

CULTURE AND CREATIVITY AWARD



DENISE ARAOUZOU
University of Glasgow

Denise Araouzou is a Cypriot art curator, researcher and educator. Her interdisciplinary practice examines how and why ecopedagogies and collective artistic practices can contribute to transforming relationships with ecosystems, as well as with the human and more-than-human lives that inhabit them. Since 2022, she has been developing a body of research entitled Systems, Pedagogies and Practices for Learning on a Damaged Planet, supported by the Kone Foundation. This practice-based research investigates the ethical, onto-epistemological and practical dimensions of cultivating and advancing ecopedagogical approaches within artistic and curatorial practices and their respective institutional frameworks. Denise holds an MA in History of Arts from the University of Glasgow.



Dr EFI IOANNIDOU
The University of Sheffield
The Open University

Dr Efi Ioannidou is a music educator, conductor and ethnomusicologist with long-standing service in public education and higher education. She has taught music in government primary schools since 1993, combining pedagogy with active artistic practice. She holds Grade 8 diplomas in Classical Singing, Piano, Music Theory and Classical Guitar from the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music (London), a master's degree from the Open University of London and a PhD in Music from the University of Sheffield. Her academic research focuses on Cypriot folk music and musical identity, contributing to the preservation and revival of traditional repertoire.



Dr PHIVI ANTONIOU
University of Cambridge

Dr Phivi Antoniou is a primary school teacher, academic, researcher and practising artist. She graduated with distinction from the Department of Educational Sciences at the University of Cyprus and the Department of Fine Arts at the University of Nicosia. She holds an MPhil and a PhD in Arts, Culture and Education from the University of Cambridge. In recent years, she has worked as a teacher in public primary education while also teaching undergraduate and postgraduate courses as a Research Associate at higher education institutions in Cyprus. Since 2018, she has taught the postgraduate course Arts and Quality of Life at the School of Education, University of Nicosia. Her research and publications focus on visual thinking and expression, and the role of art as a tool for learning and communication. Her artistic practice includes sculpture, installation, printmaking, drawing and photography. She is President of the Cyprus Society for Education through the Arts (CySEA) and a board member of the Co-ordinating Council of Cultural Organisations of Limassol – House of Letters and Arts.

BUSINESS AND INNOVATION AWARD



GEORGIOS POULLAIDES
Imperial College London

Georgios Poullaides is the co-founder of Intellar, a technology company pioneering automation and AI solutions in Cyprus. A Computing graduate of Imperial College London and with prior experience as an IT Advisory Manager at EY Cyprus, he leads Intellar's technical and strategic direction. His work focuses on building scalable, tailor-made automation solutions that deliver real business value and reshape how organisations operate. Through Intellar, Georgios is committed to advancing the use of automation and AI and strengthening the local technology ecosystem. His vision is the international expansion of Intellar, continually creating meaningful innovation with lasting impact on industries and people, while positioning Cyprus as a credible source of globally relevant technology.



Dr MARIANNA PROKOPI-DEMETRIADES
King's College London
London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine
University of Kent

Dr Marianna Prokopi-Demetriades is advancing oncology and regenerative medicine through scientific innovation and entrepreneurship. As co-founder of three biotech companies in Cyprus, she develops patented miRNA-based cancer therapeutics, collagen biomaterials for bioprinting and regenerative applications, and medical-grade products for oncology skin rehabilitation. Today, she leads a growing biotech cluster that manufactures and exports across more than twelve international regions, translating research into real-world healthcare solutions. Beyond biotechnology, Marianna serves on the boards of Junior Achievement Cyprus and the ENAVSMA Foundation, and mentors through the Falling Walls Female Science Talents programme. Through her leadership, she advocates for science-driven innovation, gender equality in STEM and the empowerment of the next generation of scientific entrepreneurs. Marianna holds a Bachelor of Science in Molecular Biology, a Master of Research in Biochemistry from the university of Kent, a Master of Science in Medical Microbiology from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, and a Doctor of Philosophy in Cardiovascular Research from King's College London.



NICOLAS PASTELLOPOULOS **University of Dundee**

Nicolas Pastellopoulos is a specialty coffee professional, business owner and educator with extensive experience in business development, operations and training within multi-site coffee organisations. He is the Founder and Director of CoffeeReps Ltd and Formative Coffee, based in London, where he provides consulting, SCA-certified training, B2B roasting services, and facilitates direct trade between producers and retail operators. Previously, he served as Head of Coffee at Sensible Development and Saint Espresso, leading green coffee sourcing, auctions, education programmes and operational strategy across retail, roastery and training platforms. A qualified Q Grader and Authorised SCA Trainer, Nicolas is internationally recognised as a sensory and head judge at barista, brewing and roasting championships across Europe. He holds a BSc in Business Administration and Management and works fluently in Greek and English.

SCIENCE AND SUSTAINABILITY AWARD



Dr DOGUS HURDOGANOGLU

University of Dundee
University of Glasgow

Dr Doğuř Hürdoğanoglu is an Assistant Professor of Mechanical Engineering whose work contributes to national priorities in sustainable energy, advanced materials and engineering capacity building. Educated in the United Kingdom at the University of Dundee and the University of Glasgow, his research focuses on nano-scale mechanics, energy harvesting and power systems, supporting the development of future-ready engineering solutions. Alongside his research, he is actively involved in teaching and departmental leadership, helping to train engineers aligned with regional development needs. Through applied mechanical installation projects, he bridges academia and industry, strengthening infrastructure quality and promoting high professional engineering standards. His work supports long-term economic growth while advancing environmentally resilient and sustainable engineering practices.



Dr KEMAL HASIM

University of Warwick

Dr Kemal Hařim is a sustainability practitioner, academic and project leader based in Cyprus. As a UK-educated graduate of the University of Warwick, he works at the intersection of environmental sustainability, digital innovation, entrepreneurship and inclusive community development. Kemal has led and contributed to EU, UN and British Council-supported initiatives focused on climate resilience, ecosystem restoration, sustainable entrepreneurship and bicommunal collaboration. Alongside his project work, he teaches management-related courses at universities and actively translates research and systems thinking into community-led solutions addressing global challenges at the local level.



NEFELI TSIOUTI

Middlesex University

Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance

Nefeli is a Cyprus-based physical therapist, sports massage therapist, dance scientist, lecturer and choreographer with an interdisciplinary academic background spanning the arts, health and science. Her studies include degrees in French Literature, Physical Therapy, Choreography and Dance Science, alongside certified training in Sports Massage, Geriatrics and Gerontology, and she is currently completing a BSc in Sports Science. She works as Senior Physiotherapist at Healthalign Medical & Health Centre, Scientific Collaborator at the European University Cyprus Medical School and as a dance and conditioning instructor for dancers and vulnerable adults aged 55+. Nefeli is the Founder of Project Breakalign, an international injury-prevention initiative for breaking & hip-hop dancers. A Fellow of Advance HE (FHEA) and IADMS (FIADMS), she is an award-winning specialist dedicated to dancer health, longevity and education, and the founder of the Cyprus Dance Science Conference since 2018.

SOCIAL ACTION AWARD



IRENE ANDREOU
Northumbria University, Newcastle
University of Strathclyde

Irene Andreou is the Vice President of YESOLP (Youth Empowerment on Society and Life Pursuits) and a dedicated advocate for human and children's rights in Cyprus. Committed to social justice, she has supported over 20 families in securing their children's rights. She has also designed and implemented more than ten EU-funded youth empowerment, social inclusion and sustainability projects across Europe, collaborating with partners worldwide to strengthen participation among local and migrant youth. A Study UK alumna, Irene studied Fine Art and Sustainability and Environmental Studies in the UK, an experience that shaped her collaborative, practice-driven approach and global perspective. She is the first-ever UNFCCC Youth Delegate of Cyprus (2025–2026), a European Climate Pact Ambassador and a UN Youth Champion for Environment and Peace, continuing to build inclusive, fair and sustainable pathways for young people and communities locally and internationally.



SELIN ÖREK
University of York
University of Bath

Selin Örek is an investigator and researcher with the Committee on Missing Persons in Cyprus, driven to support families facing unresolved loss following conflict. Over five years, she has co-led over 1,500 witness interviews and prepared reports guiding archaeological recovery and anthropological identification within a bicomunal, UN-supported framework. Her UK education shaped her professional ethos: Theatre cultivated active listening and sensitivity to human experience, while an MA in International Security strengthened analytical reasoning and data processing. This interdisciplinary foundation enables Selin to transform complex narratives into structured evidence, demonstrating how academic learning becomes sustained social action and collective healing.



STEPHANIE NICOLAS
University of Bedfordshire

Stephanie, born in Nicosia, Cyprus, holds a bachelor's degree in Sport Science and Coaching from the University of Bedfordshire. Her journey in sport for peace began through basketball, which introduced her to the first bi-communal camps in Cyprus in 2005. She went on to serve as a young leader in 2006 and 2007 and later as an instructor in 2008 and 2009, gaining early experience in youth engagement and peacebuilding. In 2011, Stephanie volunteered as a coach with PeacePlayers Cyprus, formally joining the organisation in 2013 as Assistant Co-ordinator. She later advanced to Programme Co-ordinator and, in September 2019, Internal Operations Manager. In May 2023, following the conclusion of PeacePlayers Cyprus, she founded United Sports Cyprus to continue and expand cross-community sport and peace education initiatives. With over 15 years of experience in sport for development and peace, Stephanie brings strong expertise in conflict resolution, community cohesion and social change through sport.