



Athens Institute Newsletter No. 55, March 2026



News

The Athens Institute successfully hosted its **19th Annual International Conference on Mediterranean Studies**, held on 30-31 March 2026 in Athens, Greece

The conference brought together approximately 50 researchers from 19 countries, including Albania, Austria, Canada, Croatia, Germany, Greece, Haiti, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Portugal, Romania, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Spain, Turkey, the United Kingdom, and the United States, fostering a dynamic international forum for scholarly exchange.

The opening address was delivered on Monday, 30 March by **Gregory T. Papanikos**, President, Athens Institute & Professor (Adjunct), University of Tennessee, Knoxville, USA, who spoke on “[Dynamics of Regional Security in the Mediterranean Basin](#)”, highlighting contemporary security challenges and geopolitical developments in the region. ([more details](#)).

Size Matters More Than Wealth: New Research Reveals What Predicts World Cup Qualification in Europe

A new academic study using statistical modelling shows that a nation's population size

– not its income – is the dominant factor determining which European countries qualify for the FIFA World Cup, while identifying remarkable overachievers like Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia who defied the structural odds. ([more details](#)).

With strong scientific and comparative interest, the Athens Institute held an event on **Monday, March 30, 2026**, on the theme of “*Revolutions of National Independence and the Birth of the Nation-State during the 18th and 19th Centuries*“, under the auspices of the [Athenian Academic Periodical](#). ([more details](#)).

On **Sunday, March 22, 2026**, a lecture was held, sponsored by the Athens Institute, on “**Ignorance Is the Greatest Sin - Why Education Is Sacred Across Civilizations**“, delivered by **Dr. Nikos Liodakis**, Academic Member of the Athens Institute and Professor at Wilfrid Laurier University, Canada. Dr. Liodakis explored how Ancient Greek Paideia connects with the teachings of religions and civilizations worldwide, emphasizing that knowledge forms the foundation of freedom, salvation, and human flourishing.

We are pleased to announce that **Dr. Mervyn J. Wighting**, Deputy Director of the [Arts, Humanities and Education Division](#) of the Athens Institute, has been awarded the title of **Professor Emeritus by Regent University (USA)**, in recognition of his distinguished academic career and contributions.

We are glad to announce that **Mr. Enzo Bonacci**, Academic Member of the Athens Institute, has just been awarded with the **103rd Ukrainian National Badge of Honor “For International Cooperation”** and has been inserted in the prestigious “**Hall of Fame**” of the Association “**Krayina**”. Motivated by his cultural merits, such prize was endorsed by the **UNESCO Club of Latina**. He was the only Italian to be mentioned in the Annual Report of the Odessa Rectors’ Council of 2017 (Section “**Scientific Work and International Relations**”) and the first to be accepted into the **Kyiv Mathematical Society** in 2020.

We are pleased to announce that our academic member, **Dr. Manuel Malaver de la Fuente** (*Professor, Department of Basic Sciences, Maritime University of the Caribbean, Catia la Mar, Venezuela*), has recently been honored with the **Aishwarya Memorial Academic Annual Award 2026** for outstanding achievements in physics and research excellence, as well as the **Global Research Excellence Award** and the **Global Best Researcher Award**. Additionally, he has been appointed **Chief Editor** of the **JANOLI International Journal of Physics**.

Publications

Athens Journal of Architecture

Athens Journal of Business & Economics

[Athens Journal of History](#)

[Athens Journal of Humanities & Arts](#)

[Athens Journal of Law](#)

[Athens Journal of Mass Media and Communications](#)

[Athens Journal of Mediterranean Studies](#)

[Athens Journal of Sciences](#)

[16 Forthcoming Papers](#)

Forthcoming Conferences Organized by the Athens Institute

The Athens Institute is organized into 7 [Divisions](#), 37 [Units](#) and 8 [Centers](#). Each one organizes at least one annual academic event (conferences, symposiums, roundtable discussions etc.). All events are small academic gatherings as these are described in ATINER's [mission](#) and [policy](#).

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