



scholarly and  
research activities  
teaching news  
publications  
awards and events

# SHSS Newsletter

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# SHSS

NEWSLETTER

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UNIC

SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES  
AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

Dear Readers,

The summer has officially arrived and I am delighted to introduce to you the fourth edition of the *School of Humanities and Social Sciences Newsletter*. Colleagues across our School have sent contributions featuring research and projects, publications, conferences and events, and achievements of faculty and students of our School during the past academic year.

The School of Humanities and Social Sciences is a community comprised of a diverse body of academic disciplines. As a multi-disciplinary School, showcasing the work conducted within the various Departments can stimulate synergies and support the formulation of cross-disciplinary research collaborations.

During the academic year 2021–2022 we welcomed students back to our classes and vibrant university campus, giving us a much needed sense of returning to normality. Challenges were still present, as we tried to navigate this new reality whilst the COVID-19 pandemic was (and still is) ongoing. Despite the challenges, I am proud to say that we have achieved a lot and have arrived at the end of a successful year for our School.

As always, the Editorial Committee and I are grateful to all colleagues who have taken the time to put in writing their projects, publications, activities and achievements to be disseminated via our *Newsletter*. As you read this issue I hope that you, like myself, will be inspired by featured colleagues' scholarly activities and their continuous pursuit of academic excellence.

I hope that you find the material interesting and stimulating. The Editorial Committee and I look forward to receiving your submissions for future editions of the *SHSS Newsletter* so that the work conducted by our diverse and multidisciplinary School community is showcased and communicated to the wider academic community.

With best wishes,  
Professor Ioulia Papageorgi  
SHSS Newsletter Editor  
Associate Dean of School  
Professor, Social Sciences

# DEPARTMENT of ARCHITECTURE



The poster for Italian Design Day 2022 features a dark blue background with a large, stylized white 'dD' logo. The text 'Italian Design Day 2022' is prominently displayed. Below the logo, the theme is presented in two columns: 'Ri-Generazione. Design e nuove tecnologie per un futuro sostenibile' and 'Re-Generation. Design and new technologies for a sustainable future'. The event details include the date '23.03.2022 12 PM', the speaker 'Alex Terzariol', and the location 'Department of Architecture, University of Nicosia'. Logos for the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the University of Nicosia are also present.

ing about the correct use of materials and resources available and also considering the life cycle of the products. Terzariol asks; “which design should be used for a sustainable future”?

**Workshop Becoming an Architect / Designer for the day**  
19 March 2022, Department of Architecture (ARC), University of Nicosia

Students: 70 students from Lyceums and Private schools of Cyprus  
Faculty Members: All members of The Department  
Students: 2nd, 4th and 5th year students



In a vibrant workshop at the Architecture department, local high school students were asked to consider the city of the future. Students worked in groups to produce creative collage images depicting their ideas about future cities. Exploring ideas about social and environmental problems, students highlighted current crises, but also proposed inventive ideas about possible future scenarios based on environmental issues, technology and fictional worlds. The images provoked a stimulating discussion about the future city.

Students were given a presentation about the main areas



## Italian Design Day 2022 Lecture by Alex Terzariol: “Which design?”

23 March 2022, University of Nicosia, Department of Architecture / Italian Embassy, Nicosia

Italian Embassy: H.E. Federica Ferrari Bravo, the Ambassador of the Embassy of Italy in Nicosia, Marie Ghalanos; Cultural Office and Rocco Pace; Office of the Ambassador Presentation: Alex Terzariol, Designer; General Manager, MM Design, ADI Delegate for International Activities Faculty member: Alessandra Swiny, University of Nicosia

Through an ongoing collaboration between the Department of Architecture and the Italian Embassy, the Italian design day foregrounded the importance of sustainable design through a lecture by Italian designer Alex Terzariol from the award winning MM Design in Milan. Terzariol emphasized that design should focus on respect and care for the environment in which we live, considering the whole design process as one which avoids traces of our passage and prevents irreparable damage to the environment. He stressed that being a designer today is, first of all, a responsibility because our approach to design can help us rethink the future.

The Italian Design Day event was seen as an opportunity for Re-generation; motivating the new generations of designers, but also to those who are called to commit themselves more and more to designing inclusive beauty; to be able to take charge of design requests, while at the same time worry-

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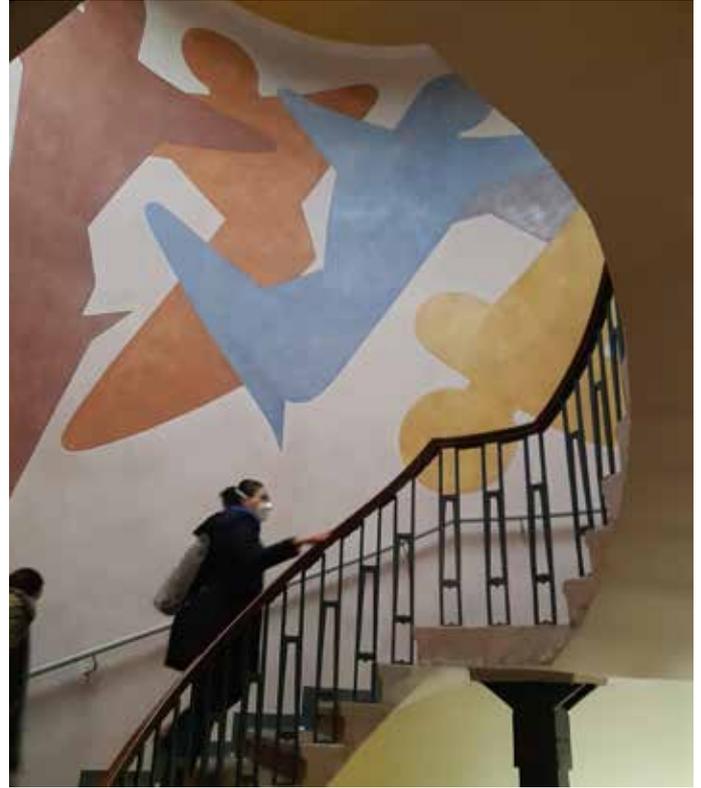
of study of the architecture and interior design programmes and they were also taken around the premises visiting the workshops, lecture rooms and Fabrication laboratory.

Ημερίδα «Γίνομαι Αρχιτέκτονας και Σχεδιαστής Εσωτερικών Χώρων ένα υπέροχο Σαββατιάτικο πρωινό».  
<https://www.facebook.com/588495903/videos/713227186388989/?t=3>

### Bauhaus Spring School

15–18 March 2022, Bauhaus University Weimar, Germany

Faculty Members: University of Nicosia: Anna Efstathiou, Kika Ioannou, Eleonore Zippelius  
Tutors: Bauhaus University Weimar: Kristiina Oelsner, Christian Kaestner, Daniela Radi, Ing. Luise Nerlich, Manolis Iliakis and Julia Heinemann, Manolis Iliakis  
Students: Athanasios Stergiou, Emilia Apostolou, Marianna Demedtriadou, Myrto Ttofalla, Amani Suleyman, Barad Mustafa, Celina Mussalam



Three Faculty members and a group of Interior Design Students partook in two programmes in the yearly Bauhaus Spring School in March 2022. <https://www.uni-weimar.de/springschool/de/kurse/architektur-urbanistik/bodyspace-spacebody/> The workshop Body space/ Space body was guided by Dr Ing. Luise Nerlich, a lecturer of the Bauhaus University, and Manolis Iliakis, the Interior Design Coordinator of the Vakalo Art and Design College in Athens, Greece. The workshop dealt with body awareness in space in relation to the body moving in space. It offered the chance to experience the functions and design of spaces in the original Bauhaus building and how these affect the body. Architectural space was explored in relation to the skin, the clothing, and the building and its interior space. The body was related to the

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structure, the colours, the surfaces and light and shadow.

The Locomotion workshop run by Julia Heinemann focused on the reinvention and upgrading of public, multi-functional places in order to render them more social. Students were asked to develop microarchitectures, a modular construction element which could add site specific value for varying uses and react to changing requirements. Students were conducting experimental and analytical site analysis and a spatial analysis on the model as well as representing their design proposals on paper and as models up to a scale of 1:1.

### Seminar: Considering the Future of Care

22 March 2022, Department of Architecture (ARC) University of Nicosia

Faculty Members: Markella Menikou, Eleonore Zippelius, Petros Lapithis, Anna Papadopoulou, Angela Petrou, Maria Hadjisoteriou, Anna Efstathiou

Theotokos Foundation: The "Theotokos" Foundation – Americos Argyriou is an NGO charity and non-profit making organization providing care services to people with mental and physical disabilities

The event was attended by: Dr Antonios Ganas, Director general of the Theotokos Foundation; Alecos Orountiotis, President of the Board of Directors of the Theotokos Foundation; Dr Argyris Argyriou, Member of the Board of Directors of the Theotokos Foundation and President of the Centre for Preventive Paediatrics; Fotini Tsiridou, Member of the House of Representatives and President of the Friends Association of the Centre for Preventative Paediatrics Parent representatives, other members of the Board of Directors of Theotokos Foundation and staff of Theotokos Foundation

Architecture Students: Christos Benjamin, Georgios Chrysoulakis, Anna Dalarian, Nour Elhaji, Maria Nicolaou Michelle Physentzidou Myria Christodoulou, Dimitris Xixis, Aris Ktorides

Interior Design Students: Ekaterina Nikolaenko, Mikaela Papoute, Amani Suleymam, Tareq Naffa

The seminar presented the initial results of ongoing dynamic collaboration between the Department of Architecture and Theotokos Foundation. Lecturers and students presented research work and project proposals carried out in the Fall 2021 at the university of Nicosia- examining the future of care. Presentations explored opportunities for the future development of the existing Theotokos facilities, sustainable design principles as well as speculation on community perception of the disabled in Cyprus and potential practices of care.

Research and design propositions were developed by Year 4 and Year 5 students of the Architecture and Interior Design programmes. The work produced is intended to provide a basic groundwork and an inventory of directives for future endeavours of the Foundation. Student research will help to define the needs of the Theotokos foundation – establishing an informed brief for future expansion and development of the existing facilities. Further events will follow in June 2022.





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## First year Installations at the Xarkis Festival

17 October 2021, Lympia Village, Cyprus

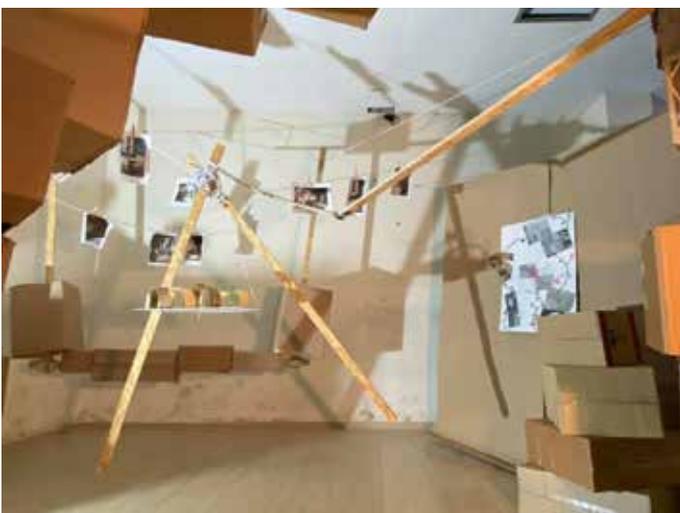
Faculty Members: Adonis Kleanthous, Yiorgos Hadjichristou; Student assistant: Christos Savva

Students: Year 1 Fall 2021

Organisers: Xarkis NGO

First year students of the Architecture Programme of the university of Nicosia took part in the Xarkis Festival in Lympia with seven group installations. As part of their course Introduction to Architectural Design, students were immersed into a creative and rewarding experience in the first month of their studies. The installations were produced as part of a fast-paced charrette to serve as a springboard to the subsequent design project Urban Glenti. Students responded to the challenge with imagination and truly innovative proposals.

“Founded in 2013, The Xarkis group works with cultural agents and communities, involving people from diverse educational, disciplinary, professional, generational and ethnic backgrounds. They promote site-specific projects that are inspired by the experience of everyday life in specific localities, employing socially engaged practices in each instance”.  
<https://festival.xarkis.org/>



## Workshop: Bauhaus Masters and Teachers Revisited

15–19 November 2021, Department of Architecture (ARC), University of Nicosia

Tutors: Avraam Hirodonti and Phidias Pavlides

Students: Ermis Nicolaou, Dimitrios Xixis, Georgios Chrysoulakis and Stefanos Gregoriou, Alexandra Sukhanova, Anna Dalarian and Svetlana Sukhanova, Toke Joseph, Kalia Avraam, Anastasia Siali, Marie Stavridou and Elena Papaoikonomou, Micheal Physentzidou, Panagiota Tsafara, Georgios Patsalosavvis and Christos Benjamin



The Bauhaus Masters and Teachers Revisited workshop introduced students to some of the most important figures of the Bauhaus school and initiated a process of artistic creation, inspired by key concepts of the Bauhaus movement. Through lectures and research, students examined the work of the artists; Paul Klee, László Moholy-Nagy, Josef Albers and Wassily Kandinsky, investigating the influence of the Bauhaus school in their work. Using Bauhaus principles, students explored the strong bond between art and architecture, creating their own Gesamtkunstwerk (total work of art). Students worked in small groups to produce one large scale, 2D artwork, inspired by the work of their chosen artist and a large scale, 3D installation, based on their proposal.

- Frame a research argument and develop a methodology or strategy for completion of a large scale project.
- Further develop their self-initiated research skills on a given topic.
- Demonstrate an advancement in the way they process visual information and how they use it to inform and develop their personal work.

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## Final Outcomes

- One large scale, 2D artwork, inspired by the work of their chosen artist.
- A large scale, 3D installation, based on their proposal.

## Materials

Materials for this course can vary, depending on the students' approach regarding the tasks at hand. Indicative materials include (but are not limited to): cardboard, foam board, MDF, cheap board, fabric, canvas, paper, acrylic paint, oil paint etc.

## Teaching Methods

Lectures, tutorials, discussions, presentations, hands-on experience in designing, fabricating and displaying artwork.

## Assessment Methods

- Attendance 50%
- Final project and presentation 50%

Students are required to attend all classes. Absences exceeding 20% are considered to be excessive and students will be withdrawn.

## Assessment Criteria

- Research Ability
- Conceptual Development
- Quality of presentation
- Standard of verbal communication of research outcomes and ideas during the presentation
- Quality of the final outcome



WORKSHOP INDICATIVE SCHEDULE: 09:00-10:30	11:00-13:00	13:00-14:30	14:30-16:00	16:30-18:00	18:30-19:30	
DAY 1-15/11	LECTURE 1	LECTURE 2	BREAK	LECTURE 3	SELF-INITIATED RESEARCH	-
DAY 2-16/11	GROUP TUTORIALS	RESEARCH DEPENDING ON FEEDBACK	BREAK	DESIGN	DESIGN	GROUP TUTORIALS (UPON REQUEST)





## Virtual Reality Workshop Metascapes

14–18 March 2022, Department of Architecture (ARC),  
University of Nicosia

Tutors: Michalis Georgiou, Odysseas Georgiou, Ioulios  
Georgiou, Christina Christoforou

Visiting Specialists: Andreas Prokopiou and Stavros Voskaris  
Guest Lecturers: Adonis Zachariades, Chloe Sun, Fatemeh  
Monfared

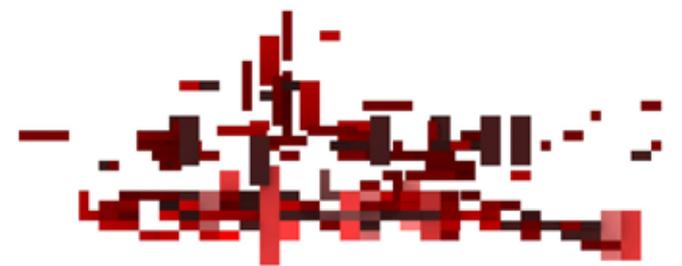
Students: Betel Abdella, Rami Abousada, Vasiliki Alvanou,  
Alisar Bshara, Charalambia Chacholi, Stefanos Gregoriou,  
Maksim Murashov, Raphaela-Panayiota Nicolettis, Marino  
Papachrysostomou, Ioannis Paraskevas, Amr Shokeir, Mo-  
hamed Shokir, Elena Tsolaki



The intensive one-week workshop explored the potential role of the architectural profession and education during the current development phase of the metaverse. A group of undergraduate architecture students engaged with custom software workflows and metaverse platforms towards constructing interactive virtual environments. Novel ideas and design processes were tested, discussed and analysed, in an attempt to set a research framework aiming to produce knowledge and design methodologies to support architectural contributions and engagement with the field. Five proposals were produced yielding conclusive findings and revealing a fertile ground for the proliferation of architecture in the metaverse era.

The workshop shared a common brief with The Next Top Metaverse Build, a virtual buildathon, competition and accelerator program helping spotlight the next wave of Metaverse entrepreneurs and builders. The competition offered the opportunity to build, pitch and test ideas in front of industry-leading Metaverses, protocols, organizations and investors. Selected proposals, developed during the workshop, have been submitted to the competition and registered (minted) as Non Fungible Tokens.

# DEPARTMENT of ARCHITECTURE



read our past issues online  
[shss newsletter](#)



Project LUSH (by Raphaela Nicolettis, Marino Papachristostomou, Giannis Paraskevas)  
Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NlzoQDMaUfs>  
NFT: <https://renovi.io/item-details?id=217>

Project CTRLshift (by Betel Abdella and Maxim Murashov Alexandrovich)  
Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=umMt4PpKF4o>  
NFT: <https://renovi.io/item-details?id=216>  
<https://www.unic.ac.cy/university-of-nicosia-partners-with-the-next-top-metaverse-build-competition/#>

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# DEPARTMENT of DESIGN AND MULTIMEDIA

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## Fine Art programme – Department of Design and Multimedia | OPEN STUDIO EXHIBITION

Cyprus Young Contemporaries 2022  
Final Year Project and Exhibition  
BA in Fine Art, Department of Design and Multimedia  
Location: Thkio Ppalies  
Dates: 3–9 June 2022  
<https://thkioppalies.org/>

After the two years of the strict pandemic restrictions, we opened up the UNIC Fine Art Studios again for our yearly Open Studio event. This was attended by students from the Department of Design and Multimedia, colleagues, the family of the fine art students and their friends. It enabled the students to exhibit their work, a vital aspect of their learning process and our pedagogical approach.



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### MA in Digital Art and Design programme – Department of Design and Multimedia | Course Exhibition

End of semester Course Projects assessment and Exhibition  
DAD-524 | Installation Art and Digital Practices  
MA in Digital Art and Design, Department of Design and Multimedia

Location: Thkio Ppalies

June 2022

<https://www.unic.ac.cy/digital-art-and-design-ma/>

Assessment process for the class:

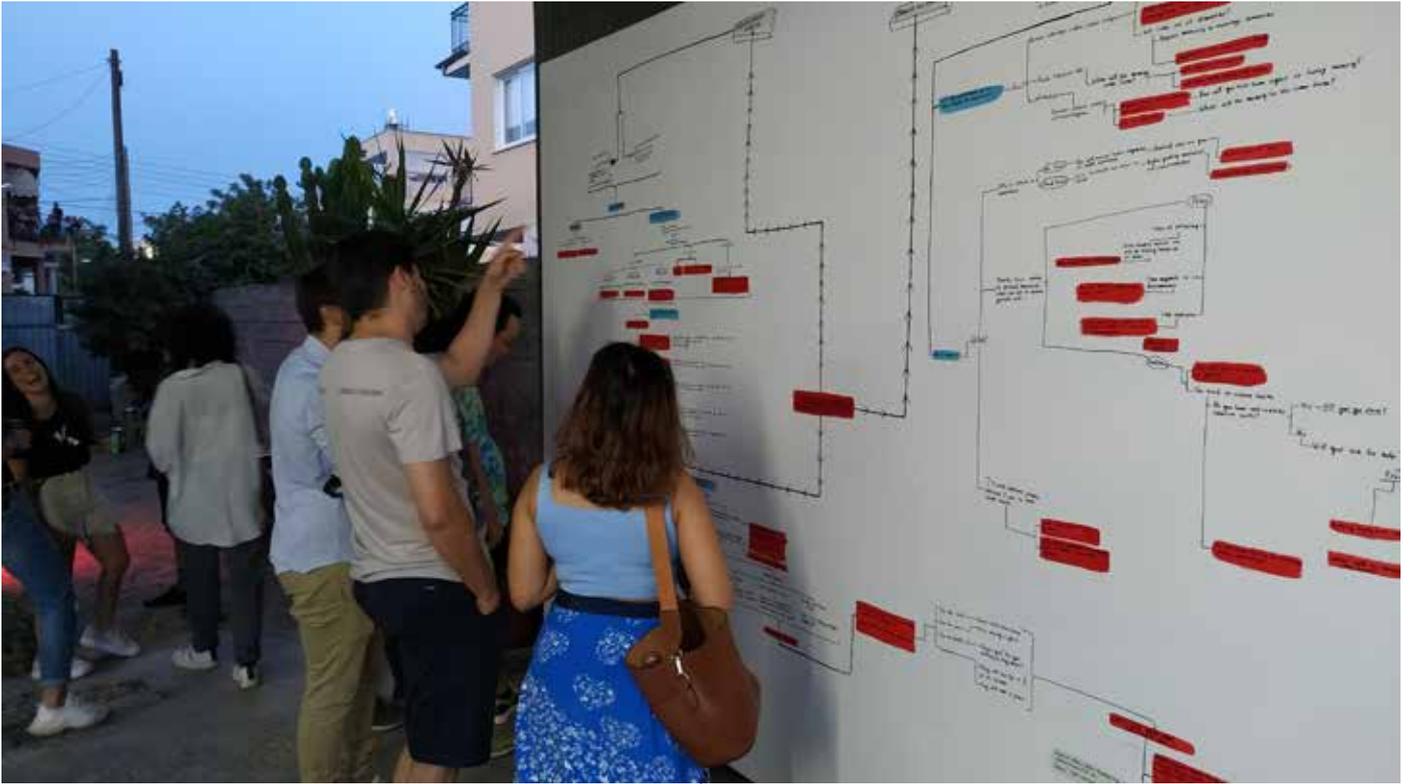
Students submit a 1500–2000 word research report.

Students install their projects at the exhibition space.

Students, are allocated sufficient time to explain their artworks; tutors and external artists discuss and evaluate their work.

Opening of the exhibition to the public.







**8th International Conference on Typography & Visual Communication**  
**Beyond the obvious | Typography and Visual Communication in times of disruption**  
**Thessaloniki, Greece, 5–9 July 2022**  
**Helexpo / Ioannis Vellidis Congress Centre**

ICTVC celebrated 20 years of existence; the 8th international conference took place in Thessaloniki, Greece, from 5 to 9 July 2022. Despite the many challenges and the problems due to the pandemic and war crises etc., the 8th ICTVC 2022 was another successfully organised and ran event with more than 100 speakers, workshops, exhibitions and happenings.

ICTVC is organised by the Institute for the Study of Typography & Visual Communication and is endorsed by the Department of Design & Multimedia, University of Nicosia, Cyprus, the Department of Typography & Graphic

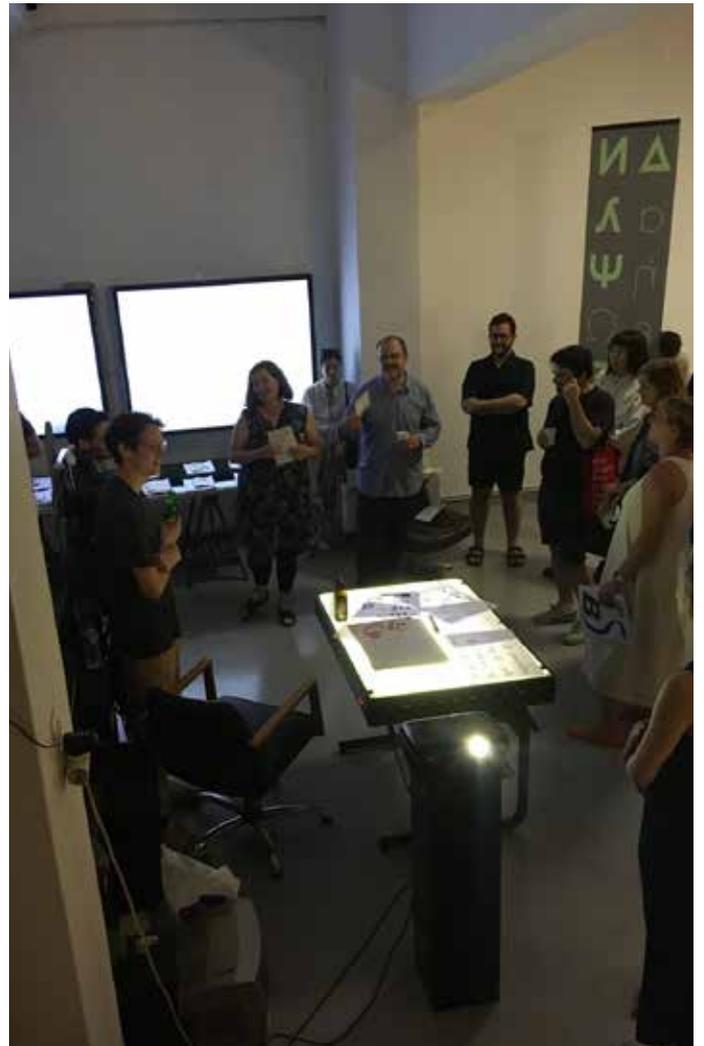
Communication, University of Reading, UK, the Department of Graphic and Visual Communication, University of West Attica, Greece, the School of Art Design and Creative Industries, Wichita State University, USA, the Royal College of Art, Postgraduate Art and Design, UK, as well as by a number of professional associations, research institutions, and museums.

In his opening speech, Prof. Klimis Mastoridis, General Secretary of ICTVC, said that “throughout these days we will have the chance to interact with each other, discuss, and learn how colleagues, professional practitioners, students, and educators from various countries and continents feel about the current environment, where typography and visual communication is taught and practiced; but also, find out more about the meeting places between our field and other disciplines. Once again, this is a time to ask questions and a unique opportunity to think about the issues this conference has been set up to explore. As it was stated in our call, our intention is to “face the challenges and opportunities in turbulent and uncertain times like these”...

More information

<https://www.facebook.com/ictvc.org>

<https://ictvc.org/2022/en/>



# DEPARTMENT of



## Presentation of the Research Project “The Archive of Dimitris Papaioannou: Documentation, Digitization, Innovative Research and Promotion”

### Project synopsis

A new research project, “The Archive of Dimitris Papaioannou: Documentation, Digitization, Innovative Research and Promotion”, was launched in January 2021. It focuses on the field of digital cultural heritage and documentation of contemporary cultural content, and aims at the processing, documentation, digitization and promotion of the archive and the creative work of the internationally acclaimed director, choreographer and visual artist, Dimitris Papaioannou.

The project forms part of the Greek state action “Digital Cultural”, funded by the Hellenic Ministry of Culture. It is implemented in the framework of a collaboration between the artistic company “DYO” and a research team specialized in cultural documentation and archival processing. It is hosted by the University of the Peloponnese in collaboration with the Institute of Informatics & Telecommunications of the National Centre for Scientific Research “Demokritos”, the Centre of Research into Modern Greek Dialects of the Academy of Athens, the University of Nicosia and the Music Library of Greece “Lilian Voudouri”.

The project is based on innovative archival approaches, such as direct and indirect semantic interconnections, allowing new multiple data associations and relevant conclusions, which are hoped to lead to an in-depth analysis, comprehension and promotion of the work of Dimitris Papaioannou.

### Partners and research team

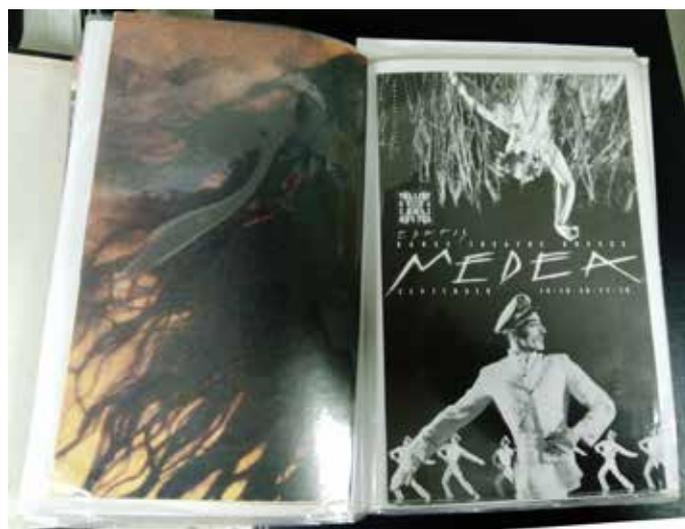
Dr Avra Xepapadakou, coordinator of the MA Programme in Greek Civilization of the University of Nicosia, participates in the Project “The Archive of Dimitris Papaioannou” as an experienced researcher, member of the main research team.

### More information

<https://ts.uop.gr/en/gr/european-and-national-research-projects-coordinated-by-the-university-of-the-peloponnese-uop/291-the-archive-of-dimitris-papaioannou>

### Images

- Press cutting from an interview with Dimitris Papaioannou, newspaper *To Kerdos*, 15.1.1994 (top left) and the logo of the project (right).
- Dr Avra Xepapadakou, coordinator of the UNic MA Programme “Greek Civilization”, while processing digital files.



- Evening programme of the emblematic stage production of *Medea I*, included in the archive of Dimitris Papaioannou.
- Views of the still unclassified collection of items. The project team is expected to compile a complete, organized and digitized archive.

## PUBLICATIONS

Dr Avra Xerapadaku, Dept of Languages and Literature

Παπαλεξίου, Έλενα, Αύρα Ξεραπαδάκου, 2022.  
«Ιχνηλατώντας το παρελθόν. Το αρχείο του Romeo Castellucci και της Societas Raffaello Sanzio: μία συμβολή στην ιστορία του Ευρωπαϊκού Θεάτρου», στον τόμο *Δημιουργικά Αρχεία ως Ζωντανά Τοπία Μνήμης στην Ψηφιακή Εποχή*, Έ. Παπαλεξίου (επιμ.), Αθήνα, CR.E.ARCH.–FagottoBooks, σελ.147–194.



Το κεφάλαιο αυτό έχει αφιερωθεί στο ογκωδέστατο αρχείο των Ιταλών καλλιτεχνών, οι οποίοι τάραξαν τα νερά της διεθνούς σύγχρονης σκηνης με τις σπάνιες καλλιτεχνικές ποιότητες, τόλμης και πρωτοτυπίας σκηνικές τους δημιουργίες. Το συνυπογράφουν οι επιμελήτριες του αρχείου, Αύρα Ξεραπαδάκου και Έλενα Παπαλεξίου, οι οποίες παρουσιάζουν το πολυσύνθετο «γενετικό υλικό» που προσφέρει για εις βάθος έρευνα της εξελικτικής πορείας του καλλιτεχνικού έργου και της εν γένει δράσης της ομάδας αυτής. Μιας ομάδας, που όπως αναφέρει και ο έγκριτος καθηγητής θεατρολογίας Marco De Marinis, «άλλαξε ριζικά τον τρόπο με τον οποίον σκεφτόμαστε και βλέπουμε το θέατρο στον αιώνα μας». Επιπλέον, περιγράφονται όλες οι παράλληλες δραστηριότητες και εκδηλώσεις που οργανώθηκαν στο πλαίσιο της ερευνητικής εργασίας και που αποσκοπούν στην ανάδειξη του αρχείου της Societas Raffaello Sanzio και στην αύξηση της προσβασιμότητας σε αυτό.

Lemić, V., Papalexiou, E., Riolo, S., Štefanac, T., Straatman, R., Vranka, V., Xerapadaku, A., Zappulli, A., 2022  
«Δημιουργικά Αρχεία ως Καινοτόμες Εστίες Πολιτισμού: Ένας διάλογος μεταξύ χωρών και πολιτισμών από το χαρτί στα πολυμέσα», στον τόμο *Δημιουργικά Αρχεία ως Ζωντανά Τοπία Μνήμης στην Ψηφιακή Εποχή*, Έ. Παπαλεξίου (επιμ.), Αθήνα, CR.E.ARCH.–FagottoBooks, σελ.29–106

Στο κεφάλαιο εξετάζονται ζητήματα όπως: πώς θα κατορθώσουν τα αρχειακά ιδρύματα να ενδιαφέρουν κοινωνικές ομάδες πέραν της παραδοσιακής ερευνητικής κοινότητας; Πώς μπορούν, χωρίς να αποποιηθούν την κληρονομιά τους, να εξελιχθούν σε κόμβους για την



ανάδειξη της δημόσιας ιστορίας μέσα από την ενεργή συμμετοχή της κοινότητας; Σε ειδικές υποενότητες προτείνονται λύσεις και απαντήσεις, με πρώτιστο στόχο την αβίαστη συμμετοχή του/της αρχειονόμου σε μία διαδικασία κατάκτησης και αξιοποίησης δεξιοτήτων στο πεδίο της αρχειονομικής εργασίας. Σύμφωνα με την προσέγγιση των συγγραφέων του μελετήματος, η θεωρητική βάση της παραδοσιακής αρχειονομικής εκπαίδευσης μπορεί να διευρυνθεί με τη συμβολή πολλών διαφορετικών κλάδων προερχόμενων από τις Ανθρωπιστικές και Κοινωνικές Επιστήμες, τις Τέχνες, καθώς και τις Επιστήμες των Υπολογιστών. Προκειμένου να αναπτυχθεί μία τελεσφόρα σχέση με το κοινό, υποδεικνύονται παράλληλα πλείστες εφαρμογές και παραδείγματα βέλτιστων υφιστάμενων πρακτικών στο εν λόγω πεδίο.

Papers in Conferences and Invited Lectures  
Avra Xerapadaku, Eleni Papalexio, Elpidia Komianou,  
“The Greek CR.E.ARCH. Team: Activities and Research”,  
Workshop: Reflections and main results, Naples, 28.10.2021

The Greek CR.E.ARCH. team studied the relevant literature thoroughly and investigated in practice the issue of Audience Development (AD) of the archives. The aim of this activity was to propose methods and techniques for attracting a new audience to archives, museums and cultural heritage sites. Pursuing the methodical development of this creative service and the preparation of a functional work plan for attracting and managing a wider audience, which does not usually visit archives, the team gathered its findings in a comprehensive study.



Participation in Academic Committees and Workgroups  
MGG-Die Musik in Geschichte und Gegenwart: Member of the academic advisory board, 2019-2023

Die Musik in Geschichte und Gegenwart (MGG) is one of the most prestigious general encyclopedias of music. MGG is encyclopedic in the true sense of that term: it offers in-depth articles on every aspect of music as well as many related areas such as literature, philosophy, and visual arts.

## Dr George Georgiou, Department of Languages and Literature

*Acoustic markers of vowels produced with different types of face masks*



The wide spread of SARS-CoV-2 led to the extensive use of face masks in public places. Although masks offer significant protection from infectious droplets, they also impact verbal communication by altering speech signal. The present study examines how two types of face masks affect the speech properties of

vowels. Twenty speakers were recorded producing their native vowels in a /pVs/ context, maintaining a normal speaking rate. Speakers were asked to produce the vowels in three conditions: (a) with a surgical mask, (b) with a cotton mask, and (c) without a mask. The speakers' output was analyzed through Praat speech acoustics software. We fitted three linear mixed-effects models to investigate the mask-wearing effects on the first formant (F1), second formant (F2), and duration of vowels. The results demonstrated that F1 and duration of vowels remained intact in the masked

conditions compared to the unmasked condition, while F2 was altered for three out of five vowels (/e a u/) in the surgical mask and two out of five vowels (/e a/) in the cotton mask. So, both types of masks altered to some extent speech signal and they mostly affected the same vowel qualities. It is concluded that some acoustic properties are more sensitive than other to speech signal modification when speech is filtered through masks, while various sounds are affected in a different way. The findings may have significant implications for second/foreign language instructors who teach pronunciation and for speech therapists who teach sounds to individuals with language disorders.

The full paper

Georgiou, G. P. (2022). Acoustic markers of vowels produced with different types of face masks. *Applied Acoustics*, 191, 108691. doi: 10.1016/j.apacoust.2022.108691

## *Words are not just words: how the use of media language in the COVID-19 era affects public health*

This paper investigates how exposure to media texts containing alarming and militaristic language affects peoples' notions regarding COVID-19 and the consequences of this effect on public health. The participants filled a questionnaire in which they were asked to read a passage including either alarming and militaristic or neutral terminology on COVID-19, and then answer four questions on a Likert-point scale. The questions assessed the participants' notions on the end of the pandemic, the vaccine effectiveness, and the consequences on the economies and mental health. Ordinal regression models in R were used for the analysis. The results showed that individuals who were exposed to alarming and militaristic language developed more pessimistic notions regarding COVID-19 in comparison to those who were exposed to a more neutral language. However, both groups of individuals had similar notions regarding vaccine effectiveness. In conclusion, the media should redefine the language they use for the description of the pandemic, considering that the extensive use of alarming and militaristic terminology may have a negative impact on public health.

The full paper

Georgiou, G. P. (2021). Words are not just words: how the use of media language in the COVID-19 era affects public health. *Epidemiology and Health*, 43, e2021072-0. doi: 10.4178/epih.e2021072

## *Effect of different types of speech sounds on viral transmissibility: A scoping review*

Previous evidence suggested that the phonetic features of a given language may modulate the quantity of droplets emitted from the mouth during speech, determining viral transmissibility. This scoping review aims to present the body of research with respect to the effect of different types of speech sounds on the potential transmission of a virus and to evaluate the certainty of evidence of these data. Five online databases were used to extract experimental research studies which were published between 2000 and 2021. Of the 2217 studies initially identified, 11 studies were included in the review. Each individual study was assessed with GRADE

to detect their certainty of evidence. Most of the studies focused on the investigation of fricatives and plosives. It was found that plosives might have the most chance to transmit a virus, followed by nasals and fricatives. This chance is significantly reduced for vowels. The majority of the studies were of low or very low evidence. The results can allow epidemiologists to better model the factors that account for potential viral transmission by considering the effect of speech sounds. In addition, they can inform educators and clinicians for better management and reduction of the risk of viral transmission. The evidence provided about how specific speech sounds may contribute to the spread of a virus is very limited and is confined to the investigation of a few types of sounds.

The full paper

Georgiou, G. P. (2021). Effect of different types of speech sounds on viral transmissibility: A scoping review. *Speech, Language and Hearing*. doi: 10.1080/2050571X.2021.2014705

### *The Universal Perceptual Model (UPM) of Second Language*

Several speech models have been developed to examine second language (L2) speech patterns, considering that the acquisition of L2 sounds is often challenging for most learners. The Universal Perceptual Model (UPM) is a newly introduced model which provides predictions about the discrimination of L2 phone contrasts. In this paper, the central tenets and current evidence about the model's predictions are briefly discussed, while some revisions are also proposed. UPM predicted with success the discrimination accuracy of nonnative phone contrasts, indicating that it can be a useful L2 speech model. Future research should investigate further the predictability of the model.

Georgiou, G. P. (2021). The Universal Perceptual Model (UPM) of Second Language. In A. Botinis (ed.), *Proceedings of the 12th International Conference of Experimental Linguistics (ExLing 2021)* (pp. 101-104). Athens, Greece: National and Kapodistrian University of Athens. doi: 10.36505/ExLing-2021/12

## CONFERENCES

The Department of Languages and Literature of the University of Nicosia is pleased to announce the Advances in second/foreign language acquisition (ASeFoLA) conference, which will be held online on 18-19 June 2022.

ASeFoLA aims to bring together researchers from around the world who are working to better understand the second/foreign language acquisition process. Contributions may concentrate on mono-/bi-/multilingual, mono-/bi-/multidialectal, mono-/bi-/multivarietal, and heritage language speakers who learn or acquire a second/foreign language in mono-/bi-/multilingual contexts. Thus, any conclusions on the second/foreign language acquisition process should consider both the role of speakers' linguistic repertoires and the linguistic context.

Four internationally recognized academics will deliver lectures as keynote speakers:

Themistoklis Aravossitas, Lecturer of Hellenic Studies, University of Toronto

Simone Pfenninger, Associate Professor of Second Language Acquisition and Psycholinguistics, University of Salzburg

Andrea Révész, Professor of Second Language Acquisition, University College London

Virginia Yip, Professor of Linguistics, The Chinese University of Hong Kong

## OTHER ACTIVITIES

Establishment of The Cyprus Linguistics and Humanities Research Group (CLHRG) at the Department of Languages and Literature (DLL), School of Humanities and Social Sciences (SHSS)

The main goal of the CLHRG is to promote the research activities of the faculty members of the DLL; these activities will be in the areas of Greek and English language/linguistics, literature, language teaching, and humanities in general. More specifically, the research group aims to:

- Encourage the collaboration of the faculty members of the DLL (and the SHSS) under the umbrella of a common research group
- Produce high-quality research papers, which will be published in high-ranking journals (i.e., Scopus Q1)
- Build collaboration bonds with distinguished researchers from our university and/or other universities
- Seek for research funding
- Organize lectures with the participation of the general audience including students, teachers, and university professors

The establishment of CLHRG will enhance the prestige of the Department and UNIC and will help faculty develop outstanding research.



Deadline for submission:  
22 August 2022

For further information: Prof. Rossie Artemis  
22842348 | artemis.r@unic.ac.cy

UNIVERSITY OF NICOSIA | DEPARTMENT OF  
LANGUAGES AND LITERATURE



Project Number: 2020-1-NL01-KA203-064703  
Training Week of the Mentor Your Future Project  
Prof. Ioulia Papageorgi

During the first week of May 2022 (2-6 May 2022), a transnational training of student mentors took place at the University of Nicosia. The training was hosted by UNIC within the framework of the KA2 Erasmus + project Mentor Your Future, a project between 6 European Countries aiming to promote mentoring in Higher Education Institutions, for which UNIC acts as a partner. The main target of this training week was to use tools of formal and informal education to create an opportunity for intercultural group bonding, sharing of experiences and implementation of workshops that would create the opportunities for participants to deepen knowledge and understanding on topics of mentoring. The agenda of the training week evolved around 4 main themes:

1. Mentoring processes and experience (definitions, types & components, mentoring impact, mentoring skills, and best practices on how to build successful mentoring relationships)
2. Diversity and Multiculturalism in Mentoring,
3. Mentoring and sustainability and
4. Promoting Psychological Resilience through mentoring.

The consortium of trainers for the training week included professionals from UNIC and NHL Stenden, these were Ms. Katerina Georgaki, Dr. Alexandros Antonaras, Dr. Ioulia Papageorgi, Ms. Andri Anastasiou, Ms Justine Jones and Ms Aukje Van Ver Veen. The 22 student mentor participants came from Bulgaria, Spain, France, the Netherlands and from Cyprus. They reported that during training week in Cyprus, they were able to explore and reflect on their mentoring experiences, dive deeper in what they need to be effectively supported in their mentoring work, get involved in peer mentoring, networking and enjoyed inspirational storytelling on mentoring by Ms. Marina Hadid (School Psychologist, former mentor at UNIC) and Ms. Despo Genethli (School Psychologist, former coordinator, and mentor at UNIC).



In May 2021, the “Principles on Effective Interviewing for Investigations and Information Gathering” also known as the “Méndez Principles” were presented. The principles’ aim is to modify police practices during suspect interviewing by replacing coercive interrogations with rapport-based interviews, thus improving the results of investigations while at the same time respecting human rights. They are intended to change how authorities conduct interviewing and they provide guidance on obtaining accurate and reliable information in full respect of the human rights and dignity of all: <https://www.apr.ch/en/mendez-principles-effective-interviewing> The hope is that the principles will be adopted by various countries and will soon be endorsed by the United Nations. The United Nations General Assembly, the Human Rights Council, the UNODC Crime Congress, and the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights have already welcomed this initiative: [https://www.apr.ch/sites/default/files/publications/apr\\_PoEI\\_EN\\_08.pdf](https://www.apr.ch/sites/default/files/publications/apr_PoEI_EN_08.pdf)

I am one of the international reviewers and member of the Advisory Council, for the UN Protocol on ‘Principles on Effective Interviewing and Information Gathering’ (May 2021), chaired by Juan Mendez, United Nation’s former Special Rapporteur on Torture. Our University is the only organization from CY & GR involved in this important initiative, which is part of the United Nations’ Subcommittee on the Prevention of Torture.

Dr Stavroula Soukara  
Associate Professor of Forensic Psychology  
Associate Head / Department of Social Sciences



Department of Social Sciences

<https://www.unic.ac.cy/school-of-humanities-and-social-sciences/departments-of-social-sciences/>

# SHSS GRADUATION CEREMONY | JUNE 2022

Τελετή Αποφοίτησης της Σχολής Ανθρωπιστικών Σπουδών και Κοινωνικών Επιστημών του Πανεπιστημίου Λευκωσίας  
Graduation Ceremony, School of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Nicosia | June 2022

ΥΠΠΑΝ: Η Κύπρος ήδη θεωρείται περιφερειακό διεθνές κέντρο εκπαίδευσης

Ο κ. Προδρόμου απηύθυνε χαιρετισμό στην Τελετή Αποφοίτησης της Σχολής Ανθρωπιστικών Σπουδών και Κοινωνικών Επιστημών του Πανεπιστημίου Λευκωσίας



Την πεποίθηση ότι η Κύπρος ήδη θεωρείται ως ένα περιφερειακό διεθνές κέντρο εκπαίδευσης εξέφρασε ο Υπουργός Παιδείας, Πολιτισμού Αθλητισμού και Νεολαίας, κ. Πρόδρομος Προδρόμου, κατά την ομιλία του στην Τελετή Αποφοίτησης της Σχολής Ανθρωπιστικών Σπουδών και Κοινωνικών Επιστημών του Πανεπιστημίου Λευκωσίας, που πραγματοποιήθηκε την Τετάρτη 29 Ιουνίου 2022. «Αυτό που πριν είκοσι χρόνια εμφανιζόταν ως μακρινός, φιλόδοξος στόχος και όραμα, στις μέρες μας φαίνεται να υλοποιείται», τόνισε.

Στον χαιρετισμό του, ο Υπουργός συνεχάρη το Πανεπιστήμιο Λευκωσίας για τις επιτυχίες του στις διεθνείς κατατάξεις, χαρακτηρίζοντάς το ως «υψηλής ποιότητας ίδρυμα Ανώτερης Εκπαίδευσης». Το Πανεπιστήμιο Λευκωσίας, σημείωσε, συνεχίζει δυναμικά την αναπτυξιακή πορεία του με στόχο την προσέλκυση τόσο ντόπιων και ξένων φοιτητών, ακολουθώντας μια στρατηγική βασισμένη στη διεθνοποίηση, την εξωστρέφεια και στην ανάδειξη του πανεπιστημίου ως κέντρου ποιοτικής ανώτερης εκπαίδευσης.

Απευθυνόμενος στις απόφοιτες και στους απόφοιτους της Σχολής, ο κ. Προδρόμου ανέφερε: «Συναισθάνομαι ότι μοιράζομαι μαζί σας μία από τις πιο σημαντικές στιγμές στη ζωή σας. Μοιράζομαι μαζί σας αυτή την ώρα που βλέπετε να ανταμείβονται κόποι, προσπάθειες και αγώνες πολλών χρόνων. Αλλά ταυτόχρονα είναι και μία σημαντική στιγμή για το ίδιο το Πανεπιστήμιο Λευκωσίας, που συνεχίζει να τροφοδοτεί την κοινωνία με καταρτισμένους, άξιους νέους επιστήμονες, που την ίδια ώρα που θα χαράζουν τη δικιά τους επαγγελματική ή ακαδημαϊκή πορεία και ανέλιξη, συμβάλλουν και στην πρόοδο και ανάπτυξη της κοινωνίας μας».

Στην ομιλία της, η επίτιμη προσκεκλημένη Δρ Μαρία Τσαντσάνογλου, Αναπληρώτρια Γενική Διευθύντρια MOMus και Διευθύντρια MOMus-Μουσείο Μοντέρνας

Τέχνης-Συλλογή Κωστάκη, αναφέρθηκε στην υπηρεσία προς το συνάνθρωπο και στις απεριόριστες δυνατότητες των ανθρωπιστικών και κοινωνικών επιστημών, καταφεύγοντας στη δική της εμπειρία ως πτυχιούχος ανθρωπιστικών επιστημών, και εξηγώντας πώς κάθε τομέας έχει τη δική του θεωρητική και πρακτική αξία, αλλά και πώς μια διεπιστημονική προσέγγιση μπορεί να πολλαπλασιάσει ολιστικά τις πιθανότητες για ένα ευνοϊκό αποτέλεσμα.

Απευθυνόμενη στις απόφοιτες και στους απόφοιτους της Σχολής, είπε: «Έχετε δύναμη, αισιοδοξία, ιδέες, σχέδια – θέλετε να φτιάξετε έναν καλύτερο κόσμο. Πιστέψτε με, μπορείτε να το κάνετε. Όσο διατηρείτε αναμμένη τη νεανική φλόγα, όσο δεν αρκεστείτε σε απλούς και πρόχειρους συμβιβασμούς, όσο δεν υποτιμάτε την αξία σας και όσο πάντοτε υποστηρίζετε τις αξίες της δημοκρατίας, της ελευθερίας και της ισότητας, για τις οποίες πολλοί έχουν αγωνιστεί, εξασφαλίζοντας μεγάλες αλλά πολύ συχνά εύθραυστες νίκες. Να θυμάστε πάντα ότι η αξία κάθε προσωπικού επιτεύγματος πολλαπλασιάζεται όταν εξυπηρετεί και τον συνάνθρωπό μας».

Λόγω απουσίας του Πρύτανη του Πανεπιστημίου, Καθηγητή Φίλιππου Πουγιούτα, ο Ανώτερος Αντιπρόεδρος Καθηγητής Κωνσταντίνος Φελλάς, ηγήθηκε της ακαδημαϊκής πομπής και ανέγνωσε την ομιλία του Πρύτανη.

Στην ομιλία του, ο Πρύτανης ανέδειξε τα ανταγωνιστικά πλεονεκτήματα του Πανεπιστημίου Λευκωσίας και εστίασε στις σημαντικές παγκόσμιες κατατάξεις του, ιδιαίτερα στην πρόσφατη κατάταξη του ανάμεσα στα 601-800 καλύτερα του κόσμου από το Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2022. Αναφορά έκανε επίσης στη σημαντική κατάταξη του Πανεπιστημίου στα 180 καλύτερα νέα πανεπιστήμια του κόσμου, από το Times Higher Education Young University Rankings 2022.



Αναφερόμενος στη στρατηγική 2030 «Πανεπιστήμια Χωρίς Τείχη» του Ευρωπαϊκού Δικτύου Πανεπιστημίων (EUA), ο Καθηγητής Πουγιούτας στην ομιλία του στάθηκε στις προκλήσεις που καλούνται να αντιμετωπίσουν τα πανεπιστήμια της Ευρώπης αλλά και η κοινωνία γενικότερα, κατά την τρέχουσα δεκαετία, εστιάζοντας στην πάταξη της παραπληροφόρησης, την ενίσχυση της ακαδημαϊκής ελευθερίας και αυτονομίας προς στήριξη της δημοκρατίας, την επίτευξη της πράσινης και ψηφιακής μετάβασης και τη διασφάλιση της κοινωνικής ισότητας και συμπερίληψης.

Απευθυνόμενος, δε, στις απόφοιτες και απόφοιτους της Σχολής σε σχέση με τη ψηφιακή μετάβαση, σημείωσε: «Η ψηφιακή μετάβαση της κοινωνίας μας μέσω της τέταρτης

## SHSS GRADUATION CEREMONY | JUNE 2022

βιομηχανικής επανάστασης θα δημιουργήσει επιπλέον ερωτήματα, προκλήσεις και διλήμματα και θα μας κάνει να αμφισβητήσουμε ακόμη και την ύπαρξή μας και τον τρόπο με τον οποίο ορίζουμε τους εαυτούς μας ως ανθρώπινα όντα. [...] Η διατήρηση της ανθρώπινης φύσης μας -όπως την ορίζουμε μέχρι τώρα- θα είναι μία δύσκολη πρόκληση, ενώ θα βρεθούμε αντιμέτωποι με πολλά υπαρξιακά, ηθικά, κοινωνικά, νομικά, φιλοσοφικά και άλλα ερωτήματα και διλήμματα. Οπότε, αγαπητές μου απόφοιτες και αγαπητοί μου απόφοιτοι των Ανθρωπιστικών και Κοινωνικών Επιστημών, εύχομαι να είστε έτοιμοι να κατανοήσετε αυτόν τον νέο κόσμο, να μας βοηθήσετε όλες και όλους να προσαρμοζόμαστε συνεχώς κατά την εξέλιξή του και να αναπτύξετε το ηθικό πλαίσιο το οποίο θα διασφαλίσει ότι θα παραμείνουμε άνθρωποι και άνθρωποι».

Η Αναπληρώτρια Κοσμήτορας της Σχολής, Καθηγήτρια Ιουλία Παπαγεώργη, με τη σειρά της, συνεχάρη τις απόφοιτες και τους απόφοιτους για την ανθεκτικότητα που επέδειξαν εν μέσω πανδημίας ολοκληρώνοντας με επιτυχία τις σπουδές τους. Καταληκτικά, παρότρυνε τις απόφοιτες και τους απόφοιτους να θέτουν υψηλούς στόχους, να εργάζονται σκληρά προς επίτευξή τους, αλλά πάντοτε να είναι ταπεινοί και ευγενικοί, αφήνοντας τις πράξεις και το έργο τους να μιλήσουν για το ποιοι πραγματικά είναι και τι έχουν τη δυνατότητα να κάνουν.

Χαιρετισμό απεύθυναν επίσης και οι πρωτεύουσες της Σχολής, κ. Anastasia Dolitsay, BA Interactive Media and Animation (Διαδραστικά Μέσα και Κινούμενο Σχέδιο), και κ. Χριστίνα Κυριάκου, MA Digital Media and Communications (Ψηφιακά Μέσα και Επικοινωνία), οι οποίες αναφέρθηκαν στις εμπειρίες και τις γνώσεις που απέκτησαν κατά τη διάρκεια των σπουδών τους, εφόδια για μία ενδιαφέρουσα μελλοντική πορεία.

Η τελετή αποφοίτησης ολοκληρώθηκε με την επικύρωση των τίτλων σπουδών από τον Ανώτερο Αντιπρύτανη, Καθηγητή Κωνσταντίνο Φελλά και την Αναπληρώτρια Κοσμήτορα της Σχολής Καθηγήτρια Ιουλία Παπαγεώργη.





The SHSS Graduation Ceremony keynote speaker, Dr Maria Tsantsanoglou, was born in Thessaloniki. She studied at the School of Philosophy, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, and her PhD is on “Russian Futurism, historical criticism and reception”, Lomonosov University. Dr Tsantsanoglou is acting General Director of MOMus and Artistic Director of MOMus-Modern Art-Costakis collection. Below you may read her keynote presentation:

Dear graduates,

The graduation ceremony is an important milestone in your life. Some of you will pursue postgraduate studies, while others will leave the protected academic environment and encounter the real world. You have strength, optimism, ideas, plans - you want to design a better world. Believe me, you can do it. So long as you keep the flame of youth burning, so long as you don't settle for facile and cursory compromises, so long as you don't underestimate your worth and always uphold the values of democracy, freedom and equality, for which many have fought, securing great but all too often fragile, victories. Always remember that the value of any personal achievement is multiplied when it also serves our fellow man.

I was invited here today to talk to you about this service and about the limitless potential of the humanities and social sciences. I will try to do this by resorting to my own experience – I too am a humanities graduate – and explaining how every field has its own theoretical and practical value, but also how an interdisciplinary approach can holistically multiply the chances of a favorable outcome.

My own field of expertise is cultural history and I could easily dedicate myself to conducting research in this area, i.e., how art is located within its aesthetic and historical, social and political milieu. It gives me great joy, however, that I am working instead at an arts museum and that my work is not based exclusively on research. The International Council of Museums (ICOM) recently suggested a redefinition of the museum; according to the new proposed definition, museums are democratizing spaces for critical dialogue that contribute to social justice, equality and ecological awareness.

A museum can open and comment on any dialogue related to any controversial aspect of this redefinition that is taking place in the public sphere and influencing the aesthetics of daily life. It can do that through a consistent strategy that forms an integral part of its wider operational strategy. Until recently, museums would determine their exhibition

activities with audience education and cultivation as the sole criteria; Nowadays, however, a museum's strategy has been enriched with new and expanded dimensions. We can observe that a museum is, on the one hand, a closed institution, a “temple” that acquires, conserves and safekeeps the valuable heritage of the past, but, on the other hand, it is also a progressive and open institution, that invites the world to draw knowledge and inspiration in order to build a better world in the future. When this second dimension is lacking, the museum loses part of the essence of its existence and role. A museum is a collective affair, that values all scientific specialties, including of course the self-evident ones:

Dear graduates of Art, Design and Multimedia Department, A museum is diverse and multidisciplinary, but there are two fundamental elements without which it ceases to be a museum: the first one is its collections and the second its audience. Especially for a Museum that operates as a Centre of Contemporary Art, no curated exhibition would be possible of course without artists.

Dear young artists, we expect from you to engage in daring experiments, in the hope that future art is not stilted and defensive, but allows the considered use of old aesthetic mediums, the invention of new ones and the redefinition of universal values such as freedom, health, education and culture.

Design, and more broadly the products of the applied arts, do not exist merely as exhibits, but play a living role in everything a museum offers to its audience. No exhibition or artistic program can ever ignore the collaboration with graphic designers, who work next to a museum's creative team from day one, defining not only the physical, but also the digital signage of the museum, as applications become ever more prevalent with the advent of technology. Graphic artists are responsible for the museum's online identity, its visual communication and website, its 360-degrees visual tours and its creative animation applications. They are of course also responsible for the aesthetic and design of the catalogues and all other museum publications. Furthermore, graphic designers are the protagonists at a museum's sales booth, where their imagination and creativity promote unique items to visitors that can only be found and bought there.

Dear graduates of the Architecture Department, A museum places great emphasis in attracting visitors from every social group, through the creation of experiences that transform our museum premises into an attractive “third space”. The investigation of ways that combine knowledge and entertainment, the need for creative escape with the feeling of familiarity, where cultivating empathy, respect and tolerance are primary goals that influence the design, in parallel and in addition to every other activity. Every exhibition is an adventure, has its own narrative and aims at making the visitor feel comfortable. Architectural museography is not merely a form of stage design. People navigate and live inside the exhibition. Architectural design is a vital part of the collaborative work that lies behind every exhibition. It showcases the artworks and allows visitors to feel good, welcomed and at home.

Artworks belong to spaces not limited by national borders.

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## KEYNOTE SPEECH

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To understand this space, we need to perform an almost ritualistic, spiritual transcendence, we need to perceive utopia as the ultimate object, as a depiction of the spacetime of art.

As we often say, “museums have no borders, they have a network”. Just like visual art has always used a common, universal language of communication, so too the museum does not limit its activity within national borders. Therefore it uses – in its exhibitions, publications and, more broadly, its communications- the English language as well.

Speaking of communication, I would now like to address the graduates of the Department of Communications, since matters related to the Press, Public Relations and Communication are a crucial area in the operation of any museum. First, those working in this field collaborate horizontally with every other museum department. Their task is to cultivate the museum’s image and network, informing about and showcasing its activities. The steady flow of communication, the reception and management of audiences, keeping contact with and informing the media, as well as the proper use of social media, the creation of TV spots and podcasts, as well as cultivating contact and cooperation with international media and networks - especially for the promotion of international events and activities- are some of the goals of the museum’s communication policy. This area also includes the managing of public relations, collaboration with the marketing department, communication with sponsors, audience surveys, advertising material and many other elements that are part of the strategy that shapes the image and reputation of the museum.

Dear Social Science graduates, if you are wondering what your scientific and professional specialties could have to do with the operation of a museum, let me say straight away that they are closely connected indeed. “Wellbeing” is a constant goal of a museum’s entertainment and educational programs, and its role is becoming increasingly important. The museum diligently ensures access to all social groups, while special care should exist for our fellow citizens for whom a visit to the museum is neither easy nor self-evident. For example, a museum should offer special programs for people with disabilities, refugees and inmates, that facilitate their access to works of art.

Particularly after the pandemic, we discovered that the audience group most heavily isolated consisted of people over the age of 65. Today we place great emphasis in creating specific programs for this age group. An increasing number of museums employ psychologists and cooperate with museum educators implementing art therapy programs. Art therapy uses the creative forces of art to improve the physical condition as well as the mental and emotional well-being of people. Art therapy can be applied to patients suffering from a variety of chronic diseases, including cancer. For these patients, art therapy can prove particularly effective in managing their feelings and improving their self-esteem. So-called “cultural prescribing”, currently being tested in some countries, will soon be widely incorporated into the programming of museum institutions. Of course, “cultural prescribing” is part of broader Social Policy, and therefore requires specialized knowledge. Psychological methods,

as well as experience in social work, can contribute to supporting it. Speaking of Social Policy, I would like to note here that museums today are also spaces of activism. A museum can organize lectures, actions, and performances to raise social awareness. Let me give you an example: when the debate about freedom of sexual orientation, same sex marriage, gender transitioning, etc. opened in Greece in 2015, our museum organized an exhibition curated by Thodoris Markoglou and Syrago Tsiara in one of the most frequented public spaces in the city: City Hall. This is a place visited every day by large numbers of people conducting various bureaucratic affairs, like issuing certificates, paying fines, etc. This was the venue where we organized the exhibition “Identalterity”, that touched precisely upon the issue of gender identification and the rights of the LGBTQI+ community. The first tour we organized was addressed to the employees of the Municipality. Were there any reactions? you certainly ask yourselves. Yes, there were some. But ultimately, the exhibition achieved its goal.

A museum is a heterotopia, a “third space” that creates worlds interacting with the one we are living in. Which is why – making a connection with “theology” – I would stress the indisputable fact that the operation of a museum entails a certain Ethics. Ethics is, of course, part of our broader social behavior, however museum ethics is at the core of a museum’s operation and is described with precision in ICOM’s Code of Ethics for Museums. In the operation of a museum, it is important that we experience the thing we wish to convey, therefore no arbitrary management decisions, no displays of insincerity or defective teamwork have any place in this collective enterprise, where self-criticism is vital and self-centeredness detrimental.

Dear graduates, allow me to end my speech from the point I started: the need to safeguard and promote universal values. The museum is not only a space of cultural activity and collaboration, but also a means to promote social solidarity through the arts, and defend peace, democracy, freedom and social equality.

A museum should not be just a place frequented by cultivated people who admire the past, but a space where active people come to draw ideas and experiment with the future, as they envision a better world. These people are you. Good luck!



2021-2022

UNIVERSITY OF NICOSIA  
GRADUATION CEREMONY



## OTHER ACTIVITIES

Establishment of the Centre of Communication Studies and Research – CCSR, Department of Communications, School of Humanities and Social Sciences

Within most major universities, communication studies' research centres often exist to facilitate corresponding departments of each institution. Given the current importance of the field of communications, journalism, public relations and strategic communications, the creation of a communication studies research centre was therefore deemed necessary.

As such, the CCSR will operate under the Department of Communications. To be in line with the character of the University, the centre will have two official languages, Greek and English.

### *Vision*

To advance the field of communication studies through rigorous research and programmes that benefit society.

### *Aims and objectives*

- To respond and to secure research and training calls and proposals and participate in research opportunities across the EU and local state-sponsored programmes.
- To encourage and assist participants in the preparation of relevant publications in recognized scientific journals.
- To organize online and / or conventional events. Specifically, to organize specialized discussions, seminars, book presentations, research presentations, etc.
- To support the efforts of the Department of Communications academic staff in conducting research with the goal of preparing scientific papers in recognized academic journals.

- To plan and organize local and international academic conferences related to the subject and the character of the Department of Communications. The centre will ensure that these conferences, as well as their scientific findings, have the greatest possible visibility.
- To act as a catalyst of the Department of Communications with Cypriot society, relevant stakeholders, and the local communication / media sector.
- To assist in the creation and development of relations with respective University Departments, Schools and Institutions that are based in Cyprus and abroad.
- To create and operate a contemporary web portal, on which specialized news and announcements related to the field of communications, journalism, public relations and strategic communications will be posted, as well as material and information useful to researchers in the field. The portal will have an active and engaging presence on social media and other related internet platforms.
- To provide support to students and academics engaged in research and studies in the fields of communications, journalism, public relations and strategic communications. To try to secure, organize and operate a modern media archive – in consultation and in cooperation with those relevant bodies (ΓΤΠΙ, ΑΡΚ, ΕΣΚ, ΕΔΔ, ΚΥΠΠΕ). The archive will be available to the academic and student community for conducting scientific research. For the above, but also for corresponding activities, the center will be able to seek and secure resources through relevant support programs.
- To organize competitions and prizes related to the field of communications, journalism, public relations and strategic communications.





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AND SOCIAL SCIENCES