

**Centre for Medieval Arts and Rituals (CeMAR)**  
**Faculty of Letters**  
**University of Cyprus**

**Title:** Special Scientist (Research Associate)

**Number of Positions:** One (1)

**Category:** 2-year contract, full-time (140 hours/month)

**Place of Work:** CeMAR, University of Cyprus, Nicosia, Cyprus

**Funding Programme:** Storytelling as *Pharmakon* in Premodernity and Beyond: Training the New Generation of Researchers in Health Humanities (StoryPharm)

**Deadline of Application:** 15/06/2026

**The University of Cyprus (UCY) is pleased to announce a two-year Special Scientist PhD position with a generous research allowance in an international, multi-partner EU project, employment beginning between July and August 2026.**

The StoryPharm project is funded by the European Union's Horizon Europe research and innovation programme under the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Action – Doctoral Networks. The focus of the project is on premodern narratives and images involving medicine, health, and healing. These are studied from a transdisciplinary and comparative perspective, across linguistic and cultural borders (<https://www.ucy.ac.cy/storypharm/>).

**Project: “Female Melancholia in Anna Komnene and Julia Kristeva” (StoryPharm Fellow 16)**

This subproject focuses on Komnene's *Alexiad* (12<sup>th</sup> c.) and Kristeva's *Meurtre à Byzance* (2004) – that is a modern rewriting of the *Alexiad* in which Kristeva identifies with Komnene – as well as on Kristeva's theoretical work on melancholia (i.e. *Soleil noir: Depression et mélancolie* (1987)). It investigates how writing and the telling of (medieval) stories function as therapeutic means for mourning women, either modern or premodern. Komnene writes the biography of her father Emperor Alexios I not only to record the deeds of the emperor, but also to deal with the loss of her husband and parents. Kristeva's first novel *Les Samourais* (1990) follows from her theoretical interest in melancholia in the 1980s which, in turn, was inspired by her treatment of melancholic patients. *Meurtre* operates both as an antidote against the depressive effects of therapy on the analyst and as the author's *pharmakon* against the loss of her own parents. By discussing writing and storytelling as a laboratory for (women's) personal therapy, the subproject illuminates the intertextual relationships between *Meurtre* and *Alexiad* and reveals the two works' female ethics of compassion and their poetics of melancholia.

The successful candidate will be employed at UCY and enrolled in the Department of Byzantine and Modern Greek Studies. The training includes a three-month academic secondment at the University of Salerno (UNI

SALERNO) and a one-month non-academic secondment at David Collection (Copenhagen). At UCY, the PhD candidate will work under the supervision of Stavroula Constantinou and Maria Margaroni while Maddalena Vaccaro will act as a supervisor at UNI SALERNO. For the additional third year required for the successful candidate to complete their PhD, CeMAR will make all necessary arrangements to provide a fellowship.

## Objectives

Fellow 16 will aim at achieving the following results: (1) reveal the fascination of important contemporary thinkers with medieval women and their work; (2) show the relationship between melancholy and creative imagination; (3) exhibit the gendered aspects of melancholy.

## Specific Requirements

The PhD candidate will fulfil the requirements of the PhD programme in Byzantine Studies and the Latin East (<https://www.ucy.ac.cy/hisarch/programmes-of-study/interdepartmental-phd-programme-in-byzantine-studies-and-the-latin-east/?lang=en>), lead their research under the guidance of the supervisors and present their work at international conferences, in accordance with the consortium's communication and dissemination plan. Furthermore, they will cooperate with other fellow PhD students to fulfill the StoryPharm's training and other objectives. Participation in StoryPharm's training and other activities is compulsory.

## The Application

The application package should contain a short document (max 2 pages) describing how candidates would approach the research. This is a crucial part of the evaluation as it is meant to reflect writing ability, creativity and grasp of theory and research. It is therefore crucial that candidates make their best effort toward making the document reflective of their true abilities.

When composing the text regarding the project, candidates may wish to consider:

- How can writing and storytelling function as a therapeutic means?
- What kind of impact can writing and storytelling have on mourning women?
- In which ways does medieval literature inform modern literature?
- How does Julia Kristeva rewrite the work of Anna Komnene?

## Short Bibliography

Constantinou, Stavroula. 2019. "Gendered Emotions and Affective Genders: A Response," in Stavroula Constantinou and Mati Meyer (eds), *Emotions and Gender in Byzantine Culture*. London and New

York, 283–315.

Gouma-Peterson Thalia (ed.) 2000. *Anna Komnene and Her Times*. London and New York.

Margaroni, Maria. 2009. “Julia Kristeva’s Chiasmatic Journeys: From Byzantium to the Phantom of Europe and the End of the World,” in Kelly Oliver and Stacy Keltner (eds), *Psychoanalysis, Aesthetics, and Politics in the Work of Julia Kristeva*. New York, 111–124.

Neville, Leonora. 2016. *Anna Komnene: The Life and Work of a Medieval Historian*. Oxford.

Trigo, Benigno (ed.) 2013. *Kristeva’s Fiction*. New York.

For more information about this fellowship, contact Prof. Stavroula Constantinou ([constantinou.stavroula@ucy.ac.cy](mailto:constantinou.stavroula@ucy.ac.cy)).

### Equal Employment Opportunity Statement

The University of Cyprus (UCY) is committed to promoting inclusivity, diversity, and equality, as well as the elimination of all forms of discrimination in order to provide a fair, safe, and pleasant environment for the entire university community, where students and staff members will feel supported both in their professional and personal development, within and beyond their multiple identities. To this end, UCY seeks to create the necessary conditions that will encourage and respect diversity, and ensure dignity both in the workplace and society at large. Moreover, UCY has adopted specific policies to promote equal opportunities, as well as respect and understanding of diversity, while it is committed to promoting and maintaining a working, teaching, and learning environment, free from any form of discrimination, whether direct or indirect.

### Terms of Employment

The successful candidate will be employed full-time (140 hours/month). The gross salary will be **€2,283.36/month**. From this amount employee contributions to the various governmental funds will be deducted. The Special Scientist will moreover receive mobility allowance (€600) and (only if applicable) family allowance (€495). Enrolment fees in the PhD programme will be covered by the project. There is no provision for 13<sup>th</sup> salary.

The recruited doctoral fellow will become highly skilled cultural historian specialising in premodern intellectual and healthcare worlds. At the same time, they will acquire transferable skills allowing them to use, develop, and deploy cutting-edge approaches to storytelling and its ethical ramifications for scientific, professional, business, healthcare, and social purposes. After the offered doctoral training, the fellows will be ideally positioned to (1) achieve ground-breaking research results; (2) meet current trends and needs in the

job market; (3) work towards establishing a human-centred medical system; and (4) create better and more resilient societies.

StoryPharm welcomes highly-motivated applicants. The call is open to applicants of any nationality who meet the following requirements at the recruitment date:

- Prior to the starting date of the PhD programme they must hold or be due to hold a Master's Degree in relevant fields mentioned above.
- Must not already hold a doctoral title.
- Must not have resided or carried out their main activity (work, studies, etc.) in the country of the recruiting organisation for more than 12 months in the 3 years immediately before the recruitment date (mobility rule). Any time spent as part of a procedure for obtaining refugee status under the Geneva Convention (1951 Refugee Convention and the 1967 Protocol), compulsory national service and/or short stays such as holidays do not count towards the total.

If any of the above prerequisites is not satisfied, the StoryPharm consortium reserves the right to exclude applicants from the selection procedure at any time, even after the selection procedure has taken place.

## Application Procedures

The employment of persons who have reached the age of 65 years old, at the commencement date of employment, is prohibited.

Applications will be accepted from **15/05/2026** until **15/06/2026** at **14:00** (Central European Time).

Applications must be submitted electronically to the email address: **ceMAR@ucy.ac.cy**

The following documents must be provided:

- Personal statement (max 2 pages) detailing the applicant's motivations and goals within the StoryPharm programme
- CV (max 2 pages) with emphasis on prior academic achievements
- Research statement (max 2 pages, 1,000 words) detailing how the applicant will approach the research project and how the StoryPharm training goals fit into the applicant's career plans. Candidates are asked to consider the research questions included in each position's description.
- Copy of Bachelor's and Master's Degree certificates and transcript of records
- Copy of Master's Thesis
- A reference letter by the MA supervisor and one other academic reference
- Copy of an ID document valid at the time of the interview.

All application documents **must be drafted** in English. For **certificates and other official documents** official translations in English are preferable. We, however, accept documents in the following languages: Danish, Dutch, English, French, German, Greek, Italian, Norwegian, Portuguese, Spanish, and Swedish.

Applications must be submitted by the call deadline.

The applications must be complete in all their parts and must include all required material in PDF format without any protection that prevents printing.

## Evaluation

A specific Evaluation Committee will be established to assess each topic's applicants. Each Committee will be composed of the main supervisors, an external member from the Supervisory Board, and possibly other faculty members of the recruiting university.

The evaluation process will include two stages.

### 1st Stage: Application Assessment

Application materials will be assessed based on the criteria specified in Table 2.

The score will be calculated on a scale of 0 to 100 points. Candidates with a score of at least 60 over 100 will pass to the second step and will be invited to an interview. Shortlisted candidates are expected to be notified in December 2024.

**Table 2:** Evaluation Criteria for the Preliminary Selection

Criteria	Percentage
<b>Criterion 1:</b> Excellence of the applicant's CV, skills and track record (see Application Procedures), fulfilment of the relevant requirements related to the position applied for	80%
<b>Criterion 2:</b> Potential impact on the applicant's career and motivations to participate in the StoryPharm training programme	20%
<b>Global score</b>	100% (threshold 60%)

### 2nd Stage: Interview

Individual interviews will have the purpose of gaining a better sense of the applicants' academic background and their approach to the proposed PhD research project, as well as the vision of their role within the network and of their future career. If a candidate has applied for more than one fellowship, the interview will test the fulfilment of the requirements for all of them.

The interviews will last approximately 30 minutes. Candidates will be interviewed on-line via *Zoom* or *Teams*.

The Evaluation Committee will evaluate the interviewees based on the criteria specified in the table below. It will produce an evaluation summary report for each applicant, with scores and detailed motivations.

All interviews will be conducted in English.

**Table 3:** Evaluation criteria for the interview

Criteria	Percentage
<b>Criterion 1:</b> Excellence of the applicant's presentation: Argumentation, communication, and evidence of knowledge of the ancient/medieval/modern languages when relevant	35%
<b>Criterion 2:</b> Excellence of the research statement, originality, understanding of the different facets of research demonstrated during discussion	65%
<b>Global score</b>	100%

The Evaluation Committee will produce a ranking list for each position.

**Ranking List:** All applicants invited to the interview will be informed of the outcome of the selection process with an Evaluation Summary Report.

### Admission to the PhD Programme

The successful applicant is admitted to the PhD programme following the order of the ranking list. The selected applicant must confirm by email their acceptance of the position within 15 days.

Applicants who fail to meet this deadline will be replaced by the next applicant on the ranking list, who will be informed by email and must enroll within 15 days following the same procedure.

## PhD Fellows' Rights, Obligations and Incompatibilities

It is not possible to be simultaneously enrolled in more than one study programme leading to the awarding of a degree (e.g. Bachelor, Masters, Postgraduate Specialisation, short/executive Masters or PhD).

In the case of enrolment in the StoryPharm PhD programme the successful applicant will be required to suspend or, if not possible, discontinue any enrolment in their other degree programme before the commencement of the PhD programme in order not to be excluded.

## Confidentiality

The University of Cyprus shall collect and process your personal data according to the provisions of the General Regulation on Personal Data 2016/679 (EU).

StoryPharm commits to using personal information for the purposes of the selection process alone.

The participation in the selection process implies the applicant's consent to the collection, use and process of their personal data by the StoryPharm consortium.

Applicants need not be citizens of the Republic of Cyprus. Applicants should however ensure, before applying, that in case they are selected they will be residing in Cyprus on a full-time basis during the employment period; submission of application implies acceptance of this condition.

For more information visit our website <https://www.ucy.ac.cy/storypharm/> and for any questions, contact the StoryPharm Scientific Project Manager, Dr Andria Androu [andreou.andria@ucy.ac.cy](mailto:andreou.andria@ucy.ac.cy).