

GPSG NEWSLETTER #16

JULY 2009

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Greek Politics Specialist Group

Convenor's Report

Dear Colleagues,

Welcome to the **16th Newsletter** of the **Greek Politics Specialist Group (GPSG)**.

This is a particularly creative and busy period for the Group: we are currently preparing the **edited volume** with the proceedings of February's ***Images of Nations Conference***, which took place at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Athens; we are also in the process of putting together our panels for next year's – 60th anniversary – **PSA conference** in Edinburgh (more details below).

I am delighted to announce that the GPSG will be offering **2 x £200 prizes** to scholars who presented at the LSE **Hellenic Observatory's 4th PhD Symposium** on Contemporary Greece and Cyprus. The full call for retrospective applications is featured below and on our website, along with the application form.

As the GPSG is celebrating its fifth birthday, and in response to the PSA's new guidelines for specialist groups, we are also about to engage in a comprehensive **review of our organisational structure**, including our constitution and membership fee scheme. Full Members of the Group will have the opportunity to **comment** and **vote** on any proposed changes during the next few months. I would like to take this opportunity to **thank** everyone who participated in our **panels** and **Annual General Meeting** at this year's PSA conference in Manchester. Please note that the papers presented at the conference can now be accessed via our website.

In addition to the regular **updates** on our activities, **featured publications** and listings of **upcoming events**, this newsletter also features an **article** by Dr. Dimitris Tsarouhas on the recent local elections in Turkey, as well as a review of the papers presented by GPSG colleagues at the **Yale Conference** on Reform in Greece.

As always, **your contributions**, ideas and comments are always welcome and crucial to the development of our work. The GPSG is only as good as its **members' input** and there are many ways in which you can contribute, such as submitting a short article for our website, bringing us in touch with potential sponsors and taking part in our competitions and events. Last but certainly not least, if you haven't already done so, please remember to complete the **online membership form**, which helps us stay in touch. By joining us as a Full Member you also get a range of benefits, such as priority access to our events, eligibility for funding support and inclusion to the media 'Experts' service.

The **Greek Politics Specialist Group (GPSG)** of the UK's Political Studies Association (PSA) was founded in 2004.

It is one of the largest and most active groups of the PSA and a leading, international network of scholars and researchers of Greek society, government and politics.

Convenors:

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**GPSG Travel Grants for Young Scholars
The 4th Hellenic Observatory PhD
Symposium on Contemporary Greece and
Cyprus
LSE, 25-26 June 2009**



Call for Retrospective Applications

The Hellenic Observatory PhD Symposium is a biennial meeting of young scholars working on issues related to Greece and Cyprus that serves as a forum for the discussion and reflection upon the changes that have taken place in contemporary Greece and its neighbourhood.

One of its main objectives is to build upon the success of the previous LSE PhD Symposia. Further objectives of the Symposium are to overcome academic isolation, establish new collaborative links between disciplines, test the ground for innovative ideas, and help 'engage' the wider academic community. Previous keynote speakers have included Prof. Nikos Mouzelis, Prof. Nikiforos Diamandouros, Prof. Stathis Kalyvas, Prof. George Tsebelis, Prof. Fotis Kafatos, Prof. Nikos Zahariadis, Prof. Christina Koulouri, Dr Achilleas Mitsos, and Dr Jane Cowan.

As part of its core mission of promoting systematic research, supporting young scholars and strengthening the ties between the UK and Greek academic communities, the Greek Politics Specialist Group is offering 2 x £200 prizes to young researchers presenting at the 4th Hellenic Observatory PhD Symposium at LSE.

Deadline for receipt of completed applications: **17 July 2009**

Eligibility: In order to be eligible for the grants, applicants must have travelled from Greece in order to present a paper at the Symposium.

Criteria: Priority will be given to younger scholars from regional universities of Greece and those who have not received any other form of funding support.

Selection: The prize winners will be selected by a GPSG panel based on the merits of their papers and according to the afore-mentioned criteria. Candidates will be notified about the outcome of the selection process in August 2009.

Download the Application Form here: http://www.gpsg.org.uk/docs/GPSG_LSE_HO_Form.doc

Completed application forms should be emailed to athens@gpsg.org.uk or sent to our postal address by 17 July 2009.

As evidence in support of your application, please attach:

A – your paper or presentation at the 4th HO Symposium

B – scanned or printed proof of travel (receipt, e-ticket or boarding card)

**60th Annual Conference
of the Political Studies Association**

**Conference
2010**

***Sixty Years of Political Studies:
Achievements and Futures***

**29 March – 1 April 2010
Hotel The George, Edinburgh
Call for Workshops, Panels and Papers**

Deadline for abstracts to GPSG: 4 September 2009



The Greek Politics Specialist Group invites abstracts for papers, workshops or panels on all aspects of Greek political and social research according to the Call issued by the PSA. Our internal deadline for the submission of abstracts and proposals to the GPSG is 4 September 2009, after which we will put together our panel proposal to the PSA. If you would like to present a paper at a GPSG panel, please Contact Us.

The PSA is one of the world's longest established political studies associations. Its 60th anniversary in 2010 is an opportunity to reflect on the achievements of political studies over the last 60 years, in the UK and internationally, on the issues and ideas that are now at the cutting edge of political analysis, and on the new directions we need to pursue in the future.

The 2010 PSA Annual Conference will be a unique opportunity for debate about the state of the discipline. Already the largest UK gathering of researchers in politics and international relations, in 2010 it will:

- as ever showcase research from across all aspects of political analysis
- build deeper links with politics scholars in other associations, like BISA, UACES and the Britain and Ireland Association for Political Thought
- develop stronger links with political scientists internationally, working with associations like ECPR, APSA and IPSA
- explore the opportunities and problems of engaging politics scholarship with political practice
- debate how we best teach politics in universities and schools.

Conference website: <http://www.psa.ac.uk/2010>

KEY CONTACTS

Queries re GPSG panels: Roman Gerodimos - rgerodimos@bournemouth.ac.uk

Conference Academic Convenor: Prof. Charlie Jeffery - convenor@psa.ac.uk

PSA Conference Organiser: Sue Forster - Sue.Forster@newcastle.ac.uk

PSA Membership queries: Sandra McDonagh - sandra.mcdonagh@newcastle.ac.uk

Postgraduate student support

If you are proposing a panel that includes a postgraduate student, or you are a postgraduate student submitting a paper proposal, you may be eligible to apply to the PSA Postgraduate Access Fund.

Programme confirmation

It is expected that a full conference programme will be agreed and published by December 2009. On publication, details of registration and paper delivery arrangements will also be made available.

Pre-conference registration rules

Presenters will receive instructions about registration once the programme is published. There will be a an 'early bird' booking fee until February 2010, and after which date a higher registration fee will become payable. Once the conference programme is published, non-registration will lead to the removal of panels and/or papers from the programme.

Conference presentation rules

All presenters will receive instructions about paper delivery. By submitting a proposal, presenters agree:

1. to be available at any scheduled session at the conference
2. to present the paper(s) in person; and
3. to submit a copy of the paper to the PSA for publication on the conference web site in advance of the conference.

Once the programme has been published, changes will only be made in extreme circumstances. Presenters may withdraw a paper without penalty until 31 December 2009. Late cancellation is likely to result in proposals for future conferences being rejected. The final date for submission of an electronic version of paper to PSA is likely to be Friday 12 March 2010.

GPSG Papers at the International Conference “The Challenge of Reform in Greece, 1974 – 2009: Assessments and Prospects”

8 – 10 May 2009, Yale University, USA

http://www.yale.edu/macmillan/hsp/greek_reform.html



Despite constant lip-service to reform in the public discourse, and several actual waves of reform since 1974, there has been very little produced by way of systematic scholarly assessment of Greece's reform experience over the last nearly 35 years. This conference provided a platform to a number of scholars from Greece, Turkey, the UK and the US to discuss the Greek reform experience and assess its prospects across most sectors of socioeconomic life. The papers that were presented were analytically and empirically rich. They came from public policy, economics and legal backgrounds and analysed the reasons of failure of reform as well as the prospect of improvement.

Organized by:

Stathis Kalyvas, Professor, Yale University;

George Pagoulatos, Associate Professor, Athens University of Economics and Business, Greece;

Haridimos Tsoukas, Professor ALBA Graduate Business School, Greece & University of Warwick, UK

Two GPSG members presented papers:

Dr. Stella Ladi, Honorary Research Fellow, University of Sheffield

**Institutional Reform and Soft Europeanization:
The Transfer of the Ombudsman Institution to Greece**

Policy reform and policy innovation, are central to the study of public administration. Processes of Europeanization have shifted the focus of the analysis from uni-dimensional, state-centred approaches to multi-dimensional processes but their importance should not be exaggerated. This paper argues that soft mechanisms of Europeanization have initialized institutional reform in member-states. What is interesting is that soft mechanisms of Europeanization can be equally effective to hard mechanisms given that the policy preferences of the domestic actors are reformatory. The EU functions as a platform of best practices and policy transfer mechanisms are put into action in order for the member-states to pick and choose institutions. Member-states according to the timing, time and tempo adjust their policies and institutions.

The case of the transfer of the Ombudsman institution to Greece amply demonstrates the importance of soft Europeanization and of its processes. Furthermore, the case of the introduction of the Ombudsman institution is an interesting case of successful institutional reform which took at least 7 years to be completed. The Greek Ombudsman was established in 1997 while the discussion for its introduction had already started in 1990. It has been active for the last 11 years which gives the opportunity for both commenting on the introduction of the institution as well as assessing its credibility and its functioning.

Dr. Dimitris Tsarouhas, Assistant Professor in European Politics, Bilkent University

**Intentions, Policies, Impasse:
PASOK and Welfare Reform in Greece**

In line with rising levels of economic growth and the attainment of political stability, welfare politics has become a key component of Greek public policy, including its universally-celebrated and hardly-ever-implemented reform agenda. For the centre-left in particular (in this paper identified with the Pan-Hellenic Socialist Movement, PASOK), the welfare state has been, at least in theory, a manifestation of its commitment to combining high growth rates with redistributive policies. In the light of the longevity in power PASOK enjoyed after 1981, this paper analyzes the relationship between the Greek welfare state and the social democratic party. Looking at health and pension policies in particular, it assesses the social democrats' record in office and the degree to which PASOK has influenced the direction and evolution of the welfare state.

Empirically, the paper argues that successive PASOK governments have strengthened the financial aspect of social policy in Greece, rapidly increasing social expenditure as part of GDP. On the qualitative side, PASOK is credited with important innovations in welfare policy in the 1980s, with the establishment of the National Health Service (ESY) being its jewel in the crown. Reform-wise, however, the paper finds that the party has been unsuccessful in improving the efficiency and representative character of welfare services. To account for this failure, the paper employs Schmidt's discursive institutionalist framework to argue that a strong case for welfare reform has yet to be made in the Greek context. In combination with problematic policy legacies and disputed policy preferences, sustainable welfare reform has proven an elusive goal for the Greek centre-left.

Members' Activities

✚ **Dr. Andrew Liaropoulos** will participate in the EUISS-Cambridge Summer School Programme 2009, from the 14th until the 18th of July. The title of the programme is 'A Summer Course on European Security and National Traditions' and includes topics such as Treaties, Principles and Values Guiding CFSP and ESDP; Working groups on national perspectives on European Security Culture; The debate on Securitisation; Working Groups on national perspectives on European Security Culture; The responsibility to protect and international justice.



✚ **Dr. Vaso Papageorgiou** successfully defended her PhD thesis (awarded: excellent) on March 12th, at the Department of Social Anthropology and History, University of the Aegean. The thesis was entitled: "Managing the experience of immigration: processes of integration and identity reformations of Albania's ethnic Greeks in Patras".



✚ **Dr. Athanassios N. Samaras** has been elected as a Lecturer in International Political Communication at the Department of International and European Studies, University of Piraeus.

✚ **Dr. Dimitris Tsarouhas** recently blogged on ELIAMEP's blog and would like to invite all interested parties to do the same: <http://blogs.eliamep.gr/en/>

ΕΛΙΑΜΕΠ ELIAMEP
ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΟ ΙΔΡΥΜΑ ΕΥΡΩΠΑΪΚΗΣ & ΕΞΩΤΕΡΙΚΗΣ ΠΟΛΙΤΙΚΗΣ
HELLENIC FOUNDATION FOR EUROPEAN & FOREIGN POLICY
20 ΧΡΟΝΙΑ YEARS



"In the process of redesigning and renovating its digital presence, ELIAMEP has launched a new collective blog section. Blogs@eliamep aims to enrich public dialogue in areas related to our research and educational activities. It will promote research-based analysis and commentary by ELIAMEP's research team, but not only. We hope that it will constitute a meeting point between ELIAMEP's research team, informed citizens and the wider research community."

Members' Publications

- ❖ **Liaropoulos A. (2009), "The Transformation of Warfare in the Information Age", *Themata: Policy & Defence*, no. 28, Athens: Defence Analyses Institute**
- ❖ **Liaropoulos A. (2009), "Exploring the Theory and Practice of the Security Dilemma", *The International Spectator*, 44: 1, pp. 202 – 204**
- ❖ **Tsarouhas D. (2009), "The political economy of Greek-Turkish relations", *Southeast European & Black Sea Studies*, 9: 1-2, pp. 39 – 57**
- ❖ **Yannas P. (2009), "The Soft Power of the Ecumenical Patriarchate", *Mediterranean Quarterly*, 20: 1, pp. 77 – 93**

Latest Additions to Our Website...

- ❖ [full text](#) of papers presented at the GPSG's PSA conference panels

Manchester, 2009

Panel Convenors: Dimitris Tsarouhas (Middle East Technical University, Ankara), Antonios Aggelakis (University of Crete).

GPSG Panel 1: Democracy and Youth Activism in Greece

Panel Convenor: Dr Dimitris Tsarouhas (Bilkent University)

Chair & Discussant: Dora Giannaki (Queen Mary, University of London)

- » [N. Nyfoudis \(University of Crete\), "Can European Youth Policy be related to the Europeanization of young people? Case study: the implementation of the Youth Programme in Greece"](#)
- » [I. Theocharis \(University College London\), "Young People, Postmaterialism and Online Political activism: the Greek Case"](#)
- » [R. Gerodimos \(Bournemouth University\), "Youth Civic Attitudes in a Segmented Public Sphere: Challenges and Prospects"](#)

GPSG Panel 2: Political Communication and Campaigning in Greece

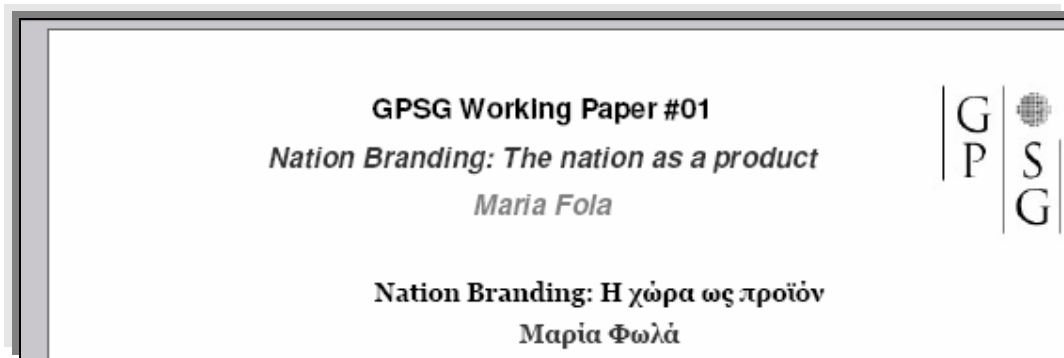
Panel Convenor: Dr Dimitris Tsarouhas (Bilkent University)

Chair: Roman Gerodimos (Bournemouth University)

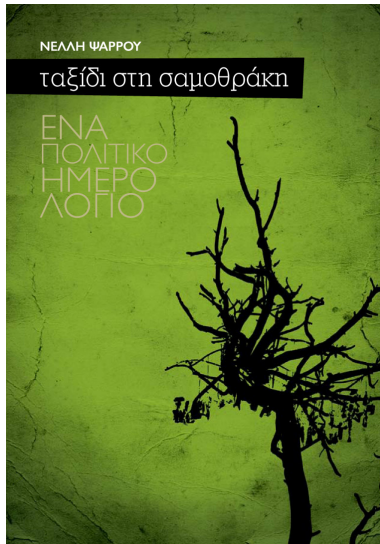
Discussant: Prof. T. Chadjipadelis (Aristotle University of Thessaloniki)

- » [Dr. I. Andreadis, Prof. T. Chadjipadelis \(Aristotle University of Thessaloniki\), "Parliamentary Elections in Greece: ecological analysis and ecological inference"](#)
- » [A. Pistolas \(University of Gloucestershire\), "Political marketing and its impact on voting behavior in Greece: An analysis of the Greek electorate's voting behaviour"](#)
- » [M. Zisouli \(University of Athens\), "Challenges in new political area: The Greek socialist party \(PASOK\) and its reformation strategy"](#)

- ❖ [Working Paper](#) by Maria Fola on Nation Branding



Featured Publications



Ταξίδι στη Σαμοθράκη: Ένα Πολιτικό Ημερολόγιο

Νέλλη Ψαρού

Εκδόσεις Κέδρος, Αθήνα 2009
Σελ. 622, Τιμή: € 25,00
ISBN: 978-960-931181-6

Πώς σχετίζεται το πολιτικό μας σύστημα με την οργουελική Φάρμα των ζώων; Η απαγόρευση της ελεύθερης κατασκήνωσης με τις πυρκαγιές; Η μεταολυμπιακή αξιοποίηση ακινήτων με το The Mall; Η τριτοβάθμια εκπαίδευση με τον ρατσισμό; Οι σχέσεις των δύο φύλων με την επικράτηση των θρησκειών; Η εξουσία και το κράτος με τη μεθοδευμένη παράλυση του Συντάγματος; Η τρομο-κρατία με τη δημο-κρατία; Η σιωπή με την ενοχή;

Πολιτικό ημερολόγιο, λογοτεχνικό αφήγημα ή επιστημονικό δοκίμιο; Το Ταξίδι στη Σαμοθράκη είναι ένα αφηγηματικό δοκίμιο, όσον αφορά τη μορφή του, ένα πολιτικό δοκίμιο, όσον αφορά το περιεχόμενό του, και ένα επιστημονικό δοκίμιο, όσον αφορά τη μεθοδολογία του. Δίνει το έναυσμα για μια διαφορετική, ριζοσπαστική ανάγνωση –αλλά και ερμηνεία– της πολιτικής και κοινωνικής πραγματικότητας των τελευταίων δεκαετιών στην Ελλάδα, υπό το πρίσμα των διεθνών εξελίξεων. Εξετάζει καίρια όσο και ανατρεπτικά τους θεσμούς, τα πρόσωπα, τα ζητήματα της επικαιρότητας, τις νοοτροπίες, τις αντιλήψεις, τις ρητορείες και τα ιδεολογικά προτάγματα που διατρέχουν τον προσωπικό και το συλλογικό μας βίο. Διαχωρίζει την πολιτική από τις έννοιες της υποκρισίας, της καταπίεσης και του σφετερισμού. Συνδέει την πολιτική με τον πολίτη σ' ένα πλαίσιο εγρήγορσης, συμμετοχής, επικοινωνίας και συνέπειας. Το κυριότερο: προτάσσει την πολιτική δράση και συνείδηση ως μορφή ελευθερίας.

Η Νέλλη Ψαρού γεννήθηκε το 1973 στην Αθήνα. Είναι διδάκτωρ πολιτικών επιστημών του πανεπιστημίου London School of Economics, και κατά τα έτη 2003-2007 δίδαξε στο Πανεπιστήμιο της Κρήτης και στο Ελληνικό Ανοικτό Πανεπιστήμιο. Άρθρα της έχουν εκδοθεί σε επιστημονικά περιοδικά, ενώ το 2005 εκδόθηκε το βιβλίο της Εθνική Ταυτότητα στην Εποχή της Παγκοσμιοποίησης από τις εκδόσεις Gutenberg.

Περισσότερα για τα ερευνητικά της ενδιαφέροντα στην ιστοσελίδα www.nellypsarrou.com

Web Bookmarks:

Prof. Keith Dinnie on Nation Branding: <http://icp-forum.gr/wp/?p=1048>

Η μετανάστευση από άλλη σκοπιά: <http://www.newstime.gr/?i=nt.el.article&id=7237>

The 2009 Turkish Local Elections: a victory for whom?

*by Dr. Dimitris Tsarouhas**



At the end of March, local elections took place in Turkey. Traditionally, local elections are politically important in Turkey. In a nutshell, the results show that:

- a) The ruling Justice and Development Party (AKP) remains the country's largest party, strongly represented throughout the country. In contrast to the more regions-based support that the opposition received, the AKP can thus claim to be a truly national party in a way the opposition is not. Despite the (large) decline in support its candidates suffered in both Istanbul and Ankara, the AKP prevailed in both cities.
- b) The opposition parties have gained ground in a number of cities and provinces at the expense of AKP. The opposition Republican Peoples' Party (CHP) confirmed its dominance in the Aegean city of Izmir, Turkey's third largest. Its largest gain is the 'capturing' of the coastal city of Antalya, a prestigious win as it was largely unexpected even among most CHP supporters.
- c) Those gains are unequally distributed, however, and far from enough to ensure a shift in Turkish politics as hoped for by the opposition. Even in a local election contest, the CHP remains a party whose appeal is confined to metropolitan and coastal areas, while the increase in the nationalists' vote (MHP) is significant but inadequate.
- d) In south-east Turkey, the AKP hopes for inroads at the expense of the Democratic Society Party (DTP) have been comprehensively defeated. The opening of a Kurdish-speaking TV channel a few months ago has done little to upset DTP fortunes, which remains in clear control in the region.
- e) The election has been largely peaceful and was conducted in an orderly manner. Disturbances in some south-eastern provinces have been recorded, and the opposition cried foul when a glitch in vote counting occurred. Those issues are not significant enough to alter the picture of a free and fair electoral contest in Turkey.

In a press conference after most election results became known, Prime Minister Erdoğan underlined the democratic significance of the vote and thanked his party's supporters for the

good showing. By the standards that he had himself set a few days prior to the elections, however, the AKP performance was worse than expected. Erdoğan had used the 47% his party received in the 2007 general election as a yardstick for this year's performance. The results show that the Prime Minister's over-confident mood backfired. The economic crisis has certainly had an effect among voters, who have recently seen unemployment soar and prices for basic goods continue their inflationary spiral.

It should also be noted that the opposition parties have correctly assessed the mood of the electorate and appealed to their socio-economic needs rather than identity politics. Instead of stressing issues such as secularism, CHP and MHP stressed unemployment, poverty and corruption as core issues and gained the trust of the electorate. In Istanbul and Ankara, the impressive performances of the CHP and MHP candidate respectively propel them to national prominence and place them in a favourable position once the succession race of the current CHP and MHP leaders start.

Perhaps the most positive result of the 2009 election in Turkey is the high level of democratic maturity shown by the electorate. The AKP is the winner once more – but this win is qualified by its decreased level of support. The opposition has emerged stronger in a number of provinces – but these gains are inadequate to change the political landscape, a sign that the electorate has yet to be convinced that CHP and MHP offer a credible alternative to the ruling party. The AKP remains strong – but the opposition has been given the chance to build up an alternative political platform and thus rejuvenate Turkish democracy by contesting AKP dominance. For the sake of Turkey's pluralist democracy, this is a necessary and much-delayed process.

Prime Minister Erdoğan declared after the elections that his party 'got the message' of the electorate. Signing a new deal with the IMF, consulting with the opposition to introduce more democratic reforms to Turkey's Constitution and reshuffling the Cabinet to add fresh faces to his team (hopefully increasing the number of female Ministers) would all be signs that the country has emerged stronger from this electoral contest.

* * *

Dr. Dimitis Tsarouhas is Assistant Professor at the Department of International Relations, Bilkent University and GPSG Panel Convenor
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Photo credit: Wikipedia under the Creative Commons licence

Upcoming Conferences & Events

The International Symposium on Cultural Diplomacy 2009
"The Role of Soft Power in the International Environment"
Berlin, 27th – 31st July, 2009

The International Symposium on Cultural Diplomacy 2009 Call for Applications Berlin, 27-31 July 2009

The International Symposium on Cultural Diplomacy 2009 will bring together experts from the fields of academia, politics, and the private sector for a weeklong program that will focus on the role of soft power in the international environment. The following are a selection of the confirmed speakers for the Symposium:

- Jorge Sampaio, UN High Representative for the Alliance of Civilizations, Former President of Portugal (1996-2006) (read more)
- Joaquim Chissano, Former President of Mozambique (1986-2005), Former Chairperson of the African Union (2003-2004) (read more)
- Dr. Vaira Vīķe-Freiberga, Former President of Latvia (1999-2007) (read more)
- Cassam Uteem, Former President of the Republic of Mauritius (1992-2002) (read more)
- Dr. Vasile Pușcaș, Romanian Minister for European Affairs
- Ints Dālderis, Minister of Culture of the Republic of Latvia (read more)
- Borys Tarasyuk, Member of Parliament and Former Foreign Minister of the Ukraine (1998-2000, 2005-2007) (read more)
- Dr. Erkki Tuomioja, Member of Parliament and Former Foreign Minister of Finland (2000-2007) (read more)

Further information about the Symposium can be found under:

www.icd-internationalsymposium.org

The program brochure, including the timetable, can be found under:

http://www.culturaldiplomacy.org/academy/content/articles/symposium/documents/International_Symposium_on_Cultural_Diplomacy_2009_brochure.pdf

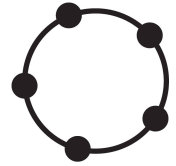
Fifty years after its creation, the National Centre for Social Research (EKKE) -the only research institution devoted to the social sciences in Greece - faces the imminent danger of being shut down, following the decision of the Inter-ministerial Committee of the Greek government (May 26/09) on closing or merging 255 public organisms with the aim of downscaling public expenditure.

The administration and staff of the EKKE strongly protest against this decision and call on all concerned members of the international research and academic communities to express their support for this historic institution's survival and further development.

<http://www2.ekke.gr/signatures.php>



Institute of Communication Ethics Annual Conference
'I'm an ethicist...get me out of here': Communication, celebrity and conscience in a global media age



When: Wednesday October 28, 2009 10 am-1 pm

Where: Start Up Café, Coventry University, Priory Street, Coventry CV1 5SB

Call for abstracts – Deadline: 14 September 2009

The conference aims to explore the many ethical issues facing communication professionals and academics in the global media age.

Thus papers may wish to examine some of the following questions:

- Can we speak meaningfully of global ethical communication standards?
- To what extent is the concept of global public sphere/s useful in understanding contemporary communication issues?
- What are the ethical dilemmas (for both journalists and citizens) associated with the now globalised social networking sites?
- Does the politics of celebrity culture serve to marginalise more significant issues and perspectives (thus contributing to the 'dumbing down' of the media and the rise of 'churnalism')?
- Can the contradictions within the celebrity culture be explored for progressive purposes: for instance, can issues relating to racism, sexism, disability and class be explored in Reality TV programmes?
- To what extent does celebrity coverage reinforce a culture of cruelty?
- To what extent has the celebrity culture invaded the world of politics?

In addition papers may wish to focus on:

- Case studies of celebrity coverage and manufacture eg Jade Goody, David Beckham; Piers Morgan, Simon Cowell; Britney Spears, Madonna
- The globalisation of the celebrity culture: within hours of appearing on Britain's got talent Susan Boyle became a global superstar – thanks to YouTube.
- Comparative case studies – celebrity coverage in contrasting cultures (eg Nigeria and the US)
- Comparative case studies of PR promotion in contrasting cultures

Abstracts of 200 words should be sent to Prof Richard Lance Keeble at rkeeble@lincoln.ac.uk by September 14, 2009. Feedback following peer review will be given back within 10 days. Selected contributions will appear in a future edition of *Ethical Space: The International Journal of Communication Ethics* (www.communicationethics.net).

Attendance at the conference will cost £55. Please send cheques payable to 'Institute of Communication Ethics' c/o Fiona Thompson, Faculty of Media, Business & Marketing, Leeds Trinity & All Saints, Brownberrie Lane, Horsforth, Leeds LS18 5HD.

The ICE conference will be followed by the major international 'Is world journalism in crisis' conference, in the Humber Theatre, Coventry University 2-5 pm

PRESS RELEASE



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