

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

Dear Readers

As the year 2018 is about to come to its full cycle, I am proud to present you with the second issue of Volume 30. Writing this editorial note has led to a lot of introspection and retrospection; for as it dawns upon me that the Journal is turning 30 years old, I am cast back to my own first encounters with *The Cyprus Review*, when I was still a PhD student. Like me at the time, there are many Cyprological researchers that feel this Journal as their 'go-to place' to kick off their research. Indeed, in the 30 years since *The Cyprus Review* published its first issue in 1989, this Journal's papers have been read by thousands of people around the world, who focus on Cyprological research, or simply have an interest in these fields. At the end of the current issue we look back at this 30-year article collection, through the publication of a chronological index that was compiled by my Consulting Editor Achilles C. Emilianides and which contains all articles ever published in the *Review* since 1989.

This issue adopts the very familiar University of Nicosia 'Think Big' motto by extending its thematic boundaries further and featuring a Guest-Edited Section on a cutting-edge topic that goes beyond the Journal's traditional spheres of interest. As we are on the cusp of the fourth industrial revolution and a wide range of technologies are transforming the world we live in, our Journal cannot ignore the (exponential) effects that the adoption of cyber-physical systems, the Internet of Things and the Internet of Systems will potentially have at a Cyprological context at various sectors. This special section is entitled 'The Emerging Blockchain Revolution and its Implications for Cyprus', and my appreciation for it goes out to its Guest Editor, namely Prof. George Giaglis, Director of the Institute For the Future (IFF) at the University of Nicosia. Prof. Giaglis' professionalism throughout the process was exemplary and I would like to thank him for an amazing collaboration, and for giving me the chance to read manuscripts from a discipline that I would not normally have confronted in my academic routine. Special thanks are also due to Profs Makridakis and Michailidis, as well as Drs Themistocleous, P. Christodoulou, K. Christodoulou, Andreou, Stefanou and Iosif, for their inspiring contributions.

Our fall issue also features a policy paper by Prof. Andreas Theophanous, which focuses on the current state of the economy of Cyprus and discusses the challenges that still need to be addressed six years after the collapse of the country's banking sector in March 2013. In this respect, the challenges of non-performing loans, high private debt and persisting structural unemployment, as well as the need to improve the competitiveness of the economy, are examined. The author remains determined that Cyprus needs a comprehensive economic paradigm including new engines of growth; the need to adopt a new economic model requires high-calibre strategic thinking and policy implementation.

The main Articles section of this issue sets off with a stimulating piece on populism, by Charalambous, that discusses the various ways in which the discursive construction of a people and

practices of otherisation have manifested themselves in Greek Cypriot political discourse. Through a systematic analysis of populist frames on the island, the author argues that these have proved pervasive across time and political space, yet they have not so far been forcefully combined into a single, classical and above all populist, institutional agent.

Trimikliniotis' article focuses on the proliferation of 'Cypriot states of exception'. He argues that, despite signs in the early 2000s for potential for a demise of the 'Cypriot states of exception', these were not superseded by a rights-based normality via the resolution of the Cyprus problem and accession to the EU. What has been witnessed instead, since then, is a process of proliferation of 'regimes of exception' and derogation of rights. The author proposes a schematic theoretical critique to go beyond the logic of 'states of exception'.

In an article that comes from the field of law, Koukiadis examines the contribution of legal transplantation to the formation of mixed legal systems and the unique case of Cyprus, which is an amalgamation of legal cultures that transcend the traditional boundaries of civil and common law jurisprudence. In this context, Koukiadis delves into the concept of 'hybridity', which aims at analysing, and perhaps solving, the problems one is faced with when trying to bridge the gap between civil and common law, state and non-state norms, positive and natural law, legal centralization and normative polycentricity.

Turning to the public administration sphere, Kirlappos investigates the Cypriot local government system and examines the attempts for reform triggered by the implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding in the period 2013-2016. Using urban and circular Europeanisation as his main analytical tools, the author analyses the effects of European integration on the local government reform attempts and examines how alterations in capacities acted as mediating factors.

With a focus on the Cyprus Tourism Sector, Antonaras studies the idea of corporate social responsibility and how organisations of the Cyprus tourism sector perceive, understand and apply this concept. Perceptions at the Tourism Sector in relation to the global sustainable development goals are further investigated, with the ultimate aim to assist organisations of the Cyprus Tourism Sector to better understand the current challenges and set their priorities on how to align corporate social responsibility-related activities to the global sustainable development goals.

Finally, Kougioumtsidis, Lois and Repousis present the numerous and varied legislative provisions and initiatives in Cyprus to reduce illegal movement of funds and money laundering, with a focus on the issue of transparency, in order to understand the entire chain structure behind the crime of money laundering through Trusts and Ultimate Beneficial Owner. As money laundering is inextricably linked with anonymity, and under the provisions voted in 2012 Cyprus must ensure that beneficial ownership information is stored in a central registry located outside the company, the authors argue that this greater transparency over the identity of Ultimate Beneficial Owner is bound to act as a deterrent to misconduct.

For this issue to become a reality a number of people have worked very hard and I wish to

thank my Editorial Team, Editorial Board, as well as the reviewers and contributors to this issue for their collective work. I am however particularly grateful for this Volume to two very special members of my Editorial Board that have been truly invaluable in the process: Prof. Constantinos Phellas, Vice Rector for Faculty and Research and Prof. Dimitris Drikakis, Vice President for Global Partnerships, at the University of Nicosia. Their drive and commitment in this endeavour in the past months have been a true motive force and I am thankful that they have almost felt an ‘ownership stake’ in the Journal. Last but not least, a very big thank you to all our readers for their sustained interest in our Journal in the last 30 years.

Christina Ioannou
Editor-in-Chief