

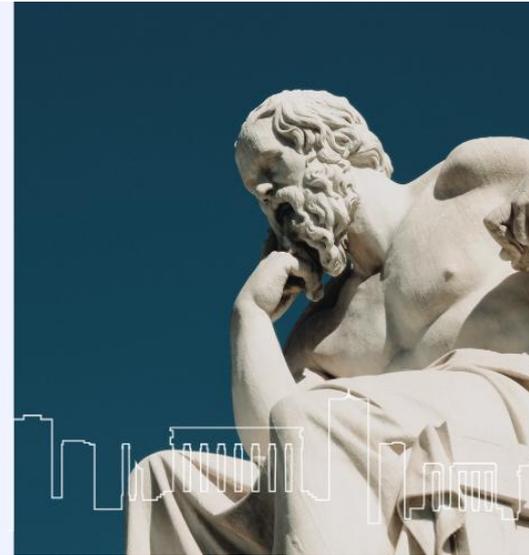


HELLENIC REPUBLIC  
National and Kapodistrian  
University of Athens

# UNICA

## GENERAL ASSEMBLY & RECTORS' SEMINAR

“The key role of the Humanities  
in our universities”



## BIOGRAPHIES OF THE SPEAKERS & CHAIRS AND ABSTRACTS

### Gerasimos SIASOS, Rector, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens



**BIO NOTES** Gerasimos Siasos is a Professor of Cardiology and the Rector of the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens. He has been a Visiting Professor at Harvard Medical School (2015-2016), Dean of the School of Medicine (2021-2023), Vice Dean of the School of Medicine (2019-2021) and President of the University Hospitals "Areataieion" and "Aiginiteio" (2019-2021). Gerasimos Siasos graduated from the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, School of Medicine (NKUA).

He was unanimously elected to all Academic ranks at the School of Medicine at NKUA. He has worked at the First Department of Cardiology (Hippokraton Hospital) and was Head of the Atherosclerosis Unit and the Biochemical, Immunological and Molecular Biology Unit in the same department. He has also established and is still directing the “Heart and Diabetes” Unit for patients who suffer from heart disease and diabetes. He led the way in the establishment and operation of the 3rd Department of Cardiology in Sotiria Hospital, where he serves as a doctor and is the president of the working group “Heart and Diabetes” of the Hellenic Society of Cardiology.

His research work focuses on: Molecular Cardiology, Atherosclerosis, Endothelial Function, Diabetes Mellitus in patients with cardiovascular disease. He is the author (or coauthor) of more than 400 peer-reviewed publications in highly prestigious international scientific journals with a total Impact Factor > 1,500, and more than 16,000 citations (h-index 63). He is Section Editor for Cardiovascular Diseases in the international biomedical journal Current Medicinal Chemistry (IF: 4.740).

His writing work includes the editing of 20 books and journals on Cardiology. Website: <https://gerasimossiasos.gr/> He was awarded several scholarships and fellowships to study for extended periods in Canada, United States, Germany, Spain, and Italy. His area of interest has lately focused on mathematical cognition and critical thinking. He is member of various professional associations, and since 2014 he is member of the Steering Committee of the European Society of Analytic Philosophy.

## Sorin COSTREIE, President of UNICA



**BIO NOTES** Prof. Sorin Costreie was elected to the position of President of UNICA in June 2023. He was previously Vice-Rector for Public Relations and University Networks (2019-2024) and Vice-Rector for International Relations of the University of Bucharest (2017-2019), as well as former Vice-Dean of the UB Faculty of Philosophy (2016-2017). He is a member of the University Senate since 2011. In between, in 2016, he was Adviser to the Minister and State Secretary in the Ministry of Education and Scientific Research. He was also in the period 2020- 2023 State Advisor to the Prime-Minister for Education and Research.

He is Associate Professor at the Department of Theoretical Philosophy, University of Bucharest. He holds a PhD in Philosophy (University of Bucharest, 2007), with a thesis in philosophy of mathematics, and pursued further doctoral studies in philosophy of language at the University of Western Ontario, Canada between 2000 and 2008. He has published articles, books and edited volumes with Routledge, Springer, Oxford University Press, Taylor & Francis, Elsevier, Humanitas, University of Bucharest Press, etc.

He was awarded several scholarships and fellowships to study for extended periods in Canada, United States, Germany, Spain, and Italy. His area of interest has lately focused He was awarded several scholarships and fellowships to study for extended periods in on mathematical cognition and critical thinking. He is member of various professional associations, and since 2014 he is member of the Steering Committee of the European Society of Analytic Philosophy.

## Dimitrios KARADIMAS, former Vice Rector for Academic and Student Affairs, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Member of the UNICA Steering Committee



**BIO NOTES** Dimitrios Karadimas was Vice Rector for Academic and Student Affairs at National and Kapodistrian University of Athens (2019-2023), member of the NKUA senate and a Member of the CIVIS European University Alliance Steering Committee (2019-2023). Previously, he has been chairman of the Department of Classics at the NKUA (2018-2019), President of the Association of the Faculty Members of the School of Philosophy at the NKUA (2017-2019), and Secretary of the same Association (2015-2017).

Since November 2024, he has been Professor Emeritus of Ancient Greek Language and Literature. Karadimas Dimitrios was born in Greece and was educated in Greece (NKUA) and Sweden (Lund University). His scholarly interests focus on ancient Greek language and literature and especially on classical rhetoric and the relation between philosophy and rhetoric in Antiquity.

He has published monographs (in Greece and abroad) and many articles in collective volumes and international journals. He has also been a member of various scientific, educational and cultural associations and societies. Dimitrios Karadimas taught at universities abroad, before taking a position in Greece as a Professor of Greek at the Department of Classics of the NKUA.

### **ABSTRACT** "The Democratic University and its Role in Modern Democracy"

*The discussion begins with a brief reference to classical Athenian democracy and proceeds in three stages. First, the concept of modern democracy is defined and contextualized, and we consider whether it currently faces structural and political challenges that, if left unaddressed, may contribute to its gradual erosion. Second, the concept of the democratic university is examined, and the principles and practices that constitute its defining features are explored. Third, I argue that one of the university's essential functions is to uphold, sustain, and advance democratic governance—and that only an institution grounded in democratic values is adequately equipped to carry out this role.*

## Mircea DUMITRU, Vice-President of the Romanian Academy



**BIO NOTES** Dr. Mircea Dumitru is a Professor of Philosophy at the University of Bucharest (since 2004). Vice-president of the Romanian Academy since 2022. Executive Director of Romanian-US Fulbright Commission (since 2020). Rector of the University of Bucharest (2011-2019). President of the European Society of Analytic Philosophy (2011 - 2014). President of the International Institute of Philosophy (2017 - 2021). Fellow of Academia Europaea (since 2019), Corresponding Fellow of the Romanian Academy (2014-2021). Fellow of the Romanian Academy (since 2021). Minister of Education and Scientific Research (July 2016 - January 2017). Visiting Professor at Beijing Normal University (2017 - 2022). President of Balkan Universities Association (2019 - 2022).

He holds a PhD in Philosophy at Tulane University, New Orleans, USA (1998) with a topic in modal logic and philosophy of mathematics, and another PhD in Philosophy at the University of Bucharest (1998) with a topic in philosophy of language. Invited Professor at Tulsa University (USA), CUNY (USA), NYU (USA), Lyon 3, ENS Lyon, University of Helsinki, Pekin University (Beijing, China), Renmin University (Beijing, China), CUPL (Beijing, China), Xi'an University (Xi'an, China). Main area of research: philosophical logic, metaphysics, and philosophy of language.

### **ABSTRACT** “The End of the Humanities? Why Do We Still Need Liberal Arts and Humanistic Education in the Universities?”

*I argue that the humanities—philosophy, literature, history, and related disciplines—are in a deep crisis, as they are increasingly marginalized in modern universities dominated by STEM fields. I warn that this decline threatens the foundations of democratic societies, which rely on the critical thinking, empathy, and civic virtues fostered by a humanistic education.*

*I assess critically the belief that economic growth automatically leads to human development, highlighting the dangers of equating GDP with democratic health. I emphasize that science and technology, while vital, cannot replace the moral and reflective dimensions of human existence offered by the humanities.*

*The paper also explores the philosophical crisis regarding the relevance of philosophy, especially after the decline of traditional metaphysical beliefs. I reject both Logical Positivism (which reduces philosophy to logic) and Postmodernism (which denies objective truth), advocating instead for a balanced understanding of philosophy's moral and theoretical roles.*

*Citing thinkers like Hilary Putnam, I focus upon the inseparability of facts and values—even in science—and defends the enduring value of philosophy and the liberal arts in cultivating mature, responsible citizens.*

*Conclusion: Without the humanities, we risk losing our cultural identity and democratic resilience. The essay is a call to protect and reinvest in humanistic education before it is too late.*

## Christina KOULOURI, Rector, Panteion University of Social and Political Sciences



**BIO NOTES** Professor in Modern and Contemporary History and Rector of Panteion University of Social and Political Sciences (Athens, Greece). She studied at the University of Athens (Department of History and Archaeology), the École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales and Paris I-Panthéon-Sorbonne where she also received her PhD. Senior Research Fellow at Université de Paris I-Panthéon-Sorbonne (2010), Visiting Research Fellow at Princeton University (2017) and at the University of Regensburg (2019).

Awarded with the Nikos Svoronos Prize (1994), the Delphi Prize (2012), and the Vikelas Plaque (2018). Dean of the School of Political Sciences, Panteion University (2013-2017), Head of the Department of Political Science and History (2018-2020), member of ESETEK, the advisory council on research and innovation to the government of Greece (2020-2025).

Coordinator of many national and international research projects. From 1999-2016, she was the chair of the History Education Committee of the Centre for Democracy and Reconciliation in Southeast Europe (CDRSEE) and general coordinator of the Joint History Project (JHP).

Lecturer at many international conferences in Greece, Western and Southeast Europe, USA, Japan and China. Author of several books and articles on the teaching of history, the history of historiography, national identity, historical memory, public history and the history of sports and the Olympic Games.

Editor of six workbooks (alternative educational materials) for the teaching of modern and contemporary history in Southeast Europe which have been translated into ten languages. Her last book received the National Essay Prize in Greece and was translated in English: *Historical Memory in Greece, 1821-1930. Performing the Past in the Present* (Routledge 2022).

### **ABSTRACT** "In Defence of the Humanities: Addressing Contemporary Biases in Research Evaluation and Publishing Norms"

*This paper explores the current academic landscape with a focus on the gradual devaluation of disciplines within the humanities. It examines how the increasing reliance on publication metrics and international university rankings disproportionately impacts the humanities and social sciences. Particular attention is given to how this global trend contributes to the marginalization of national languages in research and publishing, favouring English as the dominant medium. Finally, the paper offers reflections on possible measures to defend and revitalize the role of the humanities in academia.*

### **Christopher SMITH, Executive Chair, UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) - Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) (online)**



**BIO NOTES** Professor Christopher Smith is the Executive Chair of the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) and International Champion for UK Research and Innovation (UKRI). He has been Professor of Ancient History at the University of St Andrews since 2002, and he was also Dean of Arts (2002- 2006), Dean of Graduate Studies (2006-2009), and Vice-Principal (2007-2009), before being seconded as Director of the British School at Rome, the UK's leading humanities and creative arts research institute overseas, from 2009 to 2017.

From 2017 to 2020 he was a Leverhulme Trust Major Research Fellow, with a project on *The Roman Kings: A Study in Power*. He held visiting positions in Erfurt, Princeton, Otago, Pavia, Milan, Siena, Aarhus and Paris Panthéon-Sorbonne.

Professor Smith's research explores constitutionalism and state formation with a particular emphasis on the development of Rome as a political and social community, using archaeological, historical and anthropological approaches.

He is the author or editor of over 20 books from textual editions to museum studies. He is a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries Scotland, the Royal Historical Society, the Society of Antiquaries of London, the Royal Society of Arts and a Member of the Academia Europaea

### **ABSTRACT** "The transformation of the humanities"

*Disciplines are malleable inventions but we sometimes constrain them to be rigid markers of authority. When we do so we find change and challenge to be more difficult. In my paper I will suggest ways in which the humanities can transform themselves and in so doing renew their mission to change how we see the world.*

**Anastas GERDJIKOV, former Rector of Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski”, Member of the UNICA Steering Committee**



**BIO NOTES** Prof. Dr. Anastas Gerdjikov is the former Rector of Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski”, the oldest and largest University of Bulgaria. Previously he has been Member of the Academic Council, Vice-Rector responsible for Accreditation and Research and Vice-Rector responsible for PhD education of Sofia University, as well as member of the board (2015–2022) and Chairman (2020–2022) of the Bulgarian Rectors’ Conference.

He graduated with a master’s degree in Classical Philology from Humboldt University, Berlin and since 1991 is Professor in Latin language, Ancient and Medieval literature at Sofia University. He is member of the editorial board of several scientific journals. Along with research publications and monographs in the field of classical philology, he is author of a book and a number of articles on Bulgarian education.

Prof. Gerdjikov has been Vice-Minister of Education and Science, responsible for higher education (2001–2003) and Chief executive of the Bulgarian Science Foundation (2008–2009). As Vice-Minister and later as expert at the Education and Science Parliamentary Committee to the National Assembly of Bulgaria he has participated in the preparation of analyses, laws and regulations in the field of education and science, in particular in the preparation of the chapter on accreditation in Bulgarian Higher Education Law. He has also developed policies and strategies in the field of higher education and scientific research.

**Pericles A. MITKAS, President, Hellenic Authority for Higher Education**



**BIO NOTES** Prof. Pericles A. Mitkas has been the President of the Hellenic Authority for Higher Education since February 2020. He received a Diploma in Electrical Engineering from Aristotle University of Thessaloniki and an MSc and PhD in Computer Engineering from Syracuse University, USA.

Dr. Mitkas was a faculty member at Colorado State University for ten years. In 1999, he joined the Dept. of Electrical and Computer Engineering at the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, where he served as the University Rector (2014-2019). Among other positions, he also served as President of the Balkan University Association (2018-19) and as President of the Black Sea University Network (2018-21).

His research interests include databases, data mining and machine learning, intelligent systems, and bioinformatics. Prof. Mitkas has been the coordinator of numerous research projects in Greece and the US, several of which involved industrial partners. He served in the Board of Directors of the Thessaloniki Innovation Zone (2013-19).

**Gabi LOMBARDO, Director, European Alliance for Social Sciences and Humanities (EASSH) (online)**



**BIO NOTES** Gabi Lombardo (PhD LSE) is Director of the European Alliance for SSH one of the largest advocacy and science policy organizations in Europe and advocates for an evidence-based approach to policy-making, and researchers’ inclusion in funding design. High-level experience in strategic and ‘foresight’ planning working in international organisations like London School of Economics, European Research Council and Science Europe. She’s an evaluator for the EU, World Bank, and COST. Gabi received the Young Academy of Europe Prize in 2018.

## **Ksenija VIDMAR HORVAT, Vice-Rector for study and student affairs, University of Ljubljana**



**BIO NOTES** Prof. Dr. Ksenija Vidmar Horvat is full professor of the Sociology of Culture at the Faculty of Arts, University of Ljubljana, the coordinator of micro-credentials and LLL and she was elected Vice-Rector for study and student affairs for a period from 1st October 2021 to 30th September 2025.

She is also the Vice-President of the Slovenian National Commission for UNESCO, engaged in the debates on the future of HEI.

She studied comparative literature and the sociology of culture (BA, 1991) and received her MA (1994) and PhD (2000) at the University of California, Davis, USA. She has coordinated several national and international research projects, and acted as member, chair or co-chair at various committees and faculty posts. She was awarded the Jean Monnet professorship in 2012, and since 2015 has coordinated the national research program The social contract in the 21st century. Her research interests include European studies, the sociology of post-socialism, post-colonial theory of gender and nationalism, and visual culture.

She is a member of the editorial boards of numerous international journals in the field of sociology and cultural theory, author of several monographs (with translations into English and Croat), and editor of several translations of social sciences/humanities books into Slovene.

## **Sophia PAPAIOANNOU, Vice-Rector for Academic Affairs, International Relations, and Extroversion, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens**



**BIO NOTES** Sophia Papaioannou is Professor of Latin language and literature at the Faculty of Philology of the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens.

She received her BA in Classical Philology (1992) from the University of Crete, and her MA (1995) and PhD (1998) in Classics from the University of Texas at Austin. Prior to joining the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens in 2007 she taught at the University of Tennessee, the University of Akron and the University of Cyprus.

In 2019 she was Stanley J. Seeger Fellow at Princeton University, Center for Hellenic Studies, and in summer 2019 as invited expert she taught Greek and Roman mythology at the international summer school of Beijing Foreign Studies University in China.

Her research interests include the Latin literature of the Augustan age, Roman comedy, Ancient epic, Ancient rhetoric, the epic of the Late antiquity and Classical reception, and she has published several books and articles on the above topics.

Since September 2023, she is the Vice-Rector of Academic Affairs, International Relations and Extroversion of NKUA, and ex officio the institutional director of NKUA in the European University Alliance CIVIS.

## Julio CAÑERO SERRANO, Vice President for International Relations, University of Alcalá, and UNICA Vice President



**BIO NOTES** Julio Cañero Serrano is an Associate Professor at the University of Alcalá. His research focuses on the study of the culture, politics, and society of the United States of America, with an emphasis on the literary and linguistic traditions of the Latino population in that country. He is the director of the Benjamin Franklin Collection (2013) and the academic journal REDEN (2019), both belonging to the Research Institute in American Studies “Benajmin Franklin.” In the field of knowledge transfer, he has participated in various media as a specialist in North

American Studies.

## Aliyah MORGENSTERN, Vice Rector European Affairs, Université Sorbonne Nouvelle–Paris 3



**BIO NOTES** Aliyah Morgenstern is a Professor of Linguistics at Sorbonne Nouvelle University, where she also serves as Vice President for European Affairs. She founded and chaired the university’s Research Ethics Committee for five years. She has taught at institutions such as Brown University, Harvard University, Université Paris Descartes, ENS Lyon, and Sorbonne Nouvelle, where she completed her PhD and habilitation.

She has also held numerous academic leadership roles, including Dean of Doctoral Studies and Co-Director of her research laboratory. Her international profile is reflected in her leadership roles in international Scientific Societies in Gesture Studies, Cognitive Linguistics and Child Language, as well as her participation in major evaluation bodies like the the French, Swiss, Belgian, British national agencies, the NSF and the ERC.

Born in the United States into a multilingual family, she has focused her research on the roots and functioning of language, particularly in monolingual, multilingual, and multimodal acquisition in early childhood. The fifteen research projects she has led have allowed her to build a flexible international team engaged in collecting, annotating, and analysing ethnographic video data of family interactions. These multimodal datasets, shared openly with the scientific community, are processed using specialized software for visualization and analysis. Digital humanities thus serve as a vital instrument in her research, enabling mixed method approaches that combine quantitative and qualitative analyses while preserving and disseminating the cultural heritage of family interaction.

### **ABSTRACT** “Digital Humanities for Open and Ethical Multimodal Language Research”

Digital humanities provide a critical framework for ethical, transparent, and collaborative research. Research on family interaction and child language exemplifies this progress, made increasingly feasible by advances in video recording and digital technologies. Through a series of international projects, our team has developed longitudinal, multimodal corpora based on naturalistic video data. This approach combines expertise from linguistics, anthropology, psychology, and computer science to analyse children’s prosody, gestures, verbal productions, and pragmatic development in context. By integrating field studies, multilingual databases, specialized software, and cross-disciplinary collaboration, these multimodal analyses are grounded in ecologically valid data that are shared openly and aligned with FAIR principles. Open-access datasets not only preserve cultural and linguistic heritage but also foster reproducibility, interdisciplinary dialogue, and new standards of openness and accountability in the humanities.

## Serena AMMIRATI, Associate Professor in Palaeography, Roma Tre University and Principal Investigator of the project CLASSICS



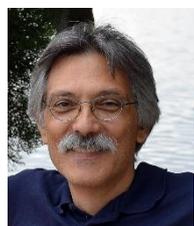
**BIO NOTES** Serena Ammirati is associate professor in Palaeography at University of Roma Tre. She is the Principal Investigator of the project CLASSICS: Codices Latini Antiquiores Supplements. Scripts In-depth through Computer Science (2025-2027), funded by the Italian Ministry of University and Research. Her main topics of research are the ancient latin book and its scripts, the graphic culture of medieval Rome and the digital humanities.

Since 2016, she has been collaborating on several digital humanities research initiatives aimed at developing machine learning-based technologies for the analysis, transcription, and study of manuscript sources. Two projects – In Codice Ratio and Matrices – have received competitive funding. Both projects are carried out in collaboration with major institutional partners, including the Vatican Apostolic Archive, the State Archives of Rome, the Chamber of Deputies, and the National Research Council (CNR).

### **ABSTRACT** "Ten Years of In Codice Ratio: Reflections on Knowledge Acquisition and Teaching Methodologies"

*Over the past decade, the In Codice Ratio project has represented a pioneering interdisciplinary initiative at the intersection of digital humanities, computer science, and manuscript studies. Launched in 2016 by Roma Tre University, the project aimed to develop advanced machine learning to support the transcription, analysis, and interpretation of medieval manuscripts—specifically those preserved in the Vatican Apostolic Archive. While its technological achievements are significant, what distinguishes In Codice Ratio is its pedagogical dimension: the project has served as a research and training environment for students and early-career scholars across disciplines. This paper reflects on the dual trajectory of the project: the evolution of its knowledge production processes and the educational strategies implemented throughout its development. On the one hand, we examine the methodological innovations achieved in the automatic recognition of handwritten texts, the creation of annotated corpora, and the collaborative workflows that enabled continuous refinement of AI models through human-in-the-loop processes. On the other hand, we explore how the project fostered interdisciplinary learning by engaging students from high schools, universities, and doctoral programs in real-world research, combining domain-specific expertise with technical skill acquisition.*

## Christos PAPTAEODOROU, Professor, Dept. of History and Philosophy of Science, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens



**BIO NOTES** Christos Papatheodorou received a B.Sc. and a Ph.D. in Computer Science, both from the Department of Informatics, Athens University of Economics in 1987 and 1992 respectively. He was in charge of the development of Digital Library and Information Services at the Library of the National Centre for Scientific Research "Demokritos" in Athens, Greece (August 1996 - March 2002). In 2002 he joined the Dept. of Archives and Library Sciences, Ionian University, Corfu, Greece.

In 2020 he joined the Dept. of History and Philosophy of Science, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Athens, Greece. His research interests include Digital Humanities, Metadata interoperability, Digital Curation and Preservation, e-Science, Evaluation of Digital Libraries and Information Services, Personalized access to Digital Libraries and Internet, User Modelling and Web Mining. He was the Editor of the International Journal of Metadata, Semantics and Ontologies until 2024. He was the Chair of the Steering Committee of the International Conference on Theory and Practice of Digital Libraries (TPDL), from September 2012 to September 2015. He was the Chair of the Dept. of Archives, Library Science and Museology, Ionian University, from September 2013 to October 2015.

## Alexander HASGALL, Higher Education and Research Policy Expert, former Head of the EUA Council for Doctoral Education



**BIO NOTES** Dr. Alexander Hasgall is an expert in research and innovation policy, with a particular focus on doctoral education, research ethics and integrity, international cooperation, and strategy development in higher education. He has held senior leadership roles at both European and national levels and has contributed to shaping research and education policies, particularly in the area of doctoral training.

From 2017 to 2023, he served as Head of the Council for Doctoral Education at the European University Association (EUA-CDE). EUA-CDE is the largest European network dedicated to strengthening doctoral education, promoting innovative policies and good practices across more than 280 universities in 38 countries. It is part of the European University Association, which represents over 800 universities across Europe. In this role, he was also responsible for EUA's work on research ethics and integrity.

Until June 2025, he served as Head of International Funding Policy at the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF). In this capacity, he led the development of SNSF's international cooperation strategy and was responsible for initiating and managing partnerships with international stakeholders and for coordinating the Foundation's Europe dossier. Before EUA and SNSF, coordinated the Programme "performances of research in the social sciences and humanities", a collaboration of all Swiss Universities which developed new approaches to evaluating research in the SSH, and was based at the University of Geneva.

Dr. Hasgall holds a doctorate in Contemporary History from the University of Zurich. His research focused on memory politics and transitional justice in Argentina, under the title: "Regimes of Recognition: The Struggle for Truth and Justice in Dealing with the Last Military Dictatorship in Argentina."

He has long-standing ties to Latin America and worked as a human rights observer in Guatemala from 1995 to 1997.

He also serves on several international advisory boards, including the Scientific Council of the TU Munich Graduate School, and previously contributed to various EU-funded projects in advisory roles. He also serves as a trustee of the UK charity CRAC/Vitae, which is dedicated to supporting the professional development of researchers and enhancing research culture across higher education and research institutions. In addition, he coordinates a task force on peer review in the social sciences and humanities within the COARA Working Group on Evaluating SSH Research Globally.

### **ABSTRACT** "From Metrics to Meaning: How Global Rankings Challenge the Humanities"

*Global university rankings are often seen as indicators of academic excellence - but their methodologies often fundamentally misrepresent the nature and value of the humanities. Citation metrics, STEM-centric criteria, and narrow definitions of research output disadvantage interpretive, context-driven, and locally engaged scholarship, and even risks undermining academic freedom and institutional autonomy. This keynote examines how such biases shape funding, reputations, enrolments, and academic culture, and explores alternative forms of evaluation that prioritise narrative, cultural and societal relevance, and disciplinary diversity. Drawing on international reform efforts like CoARA and DORA, the talk argues for a shift from audit-based comparison to pluralistic assessment rooted in the humanities' core mission: to deepen meaning, foster critical understanding, and engage with complex societal and human challenges.*

### Tasos CHRISTOFIDES, Rector, University of Cyprus



**BIO NOTES** Undergraduate studies in Mathematics at the University of Athens (Greece), graduate studies (M.S.E. and Ph.D) in Mathematical Sciences at the Johns Hopkins University (USA). He has served as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Mathematical Sciences of the State University of New York at Binghamton.

In 1991 he joined the newly founded University of Cyprus and the Department of Mathematics and Statistics, becoming its first Chairperson, serving as an Associate Professor and later as Professor. His areas of expertise include indirect questioning techniques, stochastic orders, dependent random variables and probability inequalities. He is the co-author (with Arijit Chaudhuri) of a research book on Indirect Questioning Techniques in Sample Surveys (Springer, Heidelberg 2013), co-editor (with Arijit Chaudhuri and C.R. Rao) of the Handbook of Statistics Vol 34 and author of a number of papers on probability inequalities, randomized response and indirect questioning techniques in general. He is on the editorial board of four international journals of probability and statistics.

He has participated in a number of research projects and has provided consulting services for various organizations including the Statistical Service of Cyprus. He has served on various national and international scientific and expert committees, among them, the European Statistical Advisory Committee and the Advisory Committee of the Greek Statistical System. He is the Rector of the University of Cyprus, the first public University of Cyprus and the President of the Cyprus Statistical Society.

### Eleri ROSIER, Professor of Marketing and Strategy, Cardiff Business School and International Dean for India, Cardiff University



**BIO NOTES** Eleri is a Professor of Marketing and Strategy at Cardiff Business School and International Dean for India at Cardiff University. She is also the Director of Postgraduate Recruitment and Admissions for Cardiff Business School. Eleri is a Member of the Chartered Institute of Marketing, a Senior Fellow of the Higher Education Academy and an Association of Business Schools Certified Management & Business Educator.

Previously, her work has appeared in the European Journal of Marketing, Industrial Marketing Management, the Journal of Strategic Marketing and the Journal of Euromarketing. Before joining Cardiff Business School, Eleri worked in the marketing and event management industry and also has extensive experience in promotion marketing as well as assisting small and charitable organisations on marketing planning and fundraising.

### João SÀÁGUA, Rector, NOVA University Lisbon



**BIO NOTES** João Sàágua is Rector of NOVA University Lisbon and Full Professor at the Department of Philosophy at NOVA FCSH, where he teaches Philosophy of Communication, Logic and Argumentation Theory. He obtained a PhD in Contemporary Philosophy (Husserl vs. Carnap and Quine) in 1990, having been a visiting scholar at Oxford University in 1995-1996. His research interests focus on nullable argumentation, enthymeme and argumentation as rational action. On these topics, he has published several books and articles. He was one of the founders of

IFILNOVA, formerly called the Institute of Philosophy of Language (IFL), of which he was deputy director. Between 2005 and 2013 he was Director of NOVA FCSH.