

NEWSUOC

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INTERNATIONAL

Wintertime in UoC: cultural events for international students

● **Linguistics in UoC**
Interview:
Elena Anagnostopoulou



ΠΑΝΕΠΙΣΤΗΜΙΟ ΚΡΗΤΗΣ
UNIVERSITY OF CRETE

NEWSUOC

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UNESCO Chair "ICT in ESD" Meeting in Heraklion



Education for Sustainable Development in Higher Education: Policy for the Future

The UNESCO Chair "Information and Communication Technologies in Education for Sustainable Development" (ICT in ESD) of the University of Crete hosted the meeting of the UNIESD&ST network in Heraklion in November 22-24, 2023. The Network includes six UNESCO Chairs from Leuphana and Heidelberg University (Germany), the University for Peace (Costa Rica), York University (Canada) and Rhodes University (South Africa).

The UNESCO Chair "ICT in ESD" was established in 2008 at the University of Crete and is chaired by Professor Emeritus Vassilios Makrakis. The idea for establishing the UNESCO Chair originated during Prof. Makrakis's one-year service at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris in 2007 as a recognition of his work in the field of ICT in ESD. UNESCO Chairs were introduced in 1992 to promote international inter-university cooperation, knowledge sharing and collaborative work.

The key objectives of the UNESCO Chair "ICT in ESD" are: 1) to promote the contextualization of ICT in ESD in higher education in general and more specifically in teacher education; 2) to develop capacity-building programs for the professionalization of academic teaching enabled by ICTs and 3) to promote the internationalization of the Chair through the establishment of a North-South Higher Education Network.

The UNESCO Chair "ICT in ESD" introduced new courses in ICT and sustainability and helped restructure the study program of the UoC Department of Primary Education. The Chair has been cooperating with the National Commission for UNESCO in Greece.

The Chair has also participated in the UNESCO Global Action Programme on Education for Sustainable

Development and immensely contributed to the internationalization of the University of Crete through the organization of various national and international conferences, scientific publications and toolkits in collaboration with scholars affiliated with the Chair as well as with the coordination of more than 10 European Commission-funded projects. Among the projects involved are the following:

RefTeCp (Refugee Teaching Certification Programme for Egyptian and Refugee Teachers Enabled by Blended Learning): European Commission Erasmus + Programme involving five Egyptian universities and two European Union Universities (2019-2023).

ICTeEfs (ICT-enabled In-service Training of Teachers to Address Education for Sustainability): European Commission Erasmus + Programme, involving seven Universities in Indonesia, Malaysia and Vietnam as well as two European Union Universities (2019-2023).

PUAT (Professionalizing Undergraduate Academic Teaching to Address SDGs in Multiple Disciplines): European Commission Erasmus + Programme, involving three Universities in South Africa and two European Union Universities (2019-2023).

ACT4SDGs (Professionalization of Academic Teaching to Infuse SDGs in Latin American Universities): European Commission Erasmus + Programme, involving four partners from Europe and ten partners from Argentina, Colombia, Costa Rica, and Mexico (2024-2027).

The Chair was part of a new initiative involving five other UNESCO Chairs from Germany, Costa Rica, Canada, and South Africa that resulted in establishing a new UNITWIN UNESCO cooperation agreement on Education for Sustainable Development and Social Transformation (UNIESD&ST). Recently, a pilot program on Politics for the Future ended, and during the meeting in Heraklion new initiatives were discussed.

UoC STUDENTS WIN THE SILVER MEDAL at the iGEM World Synthetic Biology Competition

The research team of undergraduate students in the UoC School of Sciences and Engineering, **iGEM uniCRETE**, won a silver medal in the **iGEM World Synthetic Biology Competition**, which took place in Paris in November 2-5, 2023.

Inspired by the wealth and quality of olive-oil production in the island of Crete, the twelve-member team created and presented their project

"DeltaSense" at the competition, a **cell-free biosensor** for detecting pyrethroid deltamethrin in water samples.

The neurotoxic properties of deltamethrin, although contributing to the control of the olive fruit fly (*Bactrocera oleae*), pose significant risks to non-target species and, if safe limits are exceeded, disturb the environmental balance, affecting human health. Therefore, by prioritizing the well-being of the local rural community and recognizing the need for proactive solutions, iGEM uniCRETE developed a cell-free biosensor that exploits the strong aptamer-deltamethrin linkage to enhance its selectivity and sensitivity and detect pyrethroid residues exceeding the limits set by the European Union in water samples. The biosensor can detect the high amount of deltamethrin through a change in the sample's color visible to the naked eye. Although the system was initially geared purely toward water samples, the

SILVER
MEDAL FOR THE
UoC STUDENT TEAM "iGEM
UNICRETE" AT THE iGEM 2023
GLOBAL SYNTHETIC BIOLOGY
COMPETITION!



team has sought to extend the potential of DeltaSense to other samples, such as olive paste, olive oil, soil, fruits, and vegetables.

In addition, the system can be adapted to detect any target molecule desired, confirming its flexibility as a detection method. The members of iGEM uniCRETE presented DeltaSense and its potential to revolutionize the field of biosensors, focusing on its portability and economic viability, and managed to impress the public and expert judges during the evaluation process, finally winning the silver medal!

As part of the team's efforts for inclusion in scientific processes and its commitment to create a scientifically well-documented project, iGEM uniCRETE engaged in discussions with farmers, academic experts in various disciplines, people with years of experience in the field of olive cultivation and citizens. All necessary experiments were conducted under the guidance of Ms.

Filippidi Emmanouela, Professor at the UoC Department of Materials Science, and **Ms. Gizeli Electra**, Professor at the UoC Department of Biology. The iGEM uniCRETE team also organized interactive activities and workshops and collaborated with other groups, all under the prism of the inclusion of different social groups in the scientific community, ensuring that the scientific approach was well-informed and aligned with the community's needs.

The team would like to thank the University of Crete for, among other things, being a strong supporter of the iGEM uniCRETE project. It should be noted that this is the third consecutive time that the University of Crete has been represented in the iGEM competition and received the silver medal.



INTERNATIONAL RAKI- MAKING FEAST

The international and Erasmus students of the University of Crete attended a traditional raki-making event (known as *Rakokazano*) organized by the Cultural Association of the village of Kato Vathia "Niros"!

The production of the famous Cretan spirit *Raki* or *Tsikoudia* is deeply rooted in Cretan culture. The entire process becomes a celebration with food, music and dances in which friends and relatives take part and sample the spirit while it is being made. Distilleries are usually small family-run factories, combining the technological facilities of raki-making with those of a tavern (tables, kitchen, etc.) in one space.

At the invitation of the university's Career Counselor and Secretary of the Cultural Association, Mr. Dimitris Sampsonidis, to the Erasmus Student Network (ESN) of the University of Crete, 22 students from different countries were transported to Kato Vathia. There, they experienced authentic Cretan hospitality and learned about the traditional raki distillation process.

They tasted *wedding rice*, a traditional Cretan dish, roasted pork made in the wood oven, and other local delicacies. They learned Cretan dances accompanied by lyra and partied alongside the villagers.

The villagers met young people from Europe, Asia and Africa and learned about the value of Erasmus Mobility.

These were beautiful moments of sharing culture and exploring career paths at the first international *rakokazano* of Kato Vathia!



UoC winter excursion for International Students

A Blend of Culture, Tradition and Learning!

The University of Crete, in a collaborative effort with the University Gymnasium in Heraklion, the [UoC Welcome Office](#), and the Department of International and Public Relations in Heraklion, organized a memorable Christmas educational excursion on December 8, 2023. This unique event was part of the university's ongoing commitment to providing enriching cultural and educational experiences to its international community, including students and researchers participating in the Erasmus+ program and the UoC English-taught postgraduate programs.



The first stop was the historic **Monastery of Odigitria**, where the Abbot, Father Parthenios, graciously guided the group through the monastery's grounds. He shared insights into its rich history, offering a glimpse into Crete's religious and cultural heritage.





Next, the group visited the “**Dimitrakakis Family**” Olive Mill in Tymbaki. The international participants had the unique opportunity to witness the traditional olive oil production process. The visit was not only educational but also a sensory experience, as the owners prepared a welcoming meal, allowing everyone to taste the fresh, locally produced olive oil.



The final destination was the renowned “**Zacharioudakis Estate**” winery. This visit was a celebration of Crete’s famous wine-making tradition. The participants enjoyed a guided winery tour, learning about the intricate wine-making process. The highlight was a tasting session of the estate’s finest wines, providing a perfect end to the day’s journey.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to all the participants who attended this educational excursion. We owe a great debt of gratitude to our gracious hosts at the monastery, the olive mill, and the winery. Their warm hospitality and willingness to share their knowledge and traditions were crucial in making this experience both enriching and memorable. This educational excursion was more than just a trip; it was a testament to the University of Crete’s dedication to promoting cultural exchange and showcasing local traditions.



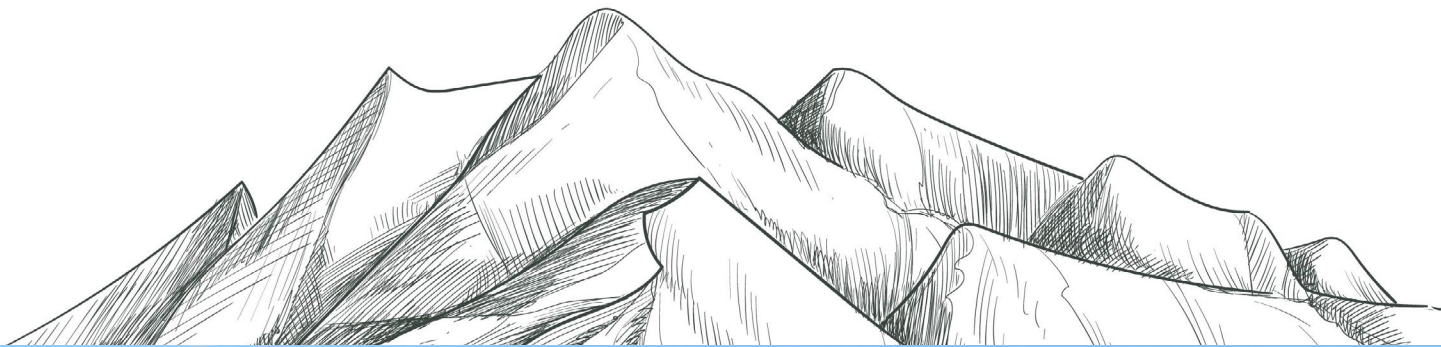
Educational visits for medical students at the Museums of Heraklion

"History of Medicine" was one of the courses offered to the students of the [UoC International Program in Medicine](#) during the winter semester of the year 23-24, by Assistant Professor Gregory Tsoucalas.

Lectures were delivered at the Heraklion Archeological Museum, the Museum of Natural History and the Museum of Medicine, on the premises of the School of Medicine of the UoC Campus in Heraklion.

Different periods of the history of Medicine were presented and discussed, while medical students had the opportunity to have a close look at exhibits and artifacts in all three Museums.





Erasmus students explore CRETAN MOUNTAINS

Crete is a mountainous island characterized by three vast mountain ranges (Dikti range in Lassithi, Ida or Psiloritis range in central Crete and the White Mountains in Chania) that are home to important ecosystems and endemic species. Cretan mountains remain largely pristine with beautiful woods, caves, gorges and rugged slopes that are linked to important Greek myths, such as the birth of Zeus and the mythical robot Talos.

In the winter semester 2023, three Erasmus students (Nora from Spain, Annika from Austria and Tobias from Germany) managed to conquer some of the most important Cretan peaks, as hiking is their passion. They were not the first Erasmus students who climbed Cretan mountains for a good purpose though, as have we also experienced a unique marriage proposal at the top of Psiloritis, the highest mountain of Crete (2.456m), when Annika and Espen from Nikolaus Copernicus University in Poland vowed to spend the rest of their life together!

The view on the way back from Gorge of the Dead





Sarakina Gorge – one of our most favorite gorges. Some small climbing-parts are included



Psiloritis, our first hike on Crete. It is totally worth it and a good hike for experienced hikers. Necessary to bring suncream, a hat and also a jacket for the summit – it is getting cold up there



Erasmus marriage proposal at the top of the highest mountain of Crete!



On the summit of Mount Spathi – the highest summit of the eastern mountains

Linguistics in UoC

Interview:
Elena Anagnostopoulou



Why is linguistics a fascinating field of study?

I will provide a personal answer to this question, taking as a starting point a wonderful story presented in [MIT News](#) (September 27, 2023). An MIT biological engineering student attending an undergraduate class on syntax, **Kanoe Evile**, and the faculty member teaching this class, **David Pesetsky**, wrote a paper together which appeared in a major journal of our field [Glossa](#) about the emerging use of a new construction in English, the “whom of which” construction, which was brought up by the student during a discussion of relative clauses in class. The “whom of which” construction was part of the student’s mental grammar (something the student used and understood), while the Professor was completely unaware of its existence. This was the starting point for their joint research. Evile and Pesetsky argued that the highly intriguing properties of the “whom of which” construction in English can be better understood if we compare it to phenomena found in languages as diverse as the Alaskan language Tlingit (Seth Cable PhD ’07), the Mayan language Ch’ol (Jessica Coon PhD ’10) and Finnish. Evile, now a medical student at Columbia University, said that this research work widened their scientific horizons: *“....It pushed me to do my minor in linguistics. This was a really fun experience. I am grateful to David and the linguistics department. It’s good to have this scientific mindset, but instead of only applying it in the lab, applying it to language.”*

This story reveals some of the reasons why linguistics

is a fascinating field: Speakers have surprisingly clear and subtle intuitions about linguistic phenomena no one ever taught them. Grammatical knowledge reflects highly abstract hierarchical representations which have been shown to exist in invariably all languages that have been studied so far. What are the principles underlying this unconscious knowledge, and how can we investigate different aspects of it in order to uncover key properties of the human mind? This is **Noam Chomsky’s** question, which defined the field of **modern formal generative linguistics**. His views are explicitly outlined in his 1986 book *Knowledge of Language* which argues that the study of linguistic structures provides insight into the workings of human mind. At the same time, the American linguist **Joseph Greenberg** with his seminal 1963 paper *Some Universals of Grammar with Particular Reference to the Order of Meaningful Elements* and his overall work founded the field of **modern linguistic typology**. Looking at a sample of languages from different families and areas in the world, Greenberg demonstrated that linguistic diversity may seem vast but it is by no means chaotic: certain patterns consistently occur, while others are systematically excluded, despite the fact that they are logically possible. What are the limits of linguistic diversity and how does diversity interact with so called linguistic universals, reflecting unity in language? What is the explanation for universal patterns that are either absolute or strong tendencies in languages? What explains linguistic variation in varieties/dialects of the same language, languages of the same families and variation across language

families and isolates in different areas of the world? Why is it that language universals systematically arise in languages with no historical or geographical connections, thus arguably reflecting properties of human cognition? Children effortlessly acquire the grammar of their native language perfectly, in the first years of their lives, without explicit teaching and by being exposed to highly unsystematic, incomplete and fragmented input. While linguists are not in a position to describe and explain a phenomenon unless they examine, so called, negative evidence (i.e. the sentences that are ill-formed), children construct the grammatical system of their native language in the first years of their lives, going through similar stages across languages, without explicit teaching and without access to negative evidence. They make errors, but these errors are systematic, and there are certain errors children never make. This is called by Chomsky in *Knowledge of Language* “**Plato’s problem**”, the problem of explaining how we can know so much given our limited experience. Native speakers have unconscious and subtle intuitions about phenomena no one ever showed to them. Mental grammars (what people unconsciously know, leading them to understand and produce utterances in real life) are full of fascinating phenomena that pose so many questions and puzzles once they are noticed, like the “whom of which” English construction mentioned above. It often takes years and a lot of sensitivity to linguistic data to notice such a phenomenon, but once this happens, then there are so many new puzzles raised by it, leading to new questions and new discoveries. Chomsky’s approach to Plato’s problem involves treating language as a normal research topic in the natural sciences. Modern formal linguistics is thus the scientific study of language, serving as a powerful link between natural sciences and humanities. Our methods are based on the data we observe, generalizations derived from these data, theories we construct in order to account for these generalizations, predictions these theories make about what is possible and what is impossible in language. We are constantly asking questions about phenomena that look simple and trivial, but turn out to be extremely complex to characterize once we attempt to become more precise about them. We are curious to understand the workings of language because it is a unique and definitional property of humans, and we are curious to understand the workings of language change throughout the centuries because it is a valuable key towards approaching and understanding the human past.

Which were the most important moments in your academic career?

My academic career was neither straightforward nor easy; I owe a lot to luck, and meeting the right people at the right time. I have experienced many beautiful and important moments in my career as a linguist, and most of them involve inspiring teachers, generous colleagues and good friends and collaborators I would like to thank. There are many more people to thank and many more moments to remember, but this is already too much.

- Deciding to specialize in linguistics when I was a student at the department of Philology, University of Athens, 1984-1988. My first teachers in linguistics, **Georgios Babinotis**, **Dimitra Theophanopoulou Kontou** and **Despina Chila Markopoulou** introduced me to the field and made me realize how beautiful and interesting it is to think about language.
- Attending the classes of the first linguist that showed me the beauty of theoretical syntax, **Tim Stowell**, in Vienna, 1989. Getting to know the fellow students at the University of Vienna, **Martin Prinzhorn’s** group, many of which later became famous linguists and some of which friends for life. Listening to the guest Professors in Salzburg and Vienna in the years 1989-1993. Getting to know my close friend and dear colleague, **Ioanna Kappa**, in Salzburg.
- Having the luck to attend two notorious Summer Schools of Linguistics, **Girona 1990, 1992**. Fantastic classes by fantastic Professors and amazing fellow students from all over the world inspired me to pursue a career in theoretical syntax.
- Having the opportunity to spend time as member of **Henk van Riemsdijk’s Grammatikamodellen** group at the University of Tilburg in 1993-1997. In the Netherlands, I could work, attend classes at several universities, collaborate with **Martin Everaert** on anaphora, attend the intensive **LOT courses**, meet many new friends, and attend the classes of two amazing linguists that are no longer with us: **Teun Hoekstra** and **Tanya Reinhart**.
- Getting to know **Artemis Alexiadou** in the same period. She became a friend for a lifetime, a co-author with whom I produced some of the most interesting and well-received work (some of which also together with her brilliant ex PhD student and

now collaborator **Florian Schäfer**), and the person with which I have been sharing my linguistic and non-linguistic life since 1993 on an almost everyday long-distance basis. It is a pity we don't have much time to work together anymore. When we do, it is still great fun, extremely inspiring, and we laugh a lot!

- Spending the fall semester 1995 as a visitor at UPenn, Philadelphia, sponsored by the Dutch NWO. I got to know **Sabine Iatridou** who became another friend for a lifetime. I wrote somewhere "....I owe the world to Sabine for everything she has done for me over the years, and everything she has taught me about linguistics and life". I also got to know and spent time with three of my best friends in linguistics, **Spyridoula Varlokosta**, **Roumyana (Roumi) Pancheva** and **Rajesh Bhatt**.
- Presenting with Artemis Alexiadou our first big paper at the 11th Comparative Germanic Syntax Workshop, University of Rutgers, 4.11.1995 (as some people remarked, it was surreal to give a talk on the EPP in pro-drop languages at a Germanic Workshop). The happiness and joy I felt when I woke up the next morning thinking about how well received our talk was. In the Spring 1996, a related talk at the 19th GLOW Colloquium, in the neighborhood I grew up and still live in Athens. A precious moment because my father was able to attend it.
- Spending 1997-1998 as a post-doc at MIT (last semester of Building 20, first semester of Building E39), a unique and totally unexpected opportunity **Sabine Iatridou** offered. The best year of my life. Intellectual inspiration, lots of ideas in the air, new friendships, linguistic discussions and appointments, fantastic classes, talks at the linguistic ling-lunches every week in an informal setting, at formal colloquia, dancing Salsa at parties, a lively and creative atmosphere. Attendance of the notorious **Chomsky's Thursday afternoon classes** on philosophy of language and linguistics. The opportunity to work with **Sabine Iatridou** and **Roumyana Pancheva** on our paper on the Perfect, to discuss with **David Pesetsky** clitics, ditransitives and intervention effects, which later became my 2003 book, and with **Alec Marantz** the joint 1998 and 2001 papers with Artemis greatly contributed to who I am today. Two linguistic appointments with **Noam Chomsky**, one with Artemis and one alone, to discuss our joint 2001 Linguistic Inquiry paper. Waiting in front of Chomsky's office to meet is something I will never forget. I met again **Winfried Lechner** at UMass Amherst, and we spent wonderful weekends in Northampton. From that moment on, Winnie has always been present in my life, offering great help and companionship in linguistics and life.
- Joining as an Assistant Professor the Department of Philology, University of Crete at a time of great promise in 1998. A good moment for Greece, a good moment for the University. I owe this to **Melita Stavrou** and **Michael Paschalis**. I met very interesting people from different fields, made great friends at the department and the School of Philosophy. Crete gave me the intellectual freedom to pursue my career in a supporting environment, among excellent colleagues. Together with **Alexis Kalokerinos**, **Ioanna Kappa** and **Georgia Katsimali** we built a strong Division of Linguistics. Some of the best students I have ever encountered were among my first students. They later became excellent linguists and very close friends. Among the most rewarding moments in my career were the first discussions we had some years later, after their PhDs. They were no longer my students, but independent thinkers and colleagues.
- Spending a wonderful Fall semester in 2002 as a visiting scholar at MIT. We lived in the most beautiful apartment at Porter Square, Cambridge MA.
- Invited to spend a semester at MIT as a visiting Associate Professor in 2007 (this time in Frank Gehry's Stata Center) via an unexpected phone call by the Chair of the Linguistics Department back then, **Irene Heim**. The experience of co-teaching graduate classes with **Sabine Iatridou** and **Danny Fox** to amazing groups of students was demanding, challenging and inspiring.
- Becoming Full Professor in 2009. A very special moment in one's academic career. I owe the joy of this moment to **Melita Stavrou**, **Despina Chila Markopoulou** and **David Pesetsky** for their wonderful assessment of my work as members of the evaluation committee.
- Receiving the competitive *Friedrich Wilhelm Bessel Research Award*, Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, Germany, in the Fall 2013. In the middle of the Greek financial crisis that destroyed the lives of academics in Greece. Help and recognition from Germany kept me going for the next ten years. I owe this to **Uli Sauerland**, **Artemis Alexiadou**, the (unknown to me) scientists

who wrote letters supporting my candidacy, and the anonymous reviewers in Germany who evaluated my work in the second round.

- Turning to historical linguistics via a collaboration with my ex undergraduate student from the University of Crete and now senior lecturer at Ulster University, **Christina Sevdali**, which led to a successful application for a competitive grant funded by Arts & Humanities Research Council (AHRC), United Kingdom, 2017-2019.
- Starting to work on grammatical gender and coordination resolution with the brilliant young linguist **Luke Adamson** as external collaborator in his NSF grant at Harvard University, 2020-2022, that led to interesting new theoretical work.
- Receiving an unexpected phone-call from the **Vice-Rector and the Award Committee** of the University of Crete that informed me about the honor to have been awarded the "*Stelios Pichorides' Award for Excellence in Academic Teaching*, University of Crete in the Spring 2022. A very moving presentation of my work and life as a colleague and friend during the ceremony (in June 2022) by my then colleague (now mayor of Herakleion), Alexis Kalokerinos, and the party he and his wife organized to celebrate with dear friends and colleagues.
- An invitation for a talk about linguistics to biologists in **Darvinian Mondays** in Heraklion in the Winter 2017 led to a totally unexpected major turning point in my scientific life and career. I met the evolutionary biologist, **Manolis Ladoukakis**, Associate Professor at the Department of Biology of UCrete. Together with **Dimitris Michelioudakis**, Assistant Professor of Linguistics, AUth, we started collaborating on language as an evolvable system. This led to the development of a theoretical framework published in *Bioessays* in March 2022, and an investigation of language change via a combination of quantitative methods and tools inspired by evolutionary biology and qualitative methods employed by theoretical, historical and typological linguistics. This collaboration widened my scientific horizons enormously, and gave us the opportunity to establish an interdisciplinary group of linguists, evolutionary and computational biologists through two successful

grant applications, one funded by UCrete and one by the Hellenic Foundation for Research and Innovation H.F.R.I. (Host Institution: University of Crete, http://modelgloss.philology.uoc.gr/index_en.php). I thank **Pavlos Pavlidis** for his brilliant stream of ideas on how to combine bioinformatics with linguistics, **Maria Margarita Makri** for her hard post-doctoral work, **Ruby Sleeman** and **Christos Zioutis** for their contributions. I also thank **Manolis Papadakis from E.L.K.E. UCrete** for his huge help with administrating the project.

- Our interdisciplinary research led to results and questions motivating the application for the ERC Advanced Grant 2022 SH4 "Phylogenies probing Grammar (PhylProGramm)" in April 2022, which also includes **Dimitra Melissaropoulou** (Linguistics-dialectal research, Italian Department, AUth) and **Alexandros Stamatakis** (Computer Science, phylogenetic inference, ERA-Chair ICS-FORTH) as members of the research team. I thank **Gelina Harlaftis**, **Maria Malathraki** and **Nektarios Tavernarakis** (IMS-FORTH/FORTH), and Artemis Alexiadou, Uli Sauerland, Kazuko Yatsushiro, Luke Adamson, Athanasios Ramadhanides, Philippe Schlenker, Jonathan Bobaljik, Stergios Chatzikyriakides, Ioanna Kappa, Christina Sevdali, Vina Tsakali, Winfried Lechner, and Alexandros Katsigiannis, for help, advice, support, criticism and optimism. I will not forget the immense stress during the grant preparation and at the interview, the happiness hearing the unbelievable news that the application was successful (at home in Athens, June 29, 2023) and the beautiful morning wondering around in front of Fortezza by the sea in Rethymno when I was informed that the Grant Agreement had been signed (18 September 2023).



**Advanced
Grant**



CRETELING 2024: SUMMER SCHOOL IN LINGUISTICS

The UoC Department of Philology / Linguistics Division organizes one of the most successful English-taught Summer Schools, CreteLing, featuring an exciting summer program with a variety of subjects and activities in the field of Linguistics. Every year, CreteLing hosts distinguished Professors from all over the world who travel to Crete to teach various topics in Linguistics. CreteLing 2024 will take place on July 13 – 26 in Gallos Campus, Rethymnon. Prof. Elena Anagnostopoulou is among the instructors, and this year she will give lectures on Microparameters and Macroparameters in Morphosyntax together with Asst. Prof. Ümit Atılamaz.

Follow [CreteLing](#) and stay tuned!



Distinctions



Prof. Vassilis Charmandaris at the Evaluation and Accreditation Council of the Hellenic Authority for Higher Education (HAHE)

Mr. Vassilis Charmandaris, Professor at the Department of Physics of the University of Crete and Director of the Institute of Astrophysics of the Foundation for Research and Technology-Hellas (FORTH), has been elected Member of the Evaluation and Accreditation Council of the Hellenic Authority for Higher Education (HAHE). Mr. Vassilis Charmandaris has significant experience in HEI quality assurance and evaluation processes in Greece and abroad. He has served as Director of the National Observatory of Athens, President of the Hellenic Astronomical Society, member of the Board of Directors of the Foundation for Research & Technology – Hellas (FORTH), member of the Scientific Council of INSU/CNRS France, Vice President of the Board of Directors of OPTICON-RadioNet-Pilot and he is a member of the Sectoral Scientific Board “Natural Sciences & Mathematics” of the National Research, Technology and Innovation Council since 2020. The election of Mr. Charmandaris as a Member of the Evaluation and Accreditation Council of the Hellenic Authority for Higher Education is a recognition of his significant contribution to the field of Education and Research. The academic community of the University of Crete is proud of his achievements and wishes him every success.

Prof. Georgios Chamilos elected member of the Board of Directors of the National Organization for Medicines



Mr. Georgios Chamilos, Professor of Microbiology & Infectious Diseases at the Medical School of the University of Crete, has been elected a full member of the new Management Board of the National Organization for Medicines.

Prof. Chamilos has demonstrated high dedication and scientific excellence in health and medical research. His election to this position is a recognition of his remarkable career and significant contribution to the scientific community. We are confident that his contribution to the new Management Board of the National Organization for Medicines will be equally valuable and constructive.

Prof. Tsiolis member of the Sectoral Scientific Board of Social Sciences



Prof. Giorgios Tsiolis, Chairman of the UoC Department of Sociology, was appointed member of the nine-member Sectoral Scientific Board of Social Sciences. Sectoral Scientific Boards have been established to support the work of the National Research,

Technology and Innovation Council, which is the highest advisory body of the State for the definition of the national strategy for Research, Technology and Innovation Development in the country. Prof. Tsiolis is known for his distinguished academic work and multifaceted contribution to the field of social sciences, and we are confident that he will provide valuable services in the promotion of research in the field of social sciences in line with the ever-changing challenges and needs of society. We congratulate him on this important distinction and wish him success in his new role.

**Asst. Prof. Komontakis & his team win
6th place at the "NeurIPS 2023 - Machine
Unlearning" competition**



Mr. Nikos Komontakis, Assistant Professor at the UoC Department of Computer Science, and his team (Efsthathios Karypidis, Archimedes Unit of Athena Research Center, Pavlos Efremidis and Vasilios Periphanis, Department of Electrical & Computer Engineering / Democritus University of Thrace) participated in the international scientific competition "NeurIPS 2023 - Machine Unlearning", organized under the auspices of Google. The team developed its own solution, called Algorithmic Amnesiacs, to a problem of targeted deletion of the influence of requested samples without affecting the accuracy of artificial intelligence models, winning 6th place out of the 7 total prize-winning teams announced on the Kaggle platform. 1188 teams from universities, research centers and organizations from 72 countries participated in the competition, of which 1120 are on the final ranking list. The proposed algorithm is in the top 1% of all solutions and was announced by Google's organizing team at the Neural Information Processing Systems (NeurIPS) 2023 scientific conference, one of the leading AI conferences.

Link to Leaderboard on Kaggle:

<https://www.kaggle.com/competitions/neurips-2023-machine-unlearning/leaderboard>

Competition website:

<https://unlearning-challenge.github.io/>

**Xiaofang Lei, Doctor
of Chemistry of the
University of Crete**



Xiaofang Lei is the first Chinese citizen who joined the Department of Chemistry of the University of Crete in 2019 with the distinguished scholarships of the Chinese Scholarship Council and obtained her Ph.D. within four years.

During her Ph.D. ceremony, Xiaofang talked about the conducive and constructive environment in the laboratory and the Department of Chemistry, her future cooperation with Chinese institutions and the University of Crete and spoke about her new friends in Crete. Xiaofang's Ph.D. thesis and research were carried out under the supervision of Assistant Professor Konstantinos Neochoritis. During her research at the UoC Department of Chemistry, Xiaofang Lei published four (4) research articles in peer-reviewed journals, and she earned an assistant professor position in Shanghai! Congratulations!

**Myrto Falalaki,
UoC student in the
Department of Physics,
wins the "Giorgos
Grammatikakis" award!**



The UoC Department of Physics of the University of Crete is pleased to announce that it has established the annual "Giorgos Grammatikakis Award", in honor of **Giorgos Grammatikakis** (1939-2023), Professor Emeritus of the Department and former Rector of the University of Crete. The 1000-euro prize is accompanied by a commemorative diploma and awarded to high-performance students during the Department's graduation ceremony. For the year 2023, the "Giorgos Grammatikakis" prize was awarded to Ms. Myrto Falalaki, 3rd year student of the UoC Department of Physics. Ms. Falalaki has an average grade point average of 9.63/10 and is already working on research in cosmology and the study of the Milky Way's magnetic field, using data from **Skinakas Observatory**. Congratulations to Myrto!



The Cuban Ambassador visits the University of Crete



The Rector of the University of Crete, Prof. Georgios M. Kontakis, welcomed the Ambassador of the Republic of Cuba to Greece, Aramis Fuente Hernandez, on December 19, 2023, at Voutes Campus, Heraklion. The Vice-Rector of Research and Development, Prof. Michalis Pavlidis, and the representative of the Cuban Embassy in Crete, Mr. Manolis Vrithias, also attended the meeting. Discussions focused on future cooperation in education and research, as well as the possibility of signing memoranda of cooperation between the University of Crete and Cuban universities.

The Cultural Attaché of the U.S. Embassy in Greece visits UoC



The Cultural Attaché of the U.S. Embassy in Greece, Ms. Shanna Surendra, visited the University of Crete on December 6, 2023, at Voutes Campus in Heraklion. Ms. Shanna Surendra was welcomed by Prof. Georgios M. Kontakis, Rector of the University, Prof. Georgios Kossioris, Vice-Rector for Academic Affairs, Lifelong Learning, International Relations

and Outlook, Dr. Christos Tsatsanis, Professor of the Medical School and Coordinator of the International English-Language Undergraduate Program of the Medical School, as well as members of the Directorate of International and Public Relations, Welcome Office and the Department of Public Relations. The University of Crete's internationalization efforts and its bilateral relationships with educational and research institutions in the United States were the main subjects of discussion. Additionally, practical considerations were explored regarding how the U.S. Embassy could support the strategic internationalization goals of the University of Crete.

University of Crete Entrepreneurship Competition "Inno-storming"



The Knowledge Transfer Office of the University of Crete organized an entrepreneurship competition entitled "Inno-storming" during the period August - October 2023.

The activity was conducted in the framework of the project "Support for Actions to Promote Entrepreneurship, Innovation and Maturation for the Exploitation of Research Activity & New Products and Services developed at the University of Crete" and was funded by the Operational Programme "Human Resources Development, Education and Lifelong Learning".

The aim of the action was to enhance and support creativity, especially of the young researchers of the Institution, and to foster a culture of innovation.

The "Inno-storming" action was addressed to undergraduate, postgraduate, doctoral students

and research groups of the University of Crete from different scientific disciplines.

The participation was very satisfactory, with groups of young researchers from various departments submitting innovative research proposals.

The innovative research ideas submitted by the teams were evaluated and the first three of them received the prize set in the competition, which was the supply of laboratory consumables and small equipment for the further promotion of their research.

29/11 Webinar: "Adaptation to climate change: The irrigation technology mix of Italian farmers"

The UoC Department of Economics organizes the webinar "Adaptation to climate change: The irrigation technology mix of Italian farmers". Speaker: Charlotte Fabri from the Department of Engineering Management, Faculty of Business and Economics, University of Antwerp.

For more information please check: <https://economics.soc.uoc.gr/el/seminar/276/adaptation-to-climate-change-the-irrigation-technology-mix-of-italian-farmers>

6/12 Lecture: "Ghost-writing for the Athenian courts: how to become a logographer"

The UoC Department of Philology is organizing a lecture on "Ghost-writing for the Athenian courts: how to become a logographer". Speaker: Christopher Carey, Professor Emeritus of Classics at University College London.

14/12 Lecture— Forum of Hellenistic and Roman Philosophy

The UoC Department of Philology welcomes Alex Long (University of St. Andrews) and Rene Brouwer (University of Utrecht) in an online lecture on "Romanizing Greek Political Thought: Cicero on Magistrates and the Cosmopolis" in the framework of the Forum of Hellenistic and Roman Philosophy. The Forum of Hellenistic and Roman Philosophy is co-organized by Georgia Tsouni (Assistant Professor, UoC

Department of Philology) and Attila Nimeth (Research Professor of Philosophy, RCH Budapest).

More information is available on the website: <https://www.forumhellenisticum.com/>

17/1 Online speech: Higher Education Innovative pedagogies in Centers of Teaching and Learning: CTLs are neither islands nor lighthouses

Online speech by Kallia Katsampoxaki -Hodgetts at the Star Scholars Network titled: "Higher Education Innovative pedagogies in Centres of Teaching and Learning: CTLs are neither islands nor lighthouses".

Please read more [here](#).



11/1 4th Paleolithic Seminar

Palaeolithic Seminars are co-organized by the University of Crete and the Department of Palaeoanthropology and Speleology of the Hellenic Ministry of Culture. This year's seminars take place in the frame of the exhibition "THE ORIGINS OF SCULPTURE: Archaeological finds from the Old World and Lesbos, 2.5 million to 50,000 years ago" at the Benaki Museum, organized by the University of Crete, the Benaki Museum and the Region of Crete, in collaboration with the Ministry of Culture. The 4th lecture of the Paleolithic Seminars 2023-2024 features Bernhard Zipfel, PhD in Palaeoanthropology at the University of Witwatersrand, South Africa, on "The "Australopithecine Pebble of Many Faces" and its place in the Cradle of Humankind, South Africa".

Upcoming

12th Oligo Workshop June 6-8, Gallos Campus, Rethymnon

The Economics Department of the University of Crete will host the 12th Oligo Workshop in Gallos Campus, Rethymnon, from June 6 to June 8, 2024. The Workshop, which is organized annually by the Oligo Society, is privileged this year to have as keynote speakers E. Auriol (Toulouse School of Economics), V. Denicolo (University of Bologna) and P. Heidhues (DICE).

Info: <https://oligoworkshop2024.soc.uoc.gr/>
Submission deadline: March 15, 2024

International Conference: "Language, Education and Artificial Intelligence" May 10-12, Gallos Campus, Rethymnon

The School of Education Sciences of the University of Crete, the Institute of Greek Language of the University of Western Macedonia, and the Postgraduate Program 'Education Sciences' (Specialization 'Language, Society, and Education') of the Hellenic Open University are co-organizing an International Conference on "Language, Education, and Artificial Intelligence". The conference will be held in Rethymnon from the 10th to the 12th of May, 2024.

Conference website: <https://le-ai.edc.uoc.gr/en/>
Conference email: le-ai@edc.uoc.gr

4th International EAP & ESP Conference April 26-28, Voutes Campus, Heraklion

The 4th EAPCRETE Conference on "Options and Practices of EAP, ESP and EMI Multiliteracies and their pedagogical implications" features a rich program on EAP/ESP pedagogies, genre pedagogies, AI, digital, academic literacies and EMI pedagogies (English as a Medium of Instruction). Keynote Speakers Ernesto Macaro (University of Oxford), Ursula Wingate (King's College London) and Angela Hakim (University of

Arizona).
Website <https://eapcrete.wordpress.com/>

Open call for Applications: Erasmus Mundus Joint Master's Degree in Aquaculture, Environment and Society - ACES-STAR

Erasmus Mundus Joint Master's Degree in Aquaculture, Environment and Society
ACES-STAR is two-year program in three centers of European excellence in aquaculture research: Scotland, Greece-Crete and France. Gain the practical and theoretical skills needed for a successful career in aquaculture through industry-led research programs, internships and fieldwork! We are now recruiting our next intake of Erasmus Mundus students. If you wish to apply for a place on the EMJMD ACES+ for this intake starting in late August 2024 you have to complete an online application form <https://lnkd.in/d9iTh97m> AND submit a completed application pack which will include relevant supporting documents. Please see more at: <https://www.emm-aces.org/apply/>

Open Call for Applications: Summer School on Applied Respiratory Physiology July 8 – 12, Voutes Campus, Heraklion

The Summer School on Applied Respiratory Physiology is directed to medical students who have completed the 3rd year of their studies and have taken courses on respiratory physiology and pathophysiology. The aim of the course is to provide an in-depth understanding of respiratory physiology and its implications in health, exercise and extreme environments, disease, and mechanical ventilation.

Application deadline: April 30, 2024
Please read more info here: <https://med.uoc.gr/wp-content/arxeia-greek/proptyxiaka/summer-schools/2024/2024-07-08-summer-school-2b.pdf>



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