



THE ATHENS INSTITUTE FOR EDUCATION AND RESEARCH

Abstract Book

**17th Annual International Conference on
Sociology
1-4 May 2023, Athens, Greece**

**Edited by
Domenico Maddaloni and Olga Gkounta**

2023

Abstracts
17th Annual International
Conference on Sociology
1-4 May 2023, Athens, Greece

Edited by Domenico Maddaloni and
Olga Gkounta

First published in Athens, Greece by the Athens Institute for Education and
Research.

ISBN: 978-960-598-540-0

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored,
retrieved system, or transmitted, in any form or by any means, without the
written permission of the publisher, nor be otherwise circulated in any form of
binding or cover.

9 Chalkokondili Street

10677 Athens, Greece

www.atiner.gr

©Copyright 2023 by the Athens Institute for Education and Research. The
individual essays remain the intellectual properties of the contributors.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

(In Alphabetical Order by Author's Family Name)

| | | |
|--|---|----|
| Preface | | 9 |
| Editors' Note | | 11 |
| Organizing & Scientific Committee | | 12 |
| Conference Program | | 13 |
| 1. | Does the Peace Journalism Matter for the Women Journalists of Greece and Turkey <i>Sevda Alankus</i> | 17 |
| 2. | What Moral Theory for Medical Ethics? <i>Francesco Allegri</i> | 18 |
| 3. | Designing Babies: Bioethical Queries Emerging from Gene Editing <i>Marisa Almeida Araújo</i> | 20 |
| 4. | Parental Supervision of Children in the UAE Society <i>Ahmad Alomosh</i> | 22 |
| 5. | Industry 4.0 and Unproductive Labour <i>Barbara Ambrogio</i> | 23 |
| 6. | Palestinian Suicide Martyrs (Istishhadiyin): Facts and Figures <i>Bassam Banat</i> | 24 |
| 7. | Legislative Mechanisms of the European Union and of Transposition into the Romanian Legislation Concerning the Problem of Balance between the Professional and Private Life of Parents and Caregivers: Sociological Aspects of the Subject <i>Iulia Boghirnea & Nicoleta Hegheş</i> | 25 |
| 8. | Antiracism Ethics & Research in the Refugee Crisis: A Greece/US Collaboration <i>Philip Candilis & George Karampoutakis</i> | 26 |
| 9. | Efficiency and Equity in the Digitalization Process of the Administration of Justice <i>José Manuel Castillo López</i> | 28 |
| 10. | Young People in Peripheral Areas - Local Drive for Growth or Moving Out? Case History: 'Local' Project for Leadership Development in the Merom Galil Area <i>Janet Cohen</i> | 29 |
| 11. | Ethical Dilemma with Open AI Chatgpt: Is it Right or Wrong to Prohibit it? <i>Marzia Coltri</i> | 30 |
| 12. | ADR and Workplace Conflict: a British-Nigerian Comparison <i>Chinwe Egbunike-Umegbolu</i> | 31 |
| 13. | University Students' Perspectives on Sexual Orientation <i>Buse Erzeybek & Batuhan Dericioğlu</i> | 32 |

| | | |
|-----|---|----|
| 14. | A Model of Evaluation of Bioethical Research in Scientific Production – Demonstration on the Example of Croatian Bioethical Journals <i>Igor Eterović & Josip Guć</i> | 34 |
| 15. | Attitudes toward Drones: Does Gender Matter? <i>Nicole Farris & Burchan Aydin</i> | 35 |
| 16. | Social Control in a Self-Medicated Society: A Systematic Review <i>Ana Garcia-Arranz & Perello-Oliver Salvador</i> | 36 |
| 17. | Justice Redefined: The American and Soviet Experiences in Comparative Perspective <i>Andrea Grant-Friedman</i> | 38 |
| 18. | Speaking and Naming Rights in Liberal Capitalist Society <i>Ian Hyslop</i> | 39 |
| 19. | Good Faith as a Doctrinal Tool to Interpret Legal and Contractual Frameworks for Banks' Rights to Close Accounts Unilaterally <i>Aleksejs Jelisejevs</i> | 40 |
| 20. | Sociology of Video Games as a New Field of Research <i>Emek Barış Kepenek</i> | 42 |
| 21. | Equality is Inequality Transformed by Justice <i>Victor Kogan</i> | 44 |
| 22. | White Collar Crime as Regressive Ideological Category <i>Louis Kontos</i> | 45 |
| 23. | Competition Law, Ethics and Corporate Social Responsibility <i>Ioan Lazar</i> | 46 |
| 24. | At the Origins of Migration Choices: A Survey of Students at Two South European Universities <i>Domenico Maddaloni, Felice Addeo, Rocio Blanco-Gregory & Grazia Moffa</i> | 47 |
| 25. | Austerity as Ideology and Morality: The Case of Portugal in the Eurozone Crisis (2011-2015) <i>Bruno Madeira, Conceição Meireles Pereira & Paula Grenha</i> | 48 |
| 26. | Rites of Passage at University: Reflections on a Portuguese Case <i>Inês Maia</i> | 50 |
| 27. | Conceptualising Domestic Abuse – The Evolving Approaches of the European Court of Human Rights <i>Ronagh McQuigg</i> | 52 |
| 28. | Romance Retirement: Men's Aging Mobilities from North to South <i>Julia Meszaros</i> | 54 |
| 29. | Trend in Avoidable Mortality According to the Area of Residence <i>Almudena Moreno & Enrique Regidor</i> | 55 |
| 30. | Delinquent Youths Sociodemographic Characteristics: A Study of 2528 Official Data <i>Ayşe Ozada Nazim</i> | 56 |

| | | |
|-------------------|---|----|
| 31. | Technical and Vocational Education (TVET) for the Future: An Exploratory Study for the Turkish Aerospace Industrial Ecosystem <i>Duygu Ozalp</i> | 57 |
| 32. | The Dangers of Ethnocentrism in Research on Ethics <i>Karen Parsonson</i> | 59 |
| 33. | “But the Feelings were Like an Explosion Would Have Happened in the Office, and in a Sense it Had” - Analysing the Virtual Communication Efforts of European Doctoral Researchers in the Pandemic Era <i>Seppo Poutanen</i> | 60 |
| 34. | Towards a Single Currency in Asia <i>Wei Song</i> | 61 |
| 35. | News and Perspectives of Public Law <i>Elena Emilia Stefan</i> | 62 |
| 36. | Digital Detox: What Makes Individuals Limit their Digital Activity? <i>Ekaterina Streltsova & Roman Shcherbakov</i> | 63 |
| References | | 65 |

Preface

This book includes the abstracts of all the papers presented at the 17th Annual International Conference on Sociology (1-4 May 2023), organized by the Athens Institute for Education and Research (ATINER).

A full conference program can be found before the relevant abstracts. In accordance with ATINER's Publication Policy, the papers presented during this conference will be considered for inclusion in one of ATINER's many publications only after a blind peer review process.

The purpose of this abstract book is to provide members of ATINER and other academics around the world with a resource through which they can discover colleagues and additional research relevant to their own work. This purpose is in congruence with the overall mission of the association. ATINER was established in 1995 as an independent academic organization with the mission to become a forum where academics and researchers from all over the world can meet to exchange ideas on their research and consider the future developments of their fields of study.

To facilitate the communication, a new references section includes all the abstract books published as part of this conference (Table 1). I invite the readers to access these abstract books –these are available for free– and compare how the themes of the conference have evolved over the years. According to ATINER's mission, the presenters in these conferences are coming from many different countries, presenting various topics.

Table 1. *Publication of Books of Abstracts of Proceedings, 2010-2023*

| Year | Papers | Countries | References |
|------|--------|-----------|--|
| 2023 | 36 | 16 | Maddaloni and Gkounta (2023) |
| 2022 | 30 | 17 | Maddaloni and Gkounta (2022) |
| 2021 | 23 | 12 | Papanikos (2021) |
| 2020 | 20 | 10 | Papanikos (2020) |
| 2019 | 44 | 23 | Papanikos (2019) |
| 2018 | 58 | 27 | Papanikos (2018) |
| 2017 | 37 | 15 | Papanikos (2017) |
| 2016 | 51 | 25 | Papanikos (2016) |
| 2015 | 80 | 34 | Papanikos (2015) |
| 2014 | 34 | 19 | Papanikos (2014) |
| 2013 | 75 | 31 | Papanikos (2013) |
| 2012 | 47 | 16 | Papanikos (2012) |
| 2011 | 64 | 29 | Papanikos (2011) |
| 2010 | 53 | 20 | Papanikos (2010) |

It is our hope that through ATINER's conferences and publications, Athens will become a place where academics and researchers from all over the world can regularly meet to discuss the developments of their disciplines and present their work. Since 1995, ATINER has organized more than 400 international conferences and has published over 200 books. Academically, the institute is organized into 6 divisions and 37 units. Each unit organizes at least one annual conference and undertakes various small and large research projects.

For each of these events, the involvement of multiple parties is crucial. I would like to thank all the participants, the members of the organizing and academic committees, and most importantly the administration staff of ATINER for putting this conference and its subsequent publications together. Specific individuals are listed on the following page.

Gregory T. Papanikos
President

Editors' Note

These abstracts provide a vital means to the dissemination of scholarly inquiry in the field of Sociology. The breadth and depth of research approaches and topics represented in this book underscores the diversity of the conference.

ATINER's mission is to bring together academics from all corners of the world in order to engage with each other, brainstorm, exchange ideas, be inspired by one another, and once they are back in their institutions and countries to implement what they have acquired. The 17th Annual International Conference on Sociology accomplished this goal by bringing together academics and scholars from 16 different countries (Croatia, Cyprus, Finland, Israel, Italy, Latvia, New Zealand, Palestine, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Spain, Turkey, UAE, UK, USA), which brought in the conference the perspectives of many different country approaches and realities in the field.

Publishing this book can help that spirit of engaged scholarship continue into the future. With our joint efforts, the next editions of this conference will be even better. We hope that this abstract book as a whole will be both of interest and of value to the reading audience.

Domenico Maddaloni & Olga Gkounta
Editors

**17th Annual International Conference on Sociology, 1-4
May 2023, Athens, Greece**

Organizing & Scientific Committee

All ATINER's conferences are organized by the Academic Council. This conference has been organized with the assistance of the following academic members of ATINER, who contributed by reviewing the submitted abstracts and papers.

1. Gregory T. Papanikos, President, ATINER & Honorary Professor, University of Stirling, U.K.
2. Domenico Maddaloni, Head, Sociology Unit, ATINER & Professor, University of Salerno, Italy.
3. Philip G. Cerny, Director, Social Sciences Division, ATINER & Professor Emeritus, University of Manchester (UK) and Rutgers University (USA).
4. George S. Tsagaris, Associate Professor, Cleveland State University, USA.
5. Sharon Claire Bolton, Vice President of Research and Head, Management Unit, ATINER & Emeritus Professor, The Management School, University of Stirling, Scotland.
6. Maria Pallotta-Chiarolli, Academic Member, ATINER & Fellow, Deakin University, Australia.

FINAL CONFERENCE PROGRAM

17th Annual International Conference on Sociology, 1-4 May 2023, Athens, Greece

PROGRAM

Monday 1 May 2023

08.30-09.00
Registration

09:00-09:30

Opening and Welcoming Remarks:

- **Gregory T. Papanikos**, President, ATINER.
- **David A. Frenkel**, LL.D., Head, Law Unit, ATINER & Emeritus Professor, Law Area, Guilford Glazer Faculty of Business and Management, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Beer-Sheva, Israel.

Session 1

Coordinator: Domenico Maddaloni, Head, Sociology Unit, ATINER & Professor, University of Salerno, Italy.

1. **Janet Cohen**, Deputy Head, Department of Behavioral Sciences, Zefat Academic College, Israel.
Title: Young People in Peripheral Areas – Local Drive for Growth OR Moving Out? Case History: ‘Local’ Project for Leadership Development in the Merom Galil Area.
2. **Ahmad Alomosh**, Professor, University of Sharjah, UAE.
Title: Parental Supervision of Children in the UAE Society.
3. **Andrea Grant-Friedman**, Associate Professor, Lehigh Carbon Community College, USA.
Title: Justice Redefined: The American and Soviet Experiences in Comparative Perspective.
4. **Ian Hyslop**, Senior Lecturer, University of Auckland, New Zealand.
Title: Speaking and Naming Rights in Liberal Capitalist Society.

Session 2

Coordinator: Janet Cohen, Deputy Head, Department of Behavioral Sciences, Zefat Academic College, Israel.

1. **Domenico Maddaloni**, Professor, University of Salerno, Italy.
Felice Addeo, Associate Professor, University of Salerno, Italy.
Rocio Blanco-Gregory, Associate Professor, University of Extremadura, Spain.
Grazia Moffa, Associate Professor, University of Salerno, Italy.
Title: At the Origins of Migration Choices: A Survey of Students at two South European Universities.
2. **Sevda Alankus**, Professor, Yaşar University, Turkey.
Title: Does the Peace Journalism Matter for the Women Journalists of Greece and Turkey.
3. **Bassam Banat**, Associate Professor, Al-Quds University, Palestine.
Title: Palestinian Suicide Martyrs (Istishhadiyin): Facts and Figures.
4. **Seppo Poutanen**, Senior Research Fellow, University of Turku, Finland.
Title: “But the Feelings were Like an Explosion Would Have Happened in the Office, and in a Sense It Had” – Analysing the Virtual Communication Efforts of European Doctoral Researchers in the Pandemic Era.

| |
|---|
| <p>12:30-14:00 Session 3 Coordinator: Ahmad Alomosh, Professor, University of Sharjah, UAE.</p> |
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Bruno Madeira, Professor, University of Minho, Portugal. Conceição Meireles Pereira, Associate Professor, University of Porto, Portugal. Paula Grenha, Master Student, University of Minho, Portugal. <i>Title: Austerity as Ideology and Morality: The Case of Portugal in the Eurozone Crisis (2011-2015)</i> Marzia Coltri, Lecturer, Arden University, UK. <i>Title: Ethical Dilemma with Open AI Chatgpt: Is it Right or Wrong to Prohibit It?</i> Barbara Ambrogio, PhD Student, University of Calabria, Italy. <i>Title: Industry 4.0 and Unproductive Labour.</i> Marisa Almeida Araújo, Professor, Lusíada University, Portugal. <i>Title: Designing Babies: Bioethical Queries Emerging from Gene Editing.</i> |
| <p>14:00-15:00 Lunch</p> |
| <p>15:00-16:00 Session 4 Coordinator: Mr Konstantinos Manolidis (ATINER Administrator).</p> |
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Ana Garcia-Arranz, Lecturer, Rey Juan Carlos University, Spain. Perello-Oliver Salvador, Professor, Rey Juan Carlos University, Spain. <i>Title: Social Control in a Self-Medicating Society: A Systematic Review.</i> Iulia Boghirnea, Lecturer, University of Pitesti, Romania. <i>Title: Legislative Mechanisms of the European Union and of Transposition into the Romanian Legislation Concerning the Problem of Balance between the Professional and Private Life of Parents and Caregivers. Sociological Aspects of the Subject.</i> |
| <p>16:00-18:00 Session 5 Coordinator: Mr Konstantinos Manolidis (ATINER Administrator).</p> |
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Francesco Allegri, Adjunct Professor, University of Siena, Italy. <i>Title: What Moral Theory for Medical Ethics?</i> Karen Parsonson, Associate Professor, University of Houston Victoria, USA. <i>Title: The Dangers of Ethnocentrism in Research on Ethics.</i> Ronagh McQuigg, Senior Lecturer, Queen's University Belfast, UK. <i>Title: Conceptualising Domestic Abuse – The Evolving Approaches of the European Court of Human Rights.</i> José Manuel Castillo López, Professor, University of Granada, Spain. <i>Title: Efficiency and Equity in the Digitalization Process of the Administration of Justice.</i> |
| <p>18:00-20:30 Session 6 – A Round-Table Discussion on The Post Pandemic World: Learning from Country Experiences Coordinator: Gregory T. Papanikos, President, ATINER.</p> |
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Domenico Maddaloni, Professor, University of Salerno, Italy. <i>Title: A Sociological Perspective on Health and Welfare Policies in Italy During and After the Pandemic.</i> Vickie Hughes, Assistant Professor, Johns Hopkins University, USA. <i>Title: Experiences with the COVID-19 Pandemic – Strategies to Promote Resilience and Wellbeing.</i> Ian Hyslop, Senior Lecturer, University of Auckland, New Zealand. <i>Title: A Distant Land at a Global Crossroad.</i> Jean Davison, Associate Professor, University of North Carolina, USA. <i>Title: Health Inequality.</i> Philip Candilis, Professor, George Washington University, USA. |

| |
|--|
| <p><i>Title: Moral Injury and the US Experience.</i></p> <p>6. Michael Adams, Professor, University of New England, Australia. <i>Title: How Australia Returned to a 'New Normal' For Law Schools, With A Strong Familiarity with the Old Normal!</i></p> <p>7. Seppo Poutanen, Senior Research Fellow, University of Turku, Finland. <i>Title: Trust and Surveillance of Work During the COVID-19 Pandemic – Some Experiences from Finland.</i></p> <p>8. Bassam Banat, Associate Professor, Al-Quds University, Palestine. <i>Title: Psychological Stress among Palestinians during the COVID19 Pandemic.</i></p> |
| <p>20:30-22:30 Greek Night</p> |

Tuesday 2 May 2023

| |
|---|
| <p>Session 8 Coordinator: Nicole Farris, Associate Professor, Texas A&M University, USA.</p> |
| <p>1. Ekaterina Streltsova, Associate Professor, National Research University, Russia. <i>Title: Digital Detox: What Makes Individuals Limit their Digital Activity?</i></p> <p>2. Julia Meszaros, Associate Professor, Texas A&M University-Commerce, USA. <i>Title: Romance Retirement: Men's Aging Mobilities from North to South.</i></p> <p>3. Ayse Ozada Nazim, Assistant Professor, Cyprus International University, Cyprus. <i>Title: Delinquent Youths Sociodemographic Characteristics: A Study of 2528 Official Data.</i></p> <p>4. Duygu Ozalp, Assistant Professor, Baskent University, Turkey. <i>Title: Technical and Vocational Education (TVET) For the Future: An Exploratory Study for The Turkish Aerospace Industrial Ecosystem.</i></p> <p>5. Buse Erzeybek Semi, Senior Lecturer, Cyprus International University, Cyprus. <i>Title: University Students' Perspectives on Sexual Orientation.</i></p> <p>6. Emek Barış Kepenek, Lecturer, Baskent University, Turkey. <i>Title: Sociology of Video Games as a New Field of Research.</i></p> |

| |
|---|
| <p>12:00-13:30 Session 9 Coordinator: Julia Meszaros, Associate Professor, Texas A&M University-Commerce, USA.</p> |
| <p>1. Philip Candilis, Professor, George Washington University, USA. <i>Title: Antiracism Ethics & Research in the Refugee Crisis: A Greece/US Collaboration.</i></p> <p>2. Louis Kontos, Associate Professor, John Jay College of Criminal Justice, USA. <i>Title: White Collar Crime as Regressive Ideological Category.</i></p> <p>3. Nicole Farris, Associate Professor, Texas A&M University, USA. Burchan Aydin, Associate Professor, Texas A&M University, USA. <i>Title: Attitudes toward Drones: Does Gender Matter?</i></p> <p>4. Inês Maia, PhD Student, University of Porto, Portugal. <i>Title: Rites of Passage at University: Reflections on a Portuguese Case.</i></p> |

13:30-14:30 Lunch

| | |
|--|--|
| <p>14:30-16:00 Session 10 Coordinator: Mr Konstantinos Manolidis (ATINER Administrator).</p> | <p>14:30-17:30 Old and New-An Educational Urban Walk</p> |
| <p>1. Elena Emilia Stefan, Associate Professor, "Nicolae Titulescu" University of Bucharest, Romania.</p> | <p>The urban walk ticket is not included as part of your registration</p> |

| | |
|---|---|
| <p><i>Title: News and Perspectives of Public Law.</i></p> <p>2. Wei Song, Assistant Professor, Coventry University, UK. <i>Title: Towards a Single Currency in Asia.</i></p> <p>3. Aleksejs Jelisejevs, PhD Candidate, Turība University, Latvia. <i>Title: Good Faith as a Doctrinal Tool to Interpret Legal and Contractual Frameworks for Banks' Rights to Close Accounts Unilaterally.</i></p> | <p>fee. It includes transportation costs and the cost to enter the Parthenon and the other monuments on the Acropolis Hill. The urban walk tour includes the broader area of Athens. Among other sites, it includes: Zappion, Syntagma Square, Temple of Olympian Zeus, Ancient Roman Agora and on Acropolis Hill: the Propylaea, the Temple of Athena Nike, the Erechtheion, and the Parthenon. The program of the tour may be adjusted, if there is a need beyond our control. This is a private event organized by ATINER exclusively for the conference participants.</p> |
| <p>16:00-17:30 Session 11 Coordinator: Mr Konstantinos Manolidis (ATINER Administrator).</p> <p>1. Almudena Moreno, PhD Student, Public University of Navarre, Spain. Enrique Regidor, Professor, Public University of Navarre, Spain. <i>Title: Trend in Avoidable Mortality According to the Area of Residence.</i></p> <p>2. Chinwe Egbunike-Umegbolu, Post-Doctoral Fellow, University of Brighton, UK. <i>Title: ADR and Workplace Conflict: a British-Nigerian Comparison.</i></p> <p>3. Victor Kogan, Professor Emeritus, Saint Martin's University, USA. <i>Title: Equality is Inequality Transformed by Justice.</i></p> | |

20:30-21:30
Dinner

Wednesday 3 May 2023
An Educational Visit to Selected Islands
Mycenae Visit

Thursday 4 May 2023
Visiting the Oracle of Delphi

Friday 5 May 2023
Visiting the Ancient Corinth and Cape Sounio

Sevda Alankus

Professor, Yaşar University, Turkey

Does the Peace Journalism Matter for the Women Journalists of Greece and Turkey

“Peace Journalism” has conceptualized by Johan Galtung and theorized by him, Jake Lynch and Annabel McGoldrick as an alternative to the conventional journalism with contributions of several other names. According to the authors, elite, victory, propaganda, win or lose oriented news values and practices of the conventional journalism end up with a war journalism that needs to be displaced by people, solution, “truth” and win-win oriented news reporting.

Galtung (2000) argues female journalists write more peace reports than their male counter parts, Lynch and Galtung (2010) consider gender differences in using the language, Tivona (2011) mentions about particularity of women’s narrations in news reporting.

Grounding on an interdisciplinary perspective, this paper aims to compare Greek and Turkish women journalist’s news values and experiences, besides the role they attribute to the news media in two countries relations. The research is based on in-dept interviews done with 32 women journalists who represent different news media institutions of the respective countries and political worldviews. Based on the research outcomes, the paper claims that, as problematized by feminist news criticism, masculine structuration and propaganda-oriented codes and ethics of the conventional journalism count more than gender difference, in women’s journalism and underlines importancy of the role of worldview in interpretation of journalistic values and practices. The research results contribute to the related arguments of PJ and feminist news criticism and give insights about the possibility of developing a common ground between women journalists of Greece and Turkey for good neighborly relations. Lastly, the paper elaborates a “new” feminist ethics for displacing and re-placing war provoking values and practices of mainstream journalism.

Francesco Allegri
Adjunct Professor, University of Siena, Italy

What Moral Theory for Medical Ethics?

What is the proper set of moral principles that should be applied in the practice of clinical medicine, dentistry, nursing, as well as pharmaceuticals and in scientific research? More generally, what is the appropriate moral theory to support those working in the bio-medical field? The aim of my talk is to suggest some indications to answer these questions.

When issues of human behaviour are at stake, one of the most classic distinction to take a position on is between deontological theories, or deontology, and consequentialist theories, or consequentialism. For the second, the criterion to establish whether an action is morally right or wrong is given exclusively by its consequences in terms of goods and evils, compared with the consequences of alternative actions available to the agent. For the first, consequences are not the criterion or the only criterion to evaluate an action from a moral point of view. The kind of action (its nature) is also important, or it is the only thing that matters. Another significant alternative on which to take a position is between monism and pluralism: is it sufficient only one principle to “capture” all our duties in the bio-medical sphere, or we need a plurality of principles?

In my intervention, I will state that an adequate theory for medical ethics is deontological and not consequentialist and is pluralist and not monist. But I will argue that to conform with our reflexive convictions, a deontological theory must not be based on absolute duties, but on *prima facie* duties, i.e., duties that admit exceptions. Regarding pluralism, I will assert that a good model theory must include among its principles at least non-maleficence, beneficence, justice and autonomy, as in the famous model elaborated by Beauchamp and Childress, but perhaps also something like veracity and/or fidelity. However, I will argue that many or all of the tenets of an adequate theory of obligation can be subsumed under the Kantian concept of *respect*, thus also giving some reason to monism. Veracity, fidelity, justice, non-maleficence, and so on, are all forms of respect for other individuals (if I do not keep a promise, I fail to respect the one to whom I have made it; if I tell a lie I do not respect the person who listens; if I cause pain I fail to respect the harmed person etc.).

Nevertheless, I will point out that Kantian-style unification does not entirely resolve what remains to this day the most difficult problem

for a pluralist normative theory to face: the problem of conflict between *prima facie* principles. I will make a few remarks on this thorny issue in conclusion.

Marisa Almeida Araújo
Professor, Lusíada University, Portugal

Designing Babies: Bioethical Queries Emerging from Gene Editing

As recognised by the President's Commission for the Study of Ethical Problems in Medicine, Biomedical and Behavioral Research in the early 1980's, "*genes are perhaps the most tangible correlates of who a person is as an individual and as a member of a family, race, and species*". The opportunity to edit the human genome poses a number of ethical, philosophical, social, and legal issues. DNA editing, and the massive solutions of CRISPR-Cas9 technology for example to reprogram the heritable genome are seductive, mainly in the new technological era where human beings and machines are being prepared to co-exist as two intelligent beings.

The timeliness and importance of the subject requires us to focus our analysis considering the different queries raised by the topic. In this discussion, more than ever, human dignity is the *ultima ratio* criteria of legitimacy and control to the balanced composition of Human Rights at stake. Identity and integrity, on one hand, and reproductive autonomy, in a new dimension, the *reprogenetics autonomy*, on the other.

The identity and historicity of human beings, unique and inimitable, can now be manipulated according to the will of someone or according to a predetermined pattern, always in a form of, as Habermas puts it, a "[...] *nonrevisable decision of another person, without any opportunity to establish the symmetrical responsibility required if one is to enter into a retroactive ethical self-reflection as a process among peers. For this poor soul there are only two alternatives, fatalism and resentment*". Besides the limits that need to be established in genetic engineering, what we grant today is to be our responsibility tomorrow, the responsibility to our children, and the responsibility of their genetic programmes and "[...] *they can hold these producers responsible for what they, the offspring, consider the unwanted consequences of the organic starting point of their life histories*".

At a time when we live an era, as Kaufmann refers to, of "*postmodernism*" of transition and rupture, the minimal ethical is that we most guarantee and eliminate all negative discrimination and maintain a balanced society, pluralistic and tolerant to all. An ethical and philosophical balance that will make us establish the difference, in a Kantian view, between creating humans or things and, in this last case, losing humanity to science. The human dignity is the catalyst for the

discussion and assumed as the guiding universal principle, associated with equality and therefore intrinsic and inalienable to human beings, for the *simple* fact of being a person, “[...] *the fundamental conflict that Nietzsche posits for the whole future: The struggle between those who create the human being to be and those who create it to be great-one [...]*”, as Sloterdijk puts it.

We focus our discussion in the queries raised by biotechnology, in particular gene editing for the purpose of human enhancement, and address the criticism that labels it as a new modern form of eugenics, with non-reversible impact on personal integrity, identity, and human nature itself of the person *edited*, and assess, in this matter, the imperative of *generational* responsibility.

Ahmad Alomosh
Professor, University of Sharjah, UAE

Parental Supervision of Children in the UAE Society

This study examines parental supervision of children in the UAE society through the investigation of demographic factors as regards children (gender and age) parents' characteristics (age, educational level, employment) and the relationship between parents and their children. It utilizes the approach of social survey involving a sample of primary school pupils who constitute the study population. More specifically, the study seeks to explore ways followed by parents in dealing with their children and highlights the daily practices employed by parents focusing on behaviors associated with the child's self-esteem, socialization - complete or incomplete- and parental supervision. It further seeks to identify variables causing statistical differences in the level of parents' parental supervision. The study is based on the general theory of crime proposed by Gottfredson and Hirschi in particular the premise that persons with high self-control live in stable family structures that enable them to develop complete socialization. The theory focuses on the importance of continuous parental supervision of children to understand their daily behaviors.

Barbara Ambrogio
PhD Student, University of Calabria, Italy

Industry 4.0 and Unproductive Labour

Industry 4.0, a production model based on the integration of digital tools and artificial intelligence in the automation systems of the production processes of goods and services, can be interpreted as part of the process of development of the productive forces, or rather of the introduction of scientific and technological innovations in a potentially coherent organizational model. This allows, as such, a greater production of surplus value, as well as, in the specific case, an extension of the real subsumption to tasks and duties over which there was previously formal control.

The question therefore arises of how the cyber-physical and organizational infrastructure of I4.0 modifies the production process with respect to the production of value. The hypothesis is that this has several implications: not only the increase in labor productivity in general - therefore an increase in the rate of exploitation, reduction of downtime and costs - but it intervenes substantially in a series of works - design , monitoring, prototyping for example - which in Kurz's Marxist reading are defined as unproductive.

More specifically, what appears from the applications in the aforementioned sectors is that the massive trend of rationalization and reduction of physical activities and cognitive processes is able to intervene in a considerable and, also, contradictory way, taking into account that the overlapping and synchrony of the phases, as well as the complex integration between tangible and intangible elements of production, brings further friction to the valorisation process.

Bassam Banat

Associate Professor, Al-Quds University, Palestine

Palestinian Suicide Martyrs (Istishhadiyin): Facts and Figures

The current study explores the Palestinian suicide martyrs (Istishhadiyin) and the martyrdom operations from the point of view of their families and relatives. The study has tackled the issue of martyrdom operations as a multi-dimensional phenomenon addressed by both theoretical and applied researches. The study addressed a new social phenomenon which spread in the Palestinian society in all its groups, youth and social classes. The Palestinian suicide martyrs (Istishhadiyin) were able to implement two hundred qualitative martyrdom operations that rocked Israel and raised a large scale wave of reactions locally and internationally; they constituted a turning point in the history of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict; it is rare to find a similar phenomenon to this one with this huge number of Palestinian suicide martyrs in any other place in the world. They have their own psychological, social, religious and national features which qualified them to do this strategic action. Besides, the study focuses on identifying the main motives which drove the Palestinian youth to carry out such operations and the relationship between the emergence of these operations and Israeli crimes committed against the rights of the unarmed Palestinian people.

To sum up, the current study is the first, which dealt with this theme, to the author knowledge. It is expected that its results would add new scientific knowledge to its field in particular since it discusses a new and important topic in the history of Palestinian struggle. The study will be an important source of reference to those concerned in the area of martyrdom operations especially in the information it will reveal on the phenomenon, which crossed beyond the borders of Palestine to become a world phenomenon. The researcher is honored by this national duty to be the first performer of this duty within his own potentials as being one of the researchers of the topic of Palestinian suicide martyrs in a scientific survey.

Iulia Boghirnea

Lecturer, University of Pitesti, Romania

&

Nicoleta Hegheș

Professor, "Dimitrie Cantemir" Christian University of Bucharest,
Romania

Legislative Mechanisms of the European Union and of Transposition into the Romanian Legislation Concerning the Problem of Balance between the Professional and Private Life of Parents and Caregivers: Sociological Aspects of the Subject

In this study, we want to analyze the legal framework of the European Union regarding family leaves and flexible work formulas, measures that the Member States must take by transposing the Directive 2019/1158 of the European Parliament and the Council of Europe on work-life balance for parents and caregivers.

A novelty in the Union legislation is the fact that this Directive replaces the notion of "reconciliation" with that of "balance", and the notion of "family life" with that of "private life of parents and caregivers".

Also, the Directive, which had to be transposed by all EU Member States by August 22, 2022, aims to promote and facilitate the reintegration of mothers into the labor market after the period of maternity leave and parental leave, but, in particular: fathers' right to paternity leave, parental leave, caregiver's leave and not least, flexible working arrangements for workers who are parents or caregivers.

As for fathers' right to paternity leave, the EU legislator provides that it can be requested around the child's birth date, before or after birth (even in the case of the birth of a non-viable fetus) and should be granted regardless of the marital or family status, as will be defined in the internal law of each state.

The parental leave granted to fathers can be extended by one or two months, a period of time that cannot be transferred to the other parent. The right to this leave will be guaranteed, by law, to all workers who have parental responsibilities.

Finally, we will analyze how, this year, Romania transposed this Directive into the internal legislation.

Philip Candilis

Professor, George Washington University, USA

&

George Karampoutakis

President, Hellenic American Psychiatric Association, Greece

Antiracism Ethics & Research in the Refugee Crisis: A Greece/US Collaboration

In 2021, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees estimated the number of refugees and asylum-seekers to be over 31 million worldwide. Greece, with its proximity to the Middle East and Africa, has been a strategic entry point for over one million people hoping to settle in the European Union. As of early 2023, Greece hosts over 50,000 refugees and 119,000 asylum-seekers. During this period, there has been a corresponding increase in studies about attitudes towards refugees and asylum-seekers, reflecting the charged political climate of the broader refugee crisis. These studies are influential because they can alter public perception, fuel anti-refugee sentiment, and broaden policy implications depending on how they are constructed.

Recent discussions of survey methodology have focused on the influence of cross-cultural factors, with calls to address the racialization of hypotheses and terminologies that result in harm to vulnerable groups. The categories of “refugee” and “non-citizen,” for example, born of a historic reliance on nation-states and insiders (namely citizens), can undermine the global responsibility for developing solutions, discount the fundamental tensions that give rise to war, famine, and ethnic conflict, and emphasize negative views of outsiders. Indeed, research teams and commentators have noted that the positive framing of migration issues can enhance public acceptance of refugees and immigrants more generally. When tied to classic admonitions in survey design to choose participants and questions wisely, these developments call for care in surveying socially charged topics.

This paper describes an international collaboration of the George Washington University Global Mental Health Program and the Hellenic American Psychiatric Association with data from a survey of nine NGOs working in Greece. Using methods intended to mitigate bias through survey design, sample selection, and statistical modeling, this submission offers data and methods for an ethical appraisal of difficult topics like immigration, crime, and terrorism – all increasingly misused to advance specific political and policy agendas. The implications for ethical research design and public policy are explored by the chair of

the committee on ethics for the Group for the Advancement of Psychiatry (US) and the president of the Hellenic American Psychiatric Association (GRE).

Josë Manuel Castillo López
Professor, University of Granada, Spain

Efficiency and Equity in the Digitalization Process of the Administration of Justice

The global problems that the Spanish Justice Administration are profound and diverse, but perhaps the most perceived are the delay in judicial resolutions and the influence of the economic conditions of the users in the access to the Administration of Justice and in the own direction of its resolutions.

The process of digitizing of the Administration of Justice in Spain is bringing perceptible changes in the efficiency of the system and with it that of the economic model itself.

On the side of equity of access to justice and judicial resolutions, the forecasts and available studies are not conclusive, raising, in addition, serious concerns about the result on legal guarantees and the right to honor of users.

Janet Cohen

Deputy Head, Department of Behavioral Sciences, Zefat Academic
College, Israel

**Young People in Peripheral Areas -
Local Drive for Growth or Moving Out?
Case History: 'Local' Project for Leadership Development in
the Merom Galil Area**

This study will focus on implementation of the 'Local' Leadership Program initiated by the Ministry for Peripheral Development of the Negev and Galilee in 2021 in the Merom Galil area. The program aims to nurture local leaders as a strategy intended to enable young people to strengthen their influence on their surroundings. The idea is that they be able to burst the vicious cycle of a sideline attitude, thereby increasing the ability of peripheral population - geographically and socially - to take the reins of leadership.

The issue of stratification has always been at the front of sociological research. Within this framework, a person's hometown is an important focus for research as far as the mechanism of stratification reproduction. This is because life in a geographically peripheral area tends to lead to status reproduction that may be difficult to escape. The 'Local' Leadership Program is supposed to address these issues.

The fundamental assumption of this study is that in order for such a project to succeed in dealing with the social reproduction problem, it must fit the cultural interpretation of the participants. Therefore, the question guiding this study is how do the participants of the 'Local' Leadership Program in Merom Galil see the program, its ethnic, cultural and locality identification aspects. A further question dealt with in this study is the measure of synchronization between participant interpretation and that of the initiators and those who run it from the Ministry of Peripheral Development of the Negev and Galilee.

In order to answer these questions, observations of participants will be carried out during the program sessions. In addition, interviews will be held with participants and with functionaries in the governmental ministry running the program.

Initial results show that participants see the program as a tool to prevent residents from moving away, and to rejuvenate the area. They see it as a framework that is a tool enabling self-expression and self-actualization. In addition, they also emphasize the practical aspect accompanying the project.

Marzia Coltri

Lecturer, Arden University, UK

Ethical Dilemma with Open AI Chatgpt: Is it Right or Wrong to Prohibit it?

Digitalisation and innovation in learning and research are rapidly becoming crucial drivers of society's sustainable and progressive growth. AI's technological advancements and landscapes have significant strengths, and their diversity and quality have grown in recent years. This has facilitated the impressive development of AI apps and software, such as ChatGPT, which has become popular around the world.

ChatGPT is an OpenAI access to users in education to generate essays, song lyrics and stories. It is an AI language model that can understand and generate human-like responses to text inputs, making it a valuable tool for various economic and cultural applications.

This study examines the ethical dilemma of banning ChatGPT. Using a range of argumentative examples, I address the concept of moral obligations to OpenAI access but also its limitations. Some possible ethical issues that may arise in the use of AI-powered chatbots include concerns about data privacy, algorithmic bias, and the potential for chatbots to replace human interaction and support.

Can OpenAI's cutting-edge technology and tools truly help corporate operations and institutions, and improve decision-making? Can it also give students and researchers significant resources to help them develop their knowledge, critical thinking skills and understanding in a variety of fields?

On the one hand, allowing ChatGPT to operate freely could lead to unintended consequences, but it could also promote innovation in the field of AI. Ultimately, finding a balance between regulation and innovation is key to maximising the benefits of ChatGPT while minimising its potential harms. AI software has the potential to degrade and debase our ethics (Chomsky, 2023), which are fundamentally different from our critical thinking. Chomsky's concern is that AI software lacks the ability to understand and apply ethical principles in the same way that humans do, which could lead to unintended consequences and ethical dilemmas.

Chinwe Egbunike-Umegbolu
Post-Doctoral Fellow, University of Brighton, UK

ADR and Workplace Conflict: A British-Nigerian Comparison

With the continuous decline of union representation and the introduction of legal incentives for workers to resolve individual employment disputes/conflicts without resorting to the courts, Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) is gaining increasing prominence in the British landscape of industrial relations. The most important sign and motor of this change have been the conciliation service offered by Advisory Conciliation and Arbitration Service (ACAS) to all workers wishing to lodge a claim in Employment Tribunals. Whilst ADR has been encouraged in western Jurisdictions precisely in the United Kingdom (UK) and in the United States (US) as a means to reduce time and litigation costs however in relation to employment tribunal claims; there have been relatively scholarly publications, particularly on the benefits of utilising Mediation or conciliation to settle workplace disputes, and hence the need for more advocacy and awareness on its benefits in the UK. However, when it comes to Nigerian workers or employees most of whom are not encouraged or have little or no awareness of resolving workplace disputes or conflicts via ADR.

Equally, due to the lack of sensitisation in most organisations and scholarly research on ADR to settle conflicts or disputes on workplace disputes in this context of Mediation and Conciliation. Hence it has become an emergent field of study compared to the U.K. For instance, British workers have been mandated to lodge their disputes with ACAS before proceeding to an employment tribunal claim.

The work will employ a comparative analysis of mediation in workplace disputes in Nigeria and the U.K., focusing on the role of mediation or conciliation. It would entail a socio-legal analysis in both countries which includes interviews with qualified mediators, conciliators, directors, employees, employers, and lawyers in both countries.

Buse Erzeybek Semi

Senior Lecturer, Cyprus International University, Cyprus
&

Batuhan Dericioğlu

Senior Instructor, Cyprus International University, Cyprus

University Students' Perspectives on Sexual Orientation

Aim and Scope: The aim and scope is to reveal and examine the attitudes and opinions of the students towards LGBTI+s.

Importance of the Study: The primary importance of the study is to reveal the attitudes of the students in the context of the ethical principle of non-discrimination. The secondary importance is to plan the awareness and sustainable information trainings.

Method: The study was designed in quantitative-total population sampling method. 345 students, enrolled in the Faculty/School in 2019-2020-2021, constitute the universe of the research. The sample of the study consists of 291 students who participated on a voluntary basis.

Data collection tool consisting of 4 different sections. The first two parts were developed by the researchers, focuses on the demographic information and sexual orientation of the participants. In the third and fourth sections, respectively "Attitude Scale Towards Lesbians and Gays" and "Hudson and Ricketts Homophobia Scale" was used. Data were collected online and analyzed using SPSS-28.

Results: The family structure of the participants show that the father has a higher education level and is working; the mother is not working (63.5%), that is, the patriarchal structure is dominant. The answer to the idea of providing to (74%) or receiving from (%78) LGBTI+s was "wouldn't be a problem" to a large extent. It has been observed that there is no gender-based discrimination in attitudes towards homosexuality, homosexuality between men and women is considered equally (73%). When the homophobia scale is evaluated, it is noteworthy that the tolerance of individuals towards themselves or their families has decreased. So much so that about 62% of the participants were angry or bored at receiving sexual attention from their own gender, 22% were proud; 55% of them stated that they would be disappointed if they found out that their child was gay.

Conclusion: As a result of much research, health personnel's discriminatory, prejudiced or marginalizing attitudes; having insufficient information about sexual identity and orientation limits the access of cis-heterosexuals to health services. In this context, the fact that the majority of the students who are health personnel candidates

will maintain their impartiality in providing services to LGBTI+s shows that they have both knowledge and ethical awareness. On the other hand, it is understood that more negative reactions are given to a homosexual interest directed towards them, that is, they still do not internalize the situation and they have homophobic attitudes. Therefore, it is possible for them to unwittingly transmit messages that discriminate or marginalize in the relationship. In order for patients to receive quality service, they need to trust the person they receive service and open themselves up. In order to establish a positive relationship, health personnel must have the ability and competence to establish an accepting and respectful relationship. In this context, it would be useful to emphasize the necessity of continuing to include courses emphasizing cis-heteronormative cultural and social structure in the curriculum of students.

Igor Eterović

Assistant Professor, University of Rijeka, Croatia

&

Josip Guć

Research Assistant, University of Split, Croatia

A Model of Evaluation of Bioethical Research in Scientific Production – Demonstration on the Example of Croatian Bioethical Journals

Taking the basic goals of the scientific project “EUROBIOMED” (Croatian Science Foundation, HRZZ IP-2020-02-7450) as a starting point, the research investigates an important segment of bioethical production by Mediterranean authors. In this presentation we develop a possible methodological framework for metascientific analysis of bioethical research and explore the possibilities and limitations of such method. We discern basic formal and content conditions for such evaluations, i.e., the needed form of bioethical scientific presentations (form of scientific article) and the necessary content as starting point (what defines an article as “bioethical”). Moreover, we give a theoretical and practical reasons for doing so. 1) First, we argue that such narrowing the corpus is necessary and fruitful on the theoretical level, 2) Second, we demonstrate the methodological fruitfulness of such approach on specific analysis of all three main Croatian journals officially dedicated to bioethical research which are taken into consideration: *Jahr – European Journal of Bioethics*, *Synthesis philosophica*, and *Filozofska istraživanja (Philosophical Investigations)*. Furthermore, we show that there are three possible further ways of content analysis: a) the distribution of authors by countries; b) the prominent topic(s) taken into consideration; c) the main methodology applied in those articles. Such analysis is our contribution to finding a way for clarification of what exactly bioethics is and what kind of research it does involve. This could be very significant for the young discipline as bioethics and its stronger establishment as (also) propulsive scientific discipline.

Nicole Farris

Associate Professor, Texas A&M University, USA

&

Burchan Aydin

Associate Professor, Texas A&M University, USA

Attitudes toward Drones: Does Gender Matter?

This project seeks to examine what difference, if any, exists between males and females in terms of support of the utilization of drone technology for different uses. Surveying over two hundred respondents, we administered a questionnaire pertaining to the use of drones for research, public safety, commercial, and hobby purposes. We sought to explore support for various drone applications and risk acceptance of drone use, as prior research has found significant differences between male and female attitudes toward drones. After determining the reliability of the factors, we then analyzed differences in responses between male and female participants. Our results showed no statistically significant difference between males and females in terms of their attitudes toward drones, which indicates that the gender disparity in knowledge and acceptance of drones that has persisted over time may be decreasing with new knowledge and information about drones being more widely available to the public in general, and women in particular.

Ana Garcia-Arranz

Lecturer, Rey Juan Carlos University, Spain

&

Perello-Oliver Salvador

Professor, Rey Juan Carlos University, Spain

Social Control in a Self-Medicated Society: A Systematic Review

In modern societies, individuals are currently more autonomous and make continuous decisions about their health. Increasingly complex health systems, excessive information, and a crowded marketplace full of promising products are some factors at the root of a self-medicated society. In the last decade, the sale of over-the-counter (OTC) products has increased by 50.04% worldwide and is expected to rise a further 25.06% by 2026 (Euromonitor International, 2022). Additionally, COVID-19 has sky-rocketed their consumption in an act of self-preservation.

In a global context in which all kinds of risks proliferate, the social perception of disease incorporates a mainly pharmacological approach. This perspective emerges as a new one of social control subject to all kinds of interests. Drawing on sociological theory, this proposal examines the role that scientific literature –focused on raising social awareness of the risks linked to these medications– gives to the media, in its complex influence on society as a whole. Recent research has focused on the consumption of these drugs (e.g., Cupit, Rankin, Armstrong & Martin, 2020; Timmermans, 2020). However, there is no systematic study to assess the possible consequences for society.

The methodology has two parts: the first involved a comprehensive database search (Web of Science, Communication and Mass Media Complete, PubMed, and PsycINFO) for relevant studies published between 2000 and 2021 that met the inclusion criteria. The following Boolean operators were used: (*aware** AND *risk* AND "*over-the-counter*" AND "*society*" OR OTC OR nonprescription). The second part consists of content analysis which has enabled an objective and systematic description. Residual analysis was conducted based on the corresponding contingency table and after relevant tests of significance. The corpus comprises 516 studies and its representativeness allows for the generalization of results.

Results show that 26.4% of the studies analyzed concern the enormous influence of the media on the consumption of these products, and 29.7% indicate the need for greater restrictions and supervision of

direct-to-consumer advertising of OTC drugs. Moreover, 36.4% of the literature evidences the absence of relevant and/or verified information, which leads to poor decision making, deficient self-management, and higher hospitalization rates. The situation is aggravated by the existence of inaccurate and misleading information mentioned in 11.6% of the studies, which makes it difficult to discern the falsehood or truthfulness of health statements.

The study concludes with recommendations to take into account the sociocultural factors of the excessive and uncritical consumption of these products in today's society. It also points out the importance of pay more attention to the unavoidable responsibility of media in the promotion of products which may pose serious dangers to public health.

Andrea Grant-Friedman

Associate Professor, Lehigh Carbon Community College, USA

Justice Redefined: The American and Soviet Experiences in Comparative Perspective

What is social justice? This question is now at the center of scholarly and political controversy in the United States. Across academia, as well as in the public sphere, racial inequality, in particular, has been advanced as the fundamental source of injustice in society and, flowing from this, race has increasingly been presented as the issue around which all wrongs must be righted. In fact, as demonstrated by the New York Times 1619 project, there are efforts to reinterpret the entire history of the United States as a tale of racial injustice. Non-racialized, class-based conceptions of justice are frequently identified as no longer legitimate and also, in and of themselves, forms of oppression. Rather than the demand for equality being raised on the banner of the social justice movement, “equity” is the slogan advanced. The “equity” being sought is not aimed at leveling differences between the top and the bottom, vertically so to speak. It is directed at redistributing social resources horizontally – that is, across racial groups – but without eliminating differences within racial groups or society as a whole. Despite the fact that economic inequality in the US has reached unprecedented heights, today’s newly-emerging definition of social justice has distinctly anti-egalitarian overtones.

There is another recent moment in world history when rising inequality intersected with a reconceptualization of the meaning of social justice—the collapse of the USSR. During the 1980s, Soviet intellectuals were at the center of public debates over the meaning of this term. The way in which they redefined the concept was closely linked to the political and economic convulsions of that era. Class-based understandings of how society’s wealth ought to be distributed came under attack. Equality was increasingly identified as fundamentally unjust and, in today’s language, unequitable. And, similar to what is happening presently in the United States, the battle over social justice spilled into conflicts over Soviet history. As events would show, this new brand of social justice did not result in improved conditions for the majority of people, nor was it intended to.

In both the Soviet and American cases, social forces stand and stood behind battles over the meaning of social justice. There were and are no innocent actors. This paper will explore these themes, by way of a comparison of the USSR in the 1980s and the US today.

Ian Hyslop

Senior Lecturer, University of Auckland, New Zealand

Speaking and Naming Rights in Liberal Capitalist Society

This presentation is concerned with the relationship between social work, social class and the structure of liberal capitalist society. It is argued that state social workers generally engage with those who are positioned on the precarious edges of the working class. Mark Philp (1979) famously theorized that social workers advocate, within discursive limits, for the re-inclusion of dis-enfranchised individuals – presenting them as ‘safe’ human subjects. Lena Domineli (2004) argued that social workers have the capacity to speak with and for marginalized citizens, so that their voices can be heard by those in authority. However the power that accompanies this function can be used to oppress as well as liberate. As a verbal profession with a strong tradition of written record keeping, social workers create narrative records of the lives of those who are constructed as their clients. In Aotearoa (New Zealand), and comparable anglophone jurisdictions in recent years, a series of inquiries into historical abuse in state and faith-based care has revealed a troubling history of institutional harm. The ‘case-histories’ written at the time of these events tend to present a distorted and sanitized narrative that effectively silenced and concealed experiences of abuse and neglect. In this sense state social workers were complicit in denying a voice to abuse survivors. Children and families from relatively low status and impoverished backgrounds were effectively afforded a lesser set of human rights (Hyslop, 2022). These abuses were disproportionately visited upon indigenous Māori children. This reality reveals the soft-policing relationship between social work and the capitalist state. This has disturbing implications for the future of social work and to conceptions of social work as an inclusive or liberating profession within the structure the welfare state. There is a fine line between care, benign authoritarianism and coercive control. This analysis generates some profound questions in relation to the development of social work: its relationship to structures of privilege in the capitalist social form and the potential of state mandated social workers to form genuine partnerships with resistance communities (to work with and for rather than on). This presentation will consider some of the implications of this challenge – the tensions and dilemmas that accompany social work as an institutional response to social suffering into the future.

Aleksejs Jelisejevs
PhD Candidate, Turība University, Latvia

Good Faith as a Doctrinal Tool to Interpret Legal and Contractual Frameworks for Banks' Rights to Close Accounts Unilaterally

This paper develops the good faith-based approach suggested by the author as a universal tool to overcome the conflict between a bank's right to close a payment account without the consumer's consent and the effective protection of the interests of such a consumer. This issue has become so urgent that it is now the object of EU harmonized regulation. European enactors linked a bank's ability to unilaterally terminate a payment service contract with the achievement by both parties of an initial agreement on such a subjective right of the bank. However, when the payment services user holds a consumer status, such permissive private autonomy is wholly excluded since the lack of any contract-related discussion with the consumer is presumed by law and inevitable in practice. Conversely, according to the FATF, terminating or restricting contractual relationships with clients to avoid, rather than manage, risk (de-risking) can *introduce* risk and opacity into the global financial system. Consequently, there is an objective incompatibility of the results of applying legal rules and transactions with the sense, meaning, and goal of regulating the relevant legal relationship or the general idea of law, including from the viewpoint of justice and public interest.

To overcome this collision, the author proposes a systemic doctrinal interpretation of the relevant rules of EU directives and Latvian national legislation based on the requirements of good faith as a general principle of civil law. Under this approach, to determine whether the law and the contract allow the bank to withdraw from the contract without the consumer's consent, the specific circumstances – along with formally following the text of the relevant legal rules and contractual conditions – must clarify (a) whether the bank has sufficient, reasonable, justified, and legitimate grounds to unilaterally terminate the payment service contract, and its client has been informed; (b) whether any transformations in the counter execution of the consumer's obligations can correct the emergent imbalance of the counterparties' interests without a clean break of the contractual relationships; (c) whether it is possible to preserve the payment service contract's effect by establishing related (additional) bank obligations to which the bank

could agree following reasonable assessment of the case circumstances
and presuming the bank wished to continue enforcing the contract.

Emek Barış Kepenek
Lecturer, Baskent University, Turkey

Sociology of Video Games as a New Field of Research

Undoubtedly, the world is determined by the advances in informational and communicational systems; where dots, algorithms, digital spaces shape our daily lives. The hyper-formations of the planet by cloud technologies, server farms, and the proliferation of smart technologies appears to be interpellating people more as data inputs than as subjects. Our culture, our daily lives are under the full-time attack of the popular cultural aspects; such as video games.

Video games can be considered as the rising star of popular cultural transformations. More than 2.9 people are playing video games. But, can we really understand what a video game is? Video games are exerting an increasingly powerful influence on the way many people perceive and interpret the world. The impacts of video games are not so simple (just fun), nor is it only one-way. They can create dominant ideologies or communicate alternative discourses, feminist or green messages, and can convey critical thinking on a range of themes, including technological capitalism itself. They are not only a simple digital product, they are crucial products with full of social subjects/notions/problems. But how?

This complex feature of video games brings us to that question: "How can the sociology of digital games be possible? Undoubtedly, considering which sociological approaches are more appropriate within the broad possibilities of sociology, it has been understood that "Relational Sociology" is more appropriate rather than the existing classical approaches. Because this approach rejects duality and essentialism and emphasizes more process-based studies. Besides, Elias's concept of "figuration" is accepted as a decent tool in seeking an answer to the research question. It should be underlined that Elias' concepts of "living units" and "cooperation and competition balance" while doing process-based figurative sociology.

As a result of the analysis, it was found that the movements in digital games are the figuration as they are in the real world. But this cannot continue unless the balance of cooperation and competition is ensured. If there is no balance in a game, i.e., if one side always wins, one of the most important gains of a digital game, the pleasure acquisition, cannot be achieved. Using metaphors like "heroes of the games" which reflects the formations of identities and the "narrative of

the game” which contains some marks from the real world, will be beneficial in understanding and explaining digital gam

Victor Kogan

Professor Emeritus, Saint Martin's University, USA

Equality is Inequality Transformed by Justice

Inequality eternally touches the human consciousness as an unjust phenomenon that must be eliminated. However, despite many attempts, including bloody revolutions, it persists as gender and race discrimination, even in its oldest form - slavery. Beyond these extreme cases, inequality is natural whereas equality is artificial. This opposite phenomena-wealth and poverty - united by the idea of justice, are easily appealing but hard to implement.

Justice animates the search for equality but clips the wings of resentment in a tacit recognition of the hierarchy of professions, military commanders, voting age or age of conscription, and demand for efficiency.

This study allows us to formulate the social law of equality: Equality is inequality transformed by Justice.

Louis Kontos

Associate Professor, John Jay College of Criminal Justice, USA

White Collar Crime as Regressive Ideological Category

In recent years there has been a tangible increase in the prosecution of white-collar offenses. They represent mostly mundane instances of fraudulent (mis)representation along with a range of crimes (embezzlement, pilfering, sabotage) against corporate entities. There has not been a corresponding rise in the prosecution of corporate crime. Nor has there been a concerted attempt by the U.S. Justice Department to prosecute fraudulence when it occurs en masse, including for example the misrepresentation of the worth of collateralized debt obligations (CDOs) during the 2007 economic crisis, and the recent theft (through fraudulent misrepresentation) of 80 billion dollars from the federal COVID-19 relief fund (i.e., one tenth of the whole fund). The paper examines trends in prosecution of individual white-collar crimes, versus corporate crime and organized theft (which typically maintains the appearance of normal business in both the public discourse and judicial settings) throughout the last two decades. Further, the paper will argue that the celebration in leftist circles of increased prosecution of white-collar offenses is premature, since the category itself serves an ideological purpose, namely to displace focus from what Marx called the lawlessness of the bourgeoisie and, inversely, provide false assurance that a viable political economic system is in place wherein criminality is limited and irrelevant to the system itself.

Ioan Lazar

Associate Professor, "1 Decembrie 1918" University of Alba Iulia,
Romania

Competition Law, Ethics and Corporate Social Responsibility

The importance of corporate social responsibility activities has increased in recent years. More and more undertakings active on different markets are becoming aware of the importance of improving labor policies, investing in safety training of employees, environmental protection, local community related projects, volunteering, charitable activities.

The question would be, if higher degrees of competition associated to periods of economic crisis will affect in a favorable or non-favorable manner the degree of competition on the market.

The paper at hand will analyze, based on statistical data available at the moment, if higher level of competition will increase investments in CSR activities in order to create trustworthy firms who will survive even in economically harsh periods or instead will reduce the mentioned type of investments and will facilitate the flourishing of anticompetitive practices on the market.

The study will begin with a short presentation of the concept, importance and meaning of corporate social responsibility, followed by considerations related to the importance of ethics in competition law. Finally, the author will analyze the impact of competition on CSR related activities and the ways in which the pressure of competition can impact on CSR investments.

Domenico Maddaloni

Professor, University of Salerno, Italy

Felice Addeo

Associate Professor, University of Salerno, Italy

Rocio Blanco-Gregory

Associate Professor, University of Extremadura, Spain

&

Grazia Moffa

Associate Professor, University of Salerno, Italy

**At the Origins of Migration Choices:
A Survey of Students at Two South European Universities**

Migration research has long highlighted the role of the factors influencing migration flows at the structural level. Recent literature has shifted researchers' attention to the individual drivers influencing the definition of migration strategies and, before that, the individual propensity for mobility. In this paper we present the results of a multiple regression model applied to data collected by means of an online survey of students at the universities of Salerno (Italy) and Extremadura (Spain). The model highlights the low prominence achieved by factors such as gender and parental cultural capital on this propensity. A more important role is played by the personal experience of living abroad, a proactive attitude toward the future, and the propensity to seek professional self-fulfillment even at the price of sacrificing one's territorial affiliation.

Bruno Madeira

Professor, University of Minho, Portugal

Conceição Meireles Pereira

Associate Professor, University of Porto, Portugal

&

Paula Grenha

Master Student, University of Minho, Portugal

Austerity as Ideology and Morality: The Case of Portugal in the Eurozone Crisis (2011-2015)

The US recession (2007-2009) and the Eurozone crisis (2010-2017) had profound effects on the political, economic and social structures of Southern European countries. At the time, the European Union and its economically more developed countries rejected any responsibility for the sovereign debt crisis in Southern countries, blaming the irresponsibility of their governments, endemic corruption, health, education and social security systems incompatible with their economies, the excessive dependence of citizens on the welfare state, their laziness and low productivity.

In April 2011, Portugal signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Troika (European Commission, European Central Bank and International Monetary Fund) that committed the country to a plan of radical cuts in public spending, tax increases and structural reforms. These measures have meant the impoverishment of the country, a significant increase in unemployment rates and emigration, and the degradation of the welfare state, the National Health Service and the public education system.

In this paper, we propose an analysis of the 'austeritarian' discourse, in its ideological and moral dimensions, widespread in Portugal in this period. This discourse was produced and reproduced in the country from external (European Union, European Central Bank, International Monetary Fund) and internal (government, press, economists and opinion makers) sources. In this sense, we will discuss how the press and the political leaderships of Central-North Europe and the institutions of the European Union, contributed to create or deepen essentialist representations about the Portuguese, as well as how this discourse was incorporated or rejected in Portugal.

Domestically, the rulers tended to transfer the responsibility for the crisis to citizens, who would have lived "above their means", with a disciplining austerity now being imposed on them. We will also examine the political communication of the PSD/CDS government

(2011-2015), which applied the economic and financial adjustment programme - even claiming to want to "go further than the Troika". We will also reflect on the different and conflicting types of narratives published in the Portuguese press.

This reflection will take into account the triumph of the economic paradigm of neoliberalism and its individualistic and competitive logics. The meritocratic moral of neo-liberalism translates into the legitimisation of the existence of winners and losers in the competition of the free market and, consequently, the intensification of structural inequalities within and between states. In the 21st century, neoliberalism and austerity are still the only horizon of expectation and possibility. Its ideological and moral discourse configures a permanent self-legitimation and the reiteration that "there is no alternative".

Inês Maia

PhD Student, University of Porto, Portugal

Rites of Passage at University: Reflections on a Portuguese Case

In several countries, current higher education students introduce newcomers to their institutions through a set of ritualised practices, which are repeated every year at the beginning of the academic year. This is a common but complex phenomenon (and with significant differences depending on the setting), with different names in different countries. In Portugal, it is called *Praxe*. Very similar phenomena occur in other countries, such as *Hazing* (US), *Bizutage* (France), *Novatada* (Spain) and *Trote* (Brazil).

These phenomena can be understood as a set of tests that are prepared by older students (in terms of the grade they are enrolled in) to welcome new students. These activities contain an important element of playfulness, but also different types and degrees of violence. There is a clear understanding that older and new students have a different role to play, based on a significant inequality of power. These phenomena are often studied as a rite of passage (Gennep, 1978); as a process by which newcomers learn the norms of the new group and are subjected to a process of reconstructing their social identity. They are deeply transformative rites for those who participate in it and who, after overcoming the challenge, see themselves as a legitimate member of a new community. The experience of these rites also contains a strong element of integration into the new group, but also into the university itself.

In Portugal, these practices are rooted in ancient times and have gone hand-in-hand with the history of the university as an institution. The history of the *praxe* runs side-by-side with that of the University of Coimbra, which is the oldest one in Portugal. The *praxe* was never immune to change and underwent various transformations. Over the course of the years, the *praxe* extended through all country. Our research project focuses on the intensive study of this phenomenon at the University of Porto, which is the second oldest Portuguese university (founded in 1911) and a place where the *praxe* has become a mass phenomenon.

We propose an analysis of rites of passage at university today – with special attention to the Portuguese case (*praxe*) – with the main goal of discussing the dynamics of power and violence (especially symbolic violence) that shape these phenomena. We draw attention to

these phenomena – highly hierarchical, with violent practices, marked by secretiveness – within the sociabilities of university students and the everyday life of the university itself nowadays. Finally, we address these phenomena as youth experiences that create security in a stage of these students lives that is defined by doubts about the future and a certain biographical uncertainty.

Ronagh McQuigg
Senior Lecturer, Queen's University Belfast, UK

Conceptualising Domestic Abuse - The Evolving Approaches of the European Court of Human Rights

During the past 15 years, the European Court of Human Rights has made it clear that domestic abuse can violate the European Convention on Human Rights, however the way in which such abuse has been conceptualised in the Court's judgments has varied and evolved, namely in terms of which articles of the European Convention have been held to have been violated in such cases. In particular, the approach taken by the Court was initially somewhat incoherent regarding the use of article 3 (the right to be free from torture and inhuman or degrading treatment) and article 8 (the right to respect for private and family life). Indeed, the Court seemed to take the view in its early jurisprudence on domestic abuse that if it decided that a violation of the Convention should be found, it did not matter to any great extent on which specific article this finding was held to be based.

Nevertheless since the case of *Valiuliene v. Lithuania* (app. no. 22234/07, 26 March 2013) there has been a substantially greater use of article 3 in such cases. In this case, the state argued that the ill-treatment to which the applicant, a victim of domestic abuse, had been subjected had not been sufficiently severe to fall within the ambit of article 3, and presented the Court with a unilateral declaration acknowledging a breach of article 8. The Court refused to accept this declaration, found a violation of article 3 and stated that it was not necessary to examine the complaint under article 8, as a breach of article 3 had already been found. This case marked a change in the Court's approach and henceforth article 3 was used much more extensively in cases involving domestic abuse. It seems that the case served to highlight to the Court that the important issue in such cases is not only whether a violation of the Convention should be found, but also on which provision such a finding should be based.

The Court's judgments in *Tunikova and Others v. Russia* (app nos. 55974/16, 53118/17, 27484/18, 28011/19, 14 December 2021) and *Volodina v Russia* (app no. 41261/17, 9 July 2019) again raise issues regarding the conceptualisation of domestic abuse. In both of these cases, the question arose of whether such abuse should be specifically conceptualised as falling within the 'torture' limb of article 3. Both *Tunikova* and *Volodina* serve to illustrate the way in which the Court's jurisprudence on this issue has evolved, from a reliance primarily on

article 8 to a situation whereby the use of article 3 is commonplace and the debate has become whether domestic abuse should be expressly conceptualised as torture. It is certainly arguable that this would be a very welcome development. As the Court itself recognised in *Tunikova*, such a development would be 'capable of influencing the public perception of domestic violence' (para. 77), and it could also have the potential to influence the development of laws relating to such abuse in national legal systems.

Julia Meszaros

Associate Professor, Texas A&M University-Commerce, USA

Romance Retirement: Men's Aging Mobilities from North to South

Newspapers abound with stories of expatriates from the Global North who flee to the Global South in the hopes of extending the values of their pensions in 'cheaper' countries. While most studies have examined couples who retire and migrate together when examining retired expatriates, this study examines the development of what I term the 'romance retirement' of men from the Global North who move to the Global South and begin intimate relationships with local women, which sometimes includes marriage and sometimes does not. The development of romance retirement by men from the Global North in the Global South highlights the importance of accessing women's labor in defining aging masculinities. I learned about the large number of expatriate men while I was following romance tours in Colombia, Ukraine and the Philippines and conducting a ten year global ethnography of the international dating industry, also known as the 'mail order bride' industry. I followed romance tours in each country for two months, interviewing a number of men interested in marrying women that also mentioned interest in retiring in those countries. After observing tours, I returned to each country for a month to conduct more interviews with men clients and men who stayed after marriage instead of returning to the West permanently. In addition, I interviewed men who had moved to all three countries to retire and date local women. Many of the men I met during romance tours overlapped with romance retirement migrants, demonstrating the complex nature of teasing out men's global mobilities from the North to South and its dependence upon women's labor.

Almudena Moreno

PhD Student, Public University of Navarre, Spain

&

Enrique Regidor

Professor, Public University of Navarre, Spain

Trend in Avoidable Mortality According to the Area of Residence

Objectives: To estimate the trend in avoidable mortality in rural and urban between 2005 and 2016 in Spain.

Methods: The population, the number of deaths and the population according to the age, sex and population size of the municipality of residence have been obtained from the National Institute of Statistics. The size of the municipality of residence has been grouped into three categories: less than 10,000 inhabitants (rural areas), between 10,000 and 100,000 inhabitants (small urban areas) and more than 100,000 inhabitants (large urban areas). In each area we have calculated the average annual percentage change in mortality rate using linear regression. The logarithm of the rate has been used as a dependent variable. Finally, a sensitivity analysis was carried out by calculating the mortality rate for the rest of the causes of death.

Results: Between 2005 and 2016 the APCM in the avoidable mortality rate in large urban, small urban and rural areas was respectively -3.8%, -3.1% and -2.8% in men, and -3.7%, -3.3% and -3.2% in women. The decrease in mortality due to cancer locations and cardiovascular diseases was responsible for this decrease, since they represent more than 80% of the causes of preventable death. The APCM in the mortality rate from other causes in these areas was respectively -2.6%, -2.2% and -1.6% in men and -1.5%, -1.4% and -1.1% in women.

Conclusion: Rural areas showed less decrease in mortality from preventable causes of death than urban areas. Similar findings were obtained with mortality from the rest of the causes of death. A smaller reduction in rural areas in the prevalence of common risk factors for most diseases may be behind these findings.

Ayşe Özada Nazım

Assistant Professor, Cyprus International University, Cyprus

Delinquent Youths Sociodemographic Characteristics: A Study of 2528 Official Data

Juvenile delinquency is a critical social problem around the globe. As vulnerable beings, it is critical to understand the reasons behind children's involvement in crime. The aim of the present study is to determine the socio-economic and demographic characteristics of juvenile delinquents in North Cyprus. The population of this research is formed by juvenile delinquent cases (children's age, sex, family structure, education, residence, nationality, criminal activity) which are taken from the archival records of the General Directorate of Police spanning 2008-2018 in Northern Cyprus. In this direction, 2528 official police records are examined by quantitative research methods, frequency analysis and Pearson chi-square tests were applied to the data. The main limitation of the present research is its lack of information concerning written records. While examining the records of juvenile delinquents, we realised that there was only limited information available about their families, education, penalty, addiction, prior victimisation and prior delinquency. The findings contribute to understanding the dimensions of juvenile delinquency in the country. Northern Cyprus is not recognised as an independent republic, and compared to other European countries Cyprus still has low crime rates for both adult and juvenile offenders. Most of them are male in the 16-17 age group, attending school and mostly involved in property crime (53,7%). We determined that the highest rate of involvement in crime is in the biggest three cities in which both social and physical disorders are highly ranked, while social control is low. Identifying the factors behind juvenile delinquency is vital to contributing to social policies and psychosocial support mechanisms on this issue.

Duygu Ozalp

Assistant Professor, Baskent University, Turkey

Technical and Vocational Education (TVET) for the Future: An Exploratory Study for the Turkish Aerospace Industrial Ecosystem

The aerospace industry represents the most advanced technology level of the manufacturing industry and is distinguished from other industry sub-branches with this feature. Furthermore, the industry is in a unique interaction with other branches of the manufacturing industry with its research and development (R&D) and innovation-based structure and production organization using high technology and finally, the high-tech products it has reached. In other words, the aerospace industry feeds to and feeds off other industries through its R&D work and final products. This interaction stretches particular importance to the aerospace industry, especially in the studies on national technology development capacity. Therefore, this study aims to develop an integrated education and training model for determining the knowledge and skills that the qualified technical labor force should have today and that will be needed in the future to increase the technological learning and innovation capacity of the Turkish Aerospace Industry Ecosystem (TAIE). In this direction, the research was designed with a qualitative research approach and 32 semi-structured in-depth interviews were conducted with people who were determined to be suitable for the research. The records of the interviews and the interviewer's notes were coded and categorized; thus, the research findings were reached. Accordingly, it has been concluded that the countries with developed aerospace industries in the world have some common characteristics, that the TAIE has a unique structure among these countries, and that there is essentially academic, technical, and occupational knowledge expected to be possessed by the technical labor force to make the TAIE an efficient ecosystem, and that this knowledge should be brought with an ecosystem understanding to the labor force already employed and the potential workforce to be employed in the TAIE. In this direction, an integrated education and training model has been developed for Turkey, covering all national actors, including public institutions/organizations, the private sector, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and research institutes/universities. This suggested model contributes to the collaboration of industrial ecosystem actors and the development of

technological capabilities and competencies of the companies operating in TAIE by the requirements of our time.

Karen Parsonson

Associate Professor, University of Houston Victoria, USA

The Dangers of Ethnocentrism in Research on Ethics

It is inevitable that when examining ethical standards and ethics codes, comparisons will be made, and with comparisons comes the potential for judgment. When it comes to cross-cultural comparisons, there is an even greater risk of not only judgment but ethnocentrism, whereby other cultures are perceived negatively relative to what some may see as the “standard”. As the antithesis of ethnocentrism is cultural relativism, it is proposed that a guiding principle of any cross-cultural research on ethics is from an idiographic perspective, through the eyes of members of that culture. Ethics have been developed from each country’s cultural perspective and should be respected, understood, and appreciated as such. Research on cross-cultural comparison of psychological ethics codes will be discussed as a prime example of ethnocentrism in action, as well as how a new approach has shed light on and demonstrated the contribution of culture to their development.

Seppo Poutanen

Senior Research Fellow, University of Turku, Finland

“But the Feelings were Like an Explosion Would Have Happened in the Office, and in a Sense it Had” - Analysing the Virtual Communication Efforts of European Doctoral Researchers in the Pandemic Era

In Europe, the COVID-19 pandemic “began” in the early spring of 2020, leading to closures, curfews and quarantines in European societies. For European universities the novel situation meant restrictions and reorganisation of their operations, which caused unprecedented challenges to work of all academics.

The general focus of this research is on both the immediate and more prolonged pandemic-related experiences concerning work of PhD students, that is doctoral researchers, in business and organisation studies from several European universities. More precisely, in this qualitative study I describe and analyse views of thirty-eight European doctoral researchers on four varieties, and changes due to the COVID-19 pandemic, of their work communication: i) formal corporeal face-to-face communication, ii) informal corporeal face-to-face communication, iii) formal virtual face-to-face communication, and iv) informal virtual face-to-face communication.

The 38 doctoral researchers came from many European universities, and they participated in two online seminars on qualitative research methods for PhD students in business research and organisation studies in May 2020 and May 2021 organised by the author. Digital platforms and tools mainly enabled the doctoral researchers to continue their studies in virtual remote mode, but many problems and shortcomings in both formal and informal virtual face-to-face work communication were reported, too. In more detail, the analysis elaborates some forms of suffering but also adapting and thriving of the doctoral researchers in the first fourteen months of the COVID-19 pandemic era.

Wei Song

Assistant Professor, Coventry University, UK

Towards a Single Currency in Asia

With increasing economic, monetary, and financial integration in Asian countries over the last few decades, adoption of a single currency in Asia has been proposed by many policy makers and researchers. Particularly after 1997 Asian financial crisis and 2008-2009 global economic and financial crisis, regional exchange rate stability has become an important policy agenda for regional economic, monetary and financial development in Asia. This study aims to evaluate the suitability of adopting a single currency in Asia and forecast its initial member countries for the potential currency union in Asia by applying cluster analysis, in which OCA criteria are examined to evaluate the fulfilment by ASEAN+3 countries. China is used as an anchor county in the analysis due to China's increasing economic influence in trade and direct investment in regional economy and increasing status of Chinese RMB in regional and global market. It finds Asia has fulfilled the OCA criteria for creating a currency union and sharing a single currency in economic term. The economic entries of Cambodia, Macao, Hong Kong, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam, Japan, South Korea are most converged with China among ASEAN+3, and they are more likely to be the initial member countries for future Asian currency union. This study also includes India, United States, and euro area in the analysis, but the study finds they are not very converged with ASEAN+3.

Elena Emilia Stefan

Associate Professor, "Nicolae Titulescu" University of Bucharest,
Romania

News and Perspectives of Public Law

Starting from the classic division of law into public law and private law imagined by Roman legal adviser Ulpian, we currently note a fundamental feature of the law: interdisciplinarity.

The recent exceptional situation that we have faced, which can easily be regarded as "crisis", revealed once more that the reference to social life can only be made by resorting not only to law but also to ethics, morals. The public authorities often found themselves in the situation of making administrative decisions for the population, objected by the great majority, as fundamental rights were restricted for a short period of time.

This paperwork addresses a current topic of interest, namely: considering interdisciplinarity, can we speak nowadays of a new public law? If the answer is yes, what should we do with the old one, should we destroy or rebuild it?

We will answer these questions, by using research methods specific to law, in order to emphasize the conclusion of our paperwork, that according to which the measures related to good administration taken by the public authorities must express both the letter of the law and the spirit of the law, taking into account the general interests of the society.

Ekaterina Streltsova

Associate Professor, National Research University, Russia

&

Roman Shcherbakov

Research Assistant, National Research University, Russia

Digital Detox: What Makes Individuals Limit their Digital Activity?

Though having well-known positive effects on quality of life, digitalization causes a number of social risks, with Internet addiction and related problems among them. Overuse of digital technologies might lead to technostress – an inability to adapt or to deal with new technologies in a healthy manner (Brod, 1982), which affects negatively human thoughts, behavior, and well-being (Arnetz & Wiholm, 1997). The technostress phenomenon is being studied for decades already, but it became especially relevant and widely discussed during the COVID-19 pandemic. Various social groups had to shift online, which made them experience all kinds of strain, like loss of privacy and productivity, inability to adapt, etc. (Commodari & La Rosa, 2020; Şahin & Şahin, 2022; Fuchs, 2021; etc.). Even after most restrictions were cancelled, the level of digitalization of social practices (e.g. use of Internet for daily routines) has not decreased: the reliance on online is still high among population with Internet connection.

To control their online activity and reduce the negative influence of overuse of digital technologies, individuals try adapting certain practices (Cemiloglu et al., 2022). Some might block separate apps or entire smartphone in specific life situations (e.g., while meeting friends) or for some hours per day (Syvertsen & Enli, 2019). Others prefer to rely on family engagement and support (Zhnong et al., 2011), or even install specialized apps and programs to control screen / Internet time (Almourad et al., 2021; Schmuck, 2020). These approaches and strategies are aggregated under the term ‘digital detox’ (Staheli & Stoltenberg, 2022; Radtke et al., 2022).

Though recently attracting more research interest, this topic is still poorly studied empirically. How widespread this phenomenon is? What are the most popular strategies / tools? Which factors cause these preferences? – These and other questions still wait for solid answers. They will be in the conference paper which presents the results of a survey of 10+ thousand Russians of 14 years old and above. The study allowed us develop a menu of strategies of digital detox and to identify the factors which tend to motivate individuals to limit their digital

activity. Among others, the study contributes to the current discussion of digital capital which includes abilities and skills to effectively manage technologies' use.

References

- Maddaloni D, Gkounta O (2023) *Sociology. Abstract Proceedings of the 17th Annual International Conference*. Athens: Athens Institute for Education and Research (ATINER).
- Maddaloni D, Gkounta O (2022) *Sociology. Abstract Proceedings of the 16th Annual International Conference*. Athens: Athens Institute for Education and Research (ATINER).
- Papanikos GT (2021) *Sociology. Abstract Proceedings of the 15th Annual International Conference*. Athens: Athens Institute for Education and Research (ATINER).
- Papanikos GT (2020) *Sociology. Abstract Proceedings of the 14th Annual International Conference*. Athens: Athens Institute for Education and Research (ATINER).
- Papanikos GT (2019) *Sociology. Abstract Proceedings of the 13th Annual International Conference*. Athens: Athens Institute for Education and Research (ATINER).
- Papanikos GT (2018) *Sociology. Abstract Proceedings of the 12th Annual International Conference*. Athens: Athens Institute for Education and Research (ATINER).
- Papanikos GT (2017) *Sociology. Abstract Proceedings of the 11th Annual International Conference*. Athens: Athens Institute for Education and Research (ATINER).
- Papanikos GT (2016) *Sociology. Abstract Proceedings of the 10th Annual International Conference*. Athens: Athens Institute for Education and Research (ATINER).
- Papanikos GT (2015) *Sociology. Abstract Proceedings of the 9th Annual International Conference*. Athens: Athens Institute for Education and Research (ATINER).
- Papanikos GT (2014) *Sociology. Abstract Proceedings of the 8th Annual International Conference*. Athens: Athens Institute for Education and Research (ATINER).
- Papanikos GT (2013) *Sociology. Abstract Proceedings of the 7th Annual International Conference*. Athens: Athens Institute for Education and Research (ATINER).
- Papanikos GT (2012) *Sociology. Abstract Proceedings of the 6th Annual International Conference*. Athens: Athens Institute for Education and Research (ATINER).
- Papanikos GT (2011) *Sociology. Abstract Proceedings of the 5th Annual International Conference*. Athens: Athens Institute for Education and Research (ATINER).
- Papanikos GT (2010) *Sociology. Abstract Proceedings of the 4th Annual International Conference*. Athens: Athens Institute for Education and Research (ATINER).