

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

Dear Readers,

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to be part of our daily lives, one can safely conclude that by now it has affected us all in one way or another. At a global scale, the pandemic has deeply penetrated people's lives far beyond the mere health perspective. As societies worldwide have had to adapt to a 'new reality' and become part of a 'new normal', people were forced to accept new working realities and social norms. At the same time, the socio-economic, as well as the political landscapes, came face to face with many new challenges. In response to this, we decided to devote a Special Issue to the ongoing scientific debate on the foundational questions raised by the pandemic, the threats, challenges, and possible opportunities created, as well as the doctrinal assessment of the systemic responses provided vis-à-vis this latest predicament.

This Special Issue is entitled '*COVID-19 in Doctrinal Context: Analysing, Theorising, and Surpassing the Pandemic Crisis*' and includes eight papers in total that view the effects of the pandemic from a wide variety of thematic angles. It begins with an article by Petros Lois and Spyros Repousis, which is an original study on cashless society and the impact of COVID-19 on cash in Greece and Cyprus. This is followed by Ioannis Rossidis and Dimitrios Belias' contribution, which looks into the prospect of transforming the pandemic crisis into an opportunity for administrative upgrading. The article by Giorgos Tsaousis, which immediately follows, discusses the implications of the pandemic on human rights and the right to health. Ioannis Kastanas' contribution to this Special Issue touches upon the effects of the pandemic on the autonomy of religious institutions, using the Orthodox Church of Cyprus as a case study. Charis Vlados and Dimos Chatzinikolaou examine some of the recent sociological and economic implications of the pandemic in the context of global transformation. This is followed by Vasiliki Kapogianni's discussion of the UN peacekeeping mechanisms and the political-legal stakes of policies implemented in Cyprus during the pandemic. In the final two articles, Petros Petrikos explores the effects of the pandemic on hybrid threats faced by Cyprus, and Andrea Manoli studies the effects of the pandemic on domestic violence in the Cypriot context.

As always, the Issue signs off with the customary Book Review Section, which this time features, among others, an impressive review of 11 legal books by Polyvios (Polys) Polyviou published between 2016-21, as well as our latest Calls for Papers. With the objective of contributing to the development and proliferation of studies on minority questions focusing on Cyprus, our first Call for Papers is entitled '*Minority Groups in Cyprus: A Critical Reappraisal*'. Our second Call for Papers is entitled '*The State and Organised Social Groups in the Republic of Cyprus*', and it intends to serve as a platform for inter-disciplinary studies in the domain of institutions and the nature, quality and challenges of contemporary democracy in Cyprus.

Christina Ioannou
Editor-in-Chief