



SEE ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

Issue 3

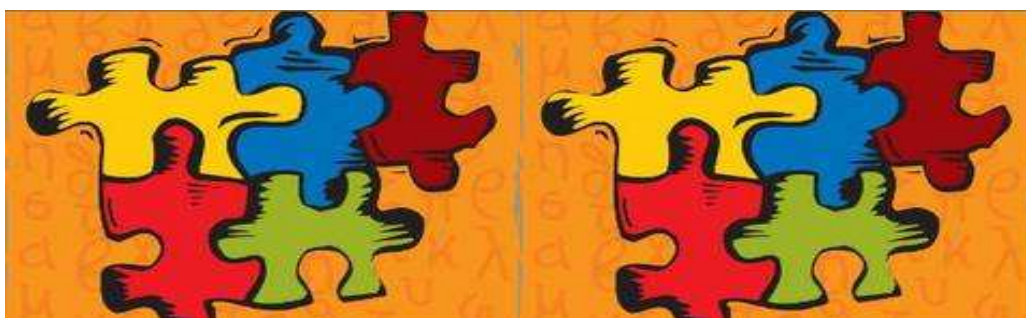
Academic year 2010-2011

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Editorial

The Master's Degree in Southeast European Studies now enters its twelfth year of continuous operation. It was the first post-graduate programme in the University of Athens in which courses and teaching material were in a foreign (non-Greek) language. Over the years other programmes have imitated our example, while in Greece and across Europe other such courses focusing on Southeast Europe have emerged.

The programme has attracted students from the countries of South East Europe and beyond and has kept a balance of its student population between a Greek and a non-Greek component. Greeks have benefited from exposure to an international academic environment, artificially created, so to speak, in the centre of Athens, while non-Greek students have also benefited from interaction with Greek students and professors, all of whom have experience of research and/or teaching in European or American universities.

Over time, the structure and functioning of the programme has become tighter and more efficient. Invited speakers, including foreign professors and diplomats, have enriched the academic environment in which students work. Problems remain with regard to the university's infrastructure, as a larger social science library and more space for and access to computers would be useful. However, most graduates of this programme recognize that the advantages exceeded the disadvantages, as in a span of 12 months they were able to participate in an interdisciplinary course, where the perspectives of history, politics and economics are more or less equally respected, and obtain a post-graduate degree useful for their careers as journalists, NGO activists, government officials, diplomats or researchers focusing on one of Europe's most interesting areas.

Over the last twelve years the region of South East Europe has become more interesting, even though - compared to the years of war and civil strife - developments have become more quiet. All countries of the region have embarked on a course of integration into Europe and have converged on the values of democracy and economic development. The economies of the region have even started to overcome the economic crisis (2008-2010), even though there are still grave social effects (poverty, income inequality, unemployment). We hope that we prepare the students of this programme well enough to follow track of these and other changes in the years to come.

Dimitris A. Sotiropoulos
Programme Director 2010-2011

OUR STUDENTS 2010-2011



This year's dynamic multinational group included students from: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Greece (of course!) Montenegro, Romania, Serbia, Turkey, as well as Australia and Russia.

Our 2010-2011 students included graduates of the *University of Tirana "Enver Hoxha"* in Albania; the *University of Belgrade* in Serbia; the *Babes-Bolyai University* in Romania; *Hacettepe University*, *Istanbul University* and *Dokuz Eylul University*, in Turkey; *Sofia University "St. Kliment Ochridski"* in Bulgaria, the *University of Athens*, *Panteion University* and the *Hellenic Army Academy* in Greece, *Mari State University* in Russia and the *University of New South Wales*, Sydney, Australia.

As usual, their backgrounds were very diverse, including first degrees in Political Science, European Studies, International Relations, Public Administration, Social Anthropology, Law, Economics, Communication and Mass Media, Literature and Civilization of the Black Sea Countries, English Language and Literature, Greek Language, Italian and Spanish Language and Literature.



Scholarship Holders

Seven students of our 2010-2011 group were scholarship holders:

- ***Deniz Dag*** (from Turkey), ***Ivana Jakovljevic***, ***Nevena Kostic*** (from Serbia), ***Milena Milosevic*** (from Montenegro) all won 12-month scholarships from the General Directorate for International Development Cooperation (***Hellenic Aid***) of the Greek Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
- ***Jelena Medan*** (Bosnia and Herzegovina) and ***Nihan Yuksel*** (Turkey) won 12-month scholarships from the ***E1 Directorate for Educational and Cultural Affairs*** of the Greek Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
- ***Elena Pavlova*** (Russia) won a 12-month scholarship for postgraduate studies in Greece from the State Scholarships Foundation (***IKY***) of Greece.

Congratulations to all of you!

SOME HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2010-2011

- **ORIENTATION WEEK VISIT TO THE ACROPOLIS MUSEUM**

We all enjoyed the guided tour of the Acropolis museum and its beautiful collection. This visit gives the chance to the newcomers to get to know each other and to become more familiar with Athens, a few days after their arrival in the Greek capital.



- **DAY TRIP TO HYDRA ISLAND**



The optional day trip to the island of Hydra in the framework of the course Modern and Contemporary History of Southeastern Europe, was initiated by course instructor, Dr Nassia Yakovaki, during the academic year 2009-2010. During this academic year, the trip took place on 15 October 2010, at the beginning of the first semester. Dr Yakovaki accompanied the students

to Hydra where they enjoyed a lecture on Balkan history, a visit to the Historical Archives/Museum of Hydra – and of course a visit to the beach.



- **THE FAREWELL PARTY**



This year the Farewell Party at the University Museum in Plaka took place on 3 June 2009 at 12.00 p.m. with a light buffet lunch.



We all enjoyed the guided tour of the University Museum organised by the Museum staff and once again we thank them for the excellent organisation.



- Another memorable social event occurred at the end of the first semester when Dr. Ritsa Panagiotou invited the group to her house. Among the things that Greeks are famous for is their hospitality!



The four Elenas of the class (Russia, Greece and Bosnia and Herzegovina)



NEXT YEAR'S STUDENTS

The student selection for 2011-2012 was announced in May 2011. Our new student group includes 1 student from Albania, 1 from Bosnia and Herzegovina, 12 from Greece, 1 from Hungary, 1 from Montenegro, 2 from Romania, 1 from Turkey as well as 2 from Britain, 1 from Cyprus, 1 from Canada and 2 from the United States of America.

We are looking forward to meeting all our new students in September!

CURRICULUM NEWS

CURRICULUM 2010-2011

The Programme as taught in 2010-2011 consisted of the following courses:

Winter Semester

➤ ***Politics and History of Southeastern Europe in the Twentieth Century***

Nassia Yakovaki, Assistant Professor, University of Athens.

➤ ***Nationalism in Southeastern Europe***

Pantelis Lekkas, Associate Professor, University of Athens

➤ **European Integration and Southeastern Europe**

Dr. Ritsa Panagiotou, Centre for Planning & Economic Research, Athens

Spring Semester

➤ ***Politics and Society in Contemporary Southeastern Europe***

Associate Professor Dimitrios A. Sotiropoulos, University of Athens with guest lectures by Dr. Ioannis Armakolas, Lecturer, University of Macedonia.

➤ ***Sources of Conflict in Southeastern Europe***

Dr. Ioannis Armakolas, Lecturer, University of Macedonia

➤ **The Political Economy of Transition: The Case of Southeastern Europe**

Dr George Stubos, Research Department, Bank of Greece

GUEST LECTURES, 2010-2011

Guest lectures continue to be an important part of our Programme. During the academic year 2010-2011 the following guest lectures took place:

Professor Panayiotis C. Ioakimidis, University of Athens, Greek Representative to the Intergovernmental Conference for the Nice Treaty (2000) and Alternate Government Representative to the European Convention (2002-03)

- ***“The Nature of the European Union Political System”***, 21 October 2010
- ***“The Lisbon Treaty and After”***, 2 December 2010

Axel Sotiris Walldén, DG Enlargement, European Commission (Head of the Enlargement Strategy Unit)

- ***“The EU's enlargement policy - the Commission's 2010 enlargement reports”***, 3 December 2010

Aristotelis Tsiampiris, Assistant Professor, University of Piraeus

- ***“The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia: the name issue, relations with Greece, and EU accession prospects”***, 10 December 2010

ANNUAL ALUMNUS NETWORK LECTURE

This year's lecture, organised in collaboration with the *Postgraduate Programme in European and International Studies* of the University of Athens, was given by **Professor Jan Zielonka of the University of Oxford** (Friday, 11 March 2011). Below you can find the abstract.

“The EU as an international actor: unique or ordinary?”

It is often argued that the EU is a peculiar if not unique international actor. Unlike other major actors it is a largely civilian power promoting universal norms in its vast neighbourhood and beyond. This paper tests this proposition by comparing the EU's external policy to those of the United States, China and Russia. Five variables are examined: (1) international aspirations and self-images; (2) governance form and structure; (3) means of governance; (4) borders and the scope of governance; and (5) centre-periphery relations. The paper concludes that all four actors share certain important characteristics. They all represent huge territorial units with sizable power resources across various fields. They all consciously apply these power resources to influence if not manipulate domestic politics in their respective peripheries. They all justify their power politics by reference to noble norms and values, but because of its peculiar governance system, fuzzy borders and predominantly civilian policy means, the EU practices its politics differently from the three other actors considered here.

FACULTY COMINGS AND GOINGS

- We said a temporary goodbye to Professor Christos Lyrintzis (*Politics and Society in Contemporary Southeastern Europe* and Programme Director 2006-10) and Assistant Professor Susannah Verney (*European Integration and Southeastern Europe* and Programme Coordinator 2006-10) who were both on academic leave in 2010-11. Both will be back with us in the academic year 2011-12.
- Ruby Gropas (*Sources of Conflict in Southeastern Europe*) spent the academic year 2010-11 as a Visiting Fellow at Stanford University's Center of Democracy, Development and the Rule of Law. Congratulations to Dr Gropas on the birth of her son, Spiros Francis, born in October 2010.
- Welcome to Dr Ritsa Panagiotou (Centre of Planning and Economic Research/ KEPE) who joined us in the academic year 2010-11 to teach the course on *European Integration and Southeastern Europe*.

SOME OF OUR FACULTY ACTIVITIES DURING 2010-2011

- **Ioannis Armakolas** was working throughout the year as Director of Research, *Athens Working Group: Transforming the Balkans*, a programme of the Hellenic Centre for European Studies [details of the project at: <http://www.ekemprogram.org/awg/>] During the year, he presented papers on 'The puzzle of the continuing Bosnian crisis: International policies and local realities' (conference on 'Peace operations and state-building: International initiatives and local perceptions and responses', Tel Aviv University & Science Po, 31 October-2 November 2010, Tel Aviv) and 'Risks to the EU enlargement strategy in Bosnia and Herzegovina' (Roundtable of the Working Group on the Western Balkans, Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, 29 June 2010, Washington DC).
- **Christos Lyrintzis** was awarded the prestigious National Bank of Greece Senior Research Fellowship at the Hellenic Observatory, London School of Economics, where he spent six months from September 2010 to February 2011.

- **Ritsa Panagiotou** was Visiting Fellow, Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies, European University Institute, Florence (May -July 2011)
- **Dimitris Sotiropoulos** presented papers at scientific conferences in Oxford, Athens and Milan on his on-going research on the topics of democratisation, social policies and higher education reform.
- **Susannah Verney** spent November-December 2010 and March 2011 as a Visiting Fellow at the Hellenic Observatory, London School of Economics. In her capacity as Convenor of the Standing Group on Southern European Politics of the European Consortium of Political Research, she convened a Section (8 panels, 44 papers) entitled "Crisis Zone? State Quality and Democratic Quality in Southern Europe" at the ECPR General Conference in Reykjavik, Iceland in August 2011.
- **Nassia Yakovaki**, who joined our Programme in 2009-10, was appointed Assistant Professor in our Department (the Faculty of Political Science and Public Administration at the University of Athens). In February 2011 she presented a paper at the International History Conference in Nicosia, Cyprus on "The patriotism of the expatriates. Diasporas and national consciousness between Europe, the Mediterranean and beyond in the long 19th century" organized by the University of Nicosia, Cyprus & Queen Mary College, University of London. In December 2010 she gave a lecture to the Colloquium of the Postgraduate Programme of the Medieval and Modern Greek Studies of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (22 December 2010) on "Europe and Greece: An exceptional bond revisited" (in Greek).

Selected Publications of our Faculty, 2010-2011

- **Ioannis Armakolas**
 - Volume co-edited with Thanos Dokos: 'From the Balkans to Southeast Europe: Challenges and prospects in the 21st century', Athens, Sideris publications, 2010
 - Editor of special issue 'Southeast Europe at the crossroads', Journal Hellenic Studies 18/2, Autumn 2010.
 - 'The 'paradox' of Tuzla city: Explaining non-nationalist local politics during the Bosnian war', Europe-Asia Studies 63/2, March 2011

- 'Studying identities, political institutions and civil society in contemporary Bosnia – Some conceptual and methodological considerations', *Transitions*, Special issue 'Renegotiating the Polity. Exploring the paths from peace to shared political identities in contemporary Bosnia-Herzegovina' 52/2, Institut de Sociologie de l'ULB/Institut Européen de l'Université de Genève, 2011

- Reconstructing cultural heritage in Bosnia: the case of the Slana Banja memorial complex", FP7 research project: CRIC 'Cultural Heritage and the Reconstruction of Identities after Conflict', <http://www.cric.arch.cam.ac.uk>

- Recent opeds, articles and interviews published in: *Oxford Analytica-Global Strategic Analysis*, *Euractiv*, *Transconflict*, *Dnevni Avaz*, *Utrinski Vesnik*.

➤ **Christos Lyrintzis**

- "Greek Politics in the Era of Economic Crisis: Reassessing Causes and Effects", Hellenic Observatory Papers on Greece and Southeast Europe (GreeSE Papers), March 2011.

➤ **Ritsa Panagiotou**

- "Albania and the European Union: From Isolation to Integration", *Journal of Balkan and Near East Studies*, 13/3, August-September 2011.

- "The Centrality of the United Nations in Russian Foreign Policy", *Journal of Communist Studies and Transition Politics* 27/3, 2011.

- "The Effect of the Global Economic Crisis on Southeast Europe", *Journal of Balkan and Near East Studies* 12/2, June 2010.

- "Economic Developments in Turkey", *Economic Outlook*, Centre of Planning and Economic Research, Vol. 14, January 2011.

- "Recent Developments in the Southeast European Economies", *Economic Outlook*, Centre of Planning and Economic Research, Vol. 13, September 2010.

➤ **George Stubos**

- with Lampros Kalyvas, Ioannis Tsikripis (2010) "Greek Banks' Investment in the Balkans (2002-2007): Profitability and Financial Stability" in *Studies on the Greek Financial System* edited by prof. Ilias Tzavalis, Economic University of Athens Press, pp 185-216

➤ **Dimitris A. Sotiropoulos**

- “Revisiting the debate on national identities in Greece?”, review article *South European Society and Politics* 15/2, June 2010, pages 315-318.
- “Usages of ‘Europe’ in Welfare Policies in Greece, 1981-2010” in *The EU and the Domestic Politics of Welfare State Reforms* edited by Paolo Graziano, Sophie Jacquot and Bruno Palier, London: Palgrave-Macmillan, pp. 121-147.
- (with Calliope Spanou), “The Odyssey of Administrative Reforms in Greece, 1981-2009: A Tale of Two Reform Paths”, *Public Administration*, 89/3, pp. 723-737.

➤ **Susannah Verney**

- Editor of special issue “Euroscepticism in Southern Europe: A Diachronic Perspective”, *South European Society & Politics* 16/1, March 2011, 208 pp., including two self-authored articles, "Euroscepticism in Southern Europe: A Diachronic Perspective", pp. 1-29 and "An Exceptional Case? Party and Popular Euroscepticism in Greece, 1959-2009", pp 51-80. The special issue will be republished as a book by Routledge in Autumn 2011.

WHERE ARE YOU NOW?

News of our ALUMNI

What have you been doing since graduation?

Please share your news with us at

postgrad_SEE@pspa.uoa.gr

Do send a small photo too!

Marina BASSEAS (academic year 2009-2010): I am headed off to Harvard Law School next year. I think my postgraduate year in Athens and my knowledge of Greece played a significant role in being accepted to Harvard.

Boyka BONEVA (academic year 2007-2008): Dear all of you who channeled and organised my curiosity about the Balkans into a professional interest! Thanks to that, in June I participated in a conference in Skopje, "One Decade After the Ohrid Framework Agreement. Lessons (to be) learned from the Macedonian Experience" with a paper: "Bulgaria and Greece as catalytic factors for the European Future of the Western Balkans".

Georgios CHATZIGIAGKOU (academic year 2004-2005): Since graduating from the SEE Programme, I have gained my PhD in Politics from the Department of Politics, University of York (UK). The thesis, 'Enlargement Goes Western Balkans-Croatian Institutions in Time: Sluggish Institutional Evolution, Resilience, and Shallow Europeanisation', was completed under the supervision of Dr Jim Buller. It dealt with the institutional (and policy) consequences of European integration for the Republic of Croatia (in particular examining the EU impact on Croatia's state administration). I received a three-year doctoral scholarship from the Greek State Scholarships Foundation. In recent years, I have worked as a consultant for the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the British Council in Croatia. In particular, I provided consultancy services related to the building of a comprehensive EU National Coordination System in Croatia as well as to public administration reform (in particular, the development of a Technical Proposal for an IPA-funded project on the implementation of the new general administrative procedures regime in Croatia). Currently I'm residing in Zagreb and learning Croatian.

Damla CIHANGIR (academic year 2008-2009): My exciting news is that I have been accepted onto the PhD programme in Political Science at Sabanci University, Istanbul, with a full tuition fee waiver. My PhD will be on Turkey-EU relations and my supervisor will be Professor Meltem Muftuler-Bac, who is a leading expert on this topic. Meanwhile, I continue to work at the Economic Development Foundation in Istanbul as a researcher on Turkey-EU affairs. The Foundation has just published its view on the European Commission's 2011 Progress Report on Turkey, which you can find on our website at www.ikv.org.tr

Isil Cemali DOGAN (academic year 2000-2001): I have been working at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey since 2003. After a posting at the Turkish Embassy in New Delhi, India in 2006-2009, I am now serving at the Turkish Consulate General in Berlin, Germany as Vice Consul. When my assignment in Berlin ends this summer, I will go back to Ankara.

Eftichia GEROKOSTA (academic year 2009-2010): I'm currently working as Administrative Assistant at a Mobile Marketing Solutions company. I found this job about 10 months after finishing the Master's Programme at the University of Athens and I would say that my studies helped in getting the job by certifying my level and quality of education. Last, I am continuing my studies at the University of Athens - again - participating in the e-learning programme "Business Administration".

Ioannis KARAMPELAS (academic year 2000-2001): I continue to serve in the Greek Army as an artillery officer (Captain). My studies in the Postgraduate Programme have helped me a lot with my career in the Army and I'm still thinking to continue my studies to a higher level. I have also established "Southeast Europe Working Group I" in the Institute for Security and Defence Analysis with the participation of several graduates from the Postgraduate Programme in Southeast European Studies and we are actually preparing our first newsletter.

Sophia KYRIAKOPOULOU (academic year 2007-2008). After finishing the MA Programme, I applied for a PhD at the University of Piraeus and started immediately to look for a job as a researcher or research assistant in think tanks and research institutes in Greece, but in both cases without success. Disappointed with the lack of meritocracy and the prevalence of personal friendships/connections in academic circles, and unwilling any more to ask from my family to finance my academic career or any further studies I decided to take my chances and seek for any kind of job. After sending 369 CVs, I was lucky enough to find a post as management consultant in a multinational maritime company in Greece and begin a new career outside the academic system.

Katherine MICHEL: (academic year 2009-2010): I am currently continuing my studies as a Ph.D. student at the University of California, Berkeley. I entered this program in the fall immediately following my time in Athens (August 2010).

George MESTHOS (academic year 2009-2010): I am currently director of Communications, Doane Academy, Burlington, NJ, USA. I started working for CBS in Greece while I was still in the MA and then worked at EKEM until March 2011. I hope to pursue either an M.A. in International Relations or a PhD in Communications.

Marios MOLESKIS (academic year 2009-2010): I am currently a police officer in Cyprus, a job that I found one year after graduation.

Nataliya NIKOLOVA (academic year 2005-2006): I recently published an article on Macedonian migration policies in the *Political Thought Journal* of the Konrad Adenaur Stiftung- Macedonia, issue 32, December. This year I also finished another paper on Bulgarian migration policies towards third country nationals and now will search where to publish it. Thank you for the encouragement that you gave me during my Master studies in Athens, which helped me to go ahead in my career.

Ilias PAPADIMAS (academic year 2008-2009): As a serving Greek army officer, I continue to work in the Army General Staff as an analyst for the SEE region.

Alexandra SAMOULADA (academic year 2003-2004): For the last six months, I have not stopped bumping into SEE Programme alumni abroad! In Vienna I met Christina Chryssanthakopoulou, attachée at the Greek Embassy's Press Office; in Geneva my dear friend and Serbian class mate, Jovana Ceprkic, as a PHD candidate and local academician; and today a Turkish diplomat posted in Geneva, who graduated one year earlier than me. So as alumni we are becoming an integral part of a small world in the international and not only the SEE forum!

Andreas STAMATIOU (academic year 2000-2001): I work for the Secretariat General for Communication and Information- Secretariat General for Mass Media and I was serving as 1st Secretary for Press in the Greek Embassy in Ankara.

Jelena STAJIK (academic year 2002-2003): After graduating I became a teaching assistant in Skopje and at the same time, I am finishing my Phd in Belgrade at the Faculty of Management.

Una TODOROVIC (academic year 2009-2010): I am working in a translation agency in Belgrade as project coordinator, a job that I found 4 months after graduation. I will continue seeking for a job in our field!

Nicoletta VELISSARIOU (academic year 2005-2006): I am currently working at the European Union Rule of Law Mission in Kosovo (CSDP Mission).

Ralitza YOTOVA (academic year 2002-2003): After graduating from the SEE Programme, I studied for an MA in European Politics and Policy at the University of Manchester, UK (with an Open Society Institute scholarship). In 2005 I joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Sofia. I was part of the team engaged with the preparations for Bulgaria's accession during the ratification stage of our country's Accession Treaty. Since July 2008, I have been working in the Permanent Representation of Bulgaria to the EU in Brussels, where I deal with EU Enlargement policy, and more specifically with the countries negotiating for accession (currently Croatia and Turkey).

Nineta ZAIMI (academic year 2009-2010): I continue working as a teacher of English language in Greece.

Programme Administration

Coordinating Committee 2010-2011:

Associate Professor Dimitrios A. Sotiropoulos (Programme Director)

Associate Professor Pantelis Lekkas

Assistant Professor Emmanuella Doussis

NEW COORDINATING COMMITTEE 2011-2012

Professor Christos Lyrintzis (Programme Director)

Associate Professor Dimitrios A. Sotiropoulos

Assistant Professor Emmanuella Doussis

CONTACT

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***Our office is just a few minutes walk from the
Omonoia Metro station and you are all welcome
to come and visit us!***

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When to find us: 10.00 a.m.-2.00 p.m. Monday to Friday

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