

**LETTER
FROM THE
EDITOR-
IN-CHIEF**

Dear Readers,

As Cyprus confronts both constitutional questions and new regional and cultural challenges, *The Cyprus Review* remains committed to advancing critical, interdisciplinary scholarship rooted in the Cypriot experience. In January of 2025, the Journal issued its annual call for nominations for *The Cyprus Review Annual Book Awards*, which once again drew noteworthy new contributions to Cyprological scholarship. On 31st May 2025, the Journal also coorganised – together with the Research Office for Polity and Public Policy of the Cyprus Academy of Sciences, Letters, and Arts, the Department of History and Archaeology of the University of Cyprus, and the School of Law of the University of Nicosia – a symposium dedicated to the life and work of Rodis Roufos, diplomat, writer, and intellectual. Rodis Roufos-Kanakaris (1924–1972) was a distinguished Greek diplomat and author, who played an active role in the Resistance during World War II and later served in key diplomatic posts, including in Cyprus during the EOKA struggle. He was also a celebrated novelist and essayist, known for his literary translations and his principled stance on human rights and civil liberties.

This issue of *The Cyprus Review* brings together five diverse contributions that span constitutional law, EU diplomacy, financial crisis management, public health, and sociolinguistics, each engaging with Cyprus as a unique site of historical interest, cultural identity, and international significance. Alongside the island's long-standing political problem, come state-level developments and urgent societal concerns: from the lasting psychological toll of the COVID-19 pandemic on front-line professionals, to the evolving ways in which Cypriots express their linguistic and cultural identities in digital spaces. The Spring 2025 issue responds to this multifaceted agenda with scholarship that is both analytically rigorous and richly contextual.

We begin with Costas Stratilatis' (University of Nicosia) critical reassessment of the 1964 *Ibrahim* ruling by the Supreme Court of Cyprus, a foundational case in Cypriot constitutional jurisprudence. By engaging with the constitutional theory of Costantino Mortati, Stratilatis challenges the conceptual underpinnings of the doctrine of necessity. His critique sheds new light on the normative commitments implicit in constitutional interpretation.

In the second contribution, Giovanni Parente (Maynooth University) examines Cyprus' unexpected influence in shaping European Union maritime security policy. Through a detailed analysis of Cypriot participation in EU naval operations between 2008 and 2024, the article illustrates how a small island state has managed to assert diplomatic leadership, particularly during the 2012 EU Council Presidency and in the context of the *Amalthea* maritime corridor for Gaza. Parente's case study reinforces the view that strategic vision and normative alignment can yield real influence within supranational institutions, even for smaller member states.

Turning to economic policy, Themis Anthrakidis (University of Macedonia) and Nikos Astroulakis (Hellenic Open University) explore the political economy of the Cyprus bail-in, implemented during the 2013–2016 economic adjustment programme. Framed within both orthodox and heterodox economic theories, the article identifies a paradigmatic shift in EU crisis response, away from bailout models toward a neoclassical emphasis on moral hazard and individual responsibility. The authors situate Cyprus at a turning point in the evolution of European financial governance, raising important questions about policy consistency, solidarity, and distributive justice.

In the public health sphere, Christina Michailidou (University of Nicosia), Irene-Chrysovalanto Themistocleous (University of Nicosia), Stelios Hadjisavvas (University of Nicosia), and Anthi Kellari (University of Thessaly), offer an empirical assessment of burnout, fatigue, and job stress among healthcare professionals in Cyprus and Greece during the first year of the COVID-19 pandemic. Using standardised measurement tools across a sizeable sample, the study reveals high levels of psychological strain and a direct negative correlation with quality of life. Their findings serve as a crucial reminder of the need for sustained governmental action to support and protect healthcare professionals, whose well-being is vital to institutional resilience.

Finally, Maria Kouvarou (University of Cyprus) delves into the intersection of language, digital culture, and identity with a study of how Cypriot Greek lyrics are

rendered in writing on YouTube. In a context where Cypriot Greek remains uncoded and unofficial, Kouvarou explores the stylistic and orthographic choices of lyricists who post their songs online. She asks whether these practices should be read as acts of cultural reappropriation and identity assertion, or simply as idiosyncratic visual transcriptions of oral performance. The article offers a fresh perspective on how language becomes a terrain for both aesthetic expression and socio-political meaning in the digital age.

Together, these contributions reflect the intellectual diversity and critical depth that define *The Cyprus Review*. Whether addressing legal doctrine, geopolitical strategy, economic paradigms, healthcare realities, or cultural representation, this issue affirms the enduring relevance of Cyprological scholarship to regional and global debates alike. As with every issue, this Spring edition is also enriched by our Book Review section, which features seven reviews of recent Cyprological scholarship.

As always, we extend our sincere thanks to our authors, peer reviewers, and readers. Your continued engagement makes this journal possible and sustains its mission to provide high-quality, interdisciplinary research focused on Cyprus and its place in the world.

Christina Ioannou
Editor-in-Chief