

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

Title: Special Scientist (Research Associate)

Number of Positions: Three (3)

Category: 3-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: 17/02/2025

The University of Cyprus (UCY) is pleased to announce four three-year Special Scientist PhD positions with a generous research allowance in an international, multi-partner EU project, employment beginning between June and August 2025.

The StoryPharm project, which is funded by the European Union's Horizon Europe research and innovation programme under the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Action – Doctoral Networks, is announcing a total of 19 PhD fellowships within the training programme “Storytelling as *Pharmakon* in Premodernity and Beyond: Training the New Generation of Researchers in Health Humanities” (<https://www.ucy.ac.cy/storypharm/>). The focus of the project is on premodern narratives and images involving medicine, health, and healing. These will be studied from a transdisciplinary and comparative perspective, across linguistic and cultural borders.

Project 1: “Female Melancholia in Anna Komnene and Julia Kristeva” (StoryPharm Fellow 16)

This subproject will focus on Komnene's *Alexiad* (12th 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 will investigate 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 Samouraïs* (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 will illuminate the intertextual relationships between *Meurtre* and *Alexiad* and will reveal 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 Amalia Galdi will act as a supervisor at UNI SALERNO.

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

A Master's Degree in Byzantine Studies or Comparative Literature is required.

Expectations

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.

Salary

The successful candidate will be employed full-time. Gross salary will be €2,283.36/month plus mobility allowance (€583.09) and, only if applicable, family allowance (€481.05). Enrolment fees in the PhD programme will be covered by the project during the 36-month period. There is no provision for 13th salary.

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).

Project 2: “Monastic Medicine: Postmedieval Practical Handbooks (*Iatrosophia*) from Cyprus” (StoryPharm Fellow 17)

Concentrating on six Cypriot *iatrosophia* – practical handbooks, which were produced mostly in monasteries from the 16th to the 20th c., and compiled therapeutic wisdom, agricultural, meteorological, and veterinary advice, along with admixtures of oneirocriticism, religion, astrology, and magic – this subproject will comparatively investigate the ancient, Byzantine and other influences of the examined works. The subproject will also illuminate the medical, botanical, and other therapeutic knowledge that flourished in Cyprus for a timespan covering five centuries. At the same time, the subproject will provide insight into the types of healers and sufferers, gender aspects, the forms of diseases, and the kinds of treatments that appeared in different periods.

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 Cardiff University (CARDIFF UNI) and a one-month non-academic secondment at the National German Museum in Nuremberg. At UCY, the PhD candidate will work under the supervision of Stavroula Constantinou while Eva MacDonald will act as a supervisor at CARDIFF UNI.

Objectives: Fellow 17 will aim at achieving the following results: (1) expose the medical antiquarianism and medievalism of important Cypriot *iatrosophia*; (2) reveal their rich historical, geographical, and social background; (3) provide a holistic understanding to the postmedieval medical legacy of Cyprus; (4) establish

the continuing tradition of *iatrosophia* and place Cypriot *iatrosophia* in the wider European medical tradition.

Specific Requirements: a Master's Degree in Classics, Byzantine Studies, Studies in Medievalism, History of Medicine, or Modern Greek Studies is required.

The Application: The application package should contain a short document (max 2 pages) describing how the candidate 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 the best effort is made toward making the document reflective of the candidate's true abilities.

When composing the text regarding the project the candidate may wish to consider:

- How do postmedieval *iatrosophia* implement ancient and medieval medical practices?
- In what ways do postmedieval *iatrosophia* adopt the form, structure, and other generic characteristics of their medieval counterparts?
- What do Cypriot *iatrosophia* tell us about contemporary local mentalities, beliefs, and (gendered) medical practices?

Short Bibliography

Clark, Patricia Ann. 2016. *A Cretan Healer's Handbook in the Byzantine Tradition: Text, Translation and Commentary*. London and New York.

Demetriades, Andreas (ed.) 2015. *Iatrosophikón: Folklore Remedies from a Cyprus Monastery. Original Text and Parallel Translation of Codex Machairas A.18*. Nicosia

Oberhelman, Stephen. 2013. "Dreams, Dreambooks, and Post-Byzantine Practical Healing Manuals (Iatrosophia)," in Stephen Oberhelman (ed.) *Dreams, Healing, and Medicine in Greece*. Aldershot, 269–294.

Touwaide, A 2017. "Byzantine Hospital Manuals (Iatrosophia) as a Source for the Study of Therapeutics," in Barbara S. Bowers (ed.), *The Medieval Hospital and Medical Practice*. Aldershot, 147–174.

Zipser, Barbara. 2019. "Galen in Byzantine *iatrosophia*," in Petros Bouras-Vallianatos and Barbara Zipser (eds) *Brill's Companion to the Reception of Galen*. Leiden, 111–123.

For more information about this fellowship, contact Prof. Stavroula Constantinou

(constantinou.stavroula@ucy.ac.cy).

Project 3: “The Healing Masters and Mistresses of Medievalist Detective Fiction” (StoryPharm Fellow 19)

This subproject will study the medievalist murder mystery which features a detective who is also a medical practitioner. A comparative analysis of selected novel series will be undertaken (Peters’ *The Chronicles of Brother Cadfael*, Gregory’s *The Matthew Bartholomew Chronicles*, and Franklin’s *A Mistress of the Art of Death*). The subproject will look at how the narrative of detection unfolds alongside narratives of individual and/or collective healing. Set in periods of transition and great turmoil (e.g. civil war in England (12th c. CE) and the Hundred Years War (1337–1453)), these novel series weave together the classical detective plot, historiographical knowledge, and debates around the usefulness of hands-on clinical experience, invasive surgery, the (lack of) sufferer–healer interaction, and the antagonism between Western and Arab forms of medical knowledge. Particular attention will be paid to common elements between detective and medical plots: (1) a deep conviction in the power of reason and (2) a perception of illness as inextricable from moral and social corruption.

The successful candidate will be enrolled in the Department of English Studies. The training includes a three-month academic secondment at Cardiff University (CARDIFF UNI) and a one-month non-academic secondment at National German Museum in Nuremberg. At UCY, the PhD candidate will work under the supervision of Maria Margaroni and Stavroula Constantinou while Laurence Totelin will act as a supervisor at the CARDIFF UNI.

Objectives: The Doctoral Fellow of Project 2 (Fellow 19) will aim at achieving the following results: (1) unearth the medical medievalism of a series of contemporary detective novels; (2) map the characteristics of medievalist and detective plots and present their interaction in a series of works belonging to the same subgenre.

Specific Requirements: a Master’s Degree in English Studies or Comparative Literature is required.

The Application: the application package should contain a short document (max 2 pages) describing how the candidate 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 the best effort is made toward making the document reflective of the candidate’s true abilities.

When composing the text regarding the project the candidate may wish to consider:

- What are the historical and/or theoretical contexts that have made possible contemporary writers’ return to Medievalist settings and concerns?
- Which theoretical/narrative tools can be used to address the (ideological, historical, cultural, semiotic, and other) tensions produced by the co-existence of different periods, discursive styles, narrative sensibilities, etc.?

- Given the popularity of these novel series, to what extent does readership remain a significant factor in shaping the dominant structures of Medievalist detective fiction?
- Does the convergence of the detective and medical plots point to social and/or psychological anxieties that have perhaps survived today, surfacing at times of great collective crisis (e.g. the War on Terror, the recent pandemic)?

Short Bibliography

Brown, Ray B. and Lawrence A. Kreiser Jr. (eds) 2000. *The Detective as Historian: History and Art in Historical Crime Fiction*. Madison, Wisconsin.

Burgess, Michael and Jill H. Vassilakos 2005. *Murder in Retrospect: A Selective Guide to Historical Mystery Fiction*. London.

Elliott, Andrew B. R. 2017. *Medievalism, Politics and Mass Media: Appropriating the Middle Ages in the Twenty-First Century*. Cambridge.

Greenberg, Martin H. and John Helfers (eds) 2000. *Murder Most Medieval: Noble Tales of Ignoble Demises*. Nashville, Tennessee.

Holinger, Bruce 2007. *Neomedievalism, Neoconservatism, and the War on Terror*. Chicago.

Johnsen, Rosemary Erickson 2006. *Contemporary Feminist Historical Crime Fiction*. London.

Klein, Gregory Kathleen 1995. *The Woman Detective and Genre*. Urbana and Chicago.

Knight, Stephen 1980. *Form and Ideology in Crime Fiction*. London.

For more information about this fellowship, contact Dr Maria Margaroni (margaroni.maria@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.

Main Training Activities Specific to the Project

- Induction Week (UCY)
- Training in Critical Discourse Analysis (Lund University)
- Training in Narrative and in Literary Criticism (University of Salerno)
- Training in Intersectionality, Sexuality, and Gender (UCY)
- Spring School (University of Bamberg)
- Training in Obtaining Funding in Project Management (online)
- Training in Entrepreneurship (online)
- Training in Publishing Industry (Bamberg State Library)

Expectations

The **3 Special Scientists** (PhD candidates) 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>) or the PhD programme in English Literature and Comparative Cultural Studies (<https://www.ucy.ac.cy/eng/programmes-of-study/phd-programmes/?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.

Terms of Employment

The successful candidates will be employed full-time. The gross salary will be **€2,283.36/month**. From this amount employee contribution to the various governmental funds will be deducted. The Special Scientist will moreover (only if applicable) receive mobility allowance (€583.09) and family allowance (€481.05). Enrolment fees in the PhD programme will be covered by the project during the 36-month period. There is no provision for 13th salary.

All recruited doctoral fellows will become highly skilled cultural historians 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 age and 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.

Additional requirements can apply for specific positions. For further information, please consult the detailed information for each position.

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

Applications for the first round will be accepted from **23/12/2024** until **17/02/2025** at **14:00** (Central European Time).

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

Applicants may apply for one or more positions, up to three positions in total. In case of multiple applications, applicants should submit one application with a separate research statement for each position **and specify the priority order** in their personal statement.

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
Criterion 1: 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%
Criterion 2: Potential impact on the applicant’s career and motivations to participate in the StoryPharm training programme	20%

Global score	100% (threshold 60%)
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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
Criterion 1: Excellence of the applicant's presentation: Argumentation, communication, and evidence of knowledge of the ancient/medieval/modern languages when relevant	35%
Criterion 2: Excellence of the research statement, originality, understanding of the different facets of research demonstrated during discussion	65%
Global score	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 Programmes: Successful applicants are admitted to their selected PhD programme following the order of the ranking list. The selected applicants 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.

If no other applicant is available in the ranking list for the position, StoryPharm may decide to assign the position to a qualified applicant for a different PhD position or launch an extra call for applications for the vacant position.

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 successful applicants 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: Personal data will be collected, used and processed in accordance with General Data Protection Regulation 2016/679 (GDPR).

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.