

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

Dear Readers,

The fall 2025 issue of *The Cyprus Review* arrives at a moment when the study of Cyprus continues to expand in depth, scope, and international relevance. Researchers across disciplines are revisiting long-standing questions about conflict, governance, identity, society, and heritage, while also opening new lines of inquiry shaped by contemporary global challenges. These developments remind us that Cyprus – often approached as a unique case – also offers a prism through which broader academic debates can be re-examined: from state-building and political memory to cultural resilience, social transformations and regional dynamics in the Eastern Mediterranean.

For scholarly journals, this environment brings both opportunities and responsibilities. We face a field that is increasingly enriched by methodological plurality, collaborative research practices and cross-border scholarly exchange. At the same time, the expectations placed on academic publishing, namely greater transparency, sustained ethical standards, digital accessibility and meaningful impact, continue to evolve. *Our Journal* remains committed to navigating this shifting landscape by ensuring that our processes uphold academic integrity, by supporting emerging and established scholars alike, and by cultivating a space where insightful, critical, and empirically grounded work can flourish.

At the heart of our activities this year was our Cyprus Review Annual Book Awards (CRABA) Ceremony, which was held on 3rd November 2025. Like every year, our aim was to honour outstanding monographs that engage with Cyprus and were published in 2024, thus highlighting the vitality and breadth of contemporary scholarship on Cyprus across different disciplines. I am delighted to highlight the awardees and honourable mentions, who exemplify the depth, originality and scholarly ambition we strive for. The Lifetime Achievement Award was conferred this year to two established researchers: In the field of History and Political Science, to Sotiris Rizas, for his multifaceted and diachronic research and writing on the modern history of Cyprus, which is distinguished by the thorough use of primary archival sources; in the field of Social Sciences, the Lifetime Achievement Award was conferred to Kyprianos Louis, in recognition of his tireless research and writing contribution to education and the advancement of archival research in Cyprus.

The ‘Stanley Kyriakides Award in Political Sciences’ was conferred to Stella Theodorou for her book *Street Naming and the Politics of Greek-Cypriot Identity* (Palgrave Macmillan), a compelling study of memory, symbolism, and political contestation in public space. The ‘Kostas Kyrris Award in History’ was awarded to Michalis Stavri for his monograph *Nikolaos Katalanos: His Contribution to the Political, Social and Ideological Movement in Cyprus (1893–1921)* (Rizes), an in-depth exploration of a formative yet understudied figure in Cyprus’ modern political history. The ‘Peter Loizos Award in Social Sciences’ was presented to Theodoros Kouros for his work *Tactical Citizenships: Encounters with Everyday State in the Republic of Cyprus* (Berghahn), a rich ethnographic account of state-citizen interactions that illuminates the subtleties of everyday governance. Two ‘Honourable Mentions’ were also awarded: to Maria Achilleos for *Η κοινωνία της Ρωμαϊκής Κύπρου βάσει επιγραφικών δεδομένων και αρχαιολογικών μαρτυριών υπό το πρίσμα του εκρωμαϊσμού τ. Ι-ΙΙ* (Κέντρο Επιστημονικών Ερευνών), a contribution to Roman-period social history; and to Maria Matthaïou and Argyro Xenophontos for *Τα Παραμύθια της Κύπρου* (Κέντρο Επιστημονικών Ερευνών), a significant study and preservation effort of Cyprus’ folkloric traditions.

We extend our warmest congratulations to all awardees and honourees. Their work exemplifies the intellectual rigour, originality and public relevance that the CRABA initiative seeks to highlight each year. Special thanks as always, to all the participants and to the Scientific Committees that examined these works. Our new Call for nominations for the CRABA 2026, for books published in 2025, can be found on our website and at the end of this issue.

The collection of articles in this issue delve once again into a wide array of scientific disciplines, thus exploring a diversity of research topics. The first article, by Christos Papastylianos (University of Nicosia), deals with *the causes of the Constitutional breakdown of 1963*, thus revisiting one of the most pivotal episodes in the constitutional history of Cyprus. Moving beyond explanations that attribute the constitutional crisis solely to defective design or the imposed nature of the independence settlement, the study brings to the forefront the role of constitutional actors themselves – specifically, the perceptions they held about their institutional authority and the narratives that shaped these perceptions. By critically re-examining the underlying premises of the 1960 constitutional order, Papastylianos offers an important contribution to constitutional scholarship and deepens our understanding of how interpretive practices and political attitudes contributed to the paralysis that unfolded in 1963.

In their co-authored study on *the effect of Covid-19 on financial performance and financial distress of firms*, Melita Charitou (University of Nicosia), Petros Lois (University of Nicosia) George Loizides (University of Nicosia / University of Cyprus / Cyprus Fiscal Council) and Katerina Morphi (University of Nicosia), provide a rigorous empirical assessment of the economic fallout of the pandemic. Using regression analysis across Portugal, Italy, Greece, Spain, and Cyprus, the authors show significant deterioration in key financial indicators during 2020, with Cyprus and Spain experiencing substantial declines in profitability and heightened distress. Their analysis of the Altman Z-Score highlights sectoral vulnerabilities – from the acute impact on retail trade to the elevated bankruptcy risks in manufacturing. The findings illuminate the structural weaknesses exposed by COVID-19 and offer valuable insights into the resilience and fragilities of Southern European economies.

The contribution of Edgar Hovhannisyan (Armenian State Pedagogical University) and Alexander-Michael Hadjilyra (Independent Researcher), on *the re-organisation of the Armenian Community of Cyprus after the Genocide*, brings new historical depth to an understudied dimension of Cypriot social history. Drawing on Armenian-language sources, some available in English for the first time, the article traces how refugees of the Armenian Genocide restructured their communal institutions on the island. The study places particular emphasis on the Armenian Prelature of Cyprus and its central role in rebuilding communal life, maintaining cultural identity, and integrating Armenians into the socio-political fabric of Cyprus. This work not only enriches Cypriot historiography, but also provides a valuable case study for understanding mechanisms of community formation within the wider Armenian diaspora.

In his manuscript on *the protection of personal data*, George Tsaousis (University of Nicosia) offers a timely legal analysis of data protection as a fundamental right within the EU and its reception in Cyprus. The article traces the evolution of EU data protection law from the 1995 Directive to the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), highlighting both harmonisation efforts and areas of national discretion. Tsaousis critically examines how Cyprus has implemented the GDPR, identifying several ‘national peculiarities’ and inconsistencies that challenge the Regulation’s core principles. He further assesses the role and effectiveness of the national Data Protection Commissioner, raising important questions about institutional capacity and cultural attitudes toward privacy. The article ultimately underscores the significant safeguards afforded by the EU framework, while reflecting on the gaps that persist in national practice.

The articles section concludes with Stella Mala's (University of Nicosia) piece on fake news and hate speech, which tackles one of the most pressing regulatory challenges of the digital age. Mala explores the intersection of disinformation, AI-generated deepfakes, and hate speech – a convergence that poses growing threats to democratic processes and social cohesion. Anchored in European human rights law, the Rabat Plan of Action, and the Digital Services Act, the analysis examines the responsibilities and limits of online intermediaries in moderating harmful content. By emphasising both the dangers of unchecked digital manipulation and the risks of over-regulation, the article makes a compelling case for carefully calibrated safeguards that protect free expression while countering emerging digital harms.

As always, the issue is enriched with our Book Review Section, which presents recent bibliographical research pertaining to Cyprus. This section continues to serve as a vital complement to our peer-reviewed articles, by engaging with recently published works that shape, challenge and expand the field of Cypriological studies. Through critical assessments of both scholarly monographs and specialised publications, this section aims to review significant contributions, and serve as a space where current scholarship is contextualised, evaluated and connected to broader conversations within the academic community.

As we move forward, our Journal continues to welcome rigorous submissions across our thematic horizon – not only in history, politics and law, but in the social sciences broadly interpreted, cultural studies, education, governance, migration, identity, and the many ways Cyprus is both a case and a lens in wider comparative and global debates. Our goal is to broaden even further the scope of Cyprus-related scholarship, in a historically nuanced, theoretically informed, and empirically grounded research that engages critically with the complexities of Cyprus. I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to all our authors, reviewers and editorial staff for their commitment and scholarly generosity. It is your work that sustains The Cyprus Review as a vital platform for Cypriological inquiry. I encourage our readers to engage with this issue's articles, to challenge, reflect, and build upon them – for scholarship thrives when it is read and debated.

Christina Ioannou
Editor-in-Chief