



University of Cyprus  
Graduate School



DOCTORAL THESIS  
OF GRADUATES  
UNIVERSITY OF CYPRUS (ABSTRACTS)  
JUNE 2021

## ABSTRACTS OF PHD THESIS JUNE 2021

The Senate of the University of Cyprus unanimously decided, on 9<sup>th</sup> June 2021 to award 20 Ph.D. titles.

In this edition the research subject of the PhD student is presented in a short summary.

The information is presented in alphabetical order by Department.

## ABSTRACTS OF PHD THESIS JUNE 2021

NAME/SURNAME	DEPARTMENT	TITLE OF THESIS/ ABSTRACT
Zacharias Petrou	Accounting and Finance	<p data-bbox="840 352 1565 379"><b><i>Essays on the Reliability of Financial Analysts' Products</i></b></p> <p data-bbox="840 472 1386 499"><b><i>Supervisor A: Andreas Charitou, Professor</i></b></p> <p data-bbox="840 531 1516 558"><b><i>Supervisor B: Irene Karamanou, Associate Professor</i></b></p> <p data-bbox="840 647 2197 798">This dissertation consists of three essays that focus on the role of financial analysts in the capital markets and seeks to shed more light on the properties of sell-side analyst research output, their value to market participants and the impact of particular regulatory changes.</p>
Chryso Heracleous	Architecture	<p data-bbox="840 884 2197 970"><b><i>Climate Change Resilience of Educational Premises in Cyprus: An Examination of Retrofit Approaches and Their Implications On Indoor Comfort Conditions And Energy Performance</i></b></p> <p data-bbox="840 1066 1473 1093"><b><i>Supervisor: Aimilios Michael, Assistant Professor</i></b></p> <p data-bbox="840 1177 2197 1267">The present study aims to evaluate the indoor comfort conditions and energy performance of educational premises in Cyprus under current and future climate scenarios and develop a methodology to support</p>

## ABSTRACTS OF PHD THESIS JUNE 2021

Panagiotis Petrides

Byzantine and Modern  
Greek Studies

decision making for the sustainable adaptation of existing buildings through a holistic approach interventions accompanied by techno-economic analysis.

***Westernism and Anti-westernism (1850-1880): Historical novel, politics, culture. Al. Rangavis' The Lord of Morea – Sp. Zambelios' Cretan Weddings***

***Supervisor: Pantelis Voutouris, Professor***

During 1850-1880, political and military conflicts between Greece and the Western-European Powers affected the Greek literature. This thesis examines the Greek western-theme literature of the era, especially Al. Rangavis' and Sp. Zambelios' novels The Lord of Morea (1850), Cretan Weddings (1871), respectively, and the western perspective of the writers.

Athina Nicolaou

Chemistry

***Chromatographic and electrophoretic separations of clinically important compounds***

***Supervisor: Constantina Kapnissi-Christodoulou, Associate Professor***

## ABSTRACTS OF PHD THESIS JUNE 2021

Shiuna Hawwa Musthafa

Education

The chiral separation of clinically important compounds by capillary electrophoresis is examined. Also, the chromatographic separation of cannabinoids by liquid chromatography and the proposal of earwax as an alternative matrix in forensic analysis is examined. For the first time, both detection and quantitation of cannabinoids were achieved in earwax samples of cannabis users.

***A longitudinal study on the impact of instructional quality on student learning in primary schools of Maldives***

***Supervisor: Leonidas Kyriakides, Professor***

The Dynamic Model was used to identify factors of effective teaching in Maldives. A multi-stage sample of grade 4 students (n =350) and teachers (n =31) was selected and data collected through questionnaires, observations and written tests administered in term 1 and term 2. Teaching effects were detected in classrooms.

## ABSTRACTS OF PHD THESIS JUNE 2021

Evi Charalambous

Education

***Promoting Quality and Equity in Education: The Impact of the Dynamic Approach to School Improvement***

***Supervisor: Leonidas Kyriakides, Professor***

The study aimed to support primary schools in socially disadvantaged areas from four European countries (Cyprus, England, Greece, and Ireland) to use the Dynamic Approach to School Improvement (DASI) to help their students improve their learning outcomes in Mathematics (quality dimension) and also reduce the impact of their students' socioeconomic background on their learning outcomes (equity dimension).

Glykeria Eria Makridou

Education

***Exploration of the development of computational thinking skills in the field of Higher Education***

***Supervisor: Charoula Angeli - Valanides, Professor***

This dissertation explores the development of computational thinking skills in the field of Higher Education with focus on the use of Educational Robotics. At the same time, it is investigated whether the cognitive type of an individual (field-dependent or field independent) plays an important role in the performance of university students in terms of computational thinking skills, and their attitudes towards robotics.

## ABSTRACTS OF PHD THESIS JUNE 2021

Ourania Miliou

Education

***Designing learning environments for enhancing students' internet skills in higher education***

***Supervisor: Charoula Angeli - Valanides, Professor***

This study presents the first attempt to inform theoretically and methodologically the ongoing dialogue known in the international literature as "The Digital Natives Debate" about the education of the digital natives' generation. In particular, the dissertation discusses issues related to the effective and productive use of the Internet in Higher Education.

Giorgos Kataliakos

Education

***Curiosity and education in the philosophy of Thomas Hobbes***

***Supervisor: Marianna Papastephanou, Professor***

This dissertation examines Hobbes' notion of curiosity and argues for its growing relevance with his political and educational thought. Hobbes' metaphor of curiosity in this regard, as "the lust of the mind" and as the profound desire of people to broaden their knowledge scope and horizons, is critically re-evaluated in view of his proposed educational recommendations to empower the state of the sovereign.

## ABSTRACTS OF PHD THESIS JUNE 2021

Evangelia Irakleous	Education	<p><b><i>Interpretation and utilization of written feedback comments by elementary students</i></b></p> <p><b><i>Supervisor: Constantinos Constantinou, Professor</i></b></p> <p>The present study has been designed to examine the interpretation and use of teachers' written feedback comments by sixth grade elementary students during the process of designing and conducting science investigations.</p>
Ekaterini Symeou	Education	<p><b><i>Scraping off Melancholy: Palimpsests in Modern Greek Literature</i></b></p> <p><b><i>Supervisor: Zelia Gregoriou, Associate Professor</i></b></p> <p>The present thesis employs the theory of gender melancholy, as developed by Butler and further explored by Kristeva, Derrida, Halberstam and Irigaray, as an axis of reference. The approaches of these theorists to gender melancholy, embodiment and subjectivity are explored by developing parallel readings between theoretical and Greek literary texts.</p>
Louiza Sophocleous	Electrical and Computer Engineering	<p><b><i>Robustness and Reliability of Electrical Impedance Tomography Measurements in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit</i></b></p>



## ABSTRACTS OF PHD THESIS JUNE 2021

Andria Christodoulou

Psychology

***Supervisor: Constantinos Pitris, Professor***

This thesis presents an investigation and evaluation of possible confounding factors that may lead to bad quality measurements or misinterpretation of the electrical impedance tomography measurements within the neonatal intensive care units. Those factors are related to practical issues in a clinical setting associated with the electrodes and patient-related interventions.

***Examination of the Acceptance and Commitment Therapy Model With Alternative Psychometric Methods***

***Supervisor: Michalis Michaelides, Assistant Professor***

The theoretical model of Acceptance and Commitment Therapy has not been sufficiently examined, while measurement tools for its components have psychometric limitations. The dissertation evaluates the

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Maria Markou

Psychology

model with latent variable analysis and an innovative network analysis approach using data from a battery of tools and a comprehensive scale for all components.

***An Examination of the Relationship Between Childhood Peer Victimization and Disordered Eating in Emerging Adults: A Mixed Method Approach***

***Supervisor: Panayiotis Stavrinos, Associate Professor***

The present thesis used a mixed-method approach to examine the relationship between childhood peer victimization (CPV) and the development of disordered eating behaviours (DEBs) in emerging adulthood. The present thesis specifically examined the indirect relationship between CPV and DEBs through identity development, the moderating role of difficulties in emotion regulation in the CPV and DEBs relationship, and how emerging adults with a history of CPV interpret their experiences with DEBs.

Natasa Georgiou

Psychology

***Developmental Language Disorder and Autism: Commonalities and Differences***

***Supervisor: George Spanoudis, Associate Professor***

## ABSTRACTS OF PHD THESIS JUNE 2021

Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) and Developmental Language Disorder (DLD), have been studied in relation to the possibility of a common profile of those, related to language and cognitive domains. Results showed that there is a subgroup of ASD children, who have language difficulties, similar to those of children with DLD.

Marianna Pagkratidou

Psychology

### ***Constructing Spatial Situation Models from Comics***

***Supervisor: Marios Avraamides, Professor***

The study examined how people foreground spatial shifts in comics, which combine linguistic with visual information. Overall, the findings from the current study indicate that comics can support the construction of situation models and may even be more efficient than texts for the foregrounding of spatial shifts.

Sylvia Maria Savvidou

Psychology

### ***Multiple Text Comprehension and Evaluation: The Influence of Argument Type and Prior Belief Consistency***

## ABSTRACTS OF PHD THESIS JUNE 2021

	<p><b>Supervisor:</b> Irene - Anna Diakidoy, Professor</p> <p>Two studies showed that personal case-based texts were better represented at single and multiple text comprehension level, regardless of belief consistency. Working memory was positively related to trustworthiness evaluations for science-based texts, whereas personal case-based were overall regarded equally trustworthy. Thus, readers possibly prefer story-like content despite low argument quality.</p>
Stavros Trakoshis	<p>Psychology</p> <p><b>Neural Noise and the Decomposition of Autism Heterogeneity</b></p> <p><b>Supervisor:</b> Kostas Fanti, Associate Professor</p> <p>I was able to describe micro-scale increases of excitation at the synaptic level of the medial prefrontal cortex of mice from resting state fMRI, with the Hurst exponent. Then I showed sex-dependent differences on Hurst exponent level in humans with autism.</p>
Christina Kaili	<p>Social and Political Sciences</p> <p><b>'GLOCAL' Voices: Feminist blogging reconstructing political participation</b></p> <p><b>Supervisor A:</b> Kalliope Agapiou - Josephides , Assistant Professor</p> <p><b>Supervisor B:</b> Alexia Panayiotou, Associate Professor</p>

## ABSTRACTS OF PHD THESIS JUNE 2021

Shawn Christian Broyles

Turkish and Middle  
Eastern Studies

A feminist standpoint analysis of reconstructing political participation in the digital era. The thesis reveals the role of feminist blogging in transcending local boundaries to inform global audiences about human rights violations and to mobilise for collective action. A 'Blog Analysis Schema' for political participation forms this work's original contribution.

***Ottoman Slavery in Istanbul and Cyprus During the Late 16th Century***

***Supervisor: Thomas Sinclair, Associate Professor (retired)***

This thesis explores slavery in early modern Istanbul and Cyprus through the use of Islamic court documents. It is a comparison of the slave economy, slave experience, and legal experience between the two distinct locales.