

**NOTE  
TO THE  
SPECIAL  
SECTION**

**Dear Readers,**

In these times of perplexity and contestation, when fundamental values upon which the post-war order has been erected are challenged, while new threats, like the global pandemic, try to make their mark on the Anthropocene, moments of intellectual serendipity are of paramount importance. Such moments have been encapsulated in the following pages, featuring a vast range of contributions, including original research, on several sub-sectors of gender studies, always in a Cyprological perspective. We take this opportunity, to commend on the authors' unique vision of a Cyprus-oriented gender sensitive research, and –especially– their intellectual boldness, motivating more scholars and researchers to include such topics in their agenda.

The present section is the scholarly outcome of the *Review's* Spring 2020 Call on *Gender in Cyprus: Equality, Rights, and Beyond*. As stated in the aforementioned Call, gender, much like all proto-societal notions, bears significant philosophical, political, economic, legal, and even metaphysical connotations. In recent decades, the collective *topos* of gender, feminist, queer, sexual diversity, and LGBTQI+ studies has experienced a prolific development. However, topical studies in the national, local, and domestic context are still scarce. This was the ultimate cause for opening the Call mentioned above and the intended contribution of the present special section; to activate, promote, and substantiate the debate on gender studies *lato sensu* through an acclaimed intellectual platform of Cyprological studies, *The Cyprus Review*.

The section begins with Maria Angeli's contribution entitled 'Constructing and Deconstructing Gender Stereotypes Across Cyprus' Schools', a research paper aiming to obtain insight into the reproduction of gender stereotypes across Cyprus' schools, record good practices, and strike a blow to the phenomenon of entrenched gender inequality. This is followed by Magdalene Antreou's article on 'Women Bank Shareholders in Cyprus (1913-1930): Bridging 'Separate Spheres' in a Family Type Economy'. This paper, based on archival research, seeks to challenge the master narrative of 'separate spheres' and to discuss women's investment activity within a family framework. Christiana Cleridou's contribution entitled 'The Impact of the

EU Accession on Promoting Equal Pay and Female Voices in Cyprus' discusses the impact of EU accession on the national industrial relations system and on the involvement of social partners and civil society in the legislative process, including the post-accession development of NGOs specialising in women's issues. This is followed by Ioannis P. Giokaris' and Maria Eleni Pouliasi's original research paper, entitled 'To Tax or Not to Tax? Tampon Taxes and Gender (In)Equality: The Cyprus Case-Study', focusing on an important question, which was recently placed at the centre of the public debate. Then, Maria Photiou takes the lead with her contribution on 'Gendered Narratives in Adamantios Diamantis' *The World of Cyprus*' exploring gender relations and socio-political conditions in patriarchal Cyprus under the lens of Diamantis' work. This is followed by Marilena Zackheos article, entitled 'The Lesbian Space of Contemporary Greek-Cypriot Art', which traces the ways Greek-Cypriot self-confessed lesbian artist Charitini Kyriakou takes up space in her visual work. Finally, the special section concludes with Andreas Hadjigeorgiou's paper, entitled 'Republic of Cyprus: A Right to (Gender) Equality?', which discusses the jurisprudential underpinnings of gender equality.

**Dimitrios A. Kourtis**