

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

Human Rights and Democratic Culture in Practice: Applications and Challenges

25-26 April 2026 • Athens, Greece



ORGANIZERS:



THE EUROPEAN
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CENTRE



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CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

Saturday, 25 April 2026

Central University Building (30 Panepistimiou Str.) & School of Law (3 Sina Str.)

<p>9:30 – 10:00 Ceremonial Hall Central University Building</p>	<p>Registrations</p>
<p>10:00 – 10:30 Ceremonial Hall Central University Building</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Opening remarks on behalf of the organizers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Linus-Alexandros Sicilianos, President of MFHR, Professor, NKUA <p style="text-align: center;">Greetings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Konstantinos Christodoulou, Dean, Law School, NKUA - Dimitris Drosos, Dean, School of Philosophy, NKUA - Emmanouil Karageorgoudis, Dean, School of Theology, NKUA
<p>10:30 – 11:30 Ceremonial Hall Central University Building</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Keynote Speakers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Michael Pikramenos, President of the Council of State, Professor, Faculty of Law, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki: “Democratic culture and the rule of law in the digital age” - Villano Qiriazzi, Head of Education, Council of Europe
<p>11:30 – 12:00 Ceremonial Hall Central University Building</p>	<p>Presentations: National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Joint MA Programme “Identity, Education and Competences for Democratic Culture”, Marangopoulos Foundation for Human Rights</p>
<p>12:00 – 12:30 Central University Building</p>	<p>Coffee Break</p>
<p>12:30 – 14:00 Ceremonial Hall Central University Building</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Panel 1: Democratic Culture and Human Rights</p> <p>Coordination: Linus-Alexandros Sicilianos, President of MFHR, Professor, NKUA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Xenophon I. Kontiadis, Professor, Panteion University, President of the Themistoklis and Dimitris Tsatsos Foundation - Lillian Mitrou, Professor, University of the Aegean - Lina Papadopoulou, Professor, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki - Georgios Karavokiris, Associate Professor, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki
<p>14:00 – 14:45 Central University Building</p>	<p>Lunch Break</p>



Panel 2: Education and Democratic Culture

Coordination: **Marios Koukounaras Liagkis**, Professor, NKUA, Director of the Master Program "Identity, Education and Competences for Democratic Culture"

- **Angelos Valliatanos**, Lecturer at the Joint MA, Council of Europe
- **Despoina Karakatsani**, Professor, University of the Peloponnese
- **Leda Anagnostaki**, Associate Professor, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens
- **Aspasia Dania**, Associate Professor, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens

14:45 – 16:15

Ceremonial Hall
Central University
Building

16:30 – 18:30

Argyriadis
Auditorium
Central University
Building
(Session in
English)

Parallel Session 1

- **Dr. Athina Simatou**, Adjunct lecturer, NKUA: "Legal Pressure as Discipline: SLAPPs and Risk Exposure in Greek Journalism"
- **Dr. Melih Uğraş Erol**, Lecturer in Law, Izmir University of Economics: "Questioning the Rise of Digital Semi-Autocracy Against Human Rights and Democracy in the Neo-Digital Human Rights Era: Lessons from the European Union and Türkiye"
- **Meri Khachatryan**, Lecturer, Yerevan State University: "Fundamental human rights challenges in contemporary asset confiscation frameworks"
- **Eirini Vyzirgiannaki**, LL.M. (c), NKUA: "Artificial Intelligence and Challenges to Human Rights: Revisiting the European Lawyer's Toolkit"
- **Iason-Homeros Christidis**, Trainee lawyer: "State surveillance: a subtle threat to modern Democracies"
- **Panagiota Vagiou**, Undergraduate student, NKUA: "Systematic violence and the rule of law: public space as a field of constitutional tension"

Parallel Session 2

- **Mikael Baaz**, Professor, University of Gothenburg, Sweden: "Human Rights from Below: Gender, Law, and Local Resistance in contemporary India"
- **Eleni Koutsouraki**, Assistant Professor, Hellenic Mediterranean University: "Turkey as a safe third country for refugees: Challenges for the Rule of Law in Greece and the EU legal order"
- **Fragkiskos Tsiros**, Doctoral Researcher, European University Institute: "An Emotional Approach to International Human Rights Law"
- **Aristeidis Panagiotis Kypriotis**, NKUA Law School Graduate, Trainee lawyer: "From Neutrality to Inclusion: Queer Treaty Interpretation and SOGI Asylum Claims under International Law"
- **Chrysi Vorloou**, Undergraduate student, NKUA: "Words can built up or tear down: How Europe speaks about minorities"

Drakopoulos
Auditorium
Central University
Building
(Session in
English)



<p>School of Law (3 Sina Str.) Hall 4 (Session in Greek)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Parallel Session 3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Elpida Christoforidou, Postdoctoral researcher, University of Thessaly: "Popular culture and democracy: Entertainment and social engagement" - Katerina Papasimaki, Regional Directorate of Education Attiki/Coordinator of Refugee Education: "Youthwashing: The hidden charm of decorative youth" - Maria Vasileiou, PhD Candidate, NKUA: "The flâneur of the 21st century: Wandering as a tactic of symbolic resistance and democratic claim-making in the social space" - Fr. Christophoros Chronis, Associate Professor, NKUA: "The ecclesiastical discourse on bulverism: Philosophical and pedagogical investigation of a contemporary logical fallacy in the public sphere" - Garoufalia Mokou, MA, NKUA & Dimitra Filippou, PhD, NKUA: "Democratic Discourse and Social Representations in the School Linguistic Landscapes of Volos: Critical Language Awareness and Practices for Democratic Culture and Human Rights" - Paraskevi Kakaroucha, Adult Educator, Doctor of Cultural Tourism, NKUA: "Illuminating Democracy: Lighthouse Film Narratives in Vocational Training"
<p>School of Law (3 Sina Str.) Hall 5 (Session in English)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Parallel Session 4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mona Lilja, Professor, University of Gothenburg: "Books as Vessels of Possible Futures: Shaping Democratic Imaginaries" - Vassiliki-Maria Vasiliou, PhD Candidate, NKUA: "Does the Old Testament promote Human Rights? " - Spyridoula Athanasopoulou-Kypriou, Lecturer, University of Crete: "Human Rights, Democracy, and Critical Theological Literacy: The Case of Religious Education in Greece" - Nikolaos Liodakis, Wilfrid Laurier University, "Architectures of Exclusion and Inclusion: A Comparative Analysis of Educational Systems and Human Rights Compliance in Canada and Greece" - Lara Naber, Research Consultant - UNICEF: "Gender Differences in Online Practices: Case Studies from Egypt, Iraq, and Jordan" - Muhammad Ishtiaq Ishaq, Associate Professor, De Vinci Higher Education & Ali Raza, Associate Professor, Excelia Business School France: "How HRM Promotes Social Cohesion for Minority Employees through CSR and Purpose across Cultures"
<p>School of Law (3 Sina Str.) Hall 6 (Session in Greek)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Parallel Session 5</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Aspasia Dania, Associate Professor, NKUA: "Pedagogy as a relational process: Symptomatic approaches to democracy and equity in contemporary education"



- **Nikolaos Tsirevelos**, Laboratory Teaching Personnel, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki: "Human rights, intercultural Christian witness and communication in education"
- **Stelios Pantazidis**, Postdoctoral researcher, University of Thessaly: "Where Does Democracy Take Shape in Education Today? A Study of Self-Organized Teacher Networks"
- **Marina Lagouri**, Principal, Experimental School, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki: "Teacher empowerment in contemporary educational contexts: A critical literature review of theoretical frameworks and research evidence"
- **Garyfallia Karli**, PhD candidate, NKUA & **Evgenia Flogaiti**, Professor, NKUA & **Georgia Liarakou**, Professor, NKUA: "Fostering Democratic Values: The Role of Openness in the School Community"
- **Georgios Potamias**, PhD, NKUA: "From Multimodal Discourse to Organizational Indicators: Multimodal Analysis as an Early Detection and Intervention Tool for Workplace Mobbing"

Parallel Session 6

School of Law
(3 Sina Str.)
Hall 7
(Session in Greek)

- **Dimitra Filippou**, PhD, NKUA: "Who Counts as Human? Transphobic Hate Speech and the Discursive Negotiation of Dignity and Equality in Greek Online Commentary"
- **Eleni Filippidou**, Associate Professor, NKUA: "Ritual inversion and gender identities: The dance ritual of "Babbo" in Thrace"
- **Vasiliki Topali**, MA, NKUA, Secondary Education Teacher & **Anastasia Gkaintartzi**, Special teaching staff, University of Thessaly: "Gender Identities and Youth Culture in Greek Trap Music: A Critical Discourse Analysis from Human Rights Perspective"
- **Evi Panteleon**, PhD Candidate, UNIWA: "Light and Color in Architecture and the Arts: Influences of the Second Industrial Revolution"
- **Dimitrios Tzimogiannis**, MA, NKUA, Greek Language Teacher: "Competences of Democratic Culture and European Recommendations for Lifelong Learning: Exploring their Correlation through Thematic Analysis"
- **Penelope Voutsina**, MA, International Hellenic University, Deputy Head Teacher, Moraitis School: "Theology and Human Rights: The Quest for an Ecumenical Anthropology in the Modern World"



Sunday, 26 April 2026

School of Law (3 Sina Str.)

10:00 – 12:00

School of Law
(3 Sina Str.)
Hall 4
(Session in Greek)

Parallel Session 7

- **Nikolaos Tsiros**, Professor, Panteion University, Legal Counsel to the State: “Panagiotis Kondylis’s critique of the political exploitation of human rights: a critical assessment
- **Vassiliki Vlachou**, Associate Professor, Department of Sociology, Panteion University: “Human Rights, Justice, and Victimization: From the Achievements of the 20th century to Contemporary Challenges and Prospects”
- **Christina Tsakistraki**, PhD, NKUA: “Gender-based violence and Human Rights: Legal and Political achievements and current challenges”
- **Christos Tsevas**, PhD, Lecturer in International Human Rights Law, Law School, Democritus University of Thrace: “The Ethics of Artificial **Intelligence** through the Lens of International Law: Challenges for Democracy and Human Rights”
- **Petros Konstantinidis**, Lecturer, University of Limassol: Fundamental “Rights in the age of Artificial Intelligence: towards new forms of “private domination”?”
- **Panagiota Chatzilymperi**, Postdoctoral Researcher, University of Piraeus: “Democratic citizen’s evolution in the 21st century - legal and political parameters for national identity, and interaction with the international system”

School of Law
(3 Sina Str.)
Hall 5
(Session in Greek)

Parallel Session 8

- **Marios Koukounaras Liagkis**, Professor, NKUA, **Olympia Chaidemenaki**, MA, NKUA, Teacher, Leontios School of Athens, **Eleni Tsarampari**, MA Student, NKUA, **Eleni Lazaridi**, MA Student, NKUA, **Anastasia Drougka**, MA Student, NKUA & **Georgia Saridi**, MA Student, NKUA: Holistic Curriculum Design for Democratic Culture in the 1st Grade: An Action Research Study based on the RFCDC Framework and Gert Biesta’s Theory”
- **Kyriaki Maria Tsiantou**, MA, NKUA, **Sophia Tromara**, Assistant Professor, University of Western Macedonia & **Vassiliki Pliogou**, Professor, University of Western Macedonia: “Action Research on the Effectiveness of Pedagogical Interventions for Cultivating Active Citizenship Skills in Primary Education”
- **Chaidi Thodi**, MA, NKUA, Teacher: “Elements of applying competencies for democratic culture in teachers’ teaching methods with the aim of promoting social skills in primary education”
- **Eirini Mavrokefalidou**, PhD candidate, University of Thessaly & **Anastasios Siatras**, Assistant Professor, University of Thessaly:



“Participation in public affairs of primary school students: The example of the Municipal Children's Council of Veria”

- **Konstantinos Magos**, Professor, University of Thessaly: “In Democracy... on foot.” A walking learning program with the participation of female students and refugee peers”

Parallel Session 9

School of Law
(3 Sina Str.)
Hall 6
(Session in English)

- **Dimitra Dimou**, Laboratory Teaching Staff, NKUA: “The ethics of technology and artificial intelligence through the philosophy of cinema: technological prophecies and social imprint in films”
- **François Levrau**, Professor, University of Antwerp: “AI and the good life: Resisting instrumental blindness in a neoliberal age”
- **Meltem Kurtoğlu Erden**, Assistant Professor, Uşak University: “Is a Human Rights-Based Instructional Design Possible? Regulating Democratic Learning Environments in the Age of Artificial Intelligence”
- **Chrysoula Papadopoulou**, PhD Candidate, Open University of Cyprus & **Christina Vasileiou**, Associate Professor, Open University of Cyprus: “GenAI training for in-service teachers: A systematic literature review”
- **Anel Kulakhmetova**, Professor, inVision U: “Quietly political: critical reflection in authoritarian education setting
- **Michael Schulz**, Professor, University of Gothenburg: “Beyond bouncing back: Democratic transilience, human rights, and the renewal of democratic culture”

Parallel Session 10

School of Law
(3 Sina Str.)
Hall 7
(Session in Greek)

- **Marisa Fountopoulou**, Professor, NKUA: “Teaching Peace and Democratic Culture in the 21st Century through the Iliad and the Trojan Women”
- **Eleni Ageladari**, Secondary Education Philologist, MA: “Jewish Holocaust education as a means for cultivating active citizenship”
- **Zoi Panagiotou**, Principal 3rd Secondary School of Ilioupolis, MA, NKUA & **Aspasia Dania**, Associate Professor, NKUA: “The application of relational pedagogies as a means of promoting social interaction and collaborative learning in high school classrooms”
- **Anastasia Marouda**, Special Education Teacher: UinD – Uniting Schools for Inclusion and Diversity: Educational and Social Inclusion in an Era of Cultural Pluralism”
- **Ilias Spyrou**, Greek Language Teacher, M.Ed. & **Antigoni-Alba Papakonstantinou**, Associate Professor, NKUA: Working students: A challenge for the implementation of democratic culture in higher education”



12:00 – 12:30

School of Law
(3 Sina Str.)

Coffee/snacks break

12:30 – 14:00

School of Law
(3 Sina Str.)
Hall 2

Panel 3: Rule of Law and Democratic Culture

Coordination: **Maria Gavouneli**, Professor, Law School, NKUA

- **Nikos Papaspyrou**, Associate Professor, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens
- **Vasiliki Christou**, Assistant Professor, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens
- **Kostis Papaioannou**, Former President of the Greek National Commission for Human Rights, Director of: Signal
- **Christina Vrettou**, Doctor of Constitutional Law, Member of the European Commission Expert Group Against Slapp

14:00 – 15:00

School of Law
(3 Sina Str.)
Economidou Hall

Poster session

- **Maria Spentzou**, PhD Candidate, Democritus University of Thrace & **Sevasti Chatzifotiou**, Professor, Democritus University of Thrace: "Empowering primary teachers and social scientists in Greece through capacity building to become agents of Peace, Values and Equality. An approach based on Gender Responsive Pedagogy"
- **Emmeleia Chatzivasiloglou**, MSc in Social Policy, University of the Peloponnese, Secondary Education Teacher: "The Parable of the Good Samaritan as a Pedagogical Tool for Cultivating Democratic Culture: An Experiential Intervention in 9th Grade Religious Education"
- **Eleni Vraka**, MA, NKUA & **Vassiliki Pliogou**, Professor, University of Western Macedonia & **Sophia Tromara**, Assistant Professor, University of Western Macedonia: "Social and Emotional Learning in Early Childhood Education: Teachers' Perceptions and Implications for Pedagogy and Democratic Citizenship"
- **Eleni-Konstantina Metaxa**, MA, NKUA & **Vassiliki Pliogou**, Professor, University of Western Macedonia & **Sophia Tromara**, Assistant Professor, University of Western Macedonia: "Promoting Democratic Competencies in Early Childhood Education through Inquiry-Based Learning: Teachers' Perspectives"
- **Melia Anna Poulastidi**, MA student, NKUA & University of Oslo: "Clash of Educational Cultures: Greek Parental Perspectives on Norwegian School's Myths and Realities"
- **Vassiliki Moulaki**, MA, NKUA: "Democratic values and professional accountability of active primary and secondary school teachers: a correlation study"



- **Anastasia Papoutsi**, MA, NKUA: “Competences for Democratic Culture and addressing school violence: Perceptions and experiences of primary school teachers”
- **Konstantinos Sipitanos**, Postdoctoral Researcher, NKUA & **Athanasios Michalis**, Associate Professor, NKUA: “Critical Discourse Analysis as a tool for Cultivating Democratic Culture Skills and the use of Artificial Intelligence”
- **Afroditi Salta**, MA, NKUA. Principal in 1st Secondary School, Megara & **Remos Armaos**, Associate Professor, Department of Psychology, The American College of Greece: Democratic School Leadership in Practice: “The Transformation of the Administrative Model through Principals' Experiences and Practices”
- **Georgia Koutroudi**, MA student, NKUA: “Social Pedagogy, Gerontagogy and Inclusion in Education: An Intergenerational Social Pedagogical Program”
- **Lazaros Siantsis**, Postgraduate student: “Human Rights in Greek Secondary Education: A School Textbook Analysis”
- **Maria Vlachaki**, Lecturer, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki: “History education and Democratic Culture. Schools as “palimpsests” remembrance sites for inclusion through an oral history and mobile learning educational program”
- **Konstantina Giannakidou**, MA, NKUA, Primary School Teacher: Cultivating empathy in primary school students about disability issues through personal narratives”
- **Safete- Savina Filaj**, MA, NKUA: Migrant Family Narratives and Democratic Integration in the Greek Educational System and Society: A Qualitative Analysis of Experiences of Former Students and Parents of Albanian Migrant Background”
- Dr. **Orestis Vravosinos** Postdoctoral Scholar, University of Chicago, **Christos Politis**, Researcher, Q-PLAN International, **Elias Raptis**, Postgraduate Student, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, **Maria-Eleni Papavramidou**, Postgraduate Student, Free University of Berlin & **Foivos Tsiklias**: “Responsible for Democracy and Racism Topics, Speak Up project: An educational mobile game to cultivate competences for democratic culture and civic participation”
- **Anastasia Chelmi**, MA, NKUA, Secondary Education Teacher & **Vassiliki Pliogou**, Professor, University of Western Macedonia & **Sophia Tromara**, Assistant Professor, University of Western Macedonia: “School Travel Experiences as a Means of Learning and Their Impact on Students' Socio-Emotional Development”
- **Charikleia Moysiadi**, MA, NKUA, Primary School Teacher: “The implementation of relational pedagogical practices in intercultural educational settings; an autoethnography”



- **Kalliopi Feresidi**, Module Coordinator & Assigned Tutor, NKUA & Open University of Cyprus, & **Zacharias Chastas**, Educator, NKUA: "Cultivating democratic skills through Assessment as Learning. The case of Practicum in postgraduate studies of teachers"
- **Dimitra Stasinopoulou**, MA, NKUA, Pre-school Teacher: "The development of free and responsible citizens, as provided for in Article 16, paragraph 2, of the Constitution, and the education of the democratic citizen"

15:00 – 17:00

School of Law (3 Sina
Str.) - Hall 4
(Session in Greek)

Parallel Session 11

- **Athanasia Dionisopoulou**, Assistant Professor, NKUA: "The criminal law provisions of the new Anti-Corruption Directive – A paradigm shift in EU criminal legislation? "
- **Roxani Fragkou**, Assistant Professor, NKUA: "From Bytes to Rights: Balancing the pros and cons of the digital revolution for civic space"
- **Evaggelia (Elina) Asimakopoulou**, Visiting Professor, Neapolis University Pafos & **Giorgos Kontis**, Assistant Professor, NKUA: "SLAPP Lawsuits: Democracy protected before Civil Courts-Judicial Protection and Freedom of Expression"
- **Chara Chioni Chotouman**, Postdoctoral Researcher Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (AUTH): "The exercise of police force in the context of lawful arrest under Articles 3 and 14 ECHR: Substantive and procedural review in the ECtHR's case law"
- **Emmanouela Kritikou** PhD Candidate in Law (c.) – University of Oxford: "Femicide as an offence with racist elements (Article 82A of the Greek Penal Code): doctrinal limits and proposals de lege ferenda"
- **Katia Rippi**, Research Associate, MFHR, LL.M. in International and European Law, NKUA: "The Concept and Assessment of Consent: Recent Developments under the ECHR and the Istanbul Convention"

School of Law (3 Sina
Str.) - Hall 5
(Session in Greek)

Parallel Session 12

- **Rania Zachariadou**, PhD Candidate & **Despoina Karakatsani**, Professor, University of the Peloponnese: "Democratic Education and Human Rights in Accommodation Facilities for Unaccompanied Minors"
- **Gelly Aroni**, Head of the Unit for Integration and Support of Unaccompanied Minors, Ministry of Migration & Asylum: "Education as Democratic Practice: Educational Continuity, Whole School Approach, and the Inclusion of Unaccompanied Minors"
- **Vasileios Christodoulakis**, Juris Doctor, NKUA: "Interreligious advocacies for human rights in multicultural societies"
- **Maria Kouvari**, PhD Candidate, NKUA: "A controversial issue of the past in today's classrooms. Aspects of the Refugee Issue in school history textbooks"



- **Andromachi Bouna-Vaila**, Unaccompanied Minors Accommodation Center, Pentalofos & **Aristotelis Ntentopoulos**: “Bodies on hold. Gender-based vulnerability and risks of human trafficking among unaccompanied minor girls in reception facilities”
- **Magda Vitsou**, Special teaching staff, University of Thessaly, **Anastasia Gkaintartzi**, Special teaching staff, University of Thessaly. & **Kostas Magos**, Professor, University of Thessaly: “Between Walls and Voices: Reflexivity and Prison Ethnography as democratic practice in Carceral Education”

Parallel Session 13

School of Law (3 Sina Str.) - Hall 6
(Session in English)

- **Evangelia Kalogirou**, PhD Candidate, University of Thessaly & **Aikaterini Michalopoulou**, Professor, University of Thessaly: “Enhancing democratic citizenship and Intercultural awareness in transnational digital mediated contexts: insights from an ethnographic study
- **Zornitsa Draganova**, Chief Assistant, Bulgarian academy of sciences, Institute of philosophy and sociology: “Cultural participation, creative freedom, and democratic development: insights from Bulgaria in a European perspective”
- **Susanna Pöntinen**, University of Eastern Finland, **Päivi Björn**, University of Eastern Finland, **Sinikka Rätty-Záborszky**, University of Eastern Finland & **Hilkka Rätty**, University of Eastern Finland: “The pupils read together in their own bubbles – case study in Finnish primary school classroom”
- **Nikolaos Perakis**, M.Ed., English Language Teacher & **Antigoni-Alba Papakonstantinou**, Associate Professor, NKUA: “ ‘Children let’s talk about democracy’. Primary school students perceptions’ and school experiences concerning democracy”
- **Nassia Choleva**, Postdoctoral Researcher, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki: “Competences for Democratic Culture and challenges in teaching - findings of a field research in Greece with prospective drama teachers”

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