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Department of History and Philosophy of Science

Newsletter no. 13 **April-June 2026**

The **Newsletter** of the **Department of History and Philosophy** of **Science (HPS)** aims to inform about activities of its members of staff and students. The History and Philosophy of Science is an interdisciplinary academic field, which studies science as a complex historical, social, and cultural phenomenon and highlights the philosophical dimensions of its theories and practice. It examines the philosophical, conceptual, and historical approaches to science in general, as well as to a variety of particular research fields, including the humanities and social sciences, natural sciences, psychology and cognitive sciences, life and medical sciences, mathematics and logic, and new technologies. The faculty members of the Department include some of the world experts in their respective fields, while several of the members lead or collaborate in international research projects. The Department consists of three Divisions: History of Science and Technology, Philosophy and Theory of Science, and Technology, and Cognitive Science. It offers the sole undergraduate programme of studies on History and Philosophy of Science in Greece and 9 postgraduate programmes of studies in both Greek and English, which cover a wide range of philosophical topics, the history of science and technology, studies in society, science and technology, digital humanities and augmented textual studies, and cognitive psychology. HPS is among the highest rated of humanities departments in Greece, in terms of international research citations.

Awards – Distinctions

• **AWARD OF DISTINCTION** for the **JustAgro** digital platform and application for participatory foresight in just sociotechnical systems and transformations in the INNOVATION COMPETITION 2026 of the NATIONAL AND KAPODISTRIAN UNIVERSITY OF ATHENS. The award was awarded to **Stathis Arapostathis**, Professor of Science, Technology and Society at the Department of History and Philosophy of Science of the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, for his distinction in the Innovation Competition 2026, organized by the Technology Transfer and Innovation Unit "Archimedes," in the scientific field of Social Sciences. The research team of the Laboratory of Science, Technology and Innovation in Society (STiS): Vassiliki Karantzavelou, Yannis Fotopoulos, Sotiris Alexakis, Dimitris Lagouvardos, Giorgos Stavroulakis.

• Professor **Vassilios Karakostas**' book ″**Philosophy of Physics. Space and Time, Quantum Theory and Reality**″ (Gutenberg, 2024) has been proposed by the State Literary Awards committee of the Ministry of Culture as a candidate for the **2025 State Essay Award.**

• **Aristotle Tympas**, professor at the DPHS/NKUA, and **Theodore Lekkas**, holder of a PHD degree from the same department who works as high school teacher, were selected for an NKUA **award** from the **Endowment 'P. Koskorozis'**, for the writing of a book titled ***Histories of Information Technology: Global and Local, from the Logarithmic Rule to the Computer*** (the award is accompanied by financial support of 12,750 euros).

• A research group coordinated by **Aristotle Tympas**, professor at the DPHS/NKUA, which includes **Cornelia Papanastasiou Toli**, **Elli Danae Vartziotis**, **Konstantinos Sioumalas-Christodoulou** (doctoral candidates) and **Jason Spilios** (postdoctoral researcher), was selected for an **award** in the context of the **2026 Innovation Competition of the NKUA Technology Transfer and Innovation Unit 'Archimedes'**. Thematic field: **Humanities** (Prize: 6,500 euros). Proposal Title: **"Opening the 'Black Boxes' of Existential Threats, from Artificial Intelligence to the Environmental Crisis and Genetic Engineering: Innovating with Platforms and Games"** (Description-Team-Publications of Relevance to the Awarded Proposal).

• **Elli Danae Vartziotis**, doctoral student at the DHPS/NKUA (dissertation advisor: Aristotle Tympas), researcher at the NKUA Observatory for Research on Existential Threats, has been awarded a **Visiting Scholarship at the Rachel Carson Center for Environment and Society (RCC)**, in Munich, Germany. In June 2026 she was in residence at the Center, working on a project titled **"Contextualizing the connection between AI and the environmental crisis: Perspectives from the Environmental Humanities."** Ellie was also awarded a **Technopolitics and European Democracy (TPE) Doctoral Fellowship at New York University's Remarque Institute** for the spring semester of 2027.

• **Giannis Perperidis**, a PhD holder in Philosophy of Technology, who has worked as a postdoctoral researcher in the EU projects "ETHICS4CHALLENGES" and "Tethics: A Serious Game for Innovative Education in Ethics of Technology" programs (NKUA coordinator: Aristotle Tympas), was a **research fellow** (with an annual scholarship for the year 2025-2026) at the **Center for Greek Studies of Harvard University (Center for Hellenic Studies, Harvard University)**, for research on AI ethics. His research proposal, titled "**Envisioning Ethical Artificial Intelligence through Commons-based Open Design Principles**", was focused on the study of Artificial Intelligence through the concept of "openness".

• **Jason Spilios**, holder of a PhD degree in philosophy from DHPS/NKUA, who has worked as postdoctoral researcher in the EU projects "ETHICS4CHALLENGES", and "Tethics: A Serious Game for Innovative Education in Ethics of Technology", and currently works in the EU project "BloomingAI" (NKUA coordinator: Aristotle Tympas), was selected as an **Academic Fellow** for **2026** by the **Research Center for the Humanities (RCH)**, on the grounds of a research proposal titled "**A Critical Appraisal of the Concept of 'Existential Risk': Polycrisis and the Need for Localization".**

Research News

PhD thesis by Maria Gkoutsia

Title: The contribution of Aristotelian virtue ethics to organizational transformation in the post-COVID-19 era: Philosophical dimensions and practical implications

Language: English.

Supervisor: George Gotsis

Completion date: June 3, 2025.

Abstract

This dissertation investigates the transformative potential of Aristotelian virtue ethics as both a philosophical and practical framework for organizational transformation in the post-COVID-19 era. Employing the COVID-19 pandemic as a multidimensional case study, it critically examines the political, economic, social, psychological, and organizational vulnerabilities being manifest during the crisis, arguing that the pandemic revealed not only a global health emergency, but also a profound moral and societal crisis rooted in the limitations of contemporary profit-driven systems. The study explores the diverse governmental and organizational responses to the pandemic and analyzes how ideological, cultural, and ethical factors shaped decision-making processes and crisis-management strategies worldwide. Particular emphasis is placed on the structural weaknesses of contemporary organizational models, the intensification of social inequalities, the erosion of social trust, and the urgent need for resilient, human-centered, and ethically conscious forms of leadership and management.

Drawing upon Aristotelian virtue ethics, the dissertation develops an interdisciplinary framework that integrates moral philosophy, organizational studies, leadership theory, and sustainability ethics. The author convincingly argues that virtues such as practical wisdom, intertwined with virtuous leadership and the cultivation of ethical organizational cultures, constitute essential foundations for organizational flourishing and long-term societal well-being.

Ultimately, the dissertation proposes a new paradigm of organizational philosophy that transcends short-term profit maximization and reorients organizational activity toward collective well-being, human flourishing, sustainability, moral

responsibility, and the humanization of contemporary business environments. By bridging theoretical analysis with practical organizational applications, this study aims to contribute to the development of a more ethical, responsible and human-centered organizational paradigm in an increasingly uncertain world. The author suggests that beyond Aristotelian virtue ethics, other approaches to organizational virtue (eg Confucian, Thomistic), or other relational ethical traditions (eg ethics of care) could equally serve this major endeavor of organizational transformation toward humaneness, inclusiveness and the unconditional affirmation of human dignity.

Past Events – Talks

• The series of talks organized in the context of the Graduate Programme "Logic" continued and concluded for the academic year 2025–26. The following talks took place after February:
24 March, R. Sklinos, Chinese Academy of Science, "An invitation to hyperbolic groups (from a model theoretic perspective)".
21 April, A. Piccolomini d'Aragona, University of Tübingen, "Prawitzian proof-theoretic semantics from 1970 to 2026".
26 May, Y. Souldatos, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, "Introduction to abstract elementary classes".

• The seminar series of the **Master's Program in Cognitive Science** (https://cogsci.phs.uoa.gr) continued with lectures by:
- **Yannis Delis**, Associate Professor at the National Technical University of Athens, "The spatiotemporal architecture of perceptual decision-making: when the senses converge in the brain," Friday, **April 24**, 2026, and
- **Fanis Panagiotaropoulos**, Assistant Professor of Cognitive Neuroscience at the University of Athens, "The role of the prefrontal cortex in conscious perception," Friday, **May 22**, 2026.

• Professor **Theodore Arabatzis** participated in the presentation of the book titled "A Short Philosophical Anatomy of the Digital" (Scientific Editors: Golfo Maggini – Giannis Perperidis), published by the BOOK INSTITUTE – KARDAMITSA, which took place at the Historical Archive of the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens (NKUA), 45 Skoufa Street, on **Monday, April 27**, 2026.

• Professor **Chrysostomos Mantzavinos** participated in a roundtable event at Ca' Foscari University of Venice: "What Science for What Society?", on **May 5**, 2026.

• Dr **Georgia Fermeli**, a member of the Department's Special Teaching Staff, participated in the EGU26 General Assembly, held in Vienna, Austria, from **3–8 May** 2026, where she presented a contribution entitled: "School students, teachers and

scientists on board: EDUCATIONAL OCEANOGRAFIC CRUISES IN AEGEAN SEA (GREECE)".

• Dr **Georgia Fermeli**, a member of the Department's Special Teaching Staff, participated in the **9th Panhellenic Conference on Environmental Education** entitled "Environmental Education / Education for Sustainability in the 21st-Century School: Pathways – Shifts – Transformations". The conference was organized by the Panhellenic Association of Teachers for Environmental Education (PEEKPE), under the auspices of the Greek Ministry of Education and the University of Crete, and was held in Rethymno, Crete, from **8 to 10 May** 2026.
Within the framework of the conference, she presented, together with Angeliki Balsi and Ourania Blintziou, the papers entitled "From Theory to Practice: Teachers' Views and Attitudes towards Active Citizenship Actions in Primary Education" and "Integrating the 17 Sustainable Development Goals into the Environmental Studies Curriculum", respectively.

• Professor **Chrysostomos Mantzavinos** gave a lecture at the Faculty of Philosophy of the University of Cologne: "Die Verfassung der Wissenschaft", on **May 13**, 2026.

• Members of the Cognitive Science Faculty participated at the **6th Panhellenic Conference on Cognitive Psychology** of the Hellenic Psychological Society, held on **15–17 May** at Panteion University: Dr. **Emmanouil Protonotarios**, Special Teaching Staff, presented a research project entitled "A Geometric Model to Account for the Dot-Cloud Area Overestimation Relative to its Convex Hull." The research was submitted in collaboration with postgraduate students **Elena Marangou and Kalliopi Protogeraki**, in the context of Master's theses supervision in the Interdepartmental MSc Programme in Cognitive Science. **Irini Skopeliti**, Associate Professor of Cognitive Psychology, participated in the Conference with an oral presentation entitled "Pre-service Teachers' Beliefs about Learning, Teaching and SRL: The Role of Refutational Texts and Instructional Analogies". The study was conducted in collaboration with **Athanasia Androutsopoulou**, PhD Candidate of the Department. **Eirini Skaliora**, professor of Cognitive Science, moderated the keynote address by Axel Cleeremans, entitled "The Value of Consciousness."

• Within the framework of the course "Didactics of History and Philosophy", Dr **G. Fermeli**, a member of the Department's Special Teaching Staff, coordinated a three-day experiential training seminar focusing on school activities developed in both formal and non-formal education, such as Environmental Education/Education for Sustainable Development, Cultural Programmes, as well as Skills Workshops and Active Citizenship initiatives, highlighting their connection with contemporary approaches to the teaching of History and Philosophy.
The seminar took place from **15 to 17 May** in collaboration with the Lavrion Centre for Environmental Education and Sustainability and was hosted at the Lavrion

Technological and Cultural Park and the Sounio–Lavrion National Park. Fourteen undergraduate students from the Department participated in the seminar, with participation, accommodation, and meals provided free of charge.

• **The National and Kapodistrian University of Athens for Thessaly: Participatory Foresight for the Future of Agrifood**

On **18 May 2026**, a major study by the **Laboratory of Science, Technology and Innovation in Society (STIS)** of the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens on the future of agrifood in Thessaly was presented in Larissa. The study was conducted under the auspices of the Region of Thessaly. Its findings were presented at a special event attended by the Regional Governor of Thessaly, Mr Dimitris Kouretas, representatives of institutional bodies, and numerous participants from the agrifood sector. The event was attended by more than 200 citizens, received extensive coverage from all regional media outlets, and was watched via live streaming by more than 1,000 interested viewers on Thessalia Television.

The study was presented by the **Director of the Laboratory** and Scientific Coordinator of the Go-JuST project (www.go-just.com), **Professor Stathis Arapostathis of the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens**. He analysed both the key challenges currently facing agricultural production and the alternative scenarios for future development that were shaped through the participation of relevant stakeholders. The research constitutes one of the first applications of participatory strategic planning for sociotechnical pathways at a regional scale and within a specific productive sector, representing an important innovation in the field of intervention-oriented social studies of science, technology and innovation.

The event, entitled **"Designing the Future: Agricultural Production, Opportunities and Challenges"**, aimed to contribute to the public dialogue on the future of agricultural production and the agrifood system of Thessaly in a context marked by intense environmental, economic and technological change. It was based on the findings of research carried out by the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens in collaboration with the Region of Thessaly, and was shaped through an extensive process of consultation and scenario planning involving producers, cooperatives, agronomists, researchers, local government officials and representatives of organisations active in the agricultural economy.

The presentation highlighted the most important challenges facing the primary sector, as well as the new opportunities created through strategic planning, innovation, cooperation, and the use of new forms of knowledge and technology. It also presented the findings of the alternative scenarios for the future trajectory of agricultural production, as these emerged from the participatory process. Particular emphasis was placed on the need to move from fragmented and short-term interventions towards a coherent model of regional planning that connects the management of natural resources, productive restructuring, the energy transition, education and the functioning of markets.

The research shows that Thessaly is at a critical turning point. Climate change, increasing pressure on water resources, energy costs, market uncertainty and demographic change are shaping a new environment for the primary sector. At the same time, however, the region possesses significant comparative advantages, including a strong agricultural tradition, productive know-how, developing cooperative structures, the presence of research institutions, and the potential to develop innovative value chains.

In this context, strategic planning and regional governance are of particular importance. The study highlighted the need for a more effective and coordinated mechanism for water management, the modernisation of irrigation infrastructure, the improvement of energy efficiency, and the development of a more resilient and diversified production model. At the same time, it underlined the importance of education, knowledge transfer, and the strengthening of links between scientific research and productive activity.

Of particular interest were the findings concerning the ways in which rural communities and stakeholders in the agrifood system understand the opportunities created by digital agriculture, new tools for monitoring and managing resources, the development of high value-added products, and new forms of cooperation between producers, cooperatives and regional organisations. Issues such as crop restructuring, spatial zoning, product quality improvement, certification, and the strengthening of outward-looking strategies emerged as critical dimensions of a new production model for Thessaly.

The research also highlighted the importance of cooperation and the building of trust among the actors involved. The experience of the participatory workshops showed that farmers, cooperatives and local communities wish to play a more active

role in the design of policies that affect their future. The need for transparency, stability and long-term planning emerged as a fundamental condition for the success of any reform effort.
The ultimate aim of the initiative was to contribute to the formation of a shared vision for the agricultural development of Thessaly up to 2040, promoting an evidence-based and realistic dialogue around the opportunities and challenges of the coming period. By bringing together different experiences, scientific approaches and productive practices, the event seeks to serve as a starting point for the formulation of proposals that will contribute to the creation of a more resilient, innovative and sustainable agrifood system in Thessaly.

• On Monday the **18th of May**, the kick off event of PExAI project (Predicting and Explaining with AI) took place at the Department of History and Philosophy of Science (NKUA). Guest speakers were **Stathis Psillos** (Athens), **Craig Butts** (Bristol) and **Emanuele Ratti** (Bristol). The event was organised by the Principal Investigator of PExAI, **Vanessa Seifert**.

• On **19 May** 2026, an inspiring event entitled "**Medicine and Religion: From Late Byzantium to the Present Day**" took place at the Kostis Palamas Building of the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens. The event was co-organised by the Department of History and Philosophy of Science and the Department of Theology of the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, together with the Institute of Historical Research of the National Hellenic Research Foundation. Dr **Eugenia Torrance** (University of Oxford) presented to an audience of approximately fifty attendees her highly anticipated research, which sheds new light on the relationship between medicine and religion in the Late Byzantine period. Equally engaging were the thought-provoking presentations by Professor **Konstantinos Kornarakis** and Dr **Sandy Sakorrafou**, who explored contemporary dialogues between theology and science, prompting a lively discussion with the audience. The event also featured brief remarks from the co-organisers: Assistant Professor **Fr Isidoros Katsos**, Senior Researcher Dr **Gerasimos Merianos**, and Associate Professor **Petros Bouras-Vallianatos**. Gatherings such as this remind us of the remarkable potential of interdisciplinary dialogue, bringing together the past and the present, theology and science, medicine and religion, and academic research and society.

Dr Sakorrafou, Prof. Kornarakis, and Dr Tampakis (Chair), (left to right)

Dr Torrance, Assoc. Prof. Bouras-Vallianatos, Assist. Prof. Fr Katsos (left to right)

On Tuesday, **19 May 2026**, Associate Professor **Petros Bouras-Vallianatos** delivered a lecture as part of the "Nikos Oikonomides" Graduate Seminar, which this year is devoted to the theme "Mentalities, Emotions, and Networks of Communication among Humanists and Artists in Byzantium and Renaissance Italy (13th–16th Centuries)." His lecture, entitled "Late Byzantine Medicine and Its Relationship with the Islamic and Latin Medical Traditions," examined, on the one hand, the globalised character of Byzantine medical treatises and, on the other, the continuous enrichment of Byzantine pharmacology through the introduction of new remedies based on the everyday clinical experience of physicians in Byzantium.

The co-organisers of the Seminar with the speaker: Prof. Mergiali-Saha, Dr. Merianos, Dr. Yangaki, Assoc. Prof. Bouras-Vallianatos, Assoc. Prof. Drandaki (left to right).

• The work titled *"The Role of Psychology in the Post War II Non-Mainstream tradition: George Katona, Harvey Leibenstein, and Tibor Scitovsky"*, by **Stavros Drakopoulos and Ioannis Katselidis**, was presented at the 29th European Conference for the History of Economic Thought, Nice, France, **May** 2026.
https://www.eshet-conference.net/joint-eshet-hes-nice

• On Friday, **June 5, 2026**, a discussion titled "Society – Neuroscience – Art?" took place at the Fournos Theater as part of the three-day event "Re-mind: Encounters at

Fournos," curated by the Fournos Lab team. Participants in the discussion included **Elias D. Kouvelas**, Professor Emeritus of Physiology at the Medical School of the University of Patras and author of the book "Tracing the Pathways of the Brain and the Mind", and **Irini Skaliora**, Professor of Cognitive Science in the Department of History and Philosophy of Science at the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens. The event highlighted the importance of human biological history for understanding cognition, experience, and creativity, opening a fruitful dialogue between neuroscience, art, society, and contemporary technological developments. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A_gZo7NX7oI

• On **Monday, June 15**, 2026, the Department of History and Philosophy of Science of the School of Science of the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens officially accepted the donation of seven artworks by the internationally renowned artist **Markella Hatziano**. These pieces, painted with acrylics on wood by Ms. Hatziano in 2024, are part of her collection titled "HEART IMPROVISATIONS". They have already been placed in prominent locations within the Department's new building, beautifully enhancing the spaces used by faculty members and students alike. During the modest official acceptance ceremony, welcome addresses were

delivered by Professor Achilleas Chaldaeakes, member of the NKUA Administration Council, and Professor Antonios Hatzimoysis, Chairman of the Department of History and Philosophy of Science. The artist herself was deeply moved, expressing her joy and gratitude both for the acceptance of her donation and for the placement of this artistic legacy in the department's beautiful building, which stands prominently at the entrance of the University Campus. The event was well-attended by faculty members, administrative staff, students of the Department, as well as friends and associates of the artist.

Professor Achilleas Chaldaeakes, member of the NKUA Administration Council, Professor Antonios Hatzimoysis, Chairman of the Department and the artist Markella Hatziano

• The work titled *"Neoclassical and Heterodox Economics Research Traditions to Trade Unions: An Historical-Comparative Perspective"*, by **Stavros Drakopoulos and Ioannis Katselidis**, was presented at the 26th Conference of Greek Historians of Economic Thought, **June 19 and 20, 2026**, Department of Economics and Department of Business Administration, University of Patras.

• Associate Professor **Petros Bouras-Vallianatos** and Senior Researcher Dr **Sophia Xenophontos** (Academy of Athens) presented their new project on the sixth-century Byzantine medical author and practising physician Alexander of Tralles and his *Therapeutics*—a pharmacological commentary and English translation of Books 1–2—at the international workshop *Editing and Translating Medieval Medicine*, held at the University of Toronto on **22–23 June** 2026. This project is being carried out within the framework of "ETHCSTWIN – Reinforcing the Scientific Excellence of the Institute for Ethnopharmacological Studies and Phytotherapy (IESP) through Twinning with Computer Science (CS)". ETHCSTWIN fosters an innovative and genuinely interdisciplinary research environment, bringing into close collaboration specialists in the History of Medicine, philology, archaeobotany, ethnobotany, folklore studies, pharmacy, chemistry, medicine, biology, and digital humanities under the auspices of the Institute for Ethnopharmacological Studies and Phytotherapy (National & Kapodistrian University of Athens). By integrating expertise across these diverse fields, IESP is developing innovative approaches to the study of historical medical knowledge, illuminating its transmission across

cultures and periods while exploring its relevance to, and applications in, contemporary scientific inquiry. Byzantine medicine, and premodern medical traditions more broadly, constitute a rich repository of knowledge whose study can contribute meaningfully to contemporary discussions of health, healing, and well-being.

Assoc. Prof. Bouras-Vallianatos and Senior Researcher Dr. Sophia Xenophontos

• **SEESHOP 18, Tuesday 23 – Wednesday 24 June 2026**, School of Social Sciences, Cardiff University, «Constructing Olive Oil: Ontologies of value and the Institutionalization of Metrics as an Assetization process», **Vasso Karantzavelou and Stathis Arapostathis**.

Forthcoming Events – Talks

• Professor **Theodore Arabatzis** is a member of the organizing committee of the 3rd Conference on the History and Philosophy of Cosmology, which will take place on **July 6–9**, 2026, at the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens.

• **Tensions of Europe, 2026 Conference**, Eidhoven, **8-11 July 2026**, Panel Organization: «After and Beyond Stabilisation: Narratives and Traces of Sociotechnical Destabilisations», Organizers: **Stathis Arapostathis and Bruno Turnheim.**

Histories of technology and infrastructures have long been oriented by narratives of emergence, expansion, stabilization, and diffusion. Innovation, system-building, and consolidation have constituted dominant historiographical anchors through which sociotechnical change has been rendered intelligible. Yet such perspectives have often left important critical dynamics – decline, erosion, unmaking, and loss – conceptually underdeveloped. This panel foregrounds sociotechnical destabilisation as a critical and still insufficiently explored analytical lens for the history and historiography of technology in Europe and beyond. Focused on the destabilisation of existing sociotechnical orders as particular class of problems, it explores what historiographic direction to provide related histories of technology. Drawing inspiration from recent theoretical advances in transitions studies, the panel convenes historical, historiographical and historically-informed work that take destabilisation seriously as a processual, socio-political, and socio-material

phenomenon. Rather than treating destabilisation as an additional stage in innovation journeys (e.g. maturity) or as an external shock to otherwise stable systems, we approach it as an endogenous dynamic that unfolds over time, contributes to shaping sociotechnical orders, and produces its own narratives, conflicts, and material traces. In other words, if destabilisation is taken as constitutive of any socio-technical change process, how does such a perspective alter our outlook on the history of technology and sociotechnical regimes?

• **Tensions of Europe, 2026 Conference**, Eidhoven, **8-11 July 2026**, «Entangled Destabilizations in Food Production: Material Politics and Competing Promises of Modernization in Greece, 1950–2025», **Stathis Arapostathis and Sotiris Alexakis**, Laboratory of Science, Technology and Innovation in Society, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens.

• **Tensions of Europe, 2026 Conference**, Eidhoven, **8-11 July 2026**, «Extracting Value, Promising Futures: Academic Laboratories, Technoscientific Assets and the Politics of Food Commodification in Greece, 1990-2025», **Stathis Arapostathis and Vasiliki Karantzavelou**, Laboratory of Science, Technology and Innovation in Society, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens

• IST 2026, **17th International Sustainability Transitions (IST) Conference**, ETH Zurich, **31st August – 2nd September 2026**, «Resilient Futures: Sustainability, Community and Agrifood Transition Pathways in Greece», **Stathis Arapostathis, Dimitris Lagouvardos, Vasso Karantzavelou, Sotiris Alexakis, Yannis Fotopoulos, Dimitra Barkouta,** STIS/NKUA, Athens, Greece

• **EASST2026 conference (European Association for the Study of Science and Technology) September 8–11, 2026**, AGH University of Krakow in Krakow, Poland, «Enacting Patchwork Resilience: Framing Sustainability, Restorative Justice and Future Pathways for Agrifood Systems», **Vasiliki Karantzavelou** (National and Kapodistrian University of Athens) **Stathis Arapostathis** (National and Kapodistrian University of Athens) **Sotiris Alexakis** (National and Kapodistrian University of Athens) **Dimitris Lagouvardos** (National Kapodistrian University of Athens) **Yannis Fotopoulos** (NKUA)

• **EASST2026 conference (European Association for the Study of Science and Technology) September 8–11, 2026**, AGH University of Krakow in Krakow, Poland, «Constructing Olive Oil: Ontologies of Value and the Institutionalization of Metrics as an Assetization process», **Vasiliki Karantzavelou** (National and Kapodistrian University of Athens), **Stathis Arapostathis** (National and Kapodistrian University of Athens).

• On **1-4 October 2026**, the **Interdisciplinary Master's Program in "Cognitive Science"** in collaboration with the **Hellenic Cognitive Science Society**, are organizing the **7th Panhellenic Conference on Cognitive Science**, entitled "Studying the Mind in an Evolving World" in Xylokastro, Korinthia, at the "Angelos Sikelianos" Municipal Theatre. The Conference brings together researchers from the fields of Psychology, Philosophy, Neuroscience, Linguistics, and Artificial Intelligence, aiming to showcase contemporary research on fundamental questions concerning knowledge, cognition, and learning. As a highly interdisciplinary field, Cognitive Science bridges theoretical and applied approaches, contributing to areas such as language processing, the study of the structure and functioning of the human brain, and the development of innovative educational and learning practices. The program of the 7th Panhellenic Conference on Cognitive Science includes keynote lectures by distinguished members of the international scientific community, as well as presentations of research projects reflecting current developments in the field of Cognitive Science.

Keynote Lectures and Speakers:

- "Parental Interoceptive Sensibility: How Parents Read their Children's Bodily Signals and Distinguish them from their Own" — Katerina Fotopoulou (University College London, UK)
- "A Unique Coding of Memories in the Human Brain" — Rodrigo Quian Quiroga (Hospital del Mar Research Institute, Spain)
- "Artificial Intelligence + Education" — Dimitrios Sampson (University of Piraeus, Greece)

Invited Symposia and Organizers:

- "Concepts and Conceptual Change in Philosophy of Science" — Theodoros Arabatzis (National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Greece)
- "Learning and Instruction – State of the Art and Future Directions" — Stella Vosniadou (National and Kapodistrian University of Athens & Flinders University)

News, Undergraduate Students

• On **Monday, 18 May 2026**, Associate Professor **Petros Bouras-Vallianatos** visited the Benaki Museum together with the students enrolled in the elective course Topics in the History of Medicine, which this year explores epidemic diseases from antiquity to the present day. The group enjoyed a guided tour of the museum's unique collection of ancient medical instruments. Warm thanks are extended to Mara Verykokou, Curator of Byzantine and Post-Byzantine Art, for her generous hospitality and excellent guided tour.

Assoc. Prof. Bouras-Vallianatos with Ms Verykokou and the students.

• Associate Professor **Ioannis Katselidis**, along with the students of the course "History of Economic Thought", visited the Numismatic Museum on **Wednesday, May 27,** 2026, for a guided tour of its unique collection of ancient and modern coins. Warm thanks to the Museologist Ms. Eleni Naki for her warm hospitality and highly interesting tour.

• **Graduation Ceremony, Undergraduate Students**

The graduation ceremony (28 students) of the undergraduate programme on **History and Philosophy of Science** took place at the Central Building of the University on **5 June 2026**.

News from MAs

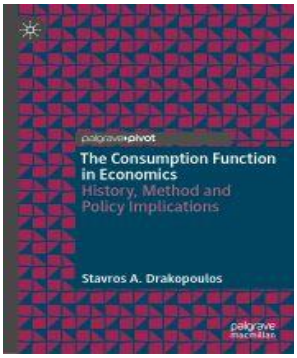
Graduation Ceremony – Postgraduate Students

The graduation ceremony of the Interdisciplinary Master's Program in "Cognitive Science" took place on **Thursday, June 11**, 2026. Five students successfully completed the program and took the oath.

Publications of Members of the Department

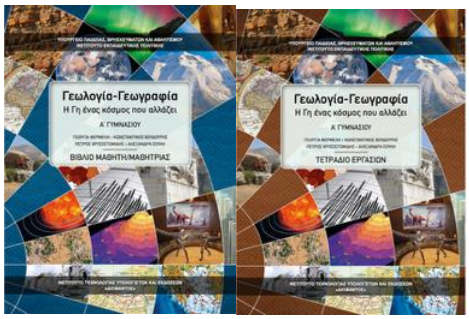
- **Books:**

- Stavros Drakopoulos, *«The Consumption Function in Economics: History, Method and Policy Implications»* published by Palgrave Macmillan (**May 2026**) ISBN 978-3-032-15957-1



Abstract:
This book examines the historical and methodological development of the consumption function in economics. It provides a discussion of the key stages in the theoretical evolution of the concept, from the beginning of the 20th century through to the modern day. Particular attention is given to the ways in which Thorstein Veblen, John Maynard Keynes, James Duesenberry, Franco Modigliani, Richard Brumberg, and Milton Friedman conceptualized consumption. Further, it examines the latest theoretical and methodological developments within the neoclassical, as well as the heterodox economics traditions. By connecting the history of consumption function to the methodological frameworks in which consumption theories were devised, the work also brings into the fore the important economic policy implications associated to various consumption formulations. This book offers insight into how different schools of economic thought have defined consumption and how these ideas inform modern economic theories and political discussions. It will be of interest to students and researchers working on macroeconomic policy, economic theory, and the history of economic thought.

• Dr **Georgia Fermeli**, a member of the Department's Special Teaching Staff, coordinated and contributed to the development and authorship of the educational package "Geology–Geography, First Grade of Lower High School" commissioned by the Greek Ministry of Education and the Institute of Educational Policy, in collaboration with Konstantinos Voudouris (Professor at the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki), Petros Chrysostomidis, and Alexandra Souli (Secondary Education teachers).



The Educational package consists of the Student's Book (180 pages) and the Workbook (80 pages), and is accompanied by 150 Digital Learning Objects. Both the Student's Book and the Workbook are available in print and in digital formats, including PDF, EPUB (an adaptable format suitable for reading on various devices such as tablets, smartphones, and e-readers), and interactive PDF, and are fully accessible.

The Digital Learning Objects are self-contained, comprehensive, and reusable educational resources, including simulations, exercises, games, maps, 3D virtual tours, glossaries, videos, and complex multimedia applications, among others. They complement the Student's Book and the Workbook and can be accessed directly from their pages via QR codes or interactive icons.

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To register, please email to katsel@phs.uoa.gr
The **next Newsletter** is scheduled to be published in **October.** Please send your news to katsel@phs.uoa.gr**.**