Hellenic Bank Association Post-doctoral Fellow at the Hellenic Observatory, conducts research on financial instruments like contract farming as facilitators of cooperation in the Greek agri-food sector. This project is part of her broader research agenda on "Cooperation against the odds", which seeks to improve our understanding of how firms can overcome the obstacles to cooperation and begin to work together to achieve mutually beneficial outcomes. Fostering inter-firm cooperation is key for achieving inclusive growth, but we still know relatively little about how it can be created, especially in institutionally weak, low-trust contexts. Based on empirical evidence from the Greek agri-food and tourism industries, her research uncovers the local factors and macro-institutional characteristics that are associated with the emergence of cooperation in adverse circumstances.

In relation to her time at the Hellenic Observatory Kira commented: "The Hellenic Observatory has offered me a phenomenal opportunity to focus on my research in an environment that brings together the most dynamic social scientists studying Greece both within the country and abroad, while at the same time being fully integrated in LSE's world-leading research community. I am currently at the mid-point of my fellowship, and I have already conducted fieldwork for my research project on contract farming, submitted a journal article for publication which is forthcoming with the Cambridge Journal of Regions, Economy and Society, and co-organised a full-day Special Issue workshop on "the political economy of local development in the semi-periphery" at LSE (20/3/23). This summer, I presented my research at the annual conferences of the American Political Science Association (APSA) and the Council for European Studies (CES). In all these endeavours, I have benefited from excellent mentorship by the Hellenic Observatory's Director and faculty members, as well as from stimulating exchanges with all the researchers, staff, and visitors to the Observatory".

HELLENIC OBSERVATORY
GreeSE papers



The **Hellenic Observatory Papers on Greece and Southeast Europe (GreeSE Papers)** are published monthly since 2007, reaching their 187 issue this year. The Papers cover a large range thematically but also in terms of authors, welcoming contributions from all disciplines within the social science spectrum. The past academic year saw the publication of 13 GreeSE papers, covering a range of topics, from the political economy, socioeconomic dynamics, and political ideology in Cyprus (GreeSE Paper 175, 178, 179), to crisis, clientelism and institutional resilience on public sector reforms (GreeSE Paper 176), with a clear focus remaining on the Greek economy (GreeSE Paper 177, 180, 183, 186), the Greek Green Deal (GreeSE Paper 181), intergenerational mobility in education (GreeSE 185), culture wars (GreeSE Paper 182), and an ethnographic analysis of central Greece (GreeSE paper 184) as well as a an analysis of the psychosocial in Central Greece (GreeSE 187). The Papers are published online-only (September 2022-August 2023) and they influence scholarly research and the public debate on Greece and Cyprus within the Southeast European context.

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Latest Papers in the Series

187. Daniel M. Knight, Chronic Crisis and the Psychosocial in Central Greece, August 2023
186. Christos Genakos, Ioannis Kaplanis, Maria Theano Tagaraki, and Aggelos Tsakanikas, Firm Resilience and Growth during the Economics Crisis: lessons from the Greek depression, July 2023
185. Svetoslav Danchev, Georgios Gatopoulos, Niki Kalavrezou and Nikolaos Vettas, Intergenerational Mobility in Education in Greece: an exploration into socioeconomic determinants of students' performance and future career plans before, during and after the crisis, June 2023
184. George Alogoskoufis, The State and the Economy of Modern Greece Key Drivers from 1821 to the Present, May 2023
183. Nicos Trimikliniotis, Myria Georgiou, Erol Kaymak, Afroditi-Maria Koulaxi, Melis Mevsimler, Giorgos Charalambous, Vassilis Tsianos, Corina Demetriou, Ari Sitas, Michelangelo Anastasiou, and Emmanuel Achiri, Mobile Citizenship, States of Exception and (non)Border Regimes in the Pandemic and Post-Covid19 Cyprus, April 2023
182. Sokratis Koniordos and Dimitri A. Sotiropoulos, The Paradoxes and Mixed Record of Culture Wars in Contemporary Greece, March 2023

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Hellenic Observatory Director; Professorial Research Fellow



Dr Spyros Economides
Hellenic Observatory Deputy Director; Associate Professor of International Relations and European Politics



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A few words from the former Hellenic Observatory Manager Sofia Vyzantiadou:



It was July 2017 and I was on holiday at a Greek island when I was invited for an interview at the HO. Two days later, I found myself in London. I was offered the position to start immediately, so I moved to the UK within two-weeks time. It was quite a change! I was overwhelmed but excited and it proved to be a decision I never regretted. I joined the HO as its administrator, then I was offered the Events & Communications Manager position and in 2020 I was appointed to the HO Manager position. I had brought varied skills with me from my previous career in education & cultural management but, evidently, HO offered me numerous opportunities to develop and grow. Working at the HO was an absolute pleasure! The unit had well established structures and that helped me adapt very quickly and allowed me to contribute to HO's diverse activities but also take on new initiatives. I very much enjoyed the varied nature of my roles. The HO team is small but very committed and productive and as such there were plenty opportunity to work on new projects and interact with new people. Looking back, there are many memorable moments- interesting events with prominent public figures & informative discussions hosted by HO both at LSE & overseas. What I treasured the most, though, are its people. HO is the most welcoming team, with exceptional colleagues, and a collaborative environment, providing encouragement, support and an excellent working experience in total. I miss them all tremendously and am truly grateful for the five years we shared working together.

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The Hellenic Observatory offers affiliation to a group of selected academics and policy practitioners who wish to spend a period of between 6-12 months at the LSE to conduct independent research on a topic relevant to the work of the Hellenic Observatory. Our Visiting Fellows and Research Associates play an active part in the intellectual life of the Observatory.

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HELLENIC OBSERVATORY in the news

Sir Christopher Pissarides, Kevin Featherstone and Dimitris Vayanos in the Greek news' show "Sto Kentro"

ERT, 6 December 2022

The Greek news show visited LSE and its host, George Kouvaras, interviewed Professors Sir Christopher Pissarides, Kevin Featherstone, and Dimitris Vayanos. The Nobel prize laureate in economics and chair of the Committee tasked by the Greek PM to develop a Growth Plan for Greece, Sir Christopher Pissarides, talked about the implementation of reforms, the Greek pathogenesis and the crisis Europe and the world are facing and the war in Ukraine. Professor Kevin Featherstone focused on the Observatory and its history, the rising populism in Europe, Greece's institutional weaknesses and economy and analysed Brexit and Britain's involvement in the war in Ukraine. Last but not least, Professor Dimitris Vayanos talked about the rising interest rates and how these will affect the economy, the importance of manufacturing for the Greek economy and the process for Greece regaining its investment grade.

[Watch the show](#).







Kevin Featherstone's interview on the recent British Museum debacle

ERT News, 28 August 2023



Watch the interview.

The Hellenic Observatory Director argued that the recent theft incident has clearly damaged the almost neo-colonial stance of the British Museum on the return of national treasures and its allegations about the questionable safety of artefacts in their countries of origin. But despite the damage caused to the British Museum's image and overall argument, the incident does not impact on the domestic prospects for an imminent return, which will be influenced more by the parliamentary election results of 2024. The present government will not feel confident enough to strike a deal with Athens during the pre-election period and better chances will come after the elections between the new elected British government and Athens.

Other News Contributions

Προσβολή για τον Έλληνα είναι να υπονοήσεις ότι είναι πολιτικά αφελής, Kevin Featherstone, interview to Dimitris Doulgeridis, Ta Nea Weekend Edition, 5-6 November 2022.

Radio interview: Vassilis Monastiriotis about the Observatory, the PM's Public Lecture of November 2022 and the Greek PM's visit to London, interview to Elena Karagianni, Menoume Proto, ERT Radio, 29 November 2022.

Ασκήσεις Γεωστρατηγικής Ισορροπίας, Spyros Economides, To Vima, 12 February 2023.

Η Ελλάδα πρέπει να κοιτάξει πέρα από συναισθήματα, υπερβολές και λαϊκισμό, Kevin Featherstone, Huffington Post Greece, 18 March 2023.

Το χάρισμα και οι μεταρρυθμίσεις δεν είναι αντιθετικοί όροι, Kevin Featherstone, interview to Dimitris Doulgeridis, Ta Nea, 9 July 2023.

HELLENIC OBSERVATORY future events

The twin deficits, monetary instability and debt crises in the history of modern Greece
Tuesday 3 October 2023, 6.00pm
George Alogoskoufis, Professor of Economics, Athens University of Economics & Business

Public lecture: The economic challenges for the new Greek government
Thursday 5 October 2023, 6.30pm
Sir Christopher Pissarides, Regius Professor of Economics, LSE
Discussant: **George Alogoskoufis**, Professor, Department of Economics, Athens University of Economics and Business

The birth of a new predominant party system? The May and June 2023 elections in Greece
Tuesday 24 October 2023, 6.00pm
Yannis Tsirbas, Assistant Professor of Political Science, Department of Political Science and Public Administration, University of Athens

Coming to terms with forced migration
Tuesday 14 November 2023, 6.00pm
Marilena Anastasopoulou, ESRC Postdoctoral Fellow, European Institute, LSE



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