



THE ATHENS INSTITUTE FOR EDUCATION AND RESEARCH

Abstract Book

**17th Annual International Conference on
Mediterranean Studies
25-28 March 2024, Athens, Greece**

**Edited by
Nicholas Pappas & Olga Gkounta**

2024

Abstracts
17th Annual International
Conference on Mediterranean
Studies
25-28 March 2024, Athens,
Greece

Edited by Nicholas Pappas &
Olga Gkounta

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Preface

This book includes the abstracts of all the papers presented at the 17th Annual International Conference on Mediterranean Studies (25-28 March 2024), organized by the Athens Institute for Education and Research (ATINER).

A full conference program can be found before the relevant abstracts. In accordance with ATINER’s Publication Policy, the papers presented during this conference will be considered for inclusion in one of ATINER’s many publications only after a blind peer review process.

The purpose of this abstract book is to provide members of ATINER and other academics around the world with a resource through which they can discover colleagues and additional research relevant to their own work. This purpose is in congruence with the overall mission of the association. ATINER was established in 1995 as an independent academic organization with the mission to become a forum where academics and researchers from all over the world can meet to exchange ideas on their research and consider the future developments of their fields of study.

To facilitate the communication, a new references section includes all the abstract books published as part of this conference (Table 1). I invite the readers to access these abstract books –these are available for free– and compare how the themes of the conference have evolved over the years. According to ATINER’s mission, the presenters in these conferences are coming from many different countries, presenting various topics.

Table 1. *Publication of Books of Abstracts of Proceedings, 2011-2024*

Year	Papers	Countries	References
2024	23	10	Pappas and Gkounta (2024)
2023	37	18	Oberhelman and Gkounta (2023)
2022	18	12	Oberhelman and Gkounta (2022)
2021	18	7	Papanikos (2021)
2020	13	9	Papanikos (2020)
2019	46	20	Papanikos (2019)
2018	33	13	Papanikos (2018)
2017	38	18	Papanikos (2017)
2016	40	25	Papanikos (2016)
2015	49	23	Papanikos (2015)
2014	38	20	Papanikos (2014)
2013	56	25	Papanikos (2013)
2012	54	22	Papanikos (2012)
2011	38	16	Papanikos (2011)

It is our hope that through ATINER's conferences and publications, Athens will become a place where academics and researchers from all over the world can regularly meet to discuss the developments of their disciplines and present their work. Since 1995, ATINER has organized more than 400 international conferences and has published over 200 books. Academically, the institute is organized into 6 divisions and 35 units. Each unit organizes at least one annual conference and undertakes various small and large research projects.

For each of these events, the involvement of multiple parties is crucial. I would like to thank all the participants, the members of the organizing and academic committees, and most importantly the administration staff of ATINER for putting this conference and its subsequent publications together. Specific individuals are listed after the Editors' Note.

Gregory T. Papanikos
President

Editors' Note

These abstracts provide a vital means to the dissemination of scholarly inquiry in the field of Mediterranean Studies. The breadth and depth of research approaches and topics represented in this book underscores the diversity of the conference.

ATINER's mission is to bring together academics from all corners of the world in order to engage with each other, brainstorm, exchange ideas, be inspired by one another, and once they are back in their institutions and countries to implement what they have acquired. The 17th Annual International Conference on Mediterranean Studies accomplished this goal by bringing together academics and scholars from 10 different countries (Austria, Cyprus, France, Israel, Italy, South Korea, Spain, Tunisia, Türkiye, USA), which brought in the conference the perspectives of many different country approaches and realities in the field.

Publishing this book can help that spirit of engaged scholarship continue into the future. With our joint efforts, the next editions of this conference will be even better. We hope that this abstract book as a whole will be both of interest and of value to the reading audience.

Nicholas Pappas & Olga Gkounta
Editors

**17th Annual International Conference on Mediterranean
Studies, 25-28 March 2024, Athens, Greece**

Organizing & Scientific Committee

All ATINER's conferences are organized by the Academic Council. This conference has been organized with the assistance of the following academic members of ATINER, who contributed by reviewing the submitted abstracts and papers.

1. Gregory T. Papanikos, President, ATINER & Professor, MLC Ljubljana, Slovenia.
2. Steven Oberhelman, Professor of Classics, Holder of the George Sumey Jr Endowed Professorship of Liberal Arts, and Associate Dean, Texas A&M University, USA, Vice President of International Programs, ATINER and Editor of the Athens Journal of History.
3. Nicholas Pappas, Vice President of Academic Conferences and Meetings, ATINER & Retired Professor, Sam Houston State University, USA.
4. David Philip Wick, Director, Arts, Humanities and Education Division, ATINER & Retired Professor of History, Gordon College, USA.
5. Jayoung Che, Head, History Unit, ATINER & Visiting Professor, Hankuk University of Foreign Studies, South Korea.
6. Yannis Stivachtis, Director, Center for European & Mediterranean Affairs (CEMA) and Professor, Jean Monnet Chair, Director of International Studies Program & Director, Diplomacy Lab Program, Virginia Tech - Virginia Polytechnic Institute & State University, USA.

FINAL CONFERENCE PROGRAM
**17th Annual International Conference on Mediterranean Studies, 25-
28 March 2024, Athens, Greece**

PROGRAM

Monday 25 March 2024

08.30-09.00
Registration

09:00-09:30
Opening and Welcoming Remarks:
o **Gregory T. Papanikos**, President, ATINER.

09:30-11:00 Session 1
Moderator: Gregory T. Papanikos, President, ATINER.

1. **Susan C. Jarratt**, Professor Emerita, University of California, Irvine, USA.
Title: Imagining the Mediterranean in the Ancient Greco-Roman World.
2. **Bok Hee Kim**, Professor, Andong National University, South Korea.
Title: The Ban on Tournaments and the Emergence of Joust.
3. **Banu Akcesme**, Professor, Erciyes University, Turkiye.
Çağrı Şarlar, Professor, Erciyes University, Turkiye.
Hasan Baktir, Professor, Erciyes University, Turkiye.
Bilal Genç, Professor, Erciyes University, Turkiye.
Title: Exploring Ambivalence in the Relationships between Turks and the British in Early Modern English Drama.
4. **Giovanna Da Molin**, Honorary President, CIRPAS – University of Bari Aldo Moro, Italy.
Maria Federighi, Research Fellow, CIRPAS – University of Bari Aldo Moro, Italy.
Title: Italian Family in the Past: Models and Studies Perspectives from 17th to 19th Centuries.

Discussion

11:00-12:00 Session 2
Moderator: Mervyn Wighting, Professor / Program Director, Regent University, USA.

1. **Gregory T. Papanikos**, President, ATINER.
Title: Regional Effects of the Great Recession on Greek Unemployment Rates.
2. **Maria Jesus Arroyo Fernandez**, Associate Professor, Director, Department of Economics, Universidad San Pabo CEU (Madrid), CEU Universities, Spain.
Maria Carmen Garcia Centeno, Professor, Universidad San Pabo CEU (Madrid), CEU Universities, Spain.
Pedro Fernandez Sanchez, Associate Professor, Universidad San Pabo CEU (Madrid), CEU Universities, Spain.
Title: GREECE vs. SPAIN: Similarities and Differences in the Evolution of Unemployment in the 21st Century.

Discussion

12:00-13:30 Session 3

Moderator: Jayoung Che, Head, History Unit, ATINER & Visiting Professor, Hankuk University of Foreign Studies, South Korea.

1. **Raphael Bar-El**, Professor, Sapir Academic College, Israel.
Dafna Schwartz, Professor, Peres Academic Center and Reichman University, Israel.
David Bentolila, Head, Logistics and Global Supply Chain Program, Ruppin Academic Center, Israel.
Title: De-Globalization and Innovation.
2. **Pinar Acar**, Associate Professor, Istanbul Medipol University, Turkiye.
Ibrahim Ajibola Akeukereke, Graduate Student, Beykoz University, Turkiye.
Title: Darkside of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Human Resources Management.
3. **Wided Boukhalfa**, PhD Student, Institut Pasteur de Tunis, University of Tunis El Manar, Tunisia.
Haifa Jmel Jabrouni, Postdoctoral Researcher, Institut Pasteur de Tunis, University of Tunis El Manar, Tunisia.
Nadia Kheriji, PhD Student, University of Tunis El Manar, Tunisia.
Ismail Gouiza, PhD Student, University of Tunis El Manar, Tunisia.
Hamza Dallali, Researcher, University of Tunis El Manar, Tunisia.
Meriem Hechmi, Researcher, University of Tunis El Manar, Tunisia.
Rym Kefi, Senior Lecturer, Associate Professor, University of Tunis El Manar, Tunisia.
Title: Possible Risk Variants and Future Direction for South Mediterranean Populations in Deciphering the Genetic Link between Type 2 Diabetes and Alzheimer's Disease.

Discussion

13:30-15:00 Discussion + Lunch

15:00-16:30 Session 4

Moderator: Olga Gkounta, Researcher, ATINER.

1. **Maria Rosaria D'Acerno Canonici**, Associate Professor, Università di Napoli Parthenope, Italy.
Title: The Greek-Roman Theatre in the Mediterranean Area.
2. **Simcha Getahun**, Senior Lecturer, Kibbutzim College of Education, Technology and the Arts, Tel Aviv, Israel.
Title: A Culturally Sensitive Intervention among at-Risk Youth.
3. **Nicholas Pappas**, Retired Professor, Sam Houston State University, USA.
Title: Greeks in Ukraine: Their History and Present Fate.

Discussion

20:30-22:30

Athenian Early Evening Symposium (includes in order of appearance: continuous academic discussions, dinner, wine/water, music)

Tuesday 26 March 2024

09:00-10:30 Session 5

Moderator: Eyal Zisser, Vice Rector, Tel Aviv University, Israel

1. **Mervyn Wighting**, Professor / Program Director, Regent University, USA.
Rene Martinez, Adjunct Professor, Regent University, USA.
Title: Measuring Relationships between Experienced K-12 Teachers and their Students.
2. **Mehmet Cevat Yıldırım**, Associate Professor, Gaziantep University, Turkiye.
Utku Özer, Research Fellow, ATINER.
Title: Challenges Faced by Scholars in the Turkish Private Universities.
3. **Laurine Dalle**, Associate Professor, Université Paul Valéry Montpellier 3 –
LHUMAIN, France.
*Title: Spelling in Arabic-speaking Learners of French as a Second Language with and
without Dyslexia.*
4. **Christina Stavrou**, Teacher Trainer, Cyprus Pedagogical Institute, Cyprus.
Pavlina Hadjitheodoulou, Head of In-service Teacher Training Department,
Cyprus Pedagogical Institute, Cyprus.
Maria Eracleous, Teacher Trainer, Cyprus Pedagogical Institute, Cyprus.
Maria Pitzoli, Teacher Trainer, Cyprus Pedagogical Institute, Cyprus.
Efi Papparistodemou, Teacher Trainer, Cyprus Pedagogical Institute, Cyprus.
Ioanna Theotokatou, Researcher, Cyprus Pedagogical Institute, Cyprus.
*Title: Designing Activities for Enhancing Teachers' Professional Learning Communities
in Cyprus.*

Discussion

10:30-11:30 Session 6

Moderator: Mehmet Cevat Yıldırım, Associate Professor, Gaziantep University,
Turkiye.

1. **Jayoung Che**, Visiting Professor, Hankuk University of Foreign Studies, South
Korea.
*Title: A Comparative Legal Review of Divorce System between EU and South Korea:
Focusing on the Differences of No-Fault Divorce and Fault-Based Divorce.*
2. **Murat Gokmen**, Lecturer, Düzce University & Student, Social Sciences University
of Ankara, Turkiye.
Title: An Important Ottoman Land Code: 1858 Land Code.

Discussion

11:30-13:00 Session 7

Moderator: Murat Gokmen, Lecturer, Düzce University & Student, Social Sciences University of Ankara, Turkiye.

1. **Hasan Baktir**, Professor, Erciyes University, Turkiye.
Title: Christian and Muslim Interactions in the Mediterranean; Nabil Matar's Bi-central Humanism.
2. **Eyal Zisser**, Vice Rector, Tel Aviv University, Israel.
Title: The Middle East, Israel and the Arabs – Three Years to the Abraham Accords.
3. **Mariele Merlati**, Associate Professor, University of Milan, Italy.
Title: The Ustica Tragedy in 1980 Italy. War in the Mediterranean?

Discussion

13:00-14:00 Session 8

Moderator: Hasan Baktir, Professor, Erciyes University, Turkiye.

1. **Anna Zanfei**, Associate Professor, University of Verona, Italy.
Title: Is Persuasive, Evaluative Discourse Fading Away? A Focus on Change and Tradition in the Promotional, Persuasive Discourse around the Mediterranean Destinations.
2. **Semra Benzer**, Professor, Gazi University, Turkiye.
Title: The Growth of Crayfish, which Serves as an Indicator of Clean and Healthy Water Ecosystems.

Discussion

14:00-15:00 Discussion + Lunch

15:00-18:00 Session 9 - Old and New-An Educational Urban Walk

The urban walk ticket is not included as part of your registration fee. It includes transportation costs and the cost to enter the Parthenon and the other monuments on the Acropolis Hill. The urban walk tour includes the broader area of Athens. Among other sites, it includes: Zappion, Syntagma Square, Temple of Olympian Zeus, Ancient Roman Agora and on Acropolis Hill: the Propylaea, the Temple of Athena Nike, the Erechtheion, and the Parthenon. The program of the tour may be adjusted, if there is a need beyond our control. This is a private event organized by ATINER exclusively for the conference participants.

19:00-20:30

Dinner

Wednesday 27 March 2024
Visiting the Oracle of Delphi

Thursday 28 March 2024
An Educational Visit to Selected Islands

Pinar Acar

Associate Professor, Istanbul Medipol University, Türkiye

&

Ibrahim Ajibola Akeukereke

Graduate Student, Beykoz University, Türkiye

Darkside of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Human Resources Management

Background: Globalization is making the world increasingly technologically oriented. Human Resources are viewed as one of the most important resources for any organization, making proper management of these resources a key administrative responsibility. AI has expedited organizational processes and activities that were previously completed by humans. Therefore, it's crucial to assess AI's darkside, which covers the general as well as specific, positive as well as negative effects.

Purpose: The purpose of this research is to examine how AI affects HRM, the roles it plays within it, and the discrepancy between AI's potential and actual applications.

Method: Over 800 potential respondents in Turkey were provided with a standardized questionnaire. The study was analyzed using a deductive research methodology.

Conclusion: The result shows that AI significantly impacts the Attitude of employees and the Operation of Human Resources (HR) functions. The most suitable influence on the implementation of AI in HR functions include motives such as Usefulness and Simplicity. The main benefit of AI in HRM is recognised as automation and routine task elimination, while some of the challenges are seen as the readiness of organisations and employees towards the adoption of AI, lack of adequate and appropriate data, algorithm bias etc.

Banu Akcesme

Professor, Erciyes University, Türkiye

Çağrı Şarlar

Professor, Erciyes University, Türkiye

Hasan Baktir

Professor, Erciyes University, Türkiye

&

Bilal Genç

Professor, Erciyes University, Türkiye

Exploring Ambivalence in the Relationships between Turks and the British in Early Modern English Drama

Queen Elizabeth I's reign began with the conflict between England and Spain due to Henry VIII's divorce of the Catherine of Aragon and the separation of England from the Roman Catholic Church. Eventually, the English Queen was considered by Vatican and Spanish monarchy as the illegitimate heir of the throne. Queen Elizabeth I had to implement a new policy to create an alternative alliance and sent William Harborne as an envoy to the Ottoman Sultan to ask for political and military support against the common enemies. British merchants were also subject to embargo by Catholic nations in the European markets which forced them to search for new markets for English products and needs. The English merchants and monarchy believed that an alliance with Turks could provide new possibilities to overcome or ease the political and economic crisis. However, the political and commercial relationships between Britain and the Ottoman Empire were paradoxically considered necessary and rewarding but spiteful, undesirable and unacceptable at the same time in the eye of the British public. This situation complicated their relations. The mutual encounters and real life interactions between Turks and the British were not conducted or managed according to the real feelings and the dominant cultural attitudes. Both sides were highly concerned with and prioritized their political and economic interests and benefits and thus suppressed and disguised their negative thoughts. In this sense, *their relationships were characterized by the coexistence of opposing emotions and desires, which is a clear indication of relational ambivalence*. The English Renaissance playwrights including Philip Massinger (*The Renegado*), Christopher Marlowe (*Tamburlaine the Great*), Thomas Kyd (*The Tragedy of Soliman and Perseda*), Thomas Dekker (*Lust Dominion*) and Robert Daborne (*Christian Turned Turk*) employed and promoted the derogatory images of Turks on the theatrical stages in order to reinforce

culturally and ideologically fabricated ideas about Turks. The similar ideas and images were also reiterated in the sermons and prayers of the Protestant English churches. This paper intends to explore what caused relational ambivalence and how Turks and English handled this complexity by pointing out the contradictions and conflicts observed in the actual encounters and the theatrical representation of Turks with reference to early modern English Drama.

Acknowledgments

This study is supported by Erciyes University Scientific Research Committee (SBAÜ-2023-12501).

Maria Jesus Arroyo Fernandez

Associate Professor, Director, Department of Economics, CEU San
Pablo University, Spain

Maria Carmen Garcia Centeno

Professor, CEU San Pablo University, Spain

&

Pedro Fernandez Sanchez

Associate Professor, CEU San Pablo University, Spain

Unemployment in Greece and Spain during the 21st Century: An Explanatory Model

Unemployment is one of the main problems facing today's economies. In the context of the European Union, it is the Mediterranean economies that have traditionally shown a less favorable evolution of unemployment. This paper presents an explanatory model of the evolution of unemployment in two of these Mediterranean economies, Greece, and Spain, since the launching of the European Monetary Union. These were two of the European economies hardest hit by the Great Recession of 2008 and subsequently by the pandemic in 2020, so it is interesting to study which economic factors would explain the evolution of their unemployment rates. For this purpose, variables such as GDP pc, labour productivity, labour costs, labour force, spending on employment policies or inflation will be considered, as well as the two events mentioned above: the Great Recession and the pandemic. On the other hand, it is interesting to note to what extent Greece and Spain have or have not shown similar patterns of behaviour of their labour markets so far this century, and what kind of economic policy measures could be put in place to ensure that both countries cease to have one of the highest unemployment rates in the EU.

Hasan Baktir

Professor, Erciyes University, Türkiye

Christian and Muslim Interactions in the Mediterranean: Nabil Matar's Bi-central Humanism

Interactions, relationships, cooperation, and conflict in the Mediterranean world between nations from different and diverse cultural, linguistic, and religious origins have existed for centuries. The diversity of the Mediterranean World in the Early modern period is explored by scholars such as Fernand Braudel in *The Mediterranean and the Mediterranean World in the Age of Philip II* (1972). Braudel discusses the geographic and economic condition of the Mediterranean World and explains the interactions between the nations concerning the existing power struggle and commercial exchanges. Braudel emphasized the socio-cultural structure of the interaction and delineated the influence of power on the opposite shores of the Mediterranean shores. This view is further popularized by literary and cultural scholarship. Nabil Matar also writes about the Mediterranean World, particularly focusing on Christian and Muslim relationships. He focuses on the human world and deals with how the Mediterranean World changed and shaped the fate of common Christian and Muslim men and women in a good and tragic way. Matar selects written and anonymous texts and reflects the suffering of captives, slaves, and travelers. He also writes about the opportunities in the Mediterranean World that fortunately contributed to the wealth of the adventurers in the Early modern period. Matar develops a distinct perspective to explain such a diverse human experience. Matar does not completely dismiss the political influence yet chooses to recall the brutality and generosity of human beings on both sides of the shores. He criticizes and decentralizes the popular narratives that restrict human suffering within the limits of the political and religious realm. Captives, slaves, prisoners, and travelers are after all human subjects with a strong attachment to the land and family. Their misfortunes are similar thus their feelings are natural human feelings independent of national and cultural bonds. This paper will explain how Nabil Matar develops a bi-central humanist perspective to explain the interactions between the Euro-Christian and Muslim worlds of the Mediterranean peninsula in the Early modern period.

Raphael Bar-El

Professor, Sapir Academic College, Israel

Dafna Schwartz

Professor, Peres Academic Center and Reichman University, Israel

&

David Bentolila

Head, Logistics and Global Supply Chain Program, Ruppin Academic
Center, Israel

De-Globalization and Innovation

In the last years, we identify a strong tendency of increasing open innovation (OI) strategies, expressed by increasing openness to linkages at both the local and the international level. The recent signs of de-globalization may impose significant constraints on such trends.

Our hypothesis is that de-globalization has a potential negative impact on the advance of innovation, and that it may intensify innovation gaps between rich and poor regions. We use a cross-country analysis, based on data for 137 countries from the Global Innovation Index (GII), in order to estimate the influence of a few variables that indicate international linkages on some indicators of innovation.

Based on a simple analytical model, we make a distinction between the creation of knowledge as measured by patents application and the creation of innovation outputs, as measured by production of innovative products, by increased productivity, by the commercialization of knowledge (IP receipts). Various models of regression analysis show that some of the practical expressions of de-globalization such as the diminution of imports or exports of high-tech products or of information and communications technologies (ICTs) may lead to a decreasing innovation activity, both in terms of knowledge creation and in terms of practical economic impacts.

A comparison of relative coefficients indicates higher impacts for poorer regions. The dependence of low-income countries on foreign resources, and their reliance on technology imports and adoption lead to a potentially higher negative impact of a de-globalization process.

Semra Benzer

Professor, Gazi University, Türkiye

&

Recep Benzer

Associate Professor, ETCOP Institute for Interdisciplinary Research,
Austria

The Growth of Crayfish, which Serves as an Indicator of Clean and Healthy Water Ecosystems

Pontastacus leptodactylus, commonly known as the “narrow-fingered freshwater crayfish” in Turkish, is a species that is widespread in the Mediterranean region's inland waters. It is generally recognized as an indicator of the presence of clean and healthy water ecosystems. This crayfish species is highly sensitive to water pollution and environmental changes. Therefore, the presence of *Pontastacus leptodactylus* is considered an indicator that water quality is maintained and the ecosystem is balanced. In this study, the growth characteristics of 283 individual freshwater crayfish living in Hirfanlı Dam Lake during the months of July and August 2023 were examined. It was determined that among the captured freshwater crayfish individuals in Hirfanlı Dam Lake, 53.36% were male and 46.64% were female. The length distribution ranged from 80.44 mm to 121.11 mm, and the weight distribution varied between 11.61 g and 43.93 g. The average length (mm) and weight (g) of samples were 95.9874 ± 6.4603 and 24.1861 ± 5.3696 for males, 95.0981 ± 5.5519 and 21.5193 ± 3.4488 for females and 95.5724 ± 6.0594 and 22.9422 ± 4.7579 for the combined sex, respectively. The length-weight relationship (LWR) for female, male, and all individuals of *Pontastacus leptodactylus* was determined as $W=0.00166359 \times TL^{2.0767}$, $W=0.00019587 \times TL^{2.5651}$, and $W=0.00037111 \times TL^{2.4162}$, respectively. The exponential value “b” of the LWR, for female, male, and all individuals, was calculated as 2.0767 ($r^2=0.993$), 2.5651 ($r^2=0.986$), and 2.4162 ($r^2=0.987$), respectively pattern. The length-weight relationships of freshwater crayfish were established using traditional LWR approaches. Growth values were also examined using artificial intelligence approaches, and the differences between the traditional and artificial intelligence approaches were revealed. In addition to the aquatic systems' consideration of the LWR approach, it has been demonstrated that artificial intelligence approaches can be considered as an alternative.

Acknowledgments

This study was financially supported by the Gazi University Project Resources Center Fund (BAP Project Number: SPD/2023-8461).

Wided Boukhalfa

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Hamza Dallali

Researcher, University of Tunis El Manar, Tunisia

Meriem Hechmi

Researcher, University of Tunis El Manar, Tunisia

&

Rym Kefi

Senior Lecturer, Associate Professor, University of Tunis El Manar,
Tunisia

**Possible Risk Variants and Future Direction for South
Mediterranean Populations in Deciphering the Genetic
Link between Type 2 Diabetes and Alzheimer's Disease**

Background: Alzheimer's disease (AD) and type 2 diabetes mellitus (T2D) are age-related diseases. They are characterized by a complex etiology, implicating the interaction between genetic and environmental factors. T2D is a major risk factor for AD development. Compelling evidence supports a genetic interaction between these two diseases. Thus, well-established genetic variants and pathways that are common between T2D and AD are of great significance for AD prevention and early diagnosis. Genetic background likely plays a crucial role in the development of these strategies. However, despite the high prevalence of these diseases in South Mediterranean populations, we noticed their underrepresentation in studies investigating T2D and AD.

Study objectives: In this study, we aimed to 1) identify the most common variants and pathways shared between T2D and AD, and 2) explore their genetic landscape in South Mediterranean populations, especially North Africa, in comparison to other worldwide populations.

Materials and methods: We identified genes and variants common to T2D and AD through a comprehensive review. Next, we conducted an in silico functional analysis of these genes and variants using PolyPhen2, RegulomeDB, miRdSNP, g: Profiler, and Enrichment Map.

Then we analyzed T2D-AD shared variant distributions in 16 populations worldwide using PLINK2, R, and STRUCTURE. Finally, we performed an inter-ethnic comparison of the minor allele frequency (MAF) of T2D-AD shared variants.

Results: A total of 59 eligible papers met our selection criteria. We identified 231 variants and 363 genes shared between patients with T2D and AD. We found six single nucleotide polymorphisms (SNP) with a high pathogenic score, three SNPs with regulatory effects on the brain, and six SNPs with potential effects on miRNA-binding sites. The miRNAs affected have been implicated in T2D, insulin signaling pathways, and AD. Moreover, T2D-AD genes were significantly enriched in pathways related to plasma protein binding, the positive regulation of amyloid fibril deposition, microglial activation, and cholesterol metabolism. Multidimensional screening of shared genes showed that the main North African populations clustered together and diverged from other populations worldwide. Interestingly, our results showed that the 11 variants of *DNM3*, *CFH*, *PPARG*, *ROHA*, *AGER*, *CLU*, *BDNF1*, *CST9*, and *PLCG1* displayed significant differences in risk allele frequencies between North African and other populations.

Conclusion: Our study highlighted the genetic complexity of South Mediterranean populations, which could impact biomarker identification. Finally, we emphasize the importance of ethnicity-specific investigations in T2D-AD shared gene studies. This could help to better understand these diseases and to develop tailored biomarkers for the early diagnosis of T2D.

Jayoung Che

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A Comparative Legal Review of Divorce System between EU and South Korea: Focusing on the Differences of No-Fault Divorce and Fault-Based Divorce

Most EU countries, such as the United Kingdom, Germany, France, and Switzerland, do not recognize divorce by agreement and divorce must be judicially obtained through a court decision. Although there are slight differences among EU countries, judicial divorce adopts the principle of no-fault divorce, which allows a judicial divorce request in principle regardless of whether the divorce claimant is a fault or not. The principle of dissolution in line with liberal democracy to minimize state intervention in marriage and divorce and to guarantee as much as possible the essence of marriage and divorce by free will.

In S. Korea (Rep. of Korea), however, not only judicial divorce but divorce by agreement is recognized. Then, in the former case, unlike in EU countries, fault-based divorce is rejected in principle. That is, the spouse at spouse is not entitled to a judicial divorce. Then the principle of fault-based divorce in S. Korea, which excludes the divorce claim of the spouse at fault in principle, was not based on any explicit statement of law, but established by a precedential interpretation of Article 840(6) of the Civil Code, "When there are other reasons for making it difficult to continue the marriage." Actually, cause of the ambiguity of the content of Article 840 (6), Petition as well as Request for Judgment to the effect that the principle of fault-based divorce is unconstitutional [Supreme Court of Korea, November 27, 2015, 2013 Sugi (즈기) 5] has been filed.

Judicial precedents of arbitrary interpretation of ambiguous legal texts maximize judges' discretion beyond what is necessary. Indeed, the scope of discretionary authority of the judges differs between the EU and Korea. Since the mid-1960s, most European countries have shifted to no-fault divorce, objectifying the terms of divorce to minimize the discretion of the judge, while providing unavoidable measures for the protection of the weak. On the other hand, the Korean Supreme Court is of the position that "the judges decide at their discretion the complex reasons and consequences of dissolution," resulting in jagged and inconsistent trials

Maria Rosaria D'Acerno Canonici

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The Greek-Roman Theatre in the Mediterranean Area

In this research the aim is to focus on three main issues: 1) the origin and the evolution of the theatre and its social role (F. Milizia) within the Mediterranean area, 2) the importance of the Greek and Roman culture, which, while conquering new lands, spread their culture, too, and 3) how theatres evolved under the Greeks and the Roman Empire. The fusion of these two cultures left its sign whenever and wherever it arrived. The Greek-Roman theatres are an example, though some authors (C. Anti, A. Neppi Modona, O.A.W. Dilke, E. Gebhard, J.C. Moretti) attest that there is evidence of theatres throughout the Mediterranean area even in the pre-Greek age. To face this problem, we have to divide the Greek history into two periods: a) Classic (from the 5th to the 4th century B.C; from the fall of the Athenian tyranny in 510 B.C. to the death of Alexander the Great 323) and b) Hellenistic (after Alexander to the conquest of Egypt by Rome in 30 B.C.). The people, conquered by the Greeks first, and then by the Romans, adapted the theatre to their traditions. So that, we find again theatres all around the Mediterranean area as it was in the pre-Greek era. I need to underline that there has always been a cultural interaction between these two peoples. **In the 8th and 7th centuries b.C**, because of a rapidly increasing population many Greeks emigrated and founded colonies in Southern Italy and Sicily (Magna Graecia), Asia Minor up to the Black Sea. The emigration ceased in the 6th century BC when Greece had grown culturally and linguistically. **The Hellenistic age**, marked by a huge transformation of the Greek society, also expanded towards the entire Eastern Mediterranean and the Southwest Asia. Many Greeks migrated to Alexandria, Antioch and the other new Hellenistic cities founded in Alexander's wake in the present-day Afghanistan and Pakistan. Then, when the Romans conquered the Greek peninsula (146 BC) after the Battle of Corinth, Greece became a key eastern province of the Roman Empire, as the Roman culture had long been in fact Greco-Roman. The Greek language was the *lingua franca* in the East and in Italy, too, and many Greek intellectuals such as Galen went to Rome to spread their new theories. The most important cultural centers in Greece were the theatres, so that, they were built in the main lands influenced by the Greek civilization. Of course, each population adapted them to their architecture, and the original Greek theatre was transformed. But, even within Greece what

we call theaters now had previously been temples for their gods. The most relevant change was that of the Romans who turned the Greek theatres into amphitheatres, and used them for the gladiator battles. In brief, we are going to examine the theatres and the temples of Corinth, Paestum Benevento, Capua (Italy), Carthage, Palmyra (Syria), Rodi, Hierapolys, etc., to point out the importance of the Mediterranean culture, viewed as a whole and not as a separate item of separate countries.

Giovanna Da Molin

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&

Maria Federighi

Research Fellow, CIRPAS - University of Bari Aldo Moro, Italy

Italian Family in the Past: Models and Studies Perspectives from 17th to 19th Centuries

The research aims at analyzing the Italian family history through methodological approaches and topics related to the use of quantitative and qualitative data coming from historical sources.

Most part of the data come from civil and religious archival documents, such as the particular "Status animarum" and the land registers "Catasti", rich of several quantitative data and strictly connected with additional qualitative data.

The research wishes to explain how family structure is influenced by determinant factors, such as the economy, the territory, the values with its related models.

The archival documents may provide for an analysis of the topic by regarding several territorial elements: the distribution of the population in the city and in the country; the main cultivation systems, the agricultural population ways of settlement, the land's management system.

From the quantitative data, such as the marriage age, the infant mortality we can consider the implication of other qualitative data, the marriage strategies and the dowry systems in order to analyze the implication of more other factors.

Other elements that can contribute to historical research are the types of employment and socio-economic conditions of its members and the income levels. Sources that correspond to these criteria are, for example, lists of names of the population, such as the *status animarum* of Catholic Europe, or even economic sources such as the 17th century *catastantichi* (real estate registers) and the 18th century *catastionciari* of southern Italy.

Not without some difficulty, detailed study of the sources permits identification of relationships between the families that lived in the same neighbourhood. The study of surnames, together with information on paternity and maternity of all male and female parishioners, proves to be a useful research methodology.

In conclusion the paper aims at pointing out the numerous data's facets for the historical interpretation about this issue and also at

providing for a detailed framework on Italian family history from 17th to 19th centuries.

Laurine Dalle

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Spelling in Arabic-speaking Learners of French as a Second Language with and without Dyslexia

In France, learning to spell in a second language (L2) and its difficulties have been largely less documented than reading. In this communication, we propose to present the results of a qualitative study whose aim is to analyze the spelling productions of Arabic-speaking children learning French as a L2 with and without dyslexia-dysorthography. This is in response to a request from professionals who work with newly arrived or recently arrived children, such as teachers or speech therapists. These professionals wonder about the difficulties encountered by the children: are they "normal" difficulties, linked to the appropriation of L2 French in progress, or do they reflect an instrumental language disorder? Are there atypical difficulties in dyslexic subjects? More generally, the lack of documentation in French allows us to wonder what characterizes the written production of dyslexic and non-dyslexic Arabic-speaking learners of French as a L2.

Two dyslexic Arabic-speaking children, two non-dyslexic Arabic-speaking children, and control groups composed of one dyslexic French-speaking child and two non-dyslexic French-speaking children participated in the study. All selected participants had to be 8 years old, with no psycho-emotional or psychiatric problems, no sensory deficits, and no intellectual disabilities or precocity. At the time of the study, the subjects were enrolled in the third grade. The Arabic-speaking subjects were born in Algeria, near Constantine, and arrived in France between the ages of 5 years and 9 months and 6 years and 2 months. They spoke Algerian Arabic. The dyslexic subjects all had to be diagnosed, because we wanted to be sure that what we were going to observe and analyze was indeed due to dyslexia, and not to a simple delay or other difficulties.

An experiment was developed based on tests used by speech therapists. Two spelling production tests were proposed. The first one is based on the *ODEDYS2* tool (Cogni-sciences). The second test is from the *Chronodictées* tool (Alberti et al., 2006, 2015).

Even if the small number of subjects observed doesn't allow us to generalize, the results obtained are in line with current literature (Al Busaidi & Al Saqqaf, 2015). A high number of phonetic errors in the spelling seems to be an important marker of dyslexia-dysorthography

in French in the observed Arabic-speaking subjects. These errors are found both in the production of regular words, irregular words, pseudowords and in the production of sentences. The slowness of execution could also be an indicator of dyslexia in our subjects. In addition, we find errors that may be related to phonetic-phonological differences in their spelling. Although there is heterogeneity in the performance of non-dyslexic Arabic speakers, we point out that after two years of learning to write, their productions approach those of non-dyslexic monolingual subjects and that there are no markers of the influence of L1/ distance between L1 and L2 on their spelling. The study is currently extended to a larger number of subjects, and to subjects speaking other languages, in order to suggest ways to improve the identification of bi/plurilingual children with reading and spelling disorders.

Simcha Getahun

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A Culturally Sensitive Intervention among at-Risk Youth

In Israel, youth development services are entrusted with advancing educational-therapeutic services for disconnected youth and those at risk of dropping out and declining in socioeconomic strata or being marginalized from all sectors of society. According to Joint Israel data, approximately 400,000 children and teenagers up to 17 were at risk. The paper focuses on at-risk youth from Ethiopia. It examines the relationship between the perceived cultural sensitivity of youth workers and the self-image and pride in Ethiopian culture among the youth. The survey comprised 158 at-risk boys and girls treated in three youth centers nationwide. The research participants filled out a questionnaire about their self-image, degree of pride in Ethiopian culture, and the perceived cultural sensitivity of the youth workers.

The findings indicate a positive relationship between the youth workers' cultural sensitivity, the youth's self-image, and their pride in their culture. Furthermore, the youth worker's cultural sensitivity predicts the self-image and pride in the culture. A positive relationship was also found between the guides' encouragement to speak Amharic and self-image and pride in the culture. In contrast, a negative relationship was detected between the youth workers' cultural sensitivity and the youth's shame of their skin color. Moreover, it was found that teenagers from complete families compared to half families are prouder of the culture and believe to receive greater cultural sensitivity from the youth workers. Based on these findings, the study proposes a culture-sensitive intervention model based on language, physical identity, culture, and family indicators.

Murat Gokmen

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**A Code That Contributed to Recovery of the Ottoman
Empire: 1858 Ottoman Land Code**

This study aims to question the reasons and consequences of the code on behalf of the empire. The article supports the idea that the code was one of the important land reform codes that postponed the decay of the empire in the 19th century. The study supports the idea that this code played a key role in eliminating illegal settlements, increasing tax income, and registering the people who were already living in the region by preserving their status.

The study claims that the code had contributed in preserving the wealth of the people living within the empire by enabling the authorities of the empire to know more about the desolate areas within the empire to invest in and construct new residents, administration offices, and farming lands. The threat to the demographic structure of the territory, especially after the defeat of the Crimean War (1856), negatively affected the economy and social cohesion of the empire. Therefore, France and Britain, dwelling on the support they had provided to the Ottoman Empire against Russia after the Paris Treaty (1856), found a ground to interfere with the internal and external policies of the empire, which were regarded to be threatening the sovereignty of the empire. Therefore, this code in the study is regarded to serve as a legal ground for the empire to regain its sovereignty within its boundaries against British, French, and other possible interferences on Ottoman lands. Meanwhile, the code contributed to the empire by preserving the wealth of people and their demographic status by registering the people who were aiming to settle in and trade within the empire.

The code played a critical role in rebuilding the empire's land system; beside that, the code helped the empire preserve the status of the lands within the empire. Therefore, the study, unlike previous studies that dealt with the importance of the code and its function, proposes the idea that the code contributed to the empire's regaining its power and authority by engraving the seeds of the empire's reconstruction. With the code, the empire started a very strong recovery, which allowed the empire to observe its weak sides and prevent European countries from interfering with its domestic and foreign policies. In this regard, the code gained its best merits during the reign of Sultan Abdülhamid II, who, with the code, had the opportunity to observe Jewish Zionist land purchasing activities

within the empire and foster restrictive measures in the land structure of the empire during his reign.

Susan C. Jarratt

Professor Emerita, University of California, Irvine, USA

Sophistic Rhetoric in the Post-Classical Mediterranean World

From its inception in classical Athens through its consolidation as a formal course of study in the Hellenistic Era, Greek rhetoric provided the core of the *paideia*, the general course of study required of elites from every corner of the Mediterranean world in antiquity. In the Roman imperial era, especially the first four centuries of the Common Era, the second sophists—so-called by Philostratus in *Lives of the Sophists* (c. 202 CE)—offered advanced training in rhetoric, at times traveling to give oratorical performances and serving as ambassadors of provincial cities across the empire. The writings of these culturally Greek intellectuals offer windows onto the actual and imagined geographies of the region during a period of great ethnic, religious, and cultural diversity. In this talk, I'll discuss two examples of second sophistic rhetoric, highlighting the ways their authors represent space and movement. Two encomia of cities – one of Rome, the other of the thriving colonial city of Antioch – allow their authors to explore power relations across the imperial geography.

The 2nd-century *Roman Oration* of Aelius Aristides, a native of Smyrna in Asia Minor, delivers an encomium of the imperial city, ostensibly praising its success as a world power. Yet the spatial figures for both the city and the far reaches of the empire can be read as subtly undercutting the imperial project. Two centuries later (356 CE), Antiochene Libanius presents an encomium of his native city which essentially re-centers the locus of natural and architectural beauty, learning, and value in the empire by minimizing the colonial relationship with Rome.

These works allow us to consider ancient configurations of margin and center, visions of the ideal city, and models of cross-cultural relations. In so doing, they provide opportunities for reflection on contemporary issues in the Mediterranean world.

Bok Hee Kim

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Tournament of Medieval Church Bans and Dangers

The purpose of this study is to understand the early terminology and spread of medieval tournaments, the church's ban on tournament games, and the risks of tournament games. The results are as follows.

The term tournament initially referred to the elements of the game through cross and challenge, characteristic of chivalric knighthood. The terms tournament and quintin appeared during the First Crusade, and tournaments originated among knights in France and spread to other parts of Europe. In order to ban tournaments, the medieval church promulgated a decree excommunicating participants and prohibiting burial in church cemeteries. However, most of the knights who died in the tournament were buried in church cemeteries with the help of the sacrament of penance and monks. This suggests that because the medieval church believed in resurrection and salvation after death, being buried in a church cemetery had important meaning. In addition, the church conducted edification and sermons, but was unable to stop the tournament. The dangers of tournament play have been confirmed through cases where monarchs and knights who participated in the game were killed or injured. From the perspective of the medieval church, it is understandable that tournaments should be banned because they endanger the lives of knights and endanger their souls.

Likewise, the church's ban on tournaments and the dangers of tournaments became a factor in the emergence of Jousts, a 1:1 game, which contributed to reducing the number of injuries and deaths in tournament games and creating a more organized form of game.

Mariele Merlati

Associate Professor, University of Milan, Italy

The Ustica Tragedy in 1980 Italy: War in the Mediterranean?

On June 27 1980, during the night, a civil airplane (DC9 Itavia) flying from Bologna to Palermo in Italy blew up and disappeared into the Mediterranean Sea next to Ustica Island. All 81 passengers on board died. Shortly after the explosion the first hypothesis put forward was that of a structural failure of the aircraft. Then three other hypotheses came to light: a terrorist attack (there could have been a bomb on board), a missile shot by a military aircraft or a collision during the flight. The most complete inquiry conducted by Judge Rosario Priore ruled out both the structural failure and the bomb hypothesis, concluding in 1999 that the DC9 was shot down in an action which was “properly an act of undeclared war, a covered international police operation”. It did not, however, identify any guilty party.

In 2007 Francesco Cossiga, who was Prime Minister in 1980, declared that the DC-9 was mistakenly shot down by a French missile, so leading to the reopening of the case with new international information requests. More recently, just some days ago, Giuliano Amato, a PSI leader and Prime Minister in 1986, partially confirmed Cossiga’s words, speaking about a NATO covert action aimed to strike a Libyan aircraft (because of the alleged presence of Qaddafi on board) which was hiding itself under the Italian civil airplane.

More than forty years after the events, however, we still do not know exactly what the reasons underlying the tragedy were and which countries were guilty and the Ustica tragedy is still one of the biggest unsolved mysteries of Italy.

The aim of the present paper is not, of course, that to reach a complete conclusion as to who is directly to blame for the tragedy. As an international historian, the aim of the author is instead to turn back to the events of that time trying to put together the many pieces of the puzzle and to provide a plausible international framework for the tragedy. It is not possible, in fact, to isolate what happened in Italy on June 27 1980 from the patchwork of international tension of that time (from Afghanistan and Iran to Middle East, North Africa and Malta just to mention the main arc of crisis) as well as from the traditional dual track of Italy’s foreign policy, the Atlantic one and the Mediterranean one.

The issue will be analysed on the framework of the most recent historiographical debate as well as through an in-depth survey of archival primary sources from Italy and abroad.

Gregory T. Papanikos
President, ATINER

Regional Effects of the Great Recession on Greek Unemployment Rates

It is well documented that the Great Recession hit Greece very hard. External and internal factors have been put forward to explain why Greece was hit so hard relative to the other countries of the eurozone. Less attention has been paid to regional differences of the Great Recession impact. This study examines the effect of the Great Recession on the 13 NUTS2 regions of Greece, with an emphasis on the unemployment rate. Two issues are examined. First, the differences in the unemployment rates between the thirteen Greek regions are presented using available evidence from 1998 to 2022. Large differences in unemployment rates are observed. The second issue is the impact of the Great Recession on the convergence (or divergence) rates of the unemployment rates across regions.

Nicholas Pappas

Retired Professor, Sam Houston State University, USA

Greeks in Ukraine: Their History and Present Fate

This paper will present a brief historical outline of the Greeks of Ukraine and southern Russia and will delve into the present condition of the Greek community, especially in the wake of the 10-year Russo-Ukrainian conflict. Some of the historical Greek centers of Ukraine in Nezhin, Odessa and Crimea have shrunk in numbers and in importance due to assimilation, deportations, and emigration to Greece and elsewhere. Today, the largest population of Greeks is in and around Mariupol, about 7% of the area's population, the second largest demographic component after the Slavic element (Russian and Ukrainian). It was heavily contested between Russians and Ukrainians in early 2022. Mariupol was initially in the conflict's front line and became part of the Donetsk republic. This study will look into how the Mariupol Greeks have fared under the Ukrainians and the Russians, and how the Greeks now view the conflict in which they are caught.

Christina Stavrou

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Pavlina Hadjitheodoulou

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&

Ioanna Theotokatou

Researcher, Cyprus Pedagogical Institute, Cyprus

Designing Activities for Enhancing Teachers' Professional Learning Communities in Cyprus

Creating professional learning communities (PLCs) in schools has been set as the ultimate goal of the national state institution, Cyprus Pedagogical Institute, responsible for teachers' professional learning. The interaction of the schools' PLC coordinators, the external facilitators/critical friends and the school head and teaching staff have a central role in designing, implementing and reflecting on that effort. The paper presents the results of the PLC coordinators' and facilitators' reflections and attitudes on the designing of a set of activities that were developed as a tool to support coordinators in acting as teacher leaders and enabling PLCs in schools. The activities focused on the school coordinators' needs in working collaboratively with their colleagues in order to co-create a meaningful professional learning framework in the working environment of the school and raise students' learning (Antinluoma et al., 2018). Data were collected through questionnaires, interviews and the facilitators' diaries. Results revealed a high level of satisfaction, a close link of the activities to a PLC framework for active teachers and schools (Margalef & Robins, 2016) and the importance of the coordinators' leadership in generating knowledge about teaching (Nehring & Fitzsimons, 2011). At the same time, the need to revisit the implementation of the activities in relation to the role of the school head teachers in enhancing teacher leadership in professional learning communities was also revealed.

Mervyn Wighting

Professor / Program Director, Regent University, USA

&

Rene Martinez

Adjunct Professor, Regent University, USA

Measuring Relationships between Experienced K-12 Teachers and their Students

This presentation will update delegates on a line of research by the authors into relationships between teachers and their students. These relationships have a powerful impact on classroom management, and without good classroom management children may struggle to learn the curriculum. The current research, conducted across a number of public-school divisions, investigates whether Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) might have a positive effect on teacher-student relations and a negative impact on discipline referrals. Previous studies have been limited to first-year teachers; the participants in this research are all seasoned and experienced teachers. The presentation will give interim results of the study and the research instrument will be available to conference attendees.

17th Annual International Conference on Mediterranean Studies, 25-28 March 2024, Athens,
Greece: Abstract Book

Mehmet Cevat Yıldırım

Associate Professor, Gaziantep University, Türkiye

&

Utku Özer

Research Fellow, ATINER

**Challenges Faced by Scholars in the Turkish Private
Universities**

NOT AVAILABLE

Anna Zanfei

Associate Professor, University of Verona, Italy

Is Persuasive, Evaluative Discourse Fading Away? A Focus on Change and Tradition in the Promotional, Persuasive Discourse around the Mediterranean Destinations

The Mediterranean resources in terms of heritage, tradition, history, natural environment, proximity of points of interest, and available leisure activities are constantly evaluated in texts related to tourism promotion according to targeted potential customers. The research question that this presentation tries to answer is twofold. The general question is about how *persuasive discourse* related to Mediterranean tourism and travel could be seen and perceived of as obsolete despite its poetic, captivating style. An answer could be that it is because persuasive, evaluative appraisals are declining in frequency of use in recent years in English. I believe that this generalized decline is obviously replaced by other evaluative forms and formats which are more effective as persuasive tools with a younger segment. Promotional discourse, particularly on social media and sometimes in brand websites deploys a hybrid mixture of traditional persuasive texts and strategies and new ones based on the platform affordances. The result is a seemingly more transparent, more authentic persuasive discourse. I will give examples and analyse the most recent development of persuasive aspects of promotional discourse. The comparison will be between traditional promotional discourse which is not disappearing and a discourse that reflects the nature of the diachronic phenomenon known as democratization of the English language. The approaches and methodologies used are based on functional linguistics. Specifically, the appraisal system (Martin and White 2005), the study of genre, register and style (Biber 2019), the diachronic studies on the democratization of the English language, and the tools offered by the Corpus of Contemporary American English. The material is a corpus of promotional, persuasive descriptions of places, destinations, resources of the Mediterranean destinations and the corpus of registers available in the COCA corpus.

Eyal Zisser

Vice Rector, Tel Aviv University, Israel

The Middle East, Israel and the Arabs - Three Years to the Abraham Accords

The signing of the Abraham Accords in September 2020 between Israel and the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and later also Sudan and Morocco, expressed an unexpected turn in the relations between Israel and the Arab world.

During the three years that have passed since these agreements were signed, they have survived challenges and even shocks, such as rounds of conflict between Israel and Hamas and the Islamic Jihad in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, and they were also able to challenge them from Iran and its allies in Lebanon and the Palestinian arena. The agreements contributed to the creation of a positive atmosphere between Israel and its Arab neighbors which helped in the promotion of regional cooperation in the fields of security and economy, such as regional efforts to promote the production and export of gas from the gas fields on the eastern shores of the Mediterranean Sea. Other regional actors, such as Greece and Cyprus but also Turkey also joined these efforts.

The positive change in the atmosphere and the promotion of regional cooperation in a variety of fields do not, however, provide an answer to the Palestinian issue, the solution of which has not only not progressed, but is even getting further away. A flare-up of a renewed conflict between Israel and the Palestinians could impose itself on the regional reality, destabilize the region and erode the achievements of the Abraham Accords and the momentum of regional cooperation achieved following them in recent years.

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