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Dear Readers,

Welcome to the 8th edition of the School of Humanities and Social Sciences Newsletter. We have come to the end of the 2023–2024 academic year and students and faculty look forward to a well-deserved summer break. For students, the summer break is an opportunity to rest and recharge their batteries in preparation for the new academic year. For faculty, the summer is an opportunity to take a break from everyday academic activities, but also a time to focus on exciting scholarly activities like authoring publications and attending conferences.

As with previous editions of our School’s Newsletter, this issue contains information about books and articles published (recent and forthcoming), workshops and symposia organised, competitions, research projects, conferences organised and/or attended by faculty, field trips and site visits organised to enrich our students’ learning experiences, and activities organised by Departments to promote their work and connect with the wider community.

In addition, in this issue we dedicate a section to world-renowned graphic designer Professor Neville Brody, who will be the keynote speaker at the graduation ceremony of the School of Humanities and Social Sciences at the University of Nicosia (2 July), where he will also receive an Honorary Doctorate from the School. On 3rd July, Professor Brody will deliver a public lecture entitled ‘Free Me from Freedom’, during which he will present his new book and design work, focusing on key themes around creativity, democracy and risk taking.

A sincere thank you to 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
Together with the visiting students and teaching faculty, we built on the design research activities that helped envision new futures for these communities. Students and faculty spent a full week in Cyprus visiting the housing projects of the 70s, and traveling throughout Cyprus, north and south, to learn about its rich and complex history. Around 55 students in total came together to work on mixed group projects under the following thematics:

**Boundaries**
edges-borders (invisible/ soft/ urban/ social/cultural/expanding/ inhabited)

**Productive Landscapes**
inner economies/ agri-culture/ food securities/earth soil investigation

**Connectivity**
accessibility/ mobility/slow fast/layered/segregation / introversion / isolation

**Social Cultures**
intergenerational connectivity /aging population/interdependencies/identity/ private-public/trauma/ Hybridity

**Materiality**
appropriation/ weathering [waste management/ appropriation/
Students had to identify the key issues and ways into their thematics and then create a video telling a STORY: framing the issue innervation/incision: locate the place/ the method. They had to answer who the relevant actors/ spaces were and identify how they could begin to test assumptions? They had to create a strategy that comments/ changes/ invites/ highlights the identified issues.

Students worked in full day workshops, attended lectures by special guests, visiting various Housing projects around Nicosia and presented their work in a final exhibition and event. The students also had the chance to visit key architectural projects around the Island as well as visit the ancient ruins of Kourion and the Temple of Apollo, and the village of Lefkara. The entire workshop was organized by Karen Fairbanks and Alessandra Swiny, who also received Erasmus funding to participate in workshops in Barnard in June 2023 and to plan and prepare for the collaboration.

ITALIAN DESIGN DAY | 22 MARCH 2024
The Italian design day event, organised by professor Alessandra Swiny, Department of Architecture, University of Nicosia, in collaboration with the Italian Embassy took place on 22 March in Nicosia. The event began with an open workshop which took place in the main city square, Plateia Eleftherias, followed by a round table discussion at the Department of Architecture, ARC building. The event included an introduction by the Italian Ambassador to Cyprus followed by lectures and a round table discussion about design and the city between academics from the University of Naples and the University of Nicosia, the President of the Cyprus Architects Association and many designers and researchers.

PARTICIPANTS AND EVENTS
Student workshop
Prof. Paola Scala, University of Naples, Architect; Prof. Alessandra Swiny, University of Nicosia, Architect; Year 4 Architecture Students, Spring 2024

Lectures
Introductory Speech by H.E. Mrs Federica Ferrari Bravo, Italian Ambassador to Cyprus; Lecture on 'Community Design’, Prof. Paola Scala, University of Naples; Lecture on 'Displaced Architecture’, Prof. Alessandra Swiny, University of Nicosia

Round Table Discussion
Moderator: Mr Claudio Pasqualucci, ICE Trade Agency Participants: Prof. Paola Scala, University of Naples; Prof.
Alessandra Swiny, University of Nicosia; Mr Alkis Dikaios, President of the Cyprus Architects Association (CAA); Dr Natasa Christou, Founder Gardens of the Future. Architect Online Guests from Italy: Informal City Design Studio & Co.De Design for Community – Paola Scala and Massimo Perriccioli, Naples; Inside/outside Design Studio Maria Rosaria Santangelo, Italy; Invisible Cities PhD candidate Maria Fierro (Roma), Naples.

STUDENT WORKSHOP | THE INFORMAL CITY
MARCH 2024 NAPLES, ITALY
University of Nicosia Maria Hadjisoteriou, Alessandra Swiny, Teresa Touvas and University of Naples Katia Fabbri-catti, Paola Galante, Paola Scala, Cristina Visconti, Michela Di Pola, Maria Fierro

Intensive workshop on the informal city

Monday 11/03
15:15 Piazza Garibaldi
Site survey in Piazza Garibaldi

Tuesday 12/03
rooms 20-21
Palazzo Gravina
9:30 - 10:30 Lesson on Mapping, prof. Alessandra Swiny
10:30 - 12:00 Workshop
14:00 - 18 Workshop

Wednesday 13/03
room 512
Via Foro Vecchio
9:00 - 10:00 Workshop
10:30 - 12:00 Final Exhibition

The annual architecture competition challenges applicants to use architecture as a tool to bring out different emotions. In the fourth edition of this competition, contributors were tasked to design a museum that includes two separate spaces that bring out contrasting emotions – one inducing negative emotions, and the other inducing positive emotions.

MUSEUM OF EMOTIONS BUILDNER INTERNATIONAL ARCHITECTURE COMPETITION 2024
The project A/ENIGMA by second year architecture students Nefeli Bougioukou, Danai Papaioannou, Afroditi Morelatou and Almperto Kotsifos was amongst the short listed projects for the international Buildner architecture competition the Museum of Emotions 2024.

A/ENIGMA Students: Nefeli Bougioukou, Danai Papaioannou, Afroditi Morelatou, Almperto Kotsifos.
ARCH 202 Spring 2024 Instructors: Yiorgos Hadjiichristou, Angela Kyriacou Petrou, Margarita Danou.

Architecture students of Unit 8, University of Nicosia, visited Naples for a fieldtrip in March 2024. In collaboration with students from the University of Naples, students took part in a three-day workshop on the informal city. Students were invited to construct their own "drift" in Piazza Garibaldi, searching for clues that tell the diverse stories that "inhabit" the places. Through photographs, interviews, and drawings, they built their personal map of Piazza Garibaldi and presented their vision of the place.
SHARE CYPRUS | INTERNATIONAL ARCHITECTURAL SYMPOSIUM, NICOSIA, APRIL 2024

INAUGURAL SESSION

The Head of Department of Architecture at the University of Nicosia, Markella Menikou, chaired the inaugural session of the International Architecture Forum, which took place on 16th April 2024 at the Municipal Theatre, Nicosia. The event, which was organised by SHARE Cyprus, included a large group of international and local speakers who presented revolutionary architectural concepts including both built projects visionary notions of architecture relating to healthcare.

Following the session, Markella Menikou led an insightful discussion on the topic of ‘Hospitals as evolving processes: designing for the unpredictability of healthcare and wellbeing’. Guest speakers in this session were:

Peter Murray, Co-Founder of New London Architecture and Chairman of Temple Bar Trust, UK
Pavlos Philippou, Director J+A Philippou, Cyprus
Ralou Şoaita, Founder TESSERACT Architecture, Romania
Marios Christodouliades, Director SIMPRAXIS, Cyprus
Erez Ella, Founder @hqarchitects, Israel
arch. Christos Christodoulou, Founder SIMPRAXIS, Cyprus
arch. Constantinos Constanti, President of Cyprus Scientific and Technical Chamber (ETEK)

SHARE CYPRUS | UNIC STUDENT ASSISTANTS

Architecture students from the university of Nicosia year 2 and 3 volunteered in hosting the SHARE event offering invaluable support to the organisers and participants in preparation for the symposium and on the day of the event.

ACADEMIC YEAR 2023–2024 | INTERIOR DESIGN PROGRAMME ACTIVITIES

Field trip to Elnia Ltd, 24 October 2023
Field trip to Archimedes Metal Industry, 24 October 2023

As part of their INT 211 Materials for Interior II course, Interior Design students visited during the fall semester a metal workshop and a retail shop for residential and commercial materials. To enhance their experience related to various materials, they were informed and presented by a skilled mechanical engineer with the process of different metal constructions.

Moreover, the presentation of materials at Elnia Ltd included materials for floors, walls, windows, coverings for ceilings, sports floors, and play equipment for internal and external areas alike. Students also discussed the involvement and compliance with codes, life safety, and human needs.

Site visit to Larnaca

For the needs of our Studio Project: Elderly Living, 3rd year Interior Design Program students worked with elderly living. For students to realize and analyse the site, the building, and the interior space, we visited Larnaca, and the proposed site/building for their project.

Moreover, students visited Privilege Health Services Ltd to experience and gain an inside understanding of the living conditions of elder people on the island. The Privilege
Centre provides a unit for the care and the rehabilitation of post-operation patients, therefore students had the chance to discuss with doctors, health care professionals, as well as with in-house patients.

**Presentation to RIK for the studio theme of Elderly Living**

Elderly persons and their problems were promoted as a theme through the project assigned to the 3rd year students of the Interior Design Program. Students were invited to deal with the elderly and their quality of life and to present their design suggestions and proposals after a lot of research.

The role of the Interior Architect and the aim of the program, as well as the fact that older citizens are expected to represent 35 percent of the population in Europe by 2050, were the impetus for this theme. During the presentation, students' research and proposals were presented.

[Διαβάστε περισσότερες πληροφορίες στον ιστότοπο της ΡΑΙΚ](https://tv.rik.cy/show/apo-mera-se-mera/?page=11)
UNIQUE SYMPOSIUM ON INFORMATION DISORDER – CYPRUS AND ESTONIA

The Department of Communications organized a successful symposium regarding “Cyprus and Estonia in the Face of Information Disorder: Media, Audiences, and State Institution”. The symposium, which was the first collaboration of its kind between Universities in Cyprus and Estonia, took place on 2 November 2023.

Cypriot researchers representing the University of Nicosia, the University of Cyprus and the Cyprus Radio Television Authority, as well as Estonian researchers representing the Institute of Social Studies of the University of Tartu, participated. The keynote speaker of the symposium, Associate Professor Ragne Kõuts-Klemm from the University of Tartu, Estonia, focused on information manipulation as a dangerous phenomenon stating:

Unless we are aware of the dangers of the malicious dissemination of misinformation, democratic societies can be hit by unexpected changes. Disinformation can lead to wrong decisions, which may have dire consequences for individuals and the whole society.

Professor Mike Hajimichael, the Department Head of Communications at The University of Nicosia, commenced the conference by emphasising the distinctiveness of the event, underscoring the comparative nature of the two contexts of Cyprus and Estonia. Despite being fundamentally different, these contexts share numerous common features in the digital age, particularly in relation to the phenomenon of information disorder and its impact on small states within the European Union.

The University of Tartu in Estonia is hoping to host a similar symposium in 2024.

APRIL 2024 | The Department of Communications of the University of Nicosia (School of Humanities and Social Sciences) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Professor Emerita Nayia Roussou at the UNIC – Library and Information Centre

We are pleased to announce that the UNIC Library will receive a generous donation of Professor Roussou’s personal collection of books on mass media.

The following people were present at the signing ceremony: Professor Emerita Nayia Roussou and Mr Yiannis Roussos. The Department of Communications, to which Professor Roussou has donated a large part of her personal archive, was represented by Professor Mike Hajimichael, Head of the Department of Communications, and the School of Humanities and Social Sciences by the Dean of the School, Professor Klimis Mastoridis. The UNIC Library was represented by Ms Dia Kyutta, Research Liaison Librarian.
Nayia Roussou has worked for many years at the Cyprus Broadcasting Corporation, her last post being that of Head of International and Public Relations. She has also taught Mass Media and Public Relations at colleges, the Police Academy and the Higher Technological Institute, Cyprus. Between 1995 and 2013 she was a professor at the University of Nicosia, where she also headed the Communications Department. She has written and published prose and poetry and was awarded the Cyprus State Prize for Poetry. She has researched and published articles, book chapters and monographs on the media. Major areas of her contribution to media research and publications include Television and Identity of Young People, Women and the Media, TV Violence and Children and the Internet and Young People. She was active in the European COST A-20 programme between 2000 and 2006. She has been honoured for her contribution to culture and literature in Rhodes, Crete and Athens and has several entries in the International Who Is Who publications, both general and special publications on women, and poets and poetry.
DEPARTMENT of

COLONIAL CYPRUS
A Cultural History

Edited by Maria Hadjiathanasiou, Andreas Karyos & Emilios A. Solomou

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provides much needed insight into the multi-faceted cultural life of colonial Cyprus.

Table of contents: Introduction / Excavating at Amathus, 1893-1894: Collecting Cypriot Antiquities in a Colonial Landscape (Polina Nikolaou) / Traces of Imperialist Ideologies in the Work of Female Travel Writers in Colonial Cyprus (Margarita Ioannou and Katerina Gotsi) / A ‘garden useful and pleasant’: The Case of the Municipal Garden in Nicosia (Elena Parpa) / Blackness in Imaginary Artworks of Colonial Cyprus (Marilena Zackheos) / Posters of Cyprus: Promoting the Colony during the Interwar Period (Niki Siokiki) / Cultural Imperialism, the Dissemination of Modern Sports and the Sociogenesis of the First Sports Clubs in British Cyprus (1878-1931) (Tonia Georgiou) / Passive Resistance and Europeanization via Garment Making in British Colonial Cyprus (Noly Moyssi) / Of heroes and Villains: Manifestations of National and Colonial Identity in Cyprus through Historical Theatre Plays, 1878-1960 (Ellada Evangelou) / Queen Victoria’s Head on Postage Stamp as a Marker in Cyprus’s History (Anna Antoniadou) / Photographic Representations of Colonial Cyprus and the Ledra Palace Hotel (Theopisti Stylianou-Lambert and Antigone Heraclidou) / Conclusion / Bibliography / Index

For more information: https://www.bloomsbury.com/us/colonial-cyprus-9780755640652/

FINE ART PROGRAMME | ART EXHIBITION
Manifestations: Views of the otherworldly in painting and drawing
(Φανερώματα: Όψεις του αλλόκοσμου στη ζωγραφική και το σχέδιο)
Nicosia Municipal Art Centre (NiMAC)
21 March – 13 July 2024
Curators: Dr Elena Parpa and Dr Evangelia (Evi) Teslika
Artists: Maria Andreou, Athina Antoniadou, Stylianos Atteshi, Costas Averkiou, Rhea Bailey, Andreas Charalambeou, Andreas Chrysoschos, Demetri Dimas Efthyvoulos, Rea Kounidou Ere, Christos Foukaras, Mariam Sukhanova Foukara, Takis Frangoudes, Solomos Frangoulides, George Pol. Georgiouva, Vera Gavrielidou Hadjida, Sophia Hadjipa-pa, Umit İnaç, Andis Ioannides, Stelios Kallinikou, Christos Kyrakiades, Marios Loizides, Maria Loizidou, Elek Nikodemou, Nicolas Nicolaides, Eleni Odysseos, Letteris Olympios, Maria Papacharalambous, Christodoulos Panayiotos, Polys Peslikas, Mary Plant, George Skotinos, Katie Phasouliotis Stephanides, Stelios Votsis, Ayshe-Mira Yashin, Natalie Yiaxi
The exhibition responds to our increasingly disenchanted times and explores the otherworldly, the magical and the onerous in art, more specifically in painting and drawing.

The esoteric and mystical origins of painting and drawing are sought out, as well as their interrelations with ritualistic processes and with practices which delve into the unconscious, the dream, the power of symbols and legends, and the energetic frequencies of the natural and material world. Multiple facets in which envisioning, daydreaming, and activating the instinctual and intuitional are revealed within artistic practices, when exploring the figure of the artist as on the cusp of the material and spiritual world.

The exhibition thus researches not only the types of iconog-
raphy employed and the specific painterly genres where such issues are negotiated (still life, landscape and self portrait), but also relevant references to the Byzantine traditions, and eclectic affinities with artistic movements such as surrealism and geometric abstraction. It also explores the ways in which art is entangled with ideas pertaining to the sacred, the soul, the spirit and the metaphysical realm. The exhibition has been developed using a historical and intergenerational approach and methodology, bringing into dialogue thirty-five historic and contemporary artists from Cyprus. The aim is to explore divergent viewpoints and perspectives regarding the human condition through time. The artworks presented encourage us to question what renders our everydayness small and rigid: entrenched perceptions, dominant systems of power and knowledge, predetermined categories of gender, as well as the distinctions between nature/human, material/spirit, art/the psychic world.

The artworks belong to a variety of collections, such as the State Collection of Cypriot Art, the A. G. Leventis Gallery, the Embassy of Greece in Cyprus, and the Bank of Cyprus Cultural Foundation collections. Artworks belonging to private collections are also exhibited. The exhibition is the first in a series of exhibitions and activities expected to take place at the Nicosia Municipal Arts Centre, Associated with the Pierides Foundation [NiMAC] for the year 2024. The study of the relationship between historical and contemporary art practices, which contributes to the creation of an open platform for critical debate and thought, is a key pillar of NiMAC’s strategic plan for the next three years under the direction of Dr Elena Stylianou. NiMAC’s main concern is also to engage different audiences through its parallel activities and specially designed educational programmes.

The exhibition is funded by the Department of Contemporary Culture, Deputy Ministry of Culture and it is supported by the Representation of the European Commission in Cyprus, Chakarian Centre, the European University Cyprus and the British High Commission Nicosia.

For more information about the parallel and educational programmes follow the link: https://nimac.org.cy/el/faneromata-opseis-toy-allokosmoy-sti-zografiki-kai-to-schedio/
Η ιδιοκτήτρια της εταιρείας, Αριάδνη Περράκη, με τη συνεργάτιδά της, Σμαράγδα Παπαθανασίου, παρουσίασαν την ιστορία της εταιρείας, που ξεκίνησε το 1887 στην Αθήνα. Μετά την πυρκαγιά που κατέστρεψε έναν από τους πρώτους χαρτόμυλους που λειτούργησαν στην Ελλάδα, ο Κωστής Περράκης εγκατέλειψε την παραγωγή και αποφάσισε να ασχοληθεί με την εισαγωγή χαρτιών από την Ευρώπη. Εκατόν τριάντα χρόνια αργότερα η εταιρεία, πιστή στην πολύτιμη αξία του χαρτιού, συνεχίζει τη μακρόχρονη παράδοση εισάγοντας ευρεία ποικιλία χαρτιών από διάφορα μέρη του κόσμου, χειροποίητα και βιομηχανικά. Το κοινό που παραβρέθηκε στην εκδήλωση ενημερώθηκε για τα διαφορετικά είδη και τα τεχνικά χαρακτηριστικά των χαρτιών, τους τρόπους με τους οποίους χρησιμοποιούνται σε ποικίλες εφαρμογές και προϊόντα, καθώς και για το σύστημα οικολογικής πιστοποίησης της Ευρωπαϊκής Ένωσης.

ΔΙΑΓΩΝΙΣΜΟΣ | «ΥΠΟΤΡΟΦΙΕΣ ΑΡΙΣΤΕΙΑΣ ΣΤΙΣ ΤΕΧΝΕΣ» | ΤΜΗΜΑ ΣΧΕΔΙΑΣΜΟΥ ΚΑΙ ΠΟΛΥΜΕΣΩΝ

Το Τμήμα Σχεδιασμού και Πολυμέσων του Πανεπιστημίου Λευκωσίας ανακοινώνει την παραχώρηση τριών (3) υποτροφιών (75%, 50% και 25% αντίστοιχα) για τα δίδακτρα του πρώτου ακαδημαϊκού έτους σπουδών για υποψήφιους φοιτητές με καλλιτεχνικό υπόβαθρο σχετικό με τις Τέχνες, το Σχεδιασμό και τα Πολυμέσα.

Οι συμμετέχοντες θα πρέπει να έχουν προχωρήσει σε αίτηση εισδοχής για το Χειμερινό Ακαδημαϊκό Εξάμηνο 2024 για ένα από τα ακόλουθα προγράμματα σπουδών:

- Πτυχίο στις Καλές Τέχνες (BA in Fine Art)
- Πτυχίο στη Γραφιστική και Ψηφιακό Σχεδιασμό (BA in Graphic and Digital Design)
- Πτυχίο στα Διαδραστικά Μέσα και Κινούμενο Σχέδιο (BA in Interactive Media and Animation)

Οι αιτήσεις θα πρέπει να υποβληθούν μέχρι την 1η Νοεμβρίου 2024. Μετά τη λήξη της περιόδου υποβολής, το Τμήμα Σχεδιασμού και Πολυμέσων θα εξετάσει προσεκτικά κάθε αίτηση και portfolio για να επιλέξει τους πιο υποσχόμενους υποψήφιους.

Μείνετε συντονισμένοι για την ανακοίνωση των νικητών των υποτροφιών! Όλοι οι υποψήφιοι θα ειδοποιηθούν μέσω email.

Ο διαγωνισμός αφορά μόνο νεοεισερχόμενους φοιτητές για το Χειμερινό Ακαδημαϊκό Εξάμηνο 2024 που πληρούν τα κριτήρια εισδοχής για το πρόγραμμα. Παρακαλούμε να πληροφορήσετε όλη την τεχνική πληροφορία σας και να προβείτε στην κάθε αίτηση να επιλέξει τους πιο υποσχόμενους υποψήφιους.

Για όσους εισήγαγε το δικό σας καλές τέχνες, θα είναι ευρέως διαθέσιμος το εργαλείο που ήδη είχε χρησιμοποιήσει για την επιτυχημένη εκπαίδευση του ήττους στις Τέχνες. Οι διαγωνισμοί λειτουργούν με στόχο να ενισχύσουν την καλλιτεχνική και την έναρξη μιας νέας ολοκληρωμένης παραγωγής.

Οι τεχνικές και τα χαρακτηριστικά των χαρτιών, τους τρόπους με τους οποίους χρησιμοποιούνται σε ποικίλες εφαρμογές και προϊόντα, καθώς και για το σύστημα οικολογικής πιστοποίησης της Ευρωπαϊκής Ένωσης.
NEVILLE BRODY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF NICOSIA
Neville Brody | Free Me from Freedom
Public Lecture | 3 July 2024 at 18.30 | University of Nicosia, Main Auditorium

Professor Neville Brody will present his new book and design work, focusing on key themes around creativity, democracy and risk taking. The University of Nicosia (UNIC) is delighted to host world-renowned graphic designer Neville Brody for an exclusive event. A leading figure in contemporary design, Neville Brody will share his extensive knowledge and experience, providing the audience with a unique source of inspiration and insight into the world of design.

Neville Brody will also be the keynote speaker at the graduation ceremony of the School of Humanities and Social Sciences at the University of Nicosia. During the event, he will receive an honorary doctorate from the School. The ceremony will take place on 2 July at the University’s Open Amphitheatre.

Neville Brody is a leading typographer and internationally acclaimed visual communicator specialising in brand design and corporate identity strategy. Founder of design studio Brody Associates, Brody first came to prominence in the 1980s as creative director of The Face magazine. His influential career has included work for major record labels, magazines, and a wide range of international clients including Apple, BBC Online, The Times, Channel 4, Mayo Clinic, Shiseido, Coca-Cola, Christian Dior, and the England football team. Brody’s work has profoundly influenced the field of graphic communication and has been widely exhibited and published. His seminal contributions are captured in the two-volume The Graphic Language of Neville Brody, which was accompanied by an exhibition at the Victoria and Albert Museum. During his lecture at the University of Nicosia, Brody will discuss the third volume in the series, published in 2023. Neville Brody is also Professor of Communication at the Royal College of Art, where he is Dean of the School of Communication and Head of the Visual Communication programme.


Το Πανεπιστήμιο Λευκωσίας έχει την τιμή να φιλοξενήσει τον παγκοσμίου φήμης γραφίστα Neville Brody σε μια μοναδική εκδήλωση που θα πραγματοποιηθεί στις 3 Ιουλίου, ώρα 18:30, στο αμφιθέατρο του κεντρικού κτηρίου. Ο Brody, ένας από τους πιο αναγνωρισμένους σχεδιαστές της γενιάς του, θα μοιραστεί τις γνώσεις και την εμπειρία του με το κοινό, προσφέροντας μια ανεπανάληπτη ευκαιρία για έμπνευση και μάθηση.
SUCCESSFUL ORGANIZATION OF THE ADVANCES IN SECOND/FOREIGN LANGUAGE ACQUISITION (ASEFoLA) 2024 CONFERENCE

The Organizing Committee: Dr Georgios Georgiou, Dr Aretousa Giannakou, and Dr Christine Savvidou

The organizing committee of the Advances in Second/Foreign Language Acquisition (ASEFoLA) 2024 conference is pleased to report that the third consecutive ASEFoLA conference (17–19 May 2024) was a great success. There were 32 presentations by researchers from universities based in Albania, Algeria, Croatia, Cyprus, France, Germany, Greece, Lithuania, Mexico, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Serbia, Spain, South Africa, Turkey, and the United States. During the three-day conference, a total of more than 130 participants attended the various presentations. ASEFoLA is organized by the Department of Languages and Literature, School of Humanities and Social Sciences of the University of Nicosia.

Highlights from the conference included four plenary sessions from distinguished scholars, Dr Evdokia Karavas (National and Kapodistrian University of Athens), Prof. Do Coyle (University of Edinburgh), Prof. Shaofeng Li (Florida State University), and Prof. George J. Xydopoulos (University of Patras and Hellenic Open University), who presented their cutting-edge research in various areas of second language acquisition and education.

We are grateful to the 27-member scientific committee comprising international academics, as well as colleagues and PhD students, Dr Kasia Alexander, Prof.Rossitsa Artemis, Dr Victoria Kalogerou, Dr Antroulla Papakyriakou, Dr Andry Sophocleous, Ms Anna Karapanou, and Ms Vicky Zhang for their contribution to the success of the conference. We also express thanks to the Marketing Department and to the Online Learning Support Unit for their promotion and technical support of the conference during the three-day event.

We sincerely thank the Dean of School, Prof. Klimis Mastoridis, and Head of Department, Prof. Polina Mackay, for their ongoing support of this annual conference.

With the close of ASEFoLA 2024, the conference’s expanding role in establishing UNIC as a centre for research and academic exchanges in second and foreign language acquisition becomes firmly established.

More information can be found at https://asefola.weebly.com/

BOOK LAUNCH EVENT FOR THE EDITED VOLUME “ADVANCES IN SECOND/FOREIGN LANGUAGE ACQUISITION” (21 FEBRUARY 2024)

The Department of Languages and Literature (School of Humanities and Social Sciences) of the University of Nicosia organized an event for the launch of the edited volume Advances in Second Foreign Language Acquisition, published by Palgrave MacMillan. The volume comprises a collection of research papers presented at the conference of the same name, held at the University of Nicosia on 18-19 June 2022. The studies employ a variety of research techniques from different fields to understand second/foreign language acquisition, covering areas such as experimental phonology, second/foreign language teaching, heritage languages, etc.

The event took place on Wednesday, 21 February 2024, from 12:00-13:30 in room M104 at the University of Nicosia. The program included a welcome message by the Head of the Department, Prof. Polina Mackay and presentation of the volume by its editors, namely, Dr Georgios P. Georgiou, Dr Aretousa Giannakou, and Dr Christine Savvidou from the Department of Languages and Literature, University of Nicosia. A small reception followed.

NEWS AND ACTIVITIES
In the week of April 8-12, the Department of Languages and Literature hosted Professor Clay Williams, who was visiting the University of Nicosia from Akita International University, Japan, in the context of the Erasmus + programme. Professor Clay specializes in cross-script word recognition, literacy acquisition, pedagogical adaptation in East and Southeast Asia, online and virtual reality technology integration into L2 acquisition, and the origins of human language. On April 10, Professor Clay delivered an open lecture to students and faculty on the results of a multi-year study, conducted in Japan, measuring how quickly child learners could access mental concepts via newly learned foreign (English) vocabulary words.

POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH IN TEACHING ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE: UPDATES AND ACHIEVEMENTS
During the last academic year 2023/2024, postgraduate students from the PhD TESOL programme in the Department of Languages and Literature made significant scholarly contributions across diverse educational contexts. Second-year student, under the supervision of Dr Christine Savvidou, Mr Philip Allardice has been researching the role of continuing professional development (CPD) within transnational education (e.g. joint partnerships between universities in different countries). Earlier this year, he attended the ThaiTESOL Conference in Thailand to present his ongoing research at UNIC. Furthermore, he most recently published a chapter in a book, examining cultural and leadership factors that play a role within transnational higher education, during which he also peer-reviewed papers and was featured on the editorial board. Over the
coming months, he plans to implement new initiatives within his workplace relating to CPD in TESOL, with a focus on research collaboration, which will also serve as one of the key projects of his doctoral studies.

Another student, Ms Hidayat Abu Elhawa successfully co-authored a paper with her supervisors, Dr Chris Alexander and Dr Jarosław Krajka, titled "Online Education in Palestine: ELT doing ERT (again)," which examines how the frequency of disruptions to the function of Palestine's education systems highlights the need for Palestinian educational institutions to implement online delivery of institutional services and course content in order to ensure reliable access for teachers and students. Additionally, Ms Elhawa is slated to contribute to the Palgrave Encyclopaedia of CALL with a paper focusing on Virtual Assistants -Aria.

Adding to the semester's achievements, another postgraduate student, Ms Dimitra Christoforou, under the supervision of Dr Aretousa Giannakou, presented part of her ongoing research titled “Investigating EFL instructors’ views on EFL classes at Second Chance Schools in Greek prisons” at the 3rd Doctoral Colloquium of the Cyprus Rectors’ Conference, held on 13 April 2024 at the University of Cyprus. Her presentation focused on the findings of qualitative interviews conducted with EFL instructors working in Second Chance Schools within Greek prisons. These interviews explored the instructors' perspectives on the curriculum of English literacy, their training needs for the specific prison settings, and the motivational strategies that they adopt to engage students in these unique learning environments. Ms Christoforou’s research addresses a critical gap in prison education and has the potential to significantly contribute to developing more effective English language programmes tailored to the needs of incarcerated individuals, thereby enhancing their opportunities for successful reintegration into society upon release.

In November 2023, third year student, Ms Ibtihaj El Dandachi, under the supervision of Dr Chris Alexander, had the opportunity to speak at the IATEFL LTSIG & ESOL SIG Online Conference where she presented her ongoing PhD study entitled "A case study of ESOL teachers' use of augmented and virtual reality in a school in Qatar. The conference served as a great platform for exchanging ideas with peers and researchers from around the world and gaining new insights into the role of technology in education. Additionally, she collaborated with esteemed researchers on a chapter entitled “XR and the Metaverse: New Opportunities in Education” featured in a book by Springer. The chapter examines the integration of immersive technologies in teaching, providing a glimpse into the future of digital learning environments. She also authored the chapter "AI-Powered Personalized Learning: Toward Sustainable Education," which was included in a book she had the privilege of co-editing.

Su Lai, a fourth-year PhD student in TESOL, continues to make academic achievements under the supervision of Prof. Maria Economidou-Kogetsidis and Dr Christine Savvidou. Recently, Su and his main supervisor Prof. Economidou-Kogetsidis co-authored an article which has appeared in the TESOL Journal, one of the most influential journals in the field of teaching English. Indexed both in Scopus (Q1) and in the Web of Science (ESCI), the article is a review of a Routledge-published book: Pragmatics in language learning: From research to practice. In the review, they praised multiple strengths of the book, including the emphasis on current issues in teaching pragmatics (e.g., social media pragmatics, young language learners), the broad appeal to readers and the easy-to-read writing style. Moreover, they identified a few areas for improvement, such as the omission of email pragmatics. As Su’s very first publication, this article marks a significant milestone in his academic career. Apart
from this publication, Su has will present different aspects of his PhD research this summer at a number of international conferences in Pisa, Seville, Barcelona, Huston, and Chiang Mai. Together, these students, with the support of their supervisors, are driving forward the boundaries of educational research in second language education and demonstrating the depth and breadth of scholarly work within the PhD TESOL programme.

PUBLICATIONS


Dr Georgios (George) Georgiou


This study investigated the discrimination of second language (L2) English monophthongal contrasts and the effect of phonological short-term memory (PSTM) and nonverbal intelligence (IQ) on L2 speech perception. The participants consisted of adult monolingually-raised Greek speakers, who completed an AX discrimination test, a digit span test, and a nonverbal intelligence test. A control group of English speakers also completed the AX test.

The results revealed that Greek speakers exhibited below-chance discrimination for the majority of L2 vowel contrasts, consistently underperforming in comparison to the control group. Intriguingly, the study did not provide substantial evidence in favor of more accurate discrimination of L2 contrasts by participants with high PSTM compared to those with low PSTM.

However, the study yielded compelling evidence indicating that participants with higher IQ demonstrated superior accuracy in discriminating most L2 contrasts compared to their lower-IQ counterparts. The limited influence of PSTM on speech perception suggests the need for further exploration, considering the potential impact of test methodologies and the intricate interplay of other confounding factors. Furthermore, the study uncovers a noteworthy relationship between nonverbal IQ and L2 speech perception, likely linked with the association of high IQ with enhanced attentional capacities, information processing abilities, and learning skills – all of which are pivotal for accurate speech perception.

The full paper:


2. Journal Article: Classification of English vowels in terms of Cypriot Greek categories: the role of acoustic similarity between L1 and L2 sounds (published by the Canadian Journal of Linguistics – Scopus Q1)

Previous evidence has suggested that acoustic similarity between first language (L1) and second language (L2) sounds is an accurate indicator of the speakers’ L2 classification patterns.

This study assessed this assumption by examining how speakers of an underresearched language, namely, Cypriot Greek, classified L2 English vowels in terms of their L1 categories. The experimental protocol relied on a perceptual and a production study.

For the purpose of the production study, two linear discriminant analysis (LDA) models, one with both formants and duration (FD) and one with only formants (F) as input, were used to predict this classification; the models included data from English and Cypriot Greek speakers. The perceptual study consisted of a classification task performed by adult Cypriot Greek advanced speakers of English who permanently resided in Cyprus.

The results demonstrated that acoustic similarity was a relatively good predictor of speakers’ classification patterns as the majority of L2 vowels classified with the highest proportion were predicted with success by the LDA models. In addition, the F model was better than the FD model in predicting the full range of responses. This shows that duration features were less important than formant features for the prediction of L2 vowel classification.

The full paper:

3. Journal article: Promoting Linguistically Based Health Literacy in Doctors for Better Cancer Healthcare in Cyprus (published by the Journal of Cancer Education – Scopus Q2)
This paper explores a novel approach in cancer healthcare, underscoring the significance of fostering health literacy among doctors by enhancing their ability to employ linguistically oriented strategies to extract and interpret the linguistic behavior of patients. The focus is on the Greek-Cypriot context, where research on health literacy is still in its nascent stages.
The full paper:

4. Journal article: Acoustic Characteristics of Greek Vowels Produced by Adult Heritage Speakers of Albanian (published by the Acoustics – Scopus Q2)
This study compares the acoustic characteristics of Greek vowels produced by heritage speakers (HSs) of Albanian and monolingual Greek speakers, aiming to identify potential differences and explain them. The participants were adult second-generation HSs of Albanian with Greek as their dominant language, born and raised in Greece. A control group of age-matched monolingual Greek speakers was included for comparison purposes. All participants engaged in a controlled speech production task, with the data segmented to extract acoustic values pertaining to the first three formants and the duration of Greek vowels. Bayesian regression models were employed for the subsequent statistical analysis.
The results demonstrated differences in the first three formants of certain vowels and the duration of all vowels. These differences can be attributed to the crosslinguistic effect of HL on the dominant language, as well as the interplay between the dynamic and internalized language system of the speakers and the complex effect of the sociophonetic context.
These outcomes contribute to the hypothesis positing the emergence of deflected phonetic categories among a distinctive group of bilinguals, namely HSs.
The full paper:

AWARDS
Dr George Georgiou of UNIC is awarded the “Cyprus Research Award – Young Researcher 2023” by RIF
Dr George Georgiou from the Department of Languages and Literature of the University of Nicosia has been awarded the prestigious “Cyprus Research Award – Young Researcher 2023” in the thematic area of Humanities and Social Sciences by the Cyprus Research and Innovation Foundation (RIF). The “Cyprus Research Award – Young Researcher” is awarded to young researchers that have demonstrated the ability to perform high quality research. The Award aims to highlight the research activity, achievements and personality of young scientists undertaking research in Cyprus, who have shown an ability to produce significant and internationally recognized results from the early stages of their career.
The evaluation of the nominations will be carried out by three (3) Evaluation Committee (EC). The Committees will consist of evaluators/experts from abroad selected on the basis of the thematic areas. Evaluation Criteria. The evaluation criteria the quality of the research activity, curriculum vitae and future research.
The rationale for Dr Georgiou’s award provided by RIF is as follows: “The young scientist, with an excellent profile and internationally recognized results, is active in the research field of linguistics, and his publications in internationally recognized journals exceed the world average in his field. In the past year, he launched the Phonetic Lab at the University of Nicosia, indicating his insight and effective leadership skills.
Despite the early stage of his career, his CV is impressive. Dr Georgiou has consistently produced high-quality research, recognized nationally and internationally, excelling in inter- and intra-disciplinary research. He has effectively integrated emerging technologies into his expertise area, facilitating their application in similar fields.
His future research projects show great potential and will contribute to his further scientific development, with a focus on the field of linguistics. This direction is a natural progression of the outstanding scientific achievements that Dr Georgiou has made so far.”
EVENTS
Dr George Georgiou from the Department of Languages and Literature gave a lecture on Linguistics and the Greek language as an invited speaker at The International School Of Paphos, in celebration of the World Greek Language Day.

INTERVIEWS
Interview for the InBusinessNews magazine
Dr George Georgiou was interviewed by the InBusinessNews magazine, discussing research in Cyprus, funding opportunities, linguistics, and his own research work. The interview, conducted in Greek, is available for reading here: https://inbusinessnews.reporter.com.cy/article/2024/2/9/755597/aparaiete-e-entaxe-kondulion-gia-akademike-ereuna-ston-proupologismo-tou-kratous?fbclid=IwAR3nMiOBO-Ro-TAvtGHS9kDshH1Q1i6zNhCYg9hoBss2ddDdehSphA7xpbblKlg

Radio Interview
Dr George Georgiou have an invited radio interview on RIK4 (88.2 FM) for the program SaskiaUnreserved, presented by Dr Saskia Constantinou, during which he discussed language and linguistics.
You can hear the interview in the following link (22/2/2024): https://radio.rik.cy/show/saskia-unreserved/

THE SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES PARTICIPATES IN THE RESEARCHERS AT SCHOOLS PROGRAMME ORGANIZED BY IDEK
Professor Polina Mackay (Head of Department of Languages and Literature) visited Xylophagou High School and presented her new research on narrative medicine.
NEWS AND ACTIVITIES

Professor Nuno Ferreira (Department of Social Sciences) presided over the parallel session titled "Exploring Mental Health Post-Stroke" at the European Life After Stroke Forum Conference held in Dublin on March 11th and 12th. Professor Ferreira is a long time contributor to this conference as a member of the scientific committee, and this year, curated a long awaited session on mental health post stroke. The importance of this topic has been recently highlighted in the “A life saved is a life worth living” report by the Stroke Alliance for Europe (SAFE) (https://www.safestroke.eu/life-saved-is-a-life-worth-living/). Professor Ferreira was joined by three eminent speakers in the filed of mental health after stroke for this session.

The first talk was delivered by Professor Niall Bloomfield (University of East Anglia, UK) and Focused on what do mental health difficulties look like post-stroke. In this exceptional talk, Professor Bloomfield highlighted the differences between pathological presentations of depression and anxiety and post-stroke emotionalism and their prevalence in post-stroke survivors. Several practical tips were shared to enable stroke survivors, health professionals and carers to easily identify whether a stroke survivor might be struggling with mental health issues and how to refer them to appropriate help.

In the second talk, Professor Maggie Lawrence (Glasgow Caledonian University, UK) shared the findings of a recent interventional study using a mindfulness based approach to target mental heath difficulties in stroke survivors. The findings of the study indicate this to be a promising intervention in reducing experiences of depression and increasing quality of life, that can be easily rolled out and made accessible to stroke survivors everywhere.

Finally in the third talk, Mrs Stacie Broek (Author, Speaker, Course Creator and Stroke Survivor, Switzerland) recounted her own experiences in dealing with the consequences of a stroke at a very young age and the impact it had on her mental health. In this emotional account (there was not a single dry eye in the entire room) Mrs Broek shared with the audience the struggles in maintaining good quality interpersonal relationships following a stroke and how that affects your mental health overall, but also how to use your personal values associated with the people that matter the most in your life to rebuild and strengthen these connections and engage in a life worth living.

You can learn more about this specific session or the whole conference at: https://www.elasf.org/programme/

Dr Olga Tzouramani, Doctor of Criminology (specialized in correctional facilities), Criminologist & Psychotherapist. PhD, MSc, MSc, Llm

Dr Olga Tzouramani belongs to the scientific-academic staff (Adjunct faculty) of the University of Nicosia, Cyprus. After completing her undergraduate studies in Psychology at the university of Wales, obtained three Master's of Science: In Criminology (University of Nicosia, CY), in Integrative Counselling and Psychotherapy (University of Derby, UK) and Master's in Law in the field of Human Rights and Social Justice (University of Nicosia, CY). Dr Tzouramani obtained her PhD in Criminology specializing in correctional facilities from the University of Nicosia (CY) and her thesis is entitled: 'The multifaceted impact of incarceration on inmates and their families', which will be published in a book by Sakkoulas publications. Her research was completed in 2021 and the advisory committee consisted of Dr Soukara (Main Supervisor), Dr Sorvatzioti (Second Supervisor) and Professor Magganas (Third Supervisor).

Research Abstract

The present research examined the multifaceted impact of incarceration on inmates, released prisoners and their families. The purpose of this research focuses on the investigation of the problems and consequences caused by imprisonment to detainees as well as the family network of incarcerated individuals, at a Personal, Social, Psychological, Economic and Family level.

The research was conducted by gaining access to the following Penitentiaries: Diavaton- Thessalonikis, Chalkida, Nafplio, and Ioannina. In addition, access was granted to the Gate of Freedom (NGO) and KETHEA Prometheus during the period December 2018 - June 2019. It is the first empirical research of its kind in this area. A qualitative approach and in-depth analysis of the subject matter was adopted, through personal semi-structured interviews with inmates, released prisoners and family members.

The data resulted from 118 interviews. Thematic Analysis was selected, as the appropriate method of analysing such a qualitative data. From the analysis of the transcribed text material, appropriate codes were created, which in turn produced the following Themes, for both the incarcerated population and the inmates' families. Specifically, from the Thematic Analysis of the incarcerated individuals (inmates-released prisoners) five (5) Themes emerged: «Experience of incarceration», «Experiences in and out of prison», «Relationships with the family», «Relevant Organizations», «Propositions-Expectations and Fears». Following the same procedure, for the families, four (4) Themes were...

In general, the research findings are in accordance with recent relevant literature, which argues that imprisonment is indeed a painful rehabilitation measure, seriously affecting and causing negative experiences, to not only the person who is deprived of the most important asset, his/her liberty, but also to his/her family members. One must not forget that inmates are part / members of a wider social network, their family network.

In conclusion, the results of the present research, identified and highlighted the current situation, as well as specific needs in terms of crime prevention measures related to prison population, such as: Re-offending, violence in prison and substance abuse. In addition, specific therapeutic approaches such as counselling and rehabilitation-reintegration programs have been explored, as they could directly influence the factors which may strengthen family ties. Finally, important areas for policy development are identified and discussed as well as possible best practices for families, inmates and released prisoners.

Keywords: Social impact of incarceration, Prisoners, Released, Effects of imprisonment in the Family, Relapse, Reintegration, Therapeutic programs, Thematic analysis.


Prof. Christos Panagiotopoulos successfully represented UNIC and EASSW at the World Social Work Day 2024 held in Geneva. It was a fruitful day that opened new avenues of collaborations with our Swiss members (Fribourg and Geneva), but it also highlighted the importance of SW education in the celebration of Social Work Day. In particular, he was actively engaged a) in reflecting on how to use the principles of Buen Vivir for social work research; and b) identifying examples of how Buen Vivir can provide concrete guidance to social work professionals on how to create better relationships between people and between people and nature.

Blended Intensive Programme 14–19/4/2024

Prof. Panagiotopoulos (University of Nicosia and chair of EASSW) had the opportunity to take part in a very interesting Blended Intensive Programme at the Social Work Programme/University of Thrace from the 14th to the 19th of April, exchanging ideas, knowledge and skills with colleagues from Greece, Cyprus, Bulgaria, Turkey, Poland and Austria. The theme was children and families in an era of uncertainties: Challenges and Critical Perspectives for interventions with diversities.

Apart from the scientific programme, which all participants (students and faculty) found beneficial, the socio-cultural programme was also exciting, as we had the opportunity to experience a place in Greece where people with different cultural and religious backgrounds have been living together for many years now.
Social Work Education and Social Development, Panama 4-7/4/2024

Prof. Christos Panagiotopoulos presented a very interesting project “ISTOS” funded by the National Authority against Drugs (AAEK) in Panama City (World Social Work Conference 4-7/4/2024), which demonstrated how social workers together with other mental health professionals can maintain school children in the school environment and can work with the family and school teachers in order to safeguard children's well-being. The project team consists of Prof. Panagiotopoulos, Dr Neocleous and two graduates of the UNIC Social Work Programme, Mr Lefteris Kokkinos and Mrs Skevi Christodoulou.

PUBLICATION


SOCIAL WORK PROGRAMME ACTIVITIES

In recent years, juvenile delinquency has been at the centre of interest for the scientific community, as shown by relevant studies. Many young people begin to display delinquent behaviour in adolescence, as they are in the school environment, while new forms of delinquency emerge as a result of various social factors. Recognising the need for knowledge transfer from academia to society and most importantly to professionals working with youth and families the Social Work Programme of the University of Nicosia organized a series of conferences in Cyprus and Greece in order to raise awareness and establish a forum for knowledge exchange between academia and society.

The first conference, entitled: “Juvenile Delinquency and Substance Dependence Prevention”, was held in Nicosia on 2 March 2024. It was organised in collaboration with the Cyprus Police-YKAN, the Cyprus National Addictions Authority, and the PanCypriot Confederation of Federations of Parents’ Associations of Public Secondary Schools. The aim of the conference was to provide a thorough presentation of the phenomenon, to analyse the causal factors that contribute to the manifestation of deviant behaviour by teenagers, and to identify of good practices that could contribute to its timely treatment. Collaboration between teachers, parents and social services is deemed necessary. Finally, proposals were formulated for better care services for high-risk adolescents, with the aim of their smooth reintegration into society.

On the 13th and 14th of April, 2024, the Social Work Programme, together with the Region of Crete and the Regional Unit of Chania, the Municipality of Platanias, the Directorates of Primary and Secondary Education of Chania, the Orthodox Academy of Crete and the Parents Association of the Municipality of Apokoronou, organised the Symposium entitled: “Juvenile delinquency and child abuse”, in Chania Crete. The symposium aimed to open dialogue on the field of youth of delinquency, which is plaguing the current affairs at this time considering that will contribute to interdisciplinary cooperation, information, prevention but also in highlighting good practices for dealing with the phenomena. The Symposium was very well attended by social care professionals, teachers, and parents.

On 17 April, the Social Work Programme, in collaboration with the Civil Society Organization Posidonia Npc and the Cultural Non-Profit Association "Education Innovation Development Actions of Heraklion Attica (D.E.K.A. 10 For All)", organised the third event in the series in Athens. The conference was entitled "The coexistence of juvenile delinquency and child abuse" and was held at the Ministry of Education, Religious Affairs and Sports of Greece. The Minister of Families and Social Cohesion, Ms Sofia
Zacharaki, delivered the keynote speech highlighting the need for more and better staffed social services in the field of child protection. The conference was well attended by parents and professionals alike.

Finally, on 20 April, the Social Work Programme co-organised a conference in Georskipou Paphos, in collaboration with the Municipal Prevention Group of Georskipou and the Associations of Parents and Guardians of Schools of the Municipality of Geroskipou. The conference was entitled “Prevention and handling of offensive behaviours: The role of family and school”. The aim of the conference was to inform parents and teachers about their role in preventing juvenile delinquency by discussing how their actions affect children’s emotional and social development. The conference closed with an experiential workshop for parents discussing their main issues face and possible solutions to help them better fulfil their role. The collaboration was affirmed by signing a Memorandum of Understanding with the Municipal Prevention Group of Georskipou and the University of Nicosia, which will allow for the development of further actions and initiatives.
ΚΟΠΗ ΒΑΣΙΛΟΠΙΤΑΣ ΚΑΙ ΓΙΟΡΤΗ ΤΩΝ ΓΡΑΜΜΑΤΩΝ ΣΤΟ ΤΜΗΜΑ ΘΕΟΛΟΓΙΑΣ
Λουκάς Α. Παναγιώτου

Σε κλίμα ιδιαίτερα γιορτινό και αισιόδοξο πραγματοποιήθηκε το Σάββατο, 3 Φεβρουαρίου 2024, στο αμφιθέατρο UNESCO των εγκαταστάσεων του Πανεπιστημίου Λευκωσίας, η καθιερωμένη κοπή της βασιλόπιτας του Μεταπτυχιακού και Διδακτορικού Προγράμματος του Τμήματος Θεολογίας του Πανεπιστημίου της Κυπριακής Πρωτεύουσας.

Στην εκδήλωση αυτή, η οποία συνδυάστηκε και με τη Γιορτή των Ελληνικών Γραμμάτων, παρευρέθησαν ο Πανιερώτατος Μητροπολίτης Κύκκου και Τηλλυρίας κ. Νικηφόρος, υπό την υψηλή επιστασία του οποίου λειτουργεί το Τμήμα Θεολογίας, ο Θεοφιλέστατος Επίσκοπος Αμαθούντος κ. Νικόλαος, εκπροσώπος της Υπουργού Παιδείας, Αθλητισμού και Νεολαίας, ο Πρύτανης του Πανεπιστημίου Λευκωσίας κ. Φίλιππος Πουγιούτας, ο Αντιπρύτανης κ. Παναγιώτης Αγγελίδης, η αναπληρωτής Κοσμήτορας της Σχολής Ανθρωπιστικών Σπουδών κ. Ιουλία Παπαγιώργη, ο Υπαρχηγός της Αστυνομικής Δυνάμεως Κύπρου κ. Δημήτρης Δημητρίου, βουλευτές, καθηγητές και φοιτητές των Προγραμμάτων Θεολογίας.

Την Βασιλόπιτα ευλόγησε και έκοπτε ο της του Κύκκου Σεπτός Ποιμενάρχης κ. Νικηφόρος, ο οποίος στη συνέχεια απηύθυνε εόρτιες ευχές και πνευματικές προτροπές προς τους φοιτητές και με τον βαθύ και μεστό αγιοπατερικό λόγο ανέλυσε την έννοια και τη σημασία της Θεολογίας για την Εκκλησία και την κοινωνία των ανθρώπων.

«Η Θεολογία υπήρξε πάντοτε η αναπνοή της Ορθοδοξίας, η οποία Ορθοδοξία οφείλει να παρέχει αδιάκοπα στον κόσμο το Ευαγγέλιο του Χριστού», τόνισε ο Πανιερώτατος και προέτρεψε τους σπουδαστές, να μεταβληθούν σε προμηθείς, για να μεταδίδουν στον κόσμο το δημιουργικό πυρ της προ τον Θεόν αγάπης.

Τη μεγάλη του χαρά και τη συγκίνηση που τον διακατέχει, μιας και μέχρι πρότινος ήταν και ίδιος ένας από αυτούς τους φοιτητές του Τμήματος Θεολογίας, εξέφρασε ο Υπουργός Δικαιοσύνης, στον Χαιρετισμό του.

«Αποπεράτωσα το Μεταπτυχιακό μου μόλις πριν ένα χρόνο, τέτοια εποχή και ομολογώ ότι ήταν ένα πανέμορφο ταξίδι μόρφωσης», σημείωσε ο κ. Χαρτσιώτης. «Είναι με δισταγμό που έκλεισα αυτό το Μεταπτυχιακό και δεν περίμενα, πραγματικά, ότι θα συναντούσα αυτό το τεράστιο ενδιαφέρον. Μάθηση, εμπειρίες, ιστορία, θεολογία, πίστις, είναι μερικά στοιχεία από το κράμα ενός πολύτιμου νομίσματος, που κοσμεί το εκπαιδευτικό σύστημα της Κύπρου. Και τολμώ να πω ότι αυτό το νόμισμα δεν είναι άλλο από το Τμήμα Θεολογίας του Πανεπιστημίου Λευκωσίας. Ένα Τμήμα, το οποίο απαρτίζουν αξιόλογοι καταξιωμένοι καθηγητές της Κύπρου και της Ελλάδας, οι οποίοι έχουν πραγματικά ανεβάσει το επίπεδο πάρα, πάρα πολύ πιο υψηλά.

»Το Τμήμα αυτό, ναι, κοσμεί το εκπαιδευτικό σύστημα της Κύπρου. Δεν υπάρχει, οφείλω να ομολογήσω, κάτι άλλο αντίστοιχο. Έχει την μοναδικότητα και πρέπει να τη διαφυλάξουμε, να την προστατεύσουμε. Εγώ προσωπικά, με την νέα μου ιδιότητα, θα κάνω ό,τι είναι δυνατό και οτιδήποτε μπορώ μέσα από τις δυνάμεις μου, προκειμένου να δώσω το καλύτερο σ' αυτό το πραγματικά διαμάντι της Κύπρου μας», τόνισε ο κ. Υπουργός.

Η Υπουργός Παιδείας στον δικό της Χαιρετισμό, τον οποίο ανέγνωσε ο Γενικός Επιθεωρητής Δ.Ε. Ανδρέας Θεοδωρίδης,
το Τμήμα Θεολογίας, ενός Πανεπιστημίου που είναι πλέον ανάμεσα στα 501-600 καλύτερα Πανεπιστήμια του κόσμου, σύμφωνα με τις τρεις πιο σημαντικές κατατάξεις Πανεπιστημίων της Times Higher Education (THE) World University Rankings».

Στη συνέχεια τον λόγο έλαβε ο Πρόεδρος του Τμήματος Θεολογίας Καθηγητής Χρήστος Οικονόμου, ο οποίος ευχαρίστησε τον Πανιερώτατο Μητροπολίτη Κύκκου και Τηλλυρίας κ. Νικηφόρο για την αμέριστη και συνεχή στήριξή του, καθώς και όσους βοηθούν και συνδράμουν ποικιλοτρόπως το Τμήμα.

Σχολιάζοντας, ακολούθως, τα όσα ανέφερε περί Θεολογίας στον Χαιρετισμό του ο Μητροπολίτης Κύκκου, υπογράμμισε, ότι «συμφωνώ μαζί του ότι Θεολογία εκτός Εκκλησίας δεν υπάρχει και Εκκλησία χωρίς Θεολογία δεν νοείται. Αυτό είναι το συναμφότερο και στη Πατερική και στη Βιβλική Θεολογία, ότι η γνώση είναι προϋπόθεση του δόγματος και η βίωση είναι η συνέπεια αυτής ακριβώς της αλήθειας της πίστεως».

Η όλη εκδήλωση έκλεισε με τον μυσταγωγικό λόγο του Καθηγητή του Τμήματος κ. Νίκου Νικολαΐδη, ο οποίος αναπτύσσοντας το θέμα: «Γιατί Μέγας, ο Βασίλειος», ανέφερε:

Ο Βασίλειος κατέστη Μέγας, γιατί, κατ’ αρχή, κατόρθωσε να υπερβεί τρεις μεγάλες προκλήσεις: α) Τον πειρασμό της αριστοκρατικής οικογένειάς του. β) Το μέγεθος της οικονομικής οικογενειακής του κατάστασης και γ) Το πολυεπίπεδο του νου και της επιστημονικής του κατάρτισης. Όλα αυτά τα επένδυσε στην τράπεζα της Εκκλησίας. Και τούτο, γιατί τον διέκρινε το πνεύμα της υπακοής, της ταπεινής συνεχάρη το Τμήμα Θεολογίας του Πανεπιστήμιου Λευκωσίας για τα 10 χρόνια προσφοράς στην επιστήμη της Θεολογίας, στην Ορθόδοξη Εκκλησία του νησιού και υπογράμμισε ότι «το Τμήμα προσφέρει αναβάθμιση στα θεολογικά μας πράγματα και ανοίγει παράλληλα και ένα διεπιστημονικό διάλογο της Θεολογίας με τις άλλες επιστήμες».

Τέλος, απευθύνοντας προς τον Πρόεδρο του Τμήματος Θεολογίας Καθηγητή Χρήστο Οικονόμου, τόνισε ότι «πραγματικά, Χρήστο, είναι ιδιαίτερη η τιμή, που σε έχουμε Πρόεδρο στο Τμήμα αυτό και στο Πανεπιστήμιό μας. Σ' ευχαριστούμε πολύ. Θέλω, όπως νοιώθουμε εμείς τυχεροί, να επιφέρετε ρόλο στην επιστήμη της Θεολογίας και να ενισχύετε τη διαδικασία της ευλογίας κοινωνίας, με την προώθηση μιας αρχικής και επανάστασης προς την γνώση της αλήθειας της πίστεως.»
τόσο οι Μοναχοί, όσο και άλλοι, αντέγραφαν κείμενα και έτσι διέσωσαν τον πλούτο της κλασικής ελληνικής αρχαιότητας.

Ωστόσο, εκεί, όπου διαφαίνεται το μέγεθος του Βασιλείου, πέρα από τα συγγράμματά του και τις σωζόμενες 368 Επιστολές του, είναι στο κεφάλαιο της φιλανθρωπίας με το πολύπλευρο και πολυεπίπεδο έργο της Βασιλειάδας του. Ένα επίτευγμα μοναδικό στο είδος του.

On 11 January, Ms Despina Ioannou, Secretary to the Dean of the School of Humanities and Social Sciences, attended a first aid training course. It was a constructive programme that had a positive impact on her professional and personal life.

Our Graphic and Digital Design 2nd year students visited Laser Graphics Ltd/Fine Quality Offset Printers on 19 April 2024. Because design is not just about... design. It is also about print production and all the work that goes into printed matter up to the final stage. Many thanks to Panicos, Angela, and the company crew (Maria, Eleni, Milos, Pambos, Yiota, Adonis, Nakis). Thank you for another warm and very informative session. As always, the mini pies and juices were great! See you next year!
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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.

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As we approach the end of 2021, another challenging year, Conferences and Events, and Achievements of faculty and mentors. The editorial conference took place in Thessaloniki, Greece, from 5 to 9 November. The project, entitled "Mentor for the Future", involved 134 academics from 15 national and international universities (e.g., Greece, Cyprus, Italy, Norway, India, and the USA). The consortium of the project, led by Papageorgi, Ms Andri Anastasiou and Ms Katerina Georgaki, showed an elaborated preparation of the consortium partners. The project aimed to connect their expertise and to design an inclusive curriculum where the work conducted by our diverse multidisciplinary organizations that offer students and faculty opportunities for leadership and to be effective in HE and in the labor market. What is the genetic analysis of the performing arts and how is it on how to make student mentoring part of the HEI’s curriculum? The project will inspire university students to become role models. The project has made it possible to articulate it.

The publication will indicate how proud we are to be part of the academic community. The project has shown that the work conducted by our diverse and multidisciplinary organizations that offer students and faculty opportunities for leadership and to be effective in HE and in the labor market. What is the genetic analysis of the performing arts and how is it on how to make student mentoring part of the HEI’s curriculum? The project will inspire university students to become role models. The project has made it possible to articulate it.