



scholarly and
research activities
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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,

Welcome to the 7th edition of the School of Humanities and Social Sciences Newsletter. The first part of the 2023–2024 academic year is already finished. Our students are busy studying for their exams and faculty are about to embark on the very demanding task of marking exam papers and assignments. All look forward to the end of the examination period and to the new Spring 2024 semester.

As with previous editions of our School's Newsletter, this issue contains information about colleagues' research projects, recent publications, conferences organised at the university, conferences attended by faculty, as well as exhibitions organised to celebrate the work of our students. The very kind donation of two works of art by Athanasios Spiliopoulos to the School of Humanities and Social Sciences is also featured.

We take this opportunity to thank all colleagues who have enriched this edition of the Newsletter with their projects, publications and activities. The Editorial Committee and I look forward to receiving submissions for future editions of the SHSS Newsletter. We look forward to continue disseminating the rich multidisciplinary work and achievements of our School to the wider academic community.

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

DEPARTMENT of LANGUAGES AND LITERATURE



Artificial Intelligence and Literature at the University of Chicago Centre in Paris, 12–15 September 2023

On 13 September 2023, Prof. Polina Mackay, Head of the Department of Languages and Literature, presented her latest research on Artificial Intelligence and Literature at the University of Chicago Centre in Paris. The lecture analysed the use of AI to produce literary texts, and asked what the ethical implications of such practices might be.



1st CyTesol Community Symposium, December 2023

The 1st CyTesol Community Symposium was successfully held on the 9th of December 2023 at UNIC in collaboration with the Department of Languages and Literature and the PhD TESOL programme. Catering to TESOL teachers with diverse interests and backgrounds, this event offered a variety of engaging activities and informative sessions in relation to developing both learners' and teachers' 21st century skills.

The Cartography of the Political Novel in Europe, 25–29 September 2023

On September 26–29, researchers from the Department of Languages and Literature participated in the first in-person conference of their project entitled "The Cartography of the Political Novel in Europe", which is funded by Horizon and

UK Research and Innovation. The conference took place at the Leibniz Centre for Literary and Cultural Research in Berlin. Prof. Rossie Artemis, Prof. Polina Mackay and Prof. Paul Stewart presented papers on political fiction.

MORE PUBLICATIONS & ACTIVITIES

• Publications

[Dr Georgios \(George\) Georgiou](#)

Journal Article: Speakers of different L1 dialects with acoustically proximal vowel systems present with similar nonnative speech perception abilities: Data from Greek listeners of Dutch (published by Speech Communication – Scopus Q1)

Previous evidence suggests that nonnative speech perception is modulated by the speakers' first language (L1) dialect. This study aims (a) to examine the discrimination of Dutch vowel contrasts by Greek listeners, and (b) to determine whether listeners' L1 Greek dialectal background, namely, Standard Modern Greek (SMG) and Cypriot Greek (CG), affects the discrimination of nonnative contrasts. It has been proposed that crosslinguistic similarity between L1 and nonnative sounds can predict the perception of the latter sounds. For that purpose, discrimination predictions were developed using a linear discriminant analysis (LDA), which was based on the acoustic similarity between SMG/CG and Dutch vowels and which provided quantification of the classification of nonnative vowels in terms of the listeners' L1 categories. The participants of the perceptual study were adult Greek (SMG and CG) listeners of Dutch who completed an AXB test on a PC script. The results of the discrimination test showed that three out of four contrasts signaled good discrimination, while one contrast signalled less good discrimination. Although crosslinguistic acoustic similarity was a relatively good predictor of the listeners' nonnative discrimination patterns, it failed to provide accurate predictions for some contrasts. Another important finding was that SMG listeners did not differ from CG listeners in the discrimination of Dutch vowel contrasts. Probably, the high acoustic proximity between the vowel systems of the two varieties led listeners to employ similar acoustic properties to discriminate nonnative sounds.

The full paper:

Georgiou, G. P. (2023). Speakers of different L1 dialects with acoustically proximal vowel systems present with similar nonnative speech perception abilities: Data from Greek listeners of Dutch. *Speech Communication*, 150, 32–40. <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0167639323000651?via%3Dihub>



Journal Article: Comparison of the prediction accuracy of machine learning algorithms in crosslinguistic vowel classification (published by Scientific Reports of Nature – Scopus Q1)

Machine learning algorithms can be used for the prediction of nonnative sound classification based on crosslinguistic acoustic similarity. To date, very few linguistic studies have compared the classification accuracy of different algorithms. This study aims to assess how well machines align with human speech perception by assessing the ability of three machine learning algorithms, namely, linear discriminant

analysis (LDA), decision tree (C5.0), and neural network (NNET), to predict the classification of second language (L2) sounds in terms of first language (L1) categories. The models were trained using the first three formants and duration of L1 vowels and fed with the same acoustic features of L2 vowels. To validate their accuracy, adult L2 speakers completed a perceptual classification task. The results indicated that NNET predicted with success the classification of all L2 vowels with the highest proportion in terms of L1 categories, while LDA and C5.0 missed only one vowel each. Furthermore, NNET exhibited superior accuracy in predicting the full range of above chance responses, followed closely by LDA. C5.0 did not meet the anticipated performance levels. The findings can hold significant implications for advancing both the theoretical and practical frameworks of speech acquisition.

The full paper:

Georgiou, G. P. (2023). Comparison of the prediction accuracy of machine learning algorithms in crosslinguistic vowel classification. *Scientific Reports*, 13, 15594. doi: 10.1038/s41598-023-42818-3 <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41598-023-42818-3?fbclid=IwAR2p9myBI-nSS0olZaGIC5oe-TARl-pY2EwdImG-bFmgrt9-LrVeaTmVPMs>



Journal Article: Perception of Dutch vowels by Cypriot Greek listeners: to what extent can listeners' patterns be predicted by acoustic and perceptual similarity? (published by Attention, Perception and Psychophysics – Scopus Q1)

There has been a great number of studies investigating the perception of nonnative sounds by listeners with different first language (L1) backgrounds. However, research needs to expand to underresearched languages and incorporate predictions conducted under the assumptions of new speech models. This study aims to investigate the perception of Dutch vowels by Cypriot Greek adult listeners and test the predictions of crosslinguistic acoustic and perceptual similarity. The predictions of acoustic similarity were formed using a machine learning algorithm. Listeners completed a classification test, which served as the baseline for developing the predictions of perceptual similarity by employing the framework of the Universal Perceptual Model (UPM), and an AXB discrimination test; the latter allowed the evaluation of both acoustic and perceptual predictions. The findings indicated that listeners classified each nonnative vowel as one or more L1 vowels, while the discrimination accuracy over the nonnative contrasts was moderate. In addition, crosslinguistic acoustic similarity predicted to a large extent the classification of nonnative sounds in terms of L1 categories and both the acoustic and perceptual similarity predicted the discrimination accuracy of all contrasts. Being in line with prior findings, these findings demonstrate that acoustic and perceptual cues are reliable predictors of nonnative contrast discrimination and that the UPM model can make accurate estimations for the discrimination patterns of nonnative listeners.

The full paper:

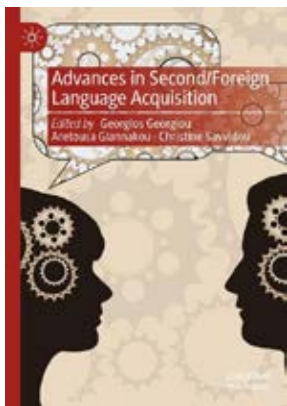
Georgiou, G. P. & Dimitriou, D. (2023). Perception of Dutch vowels by Cypriot Greek listeners: to what extent can listeners' patterns be predicted by acoustic and perceptual similarity? *Attention, Perception, and Psychophysics*. doi: 10.3758/s13414-023-02781-7

https://link.springer.com/article/10.3758/s13414-023-02781-7?fbclid=IwAR1l2ZivH5J0uuqN_Xcrn8Sdnx7X2ky7s1_tCRpKqQAoI_2CsL8pCzQE_30

Xcrn8Sdnx7X2ky7s1_tCRpKqQAoI_2CsL8pCzQE_30



Edited volume: *Advances in Second/Foreign Language Acquisition* (published by Palgrave Macmillan)



This book includes studies that employ a variety of research techniques from diverse fields targeting a better understanding of the second language (L2)/foreign language (FL) acquisition process including issues of heritage language (HL) learning. Specifically, the chapters discuss matters such as speech perception and production patterns in a second/foreign language, factors that facilitate second language acquisition, acquisition of heritage languages, teaching of a second/foreign language, and acquisition of second/foreign language grammatical and other structures, among others. The investigation of L2/FL and HLs is of paramount

importance for updating the existing theories in the field and maximizing learning outcomes for the sake of effective communication, cultivation of intercultural understanding, career advancement, and personal development. The book is of interest to a wide range of disciplinary audiences, including linguists, psychologists, educators, and social scientists.

The full volume:
Georgiou, G. P., Giannakou, A., & Savvidou, C. (2023) (Eds). *Advances in Second Foreign Language Acquisition*. Palgrave MacMillan. ISBN: 978-3-031-38521-6



12 January 2023 | Cyprus Research Award to Dr G. Georgiou

The Dean's Office (SHSS) would like to share with the UNic community the following message received from Prof. Polina Mackay, HoD of Languages and Literature, with the news of the IDEK award given to Dr George Georgiou.

Last night I had the pleasure of attending the Cyprus awards for innovation and research, where our colleague George was given a recognition award for his research. The award was for the Cyprus Research Award – Young Researcher in the field of Humanities and Social Sciences for 2023, and was awarded by IDEK (Research and Innovation Foundation). Please see here <https://www.research.org.cy/en/rtdi-culture/research-award/> for more information.

Please join me in extending our warmest congratulations to George and wish him all the best with his future research and projects!









ΠΡΟΣΚΛΗΣΗ
 Το Επαρχιακό Συντονιστικό Συμβούλιο Εθελοντισμού Λευκωσίας και το Πρόγραμμα Κοινωνικής Εργασίας του Πανεπιστημίου Λευκωσίας σας προσκαλούν στην Ημερίδα με τίτλο:

Η ΔΡΑΣΗ ΚΑΙ ΤΟ ΕΡΓΟ ΤΩΝ ΜΚΟ
 ΟΡΙΑ, ΕΥΘΥΝΕΣ ΚΑΙ Ο ΡΟΛΟΣ ΤΟΥ ΚΡΑΤΟΥΣ

ΠΕΜΠΤΗ, 26 ΟΚΤΩΒΡΙΟΥ 2023
 09:00-13:30

ΔΙΟΝΥΣΕΙΟ UNESCO
 ΠΑΝΕΠΙΣΤΗΜΙΟ ΛΕΥΚΩΣΙΑΣ

Για περισσότερες πληροφορίες:
 22512602

Για εγγραφές:
<https://tinyurl.com/xyvblzmn>

Χορηγοί:





Υπό την αιγίδα:



The Action and the Work of NGOs. Limits, Responsibilities and the Role of the State Dr Despina Cochliou

The Conference entitled: "The Action and the Work of NGOs. Limits, Responsibilities and the Role of the State", organised by Nicosia Volunteerism Coordinative Council on October 26, 2023 in collaboration with the Social Work Programme of the University of Nicosia was held in UNESCO Amphitheatre at the University of Nicosia and it was very well attended.

The conference aimed at highlighting the challenges both for the state and for NGOs and to promote an expanded approach to the social policy of Cyprus. Today, the need for social care is expanding dramatically, but the means to meet this need are shrinking rapidly. Social policy becomes even more vulnerable to the global economic system but also critical to social and economic development.

The role of NGOs and the state in the era of politico-economic fluidity through social policies in the era of social crisis requires that social policy remain and/or return to the course of its noble collective mission. At the same time, NGOs are called upon to utilize new approaches to respond to their demanding role.

The Conference aimed to enrich the knowledge of the participants in the direction of social justice, with the axis of redistribution of resources, with the lever of a sustainable development and with the aim of ensuring social prosperity for all.



Προς Κλήμη Μαστοριδή
 Κοσμήτορα Σχολής Ανθρωπιστικών και Κοινωνικών
 Σπουδών Πανεπιστημίου Λευκωσίας

Θεμελιές ευχαριστίες για τη συνεργασία και τη φιλοξενία

Θα θέμα να σας εκφραστούν τις ειλικρινείς μας ευχαριστίες για την πολύτιμη συνεργασία σας κατά τη διάρκεια του πρόσφατου συνεδρίου μας με θέμα :
 « Η δράση και το έργο των ΜΚΟ: Όρια, ευθύνες και ο ρόλος του κράτους στις
 26 Οκτωβρίου 2023. Η συνεργασία και η προσφορά σας στο συνέδριο
 συνέβαλαν σημαντικά στην επιτυχία του.

Ιδιαίτερες ευχαριστίες στην στενή μας συνεργασία, Δέσποινα Κοχλιού που
 ανέλαβε την προεργασία και το συντονισμό του συνεδρίου μέχρι την
 ολοκλήρωσή του.

Σας ευχαριστούμε θερμά και ελπίζουμε ότι θα συνεχίσουμε να συνεργαζόμαστε
 στο μέλλον.

Με εκτίμηση,

Νίκος Δρυμιώτης
 Πρόεδρος

Γιαννούλλα Κυριακίδου
 Γράμματεας

A cross-European project to meet the challenges of political conflict. Case studies from Northern Ireland, Bosnia Herzegovina, and Cyprus

Funded by the European Association of Schools of Social Work
Dr Gregory Neocleous, member of the Cyprus team



In the last few decades, there has been growing interest in the role those social workers play in situations of political conflict. Duffy et al (2020), in their review of the literature, suggest that there are a number of domains that can help explain how social work educators can best equip students with the skills, knowledge, and values to deal with

the needs of victims and survivors of political conflict: an understanding of the psychological, physical and other effects of political conflict on social work clients; the impact of social work conflict on the professional and personal lives of social workers; types of intervention that may be used by practitioners; and the development of innovative pedagogical approaches. In a more recent position paper, Campbell et al (2018) further elaborate upon some of these themes by arguing that additional, comparative factors should be included in these discussions, for example in terms of histories of colonialism and the negative impact of supranational agencies on peacebuilding where political conflict occurs.

A team of experts from Northern Ireland, Cyprus, and Bosnia-Herzegovina formed an international network that uses cross-European comparisons of countries where social workers deal with political conflict, and in doing so, seeks to develop new ideas in social work education.



Following a meeting in Cyprus on June 6th and 7th, a second one was held in Belfast, NI, on November 15-16. A third meeting will be held in Sarajevo, Bosnia-Herzegovina this coming Spring. The objective of the meetings is to bring together professionals from countries in political conflict to discuss how social work educators can best equip students with the skills, knowledge, and values to deal with the needs of victims and survivors of political conflict and understand: the psychological, physical and other effects of political conflict on social work clients, the impact of social work conflict on the professional and personal lives of social workers, the types of intervention that may be used by practitioners, and the development of innovative pedagogical approaches.

All the meetings are expected to further develop these ideas through a network that will use cross-European comparisons of countries where social workers deal with political conflict (Northern Ireland, Bosnia Herzegovina, and Cyprus) and formulate new approaches to social work education in a variety of situations of political conflict.



12th International Conference of the International Society of Psychoanalysis and Philosophy

[Dr Yianna Ioannou](#)

The Department of Social Sciences of the University of Nicosia and the Department of Byzantine and Modern Greek Studies of the University of Cyprus in collaboration with the International Society of Psychoanalysis and Philosophy (SIPP), organised the 12TH SIPP International Conference, titled “Limits, Frontiers, Rims and Borders.” The conference took place on September 21-23, at the University of Nicosia and attracted an interdisciplinary group of distinguished speakers and participants from all over the world, including Argentina, Austria, Brazil, Chile, Cyprus, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Israel, Japan, Serbia, Slovenia, Sweden, Ukraine, the United States and Uruguay.

The scientific and organising committee, consisting of



DEPARTMENT of



Jamieson Webster (The New School of Social Research, USA), Marcus Coelen (LMU Munich, Germany), Léa Silveira (Federal University of Lavras, Brazil), Paulo Beer (Universidade de São Paulo, Brazil), Vladimir Safatle (Universidade de São Paulo, Brazil), Yianna Ioannou (University of Nicosia, Cyprus) and Marinos Pourgouris (University of Cyprus, Cyprus) put together an intellectually stimulating

programme, focusing on the concepts of Limits, Frontiers, Rims and Borders. Keynote addresses were given by Slovenian philosopher and political theorist Jelica Šumič Riha on “Disorientation in a time of absence of limits,” and by Nelson Da Silva Junior, Associate Professor at the Institute of Psychology at the University of São Paulo, on “Freud’s Das Unheimliche as a reader of psychoanalysis’ borders.” A plenary panel on “Manifestations of trauma in Cyprus,” highlighted the complexities and consequences of living in such a contested, divided space, while two panels were organised in memoriam to philosopher Philippe Van Haute, co-founder of SIPP, who passed away last year. In addition, the conference included more than 50 presentations on a diversity of topics, ranging from the implications of the COVID-19 pandemic on our understanding of limits and borders and the intimate relation between bodies and geopolitical borders, to the question of limits in embryology, and the rites of passage from childhood to adolescence and beyond, among others. Several presentations transcended disciplinary borders and engaged perspectives that included philosophy, psychoanalysis, sociology, anthropology, linguistics, literary theory, political theory and neuroscience, resulting in intellectual openness, creativity and new modes of interdisciplinary thinking.

Nicosia was well-suited to host this event, as it constitutes a frontier between linguistic, geopolitical, sociocultural and temporal borders and it is, itself, divided. The conference unfolded with the Dead Zone literally in the background, which further highlighted the urgency to grapple with the overarching theme of the conference.

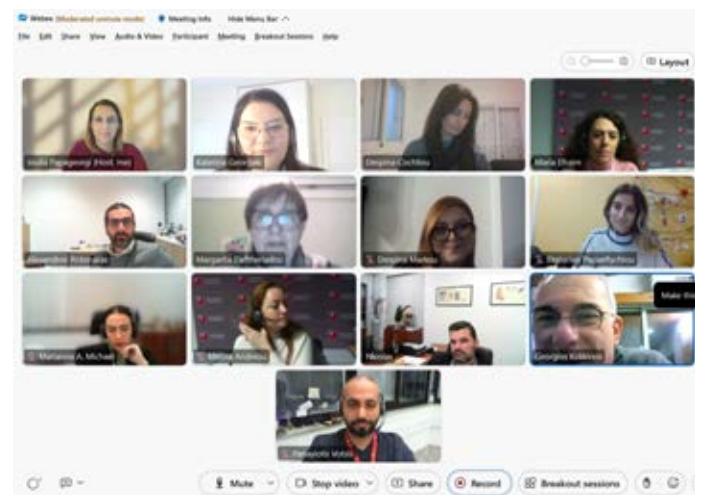
As part of the conference social programme, participants were given a guided bus tour eastwards, along the green line, and through the British military bases, from Nicosia to Paralimni. Participants visited the village of Pyla, which hosts a mixed population of Greek- and Turkish Cypriot inhabitants. They also visited the Ammochostos observatory where they had the opportunity to witness the imposed limits of military borders and see the deserted buildings of a once-vibrant city. The intellectual engagement with limits, frontiers, rims and borders acquired a visceral dimension



when faced with such a dystopian site, a traumatic mise-en-scène, lurking behind barbed wire, timeless and displaced.

The organising committee would like to extend its gratitude to the University of Nicosia, with special thanks to the School of Humanities and Social Sciences, the IT Department, the Events Office and the Marketing Office, my colleague Constantinos Adamides, Associate Head of the Department of Politics and Governance and Director of the Diplomatic Academy, for the precious knowledge he imparted on the Cyprus conflict during the conference and the guided tour, as well as my colleague Stella Petronda and our student volunteers for their graceful support; to the University of Cyprus, with special thanks to the Department of Byzantine and Modern Greek Studies for their financial support, as well as Tamara Vuković and Niki Sophocleous for their exceptional organisational work behind the scenes; and to the Cyprus Deputy of Tourism for their kind subsidy. Last, but not least, this successful endeavour would not have been possible without the participation of all of the presenters and attendees, whose presence and contributions enriched and widened our perspectives and ways of being amid the ever-changing borders and frontiers in our work and in life.

BRIDGES BY MENTORS



Bridges by Mentors
Prof. Ioulia Papageorgi and Ms Katerina Georgaki

The University of Nicosia participates as a partner in a new ERASMUS+ project entitled “Bridges by Mentors”, a three-year international project (2023-2026) funded by the European Commission under the Key Action 2 – Cooperation partnerships in higher education of the “Erasmus+” programme. The project is focused on the integration of international students in the regions they are studying, by connecting them in the long-run with young people from the same community through a Mentoring Outreach Programme through which the international students take upon the role of mentors to the local youngsters. The “Bridges by Mentors” project will develop a Service Delivery Manual for HEIs, Guidelines for training of international students and will pilot the Mentoring Outreach Programme in the regions of the partners.

The University of Nicosia combines its experience and expertise in mentoring along with five other partners from Europe. These are NHL Stenden in the Netherlands (leading partner), HOWEST University in Belgium, Université Savoie Mont Blanc in France, ACEEU in Germany and Big Brothers Big Sisters of Bulgaria Association. The project works as a follow-up to the previous three-year project “Mentor Your Future” <https://www.mentoryourfuture.eu/>, a very successful project which is now classified in the best practices category of the Erasmus+ projects.

Dr Alexandros Antonaras (VP of Student Services), Prof. Ioulia Papageorgi (Professor of Educational Psychology and Associate Dean of School of Humanities and Social sciences) and Ms Katerina Georgaki (Registered Counselling Psychologist and mentoring expert) are the

three researchers responsible for the implementation of the project on behalf of the University of Nicosia.

The three-year project (2023–2026) started in September 2023 and held its kick-off Transnational Project Meeting in Plovdiv, Bulgaria on 16–17 October 2023.

In December 2023, the University of Nicosia initiated its in-house activities for the project. The team hosted the project’s first focus groups for international students (coming from Greece, Lithuania, Romania, USA, Mongolia), university staff and regional stakeholders. Through the focus groups, the need for mentoring programmes for international students as well as the needs and challenges of international students were discussed. Furthermore, the participants brainstormed on the skills and learning outcomes from a potential mentoring programme for international students in the region. The focus groups underlined that HEIs have a social responsibility within their geographical area through their students’ commitment and that mentoring is a significant tool to use to bridge the gap between international students and the local community.

DEPARTMENT of

• Conference

Art & Design Research Lab

Department of Design and Multimedia, University of Nicosia

Dr Elena Parpa, Dr Niki Sioki, Dr Evanthia (Evi) Tselika

Decentering art and design history: research, practice, education | University of Nicosia, 15–17 June 2023



The international conference examined the development of art and design history in the Mediterranean region during the twentieth century. It focused on how colonialism, post-colonialism, conflicting nationalist ideologies and Western discourses of modernity have shaped: a) the development of historiography, b) the methodological and interpretative approaches, including artistic and curatorial, through which history has been written and c) the narrative forms adopted to articulate it.

Keynote speakers included Griselda Pollock, Gabriel Koureas and Zeina Maasri.



The conference was officially supported by the Cyprus Chamber of Fine Arts, the Hambis Printmaking Museum, and Phytorio, Visual Artists & Art Theorists Association.

More information: <https://sites.google.com/view/dadhconference2023/home>



- Conference

[Maria Christoforou](#)

XIII International Conference on Semiotics, Semiotics Across and In-Between, Athens, Panteion University, 28–30 September 2023

“Exploring through a hybrid exhibition which invites digital technologies’ immersive storytelling, how the representation of my female voice within Cyprus contested historical social narrative was shaped during the COVID-19 Pandemic.”

The paper combines visual autoethnography and artistic practice-based approach. It takes practical research as a paradigm to discuss its creative, social and emotional impact. It examines the impact of a hybrid exhibition that is divided in three practical experiments, which most of them invite feminine aspects, where new mediums are added gradually and challenged different digital immersive storytelling techniques and artistic methodologies during critical times.

The conference was organised by the Hellenic Semiotic Society, the Department of Communication, Media and Culture & the Cultural Informatics, Data & Computational Cultural Studies Lab of Panteion University of Social and Political Sciences. The XIII 2023 conference invited original research which utilizes the transversality of semiotics to advance sign-analytical work across or in-between the various disciplines and/or arts.

More info: Semiotics Across and In-Between – XIII International Conference on Semiotics (semiotics2023.gr)

- Event

[Maria Christoforou](#), Nicoletta Christoforou

“By breaking stereotypes we change the narrative”. Supported by the National Mechanism for Women’s Rights. Cyprus, Rebirth United Artists. 31 July–2 August 2023



The event combined a series of workshops - seminars and podcasts. “By breaking stereotypes we change the narrative” is supported by the National Mechanism for Women’s Rights and the Ministry of Justice. The event was based on women’s

rights and presented new methodologies of storytelling and performing arts. It included interactive workshops that aim to encourage awareness on women’s rights. It was organised by the United Rebirth Artists.

More information: Combination of Haiku poetry, Tangram Artworks and Performing arts/Storytelling techniques. Podcast available [here](#).



- Conference

**Reframing Postcolonialism and Cinema
14–15 September 2023**

[Constantinos Taliotis](#)

The conference ‘Reframing Postcolonialism and Cinema’, was organised by the Fine Art Programme of the University of Nicosia in collaboration with ECREA Film Studies Section. The conference took place on 14–15 of September 2023 and was the first international Film Studies conference to be held on the island.

More information: <https://filmstudiesecrea.wordpress.com/nicosia-conference/>





• MA Student Exhibition

All Watched Over by Machines of Loving Grace
Thkio Ppalies, Nicosia, 18 December 2023
Peter Eramian

The [MA Digital Art and Design](#) students presented projects developed during the Fall 2023 Installation Art & Digital Practices course, taught by Peter Eramian. The title is taken from the Adam Curtis' documentary of the same name, which in turn refers to Richard Brautigan's poem "All Watched Over by Machines of Loving Grace", first published in 1967. The poem presents a technological utopia in which humans and technology work together for the greater good and in harmony with nature. It is uncertain, however, to what extent this poem is serious or ironic. As Curtis shows us in the three-part documentary, there is a bleak flipside where technology and power/control go hand in hand, forming and informing oppressive political and economic regimes and contributing to the harvesting of personal data and the extraction of natural resources. Yet technology is increasingly becoming more and more knotted with our daily lives, our minds and bodies, while the realm of the digital is becoming increasingly intertwined with the material world. The artworks presented respond to these entanglements, negotiating technology and nature, the digital and the material, our bodies and minds, and the narratives we manufacture to make sense of them.

The MA programme provides a specialist, professionally focused study for those interested in exploring the dynamic interdisciplinary field of digital art and design.

It has a strong studio aspect, integrated with studies in history, theory and technology. Students can choose from a range of elective courses including curatorial, photography and interactive design studies, interdisciplinary studios and placements linked to art and design research projects. Through a series of high quality practical and theoretical units, students will develop professional skills in creative digital art and design practice. They will also extend their learning and deepen their understanding of visual language concepts and systems in a digital environment.





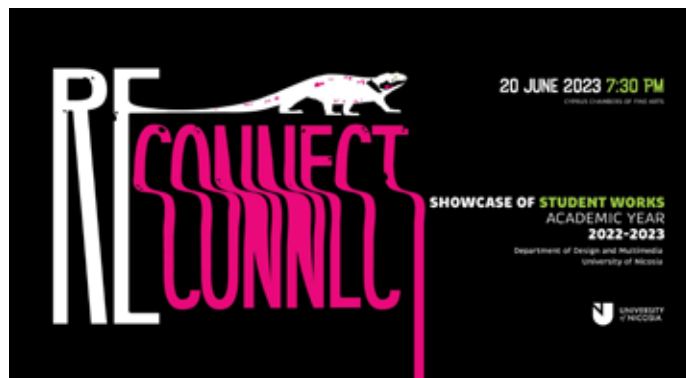
We welcome applications from creative individuals with an inquisitive nature and an enthusiasm for existing and emerging digital art and design technologies. Mature students who aspire to work professionally in the broad fields of art and design will be also considered for admission.

The programme provides career opportunities for those wishing to work professionally as art and design specialists in the rapidly developing creative industries, as well as being of value to art and design educators and excellent preparation for further study at doctoral level.



• End of Year Student Exhibition

“Reconnect”, a successful End of Year Exhibition by the Department of Design and Multimedia
Cyprus Chamber of Fine Arts, Nicosia, 20–24 June 2023



The Department of Design and Multimedia held its annual "End of Year Exhibition" at the Cyprus Chamber of Fine Arts (EKATE) from the 20th to the 24th of June 2023.

Students presented works created during their studies in the BA programmes in Fine Art, Graphic and Digital Design, and Interactive Media and Animation, and the MA programme in Digital Art and Design.

The exhibition included digital projections of animation, motion graphics and video art, demonstrations of virtual

reality projects, photography, graphic and digital design works, publications and packaging design, drawings, paintings, sculptures, and art installations. The exhibition attracted many visitors who had the opportunity to enjoy the artwork while chatting with the students and faculty of the Department.

More images: <https://www.unic.ac.cy/reconnect-a-successful-end-of-year-exhibition-by-the-department-of-design-and-multimedia/>



DEPARTMENT of DESIGN AND MULTIMEDIA



The Development of Interactive and Creative Technologies Lab at UNIC [Dr Chris Christou](#)

The University of Nicosia has invested in a new state-of-the-art interactive and creative technologies facility. The lab consists of two HTC Vive-based room-scale VR spaces each with a 4x4m play area. Two players can interact within the same virtual environment at the same time. An infrared-blocking curtain stops interference between the laser light emitted from the Vive Satellites. The VR workstations are powered by NVIDIA GeForce RTX 2080ti graphics cards.

The lab also consists of two LG webOS Smart Signage displays for teaching and for interactive graphics development based on hand and body movements using body tracking cameras. There are places for 16 students to receive hands-on instruction and we are currently increasing

our number of Oculus Quests so that each student has their own VR headset.

The research and creative arts potential of the lab is enormous. For example, with 360-degree cameras, we can produce immersive virtual walk-throughs with narration. Using computer graphics virtual environments, we can create any scenario you can imagine and allow someone to interact with objects with their hands or just walk around. Finally, with Augmented Reality, a relatively new technology, we can develop apps which situate computer generated objects within the real world.

If you would like further information contact Chris Christou at christou.ch@unic.ac.cy

A 360 video of the lab can be found here – can be seen with a VR headset or without:

<https://youtu.be/GxQIIB6KHns?si=z4YOoyJC9ypvAyMr>



• SHSS Staff news and activities

On the 7th and 8th of November, Ms Despina Ioannou, Secretary to the Dean of the School of Humanities and Social Sciences, attended an enriching training session on "Professional Written Emails", conducted by Ms Nina Steliou Charalambous, Training Manager of the Human Resources Department. This opportunity provided her with the chance to enhance her skills and expertise in communicating effectively and building strong relationships with staff, faculty and students.

Donation of works by Athanasios Spiliopoulos to the School of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Nicosia

The process of the donation of two works by Athanasios Spiliopoulos (1932-2021) to the School of Humanities and Social Sciences of the University of Nicosia has recently been completed. According to Ms Katerina Spiliopoulou Dostes, daughter of A. Spiliopoulos, the donation of paintings to educational and scientific institutions was a wish of the artist. The 35 works received by the Museum of the Greek National Printing House in Athens are already on permanent display in the historic building. A further donation of 11 paintings was made to the Museum of Printing in Chania, where they are on permanent display. Donations were also made to Greek universities, including the University of the Peloponnese in Tripoli and the Ionian University in Corfu.

The choice of the University of Nicosia

In the letter from Katerina Spiliopoulou regarding the donation, the following is stated:

The choice of the University of Nicosia was made for objective and emotional reasons.

- The University of Nicosia has an excellent reputation for the standard and quality of its studies. It is one of the few universities to have a comprehensive and noteworthy graphic arts curriculum and typography courses.
- Since its inception, it has supported innovation, research and the arts.
- I am aware of Mr Klimis Mastoridis' remarkable work and passion for typography, which he, like my father, has been involved with all his life. My father held Mr Mastoridis in high esteem for his contribution to the advancement of typography.
- Finally, there is an emotional reason, as my grandfather was from Paphos and there has always been a strong connection with Cyprus. It is important to me and my family that my father's work exists not only in Greece, with its narrow geographical definition, but also in the wider Greek-speaking world, in Cyprus.

A brief presentation of the life and work of Athanasios Spiliopoulos

Athanasios Spiliopoulos was born in Athens. He was involved in painting and iconography from an early age. He studied economics at ASOEE, graphic arts at the Camberwell School of Arts and Crafts, and design at the London College of Printing in London. He graduated from the Athens School of Fine Arts in 1972. He worked at the National Printing House for thirty years, retiring with the rank of General Manager. For 25 years he taught printing and graphic design at undergraduate and postgraduate level in various schools such as HEN, OMIROS and TEI, Athens. His passion for graphic design has led him to write 16 books on the subject.

His artistic work

The painting of Athanasios Spiliopoulos is characterised by intense colours and a provocative play of volumes and lines. He has had eight solo exhibitions and participated in many group exhibitions in Greece, France and England. His paintings can be found in many private and public



collections in Greece, France, England, Germany, South Africa, Belgium, Uruguay and Paraguay, as well as in the Museum of the Greek National Printing House, the Museum of Printing in Chania, Crete, the Art Gallery of Corfu and in public and private universities.

Specificity of his work

The artistic work of A. Spiliopoulos is characterised by different approaches and styles:

- One series of paintings is abstract, with intense colours.
- One series is purely geometric and
- A series of works dedicated to typography. These works, which are considered unique, original and particularly striking, can be collages, mixed media, compositions with letters or compositions with metal printing type.

One work from the first category and one from the third category were donated to the School of Humanities and Social Sciences of the University of Nicosia. Ms Spiliopoulou Dostes concluded her letter with the following words: *I believe that there is no more appropriate place in Cyprus to host these works than the Department of Design and Multimedia (Graphic Design programme) of your University. I hope that the optimistic colours of the paintings will convey to the students and visitors of the University of Nicosia the love and passion that my father had for painting, journalism, typography and knowledge in general.*



University of Nicosia: Among the Top 251–300 universities in the world, in the area of Psychology

The results of the latest edition of the Times Higher Education (THE) World University Rankings by Subject 2023, reaffirm the University of Nicosia's (UNIC) global standing, ranking it among the Top 251–300 universities in the world in the area of Psychology.

Correspondingly, UNIC ranks 69th in the European Union and 2nd among the Cypriot and Greek universities, in the area.

The Times Higher Education World University Rankings (WUR) is the largest and most multi-level ranking of universities in the world with five decades of experience in the field.

Commenting on the results of the THE Rankings by Subject, the Dean of the School of Humanities and Social Sciences, Professor Klimis Mastoridis, noted: "I must admit that the publication of the recent results of the international rankings did not come as a surprise, as they represent the culmination of the meticulous and painstaking work of the very capable faculty and students of the University of Nicosia. For our School in particular, the spectacular ratings in the fields of Psychology and Social Sciences are even more meaningful as they come after a difficult period. The results of the evaluations are the reward of the tireless efforts of our colleagues for high-level scientific research, but also of the School's firm, strategic orientation towards academic excellence. The best is yet to come".

The results of this year's World University Rankings by Subject are the latest in a succession of distinctions bestowed on UNIC by Times Higher Education. Along with its inclusion in the Top 501–600 universities in the world (THE WUR table), UNIC was ranked:

179th among the universities in the world that are 50 years old or younger by the 2022 THE Young University Rankings;

122nd among the universities of countries or regions classified by the London Stock Exchange's FTSE Group as "Emerging" by the 2022 THE Emerging Economies Rankings;

36th in the world in the core area of Quality Education by the 2022 THE Impact Rankings.

Πανεπιστήμιο Λευκωσίας: #1* στον τομέα της Ψυχολογίας, σε Κύπρο και Ελλάδα

Το ΠΛ ανάμεσα στα κορυφαία πανεπιστήμια στον κόσμο σε πέντε διαφορετικούς τομείς, σύμφωνα με την κατάταξη THE WUR by Subject 2024

*μαζί με το Πανεπιστήμιο Κύπρου και το Εθνικό και Καποδιστριακό Πανεπιστήμιο Αθηνών

Τα αποτελέσματα της ετήσιας κατάταξης του Times Higher Education World University Rankings (THE WUR) by Subject 2024 κατατάσσουν το Πανεπιστήμιο Λευκωσίας στη θέση #1 σε Κύπρο και Ελλάδα, στον τομέα της Ψυχολογίας, μαζί με το Πανεπιστήμιο Κύπρου και το Εθνικό και Καποδιστριακό Πανεπιστήμιο Αθηνών.

Συγκεκριμένα, το Πανεπιστήμιο Λευκωσίας κατατάσσεται ανάμεσα στα Κορυφαία 301–400 πανεπιστήμια στον κόσμο και στη θέση #79 στην Ευρωπαϊκή Ένωση, στον τομέα.

Σχολιάζοντας τα αποτελέσματα, ο Κοσμήτορας της Σχολής Ανθρωπιστικών και Κοινωνικών Επιστημών, Καθηγητής Κλήμης Μαστορίδης, σημείωσε: «Τα φετινά αποτελέσματα αποτελούν για άλλη μια φορά απόδειξη της συνεχιζόμενης δέσμευσης του διδακτικού προσωπικού και των φοιτητών του Πανεπιστημίου Λευκωσίας. Στο πλαίσιο της Σχολής μας, οι εξαιρετικές βαθμολογίες στην Ψυχολογία και τις Κοινωνικές Επιστήμες αποτελούν μια επάξια διάκριση, που αντανάκλα τις άοκνες προσπάθειες των συναδέλφων μας να διεξάγουν επιστημονική έρευνα αιχμής. Υπογραμμίζουν επίσης την ακλόνητη δέσμευση της Σχολής Ανθρωπιστικών Σπουδών και Κοινωνικών Επιστημών σε μία στρατηγική πορεία ακαδημαϊκής αριστείας. Όπως ανέφερα και πέρυσι, προσδοκούμε ακόμη μεγαλύτερα επιτεύγματα στο μέλλον και εργαζόμαστε προς αυτή την κατεύθυνση».

Οι κατατάξεις THE WUR αποτελούν τη μεγαλύτερη και πιο πολυεπίπεδη κατάταξη πανεπιστημίων στον κόσμο, με εμπειρία πέντε δεκαετιών στο αντικείμενο.

Τα αποτελέσματα της φετινής κατάταξης THE WUR by Subject είναι τα τελευταία μιας σειράς διακρίσεων για το Πανεπιστήμιο Λευκωσίας από τον οργανισμό Times Higher Education. Συγκεκριμένα, το Πανεπιστήμιο Λευκωσίας κατατάσσεται επίσης ως:

#1 σε Κύπρο και Ελλάδα μαζί με το Πανεπιστήμιο Κύπρου, το Πανεπιστήμιο Κρήτης και το Εθνικό και Καποδιστριακό Πανεπιστήμιο Αθηνών, και ανάμεσα στα Κορυφαία 501–600 πανεπιστήμια στον κόσμο (2024 THE World University Rankings)

#1 στην Κύπρο με το Πανεπιστήμιο Κύπρου, ανάμεσα στα Κορυφαία 60 στην Ευρωπαϊκή Ένωση και ανάμεσα στα Κορυφαία 101–150 πανεπιστήμια στον κόσμο με λιγότερα από 50 χρόνια λειτουργίας (2023 THE Young University Rankings)



University of Nicosia: Among the Top 501–600 universities in the world, in the area of Social Sciences

The results of the latest edition of the Times Higher Education (THE) World University Rankings by Subject 2023, reaffirm the University of Nicosia's (UNIC) global standing, ranking it among the Top 501–600 universities in the world, in the area of Social Sciences.

Correspondingly, UNIC ranks 132nd in the European Union, 3rd in Cyprus and 6th among the Cypriot and Greek Universities, in the area.

The Times Higher Education World University Rankings (WUR) is the largest and most multi-level ranking of universities in the world, with five decades of experience in the field.

Commenting on the results of the THE Rankings by Subject, the Dean of the School of Humanities and Social Sciences, Professor Klimis Mastoridis, noted: "The recent results of the international rankings demonstrate the remarkable quality of the persistent work of the human resources of the University of Nicosia. For our School, the impressive evaluations in the fields of Social Sciences and Psychology come after a difficult period, as a reward for the tireless efforts of our colleagues for high-level scientific research and for the firm, strategic orientation of the School towards academic excellence. I must also highlight the role and the decisive contribution of the colleagues of the UNIC School of Law in our overall ranking in the area of Social Sciences".

On his part, the Dean of the School of Law, Professor Achilles C. Emilianides, noted: "This new distinction of the University of Nicosia reflects the collective work done by all Faculty and staff of the University, in collaboration with our students. The subject area of Social Sciences falls primarily under the School of Humanities and Social Sciences, which deserves all praise for this significant distinction. We are honoured to have contributed as a School of Law that includes the Department of Law and the Department of Politics and Governance. The University of Nicosia has succeeded in a very short period of time since its establishment to be included among the leading universities internationally, at the level of both teaching and research, thereby contributing to Cyprus' efforts to emerge as a regional centre of higher education."

Πανεπιστήμιο Λευκωσίας: Στα Κορυφαία 501–600 πανεπιστήμια στον κόσμο στον τομέα Κοινωνικών Επιστημών

Το ΠΛ ανάμεσα στα κορυφαία πανεπιστήμια στον κόσμο σε πέντε διαφορετικούς τομείς, σύμφωνα με την κατάταξη THE WURbySubject 2024

Τα αποτελέσματα της ετήσιας κατάταξης του Times Higher Education World University Rankings (THE WUR) by Subject 2024 κατατάσσουν το Πανεπιστήμιο Λευκωσίας ανάμεσα στα Κορυφαία 501–600 πανεπιστήμια στον κόσμο στον τομέα των Κοινωνικών Επιστημών.

Αντίστοιχα, το Πανεπιστήμιο Λευκωσίας κατατάσσεται στις θέσεις #3 στην Κύπρο, #7 στην Κύπρο και Ελλάδα και #132 στην Ευρωπαϊκή Ένωση, στον τομέα.

Σχολιάζοντας τα αποτελέσματα, ο Κοσμήτορας της Σχολής Ανθρωπιστικών Σπουδών και Κοινωνικών Επιστημών, Καθηγητής Κλήμης Μαστορίδης, σημείωσε: «Οι τελευταίες διεθνείς κατατάξεις αντικατοπτρίζουν, για άλλη μια φορά, τη συνεχή δέσμευση του ανθρώπινου δυναμικού του Πανεπιστημίου Λευκωσίας. Οι εντυπωσιακές βαθμολογίες στις Κοινωνικές Επιστήμες και την Ψυχολογία αποτελούν μια επάξια διάκριση, που αντικατοπτρίζει τις άοκνες προσπάθειες των συναδέλφων μας στη διεξαγωγή επιστημονικής έρευνας υψηλού επιπέδου. Οφείλω, επίσης, να εξάρω το ρόλο και την καθοριστική συμβολή των συναδέλφων της Νομικής Σχολής του πανεπιστημίου στη συνολική κατάταξή μας στον τομέα των Κοινωνικών Επιστημών».

Από την πλευρά του, ο Κοσμήτορας της Νομικής Σχολής, Καθηγητής Αχιλλέας Κ. Αιμιλιανίδης, σημείωσε: «Το Πανεπιστήμιο Λευκωσίας είναι αφοσιωμένο στην ακαδημαϊκή αριστεία, και η συμπερίληψή του ανάμεσα στα κορυφαία πανεπιστήμια διεθνώς, αποτελεί αναγνώριση των ενεργειών του ακαδημαϊκού και διοικητικού προσωπικού και των φοιτητών του. Η νέα αυτή διάκριση αντικατοπτρίζει την εξαιρετική δουλειά των συναδέλφων μας στη Σχολή Ανθρωπιστικών Σπουδών και Κοινωνικών Επιστημών, αλλά και του συνόλου του Πανεπιστημίου και των ανθρώπων πόρων του. Ως Νομική Σχολή είμαστε περήφανοι που συμβάλαμε σε αυτό το επίτευγμα και που αποτελούμε μέρος του οργανισμού».



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AIMS & SCOPE

The journal's aim is to showcase empirical, theoretical and practice-based research work by scholars and practitioners in the humanities, social sciences, arts and design. *Zealos* intends to leave its mark on these fields through the publication of research papers, essays and creative work, conference and book reviews. By taking a multi-disciplinary perspective, we hope to contribute to both local and international literature and showcase some of the work conducted by academics and practitioners. The journal particularly welcomes submissions on issues related to Cyprus. Special Issues focusing on a specific theme acting as a connecting point between the various disciplines are also planned. Papers in English and Greek will be accepted. All manuscripts will be double-blind peer-reviewed by two experts in the area of the submission.

Call for Papers | Volume 2, 2024

Deadline for submission 29 February 2024

Where to submit shss.zealosubmissions@unic.ac.cy

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