

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

Dear Readers,

Artificial Intelligence (AI) has emerged as a transformative force, revolutionising industries, enhancing decision-making processes, and reshaping the way we live and work. The advancement of AI presents us with immense opportunities, but it also poses multifaceted challenges that cannot be ignored. This applies to research and academic writing. It is imperative to acknowledge and address the challenges that AI presents and it is crucial to prioritise the ethical integration of AI into society in this and other fields.

To this end, collaboration between researchers, policy-makers, industry leaders, and the wider public, is crucial in shaping AI's trajectory. We should harness the potential of AI while safeguarding human values, fairness, and societal well-being. Academic research and dialogue, as well as its societal impact, has to remain human-centric, and we must now – more than ever before – strive to ensure that academic standards and ethics are met and respected. These are values we hold in high regard in our Journal. So, as we navigate the path ahead, and while Industry 5.0 seeks to strike a balance between human and machine involvement, let us address the challenges head-on and embark on this journey with caution, foresight, and a steadfast commitment to shaping an AI-powered future that benefits all.

It is with immense pleasure that I welcome in the CR Editorial Team a new Publications Editor, namely Petros Petrikkos. Petros is a PhD Candidate in International Relations and European Studies at the Department of Politics and Governance of the School of Law, University of Nicosia. His thesis examines the ontological security management of small EU member-states like Cyprus and Estonia in response to irregular and technological warfare, such as hybrid threats. Petros has extended reviewer and editorial experience, as he has previously held the post of Managing and Reviews Editor at the Studies in Ethnicity and Nationalism (SEN) Journal published by Wiley, where he still serves as a Consultative Editorial Board Member. I wish Petros every bit of success in his new role in the CR Editorial family.

This issue features five papers: the first, by Michalis Kontos (University of Nicosia), on state power, ideology, and societal beliefs in Cyprus, examines how civil society and opinion leaders incorporate affairs related to state power and inter-state

power distribution in their beliefs and assessments. In doing so, the author considers how society in a small state perceives uneven power relations.

The second paper, by Dionysis Panos (Cyprus University of Technology) and Stella Theocharous (Cyprus University of Technology), is a study on meta-memory in Cyprus through an empirical exploration of a new conceptual schema for understanding ethnic conflict in the country. More specifically, the authors examine the way intractable conflict is constructed by the transmission of memories from generations with lived experience of the conflict, and the personal experiences that the current generation has of contemporary events. In this context, they also explore the ways in which the political leaderships in both communities attempt to influence young Cypriots' conceptual framing of themselves and their imaginary other.

The third paper in this issue is by Jennifer Airiarebhe Aigbiremhon (Taraba State University), Buhari Shehu Miapyen (Taraba State University), Kayıhan Çırakoğlu (Taraba State University), Nguh Nwei Asanga Fon (International Governance Institute Cameroon), Gizem Çırakoğlu (Taraba State University) and Nsemba Edward Lenshie (University of Nigeria). Here the authors adopt a comparative method to evaluate and analyse the Cypriot and Colombian peace processes, through the lens of women's participation in formal peace negotiations. The authors acknowledge that, even though there are differences in the cultures and contexts of the two peace processes, the peace and negotiation processes in Cyprus have some lessons to learn from the Colombian peace negotiation model in relation to women participation.

The fourth paper is by Ioannis Rossidis (University of Nicosia), Athanasios Mihiotis (Hellenic Open University), Nikitas Koutsoukis (University of the Peloponnese) and Angelos Ntalakos (University of Thessaly) It explores the effect of digital transformation on the development of e-governance in Cyprus and Greece. The authors focus on an analysis of the Digital Economy and Society Index (DESI) for Cyprus and Greece and assess the digital maturity of the countries by identifying problems and gaps, as well as opportunities for improvement.

The final paper in this issue, by Petros Lois (University of Nicosia) and Spyros Repousis (University of Nicosia), examines the economic relations and the import-export balance in Greek-Turkish and Cypriot-Turkish trade in the period 2010-2021. In their analysis, the authors make an assessment on the increasing need to improve bilateral political relations and resolve bilateral problems in order for the countries to improve trade cooperation.

As always, the issue is enriched with reviews of a wide thematic range of books that are Cyprological in nature. More specifically, 19 reviews are included herein of recent bibliographical research pertaining to Cyprus.

As always, I wish to express my sincere gratitude and appreciation to everyone involved in the publication of this issue: the authors who contributed their insightful research and thought-provoking perspectives, enriching our publication and adding depth to the discourse surrounding the featured topics; the diligent peer reviewers who provided valuable feedback and constructive criticism, helping to ensure the quality and rigour of the articles; the book reviewers, who dedicated their time and expertise to write their contributions; the editorial team for the whole coordination process and tireless commitment to excellence. Everyone's dedication to maintaining high standards has been instrumental in shaping this issue. Lastly, I would like to thank you, our readers, for your continued support and engagement. It is indeed your enthusiasm and interest that motivate us to bring forth meaningful content.

Christina Ioannou
Editor-in-Chief