

association for historical dialogue and research  
tarihsel diyalog ve arařtırma derneđi  
óμιλος ιστορικού διαλόγου και έρευνας



## NEWSLETTER

August 2010

As the heat or rather the humidity wave continues in mid August in Cyprus, you'd be surprised how many folks are diligently working.

As I look around me, I see the AHDR-MIDE consultants, working away: Researching and documenting life in Mixed villages; compiling long and detailed bibliographies on books about Cyprus; painstakingly searching for books about Cyprus for the new library; carefully translating video blog subtitles ensuring the nuance of language is not lost in translation; documenting reports... all this while the AHDR Board Members are also working passionately.

Suddenly, like a flashback, déjà vu, a quote carved on the New York Post Office Building back in 1914 comes to mind: "Neither snow nor rain nor heat nor gloom of night stays these couriers from the swift completion of their appointed rounds." I take the liberty and adapt the quote from one island to another: "Neither scorching heat, nor humidity nor barbed wire nor the gloom of the buffer zone stalls these researchers from the swift completion of their appointed tasks". It sounds a bit cliché, but it's realistic. This is a dynamic group of people and they continue to work away.

It is indeed inspiring to be here, with the AHDR. I am honored to be joining the journey of the AHDR team and looking ahead to the upcoming opening of the Home for Cooperation on May 9, 2011 and beyond. We, as a team, welcome you to review our August Newsletter and look forward to your contributions and support in the near future.

Marina Theodotou - AHDR-MIDE Project Manager



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*AHDR: dialogue about enhanced pedagogic practices that would encourage the values of the discipline of history*

**SAVE THE DATE!!!**

**22 OCTOBER & 23 OCTOBER 2010**

Part one in a series of two workshops organised by the AHDR, entitled "**Developing historical understanding**" will take place in Ledra Palace Buffer Zone, Nicosia, Cyprus.

For further information, please contact us at: [ahdr.mide@gmail.com](mailto:ahdr.mide@gmail.com)

We look forward to your participation!

## US CONNECTION!

AHDR Secretary **Meltem Onurkan Samani** and AHDR Members **Maria Georgiou** and **Savvas Charalampous** represented the AHDR in a memorable learning experience in Ohio and South Carolina in the United States this summer for two weeks, as part of the **Teaching American History (TAH)** summer training programme. The programme is designed to raise student achievement by improving teachers' knowledge and understanding of and appreciation for traditional US history. Participants studied US History with a team of American teachers to master the narrative of American History from the Pre-Contact period to 1877, as well as learning more about the rich history of the US.

One of the most remarkable events of the trip was on St. Helena Island, where the group spent the first four days. Encamped at Penn Center, a freed-mans school created early in the Civil War to educate the newly liberated slaves of the low country islands, participants found a near-by Praise House open to visitation. There are only three such Praise Houses in existence. There, Gullah people worship as they have done for more than 150 years, sing and chant in traditional ways, and function as a community with secular as well as religious authority. For more information regarding the culture of the Gullah people please visit:

<http://www.gullah.sc>



*Meltem meets the Gullah people!*

On St. Helena, the team sampled the unique Gullah cuisine; explored shrimp docks, conducted sample oral histories with local residents and the AHDR team even had their swim in the Atlantic Ocean! They also read several important historical texts on the history of the low country and the origins of South Carolina's "black majority".

Studying the Gullah culture proved enriching to participants as they encountered a rich and distinctively unique culture in the US, comprised of a unique language, cuisine, music, religion, and history hailing back many years.

After their stay in St. Helena participants drove to Charleston, South Carolina, where the team spent several days in various interrelated activities: discussions of important texts and a series of lectures and presentations by historians, quilters, basket-makers, story tellers, dancers, and singers. In addition, participants had time to explore the charm of Charleston, and in small groups, discover local restaurants and get to know each other.

Living in a college dormitory and visiting the local ocean beach at 6 am afforded the Cypriot participants the opportunity to integrate the field experiences of the seminar with daily life in South Carolina. In Ohio, they each shared a room with Cleveland teachers as room-mates. In Cleveland, the Cypriots spent the final three days of the program working together with their American colleagues in the discussion, observation and creation of teaching projects based on the experience in the South.

On the final day of the programme, the AHDR representatives also presented their work to the group, including a presentation on contemporary Cyprus history and highlights of the new and very exciting work of AHDR.

Meltem, Maria and Savvas broadened their horizons through this program, shared their

experiences and brought back a variety of learning's, making future AHDR participation to the program worthwhile.



*The TAH Team!*

Participation in the TAH programme was made possible thanks to the coordination and support of Embassy of the United States in Cyprus, the Cyprus Fulbright Commission and project co-director and long time AHDR supporter, Dr Peter Rutkoff of Kenyon College, Professor and Chair of American Studies and Director of KAP: Kenyon Academic Partnership.

## AHDR PRESIDENT IN CYPRUS MAIL & CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY, FACULTY OF EDUCATION NEWS

In an article entitled: "A richer understanding of history" featured in the **Cyprus Mail** (8 August 2010), Dr Chara Makriyianni reflects on her life as a refugee, activist and President of our inter-communal AHDR.

Read the whole article at: <http://www.cyprus-mail.com/living/richer-understanding-history/20100808>

**Cambridge University**, from where Chara gained her PhD from the **Faculty of Education** with a focus on museums and the teaching of history, hosts the article commenting on the pioneering work of AHDR and the Home for Cooperation.

More at: <http://www.educ.cam.ac.uk/>

## **MIDE PROJECT NEWS**

### **LIBRARY & ARCHIVE NEWS**

The MIDE Library and Archive Department has entered a new stage: Following the preparation of extensive book lists, bibliographies and references, the department has ordered numerous books from international websites, as well as local bookshops from across the divide. These books once received and catalogued, will be available in the AHDR office for your perusal. The Library & Archive Department will continue to build its Library resources for the opening of the Home for Cooperation in May 2011.

If you are interested in finding out more about what's new on the shelves of the AHDR Library, please have a look at the Book Catalogue on the AHDR's website. Alternatively email: [LibraryandArchive@hotmail.com](mailto:LibraryandArchive@hotmail.com) or visit the AHDR office at the Cyprus Community Media Centre, Ledra Palace Buffer Zone, Nicosia.

#### **Book Launch!**

A new book is out: **"Re-writing History Textbooks. History Education: A Tool for Polarisation or Reconciliation?"** This publication comes under the umbrella of POST RI's latest project **"Education for Peace III"**, funded by the European Commission and supported by the AHDR. For an electronic copy visit: [www.postri.org/efpIII](http://www.postri.org/efpIII)

#### **New article!**

"Historians typically tell stories about the past, but how are we to understand the epistemic status of those narratives?" asks Jon A. Levisohn of Brandeis University. For the whole article, entitled "Negotiating Historical Narratives: An Epistemology of History for History Education" *Journal of Philosophy of Education*, Vol. 44, No. 1, 2010.

### **EDUCATION**

Despite the summer heat, the finalisation of action plans at the Education Department is in full swing! With a range of activities, workshops and educational events, publications and book reviews to organise, the weeks ahead promise to be most exciting. We are currently in the planning phase of creating Supplementary Educational Materials to support our teachers across the divide. The teacher training workshops to be organised in October and November, aim to reach and involve more teachers in the design and delivery of the workshops with the assistance of international experts. For further information regarding our October workshop, please see page 1 of this newsletter.

*Multiperspectivity and Intercultural Dialogue in Education (MIDE) is supported by the United Nations Development Programme – Action for Cooperation and Trust (UNDP-ACT). The European Commission partially supports one of AHDR's latest research projects on Representations of History.*



### **RESEARCH**

**"History Educators across the existing divide in Cyprus: Perceptions, Beliefs and Practices"** is the title of our 2010 Research Report authored by our AHDR Board Research Director, **Dr Charis Psaltis** and MIDE Project Research Director, Dr Eleni Lytras. **Stefania Costanch**, AHDR intern and PhD candidate, (History Department, University of Illinois) has contributed to the report by critically reviewing international and Cypriot literature that deals with teachers' epistemic beliefs and the role of the institutional and ideological context in setting educational objectives and the status of the teacher.

This AHDR-MIDE report describes the aims, methodology and research findings of a recent quantitative questionnaire survey investigating the perceptions and practices of Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot, primary and secondary school history teachers in Cyprus (N=519). The research taps into history teachers' views of the history curricula and textbooks presently used across the existing divide, as well as history teachers' views and use of historical thinking methods. Further, the research focuses on history teachers' epistemological beliefs, their perceptions of the recent history of Cyprus, as well as their contact with and attitudes towards members of their out-group. Lastly, the qualifications of history teachers across the existing divide in Cyprus are explored as well as history teachers' training needs and opportunities for further professional development.

The results are discussed through a socio-cultural analysis permitting the exploration of relations between the aforementioned variables, as well as comparisons to be made between and within each community of Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot history teachers. Moreover, possible ways in which the results can be used to inform practice are discussed.

## **NICOSIA WALKING**

**Marios Epaminondas ... the man behind the AHDR's Nicosia Walks:** Board member Marios Epaminondas has been active in encouraging Cypriots and visitors to Cyprus to learn more about the incredible multicultural history of Nicosia. His passion, knowledge and love of Nicosia is nothing less than inspiring. Those of you fortunate enough to have attended such a tour will know that a walk through the capital of Cyprus is a walk through time, history and many cultures. If you are interested in participating in future tours, please email: [ahdr.mide@gmail.com](mailto:ahdr.mide@gmail.com)

### **Nicosia: paths, walks and clichés**

by Marios Epaminondas

"...they set out in search of that city; they never found it, but they found one another;" *Italo Calvino, Lost Cities*

I set out in search of the city. I know that the path I shall choose will illuminate certain histories, beauties, and sins; it might lead others to oblivion. Paths always represent certain selections from a pool of available options. They incorporate interpretations; they impose images, memories, feelings. They are contingent on the configurations of temporality and the narrative structures favoured by the ones who chose them. Paths are created consciously, unconsciously and at a number of levels, not just within individuals but among the collectives. Are we really free when choosing our own?

Walking the chosen path might entail privileging certain ways of seeing things, while suppressing or downplaying others. City walks are often related to fear, pain, shame, pride, indifference... A walk through the city is a game of revealing and concealing; it is in the widest sense a political action. The city is produced and in a sense imprisoned by the paths one walks.

Reaching the edge of the city walls I stroll through the colorful crowd, attracting the inquisitive gaze of bystanders and I stop in front of the Gate. My fellows are already there. I think their presence testifies their will not to let clichés impede their understanding. Will we manage to make the city comply with our endeavors, answer difficult questions, reveal its secrets? Maybe not...but we have definitely managed to find each other.

### **"SEE YOU ROPE" ITALY**

**23 - 29 July 2010:** AHDR Board member **Derviş Çomunoğlu** participated in the Partnership Building workshop "**See You Rope**" organised by the cultural association, LINK, with the support of the "Youth in Action" programme from the in Altamura, Italy. The event was truly inspiring and provided an opportunity for participants from various countries to work together on the issue non-formal education for children.

## **PARTNER NEWS**

### **CCMC WORKSHOPS & FOCUS GROUPS**

**30 August - 4 September 2010:** The Cyprus Community Media Center (CCMC) in conjunction with the Tactical Technology Collective will be hosting 2 workshops & focus groups for 7-10 people centered around the **Message in-a-box Toolkit** and **Mobile in-a-box Toolkit**. For more information and to register: [info@cypruscommunitymedia.org](mailto:info@cypruscommunitymedia.org)

### **EUROCLIO**

Latest news from EUROCLIO, the European Association of History Educators, at: <http://www.euroclio.eu>

### **REGISTER NOW FOR HISTORIANA**

**SEMINARS:** Historiana.eu is an initiative of **EUROCLIO**, in which an online, interactive, multimedia tool will be developed as an alternative to a European textbook. Since January 2010, a team of editors and contributors from more than 15 countries have been working together to develop the first materials focused on the theme "**People on the Move**" which will be available online during the Seminar.

- **11-14 November 2010: First Seminar - The Hague, the Netherlands.** This intensive Programme will offer a variety of lectures and training sessions by the Historiana Editors.
- **20-23 January 2011:** Second Seminar - Istanbul, Turkey.

More at: <http://historiana.eu/site/> and from Historiana team: [steven@euroclio.nl](mailto:steven@euroclio.nl), [eleni@euroclio.nl](mailto:eleni@euroclio.nl), [maria@euroclio.nl](mailto:maria@euroclio.nl)

### **PEACEPLAYERS-CYPRUS**

**PeacePlayers-Cyprus** and the AHDR discussed future cooperation in a recent meeting. With a mission to "**use the game of basketball to unite and educate children and their communities**", PeacePlayers International pursue four main objectives: bridge social divides, develop future leaders, educate children to lead healthy, constructive lives, and build community involvement to ensure long-term sustainability.

**UNDP-ACT news:** <http://www.undp-act.org>

**Council of Europe news on history teaching:** <http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/education/historyteaching>

## **EVENTS & RESOURCES**

### **AHDR IN THE NETHERLANDS!**

**22-28 August 2010:** AHDR Board members **Rena Hoplarou** and **Derviş Çomunoğlu** are representing the AHDR at the **20th International Congress of Historical Sciences - ICHS - CISH** taking place in **Amsterdam, The Netherlands**. Rena will also be presenting a paper at the conference. Please visit the following website for further information: <http://www.ichs2010.org/programme.asp>. Stay tuned for September's newsletter in which Rena and Derviş will share their amazing experience.

### **INTERNATIONAL DAY OF ACTION FOR PEACE**

**1 September 2010:** To celebrate the "**International Day of Action for Peace**", a bi-communal event is being organised in the Ledra Palace buffer zone. The event is being organized by the Bi-Communal Peace Initiative **United Cyprus** in association with the unions of **PEO** and **DEV-IS**. This year the marking of Peace day be unique in the sense that unlike in previous years in which small events were organised separately across the divide, 2010 will see one big event co-organized by the organisations on both sides of the divide. The event will take place in the football pitch in the buffer zone and will mark a new beginning for common actions towards a solution.

### **YOUTH ON THE MOVE**

**17 September 2010:** EU Commissioner **Androulla Vassiliou** will be hosting a webstreamed public debate on '**Youth on the Move**' – the EU Commission's flagship initiative on promoting learning mobility and improving young people's skills and job perspectives. The Commissioner will respond to questions both from members of a live audience and from the public, via the web so that any person can participate in the debate from any place in Europe. The mailbox for early contributions will be open from 15 September 2010.

For further information, please visit the Webpage: [www.cyc.org.cy](http://www.cyc.org.cy) or email: [info@cyc.org.cy](mailto:info@cyc.org.cy)

### **HISTORY EDUCATORS INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH NETWORK CONFERENCE**

**13-15 September 2010:** Hunter College, New York, US. Themes of the conference include: History Education and Pupil Voice; History Education and the Digital Age; History Education and Racial Identities and Gender Stereotyping. Please note the application deadline of 4 September 2010. For further information and to obtain a booking form, please visit the following website: [www.heirnet.org](http://www.heirnet.org) or contact conference coordinator, Cherry Dodwell at: [heirnet@exeter.ac.uk](mailto:heirnet@exeter.ac.uk).

## **NOTEWORTHY ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **CALL FOR AHDR EDUCATIONAL ASSOCIATES**

The AHDR is currently recruiting Educational Associates. For further information, please visit the AHDR website: <http://www.cyprus-tube.com/historical-dialogue> or alternatively email: [ahdr.mide@gmail.com](mailto:ahdr.mide@gmail.com)

### **MASTER OF ADVANCED STUDIES IN INTERCULTURAL COMMUNICATIONS (MIC) – UNIVERSITY OF LUGANO, SWITZERLAND**

The University of Lugano, Switzerland known as the Università della Svizzera Italiana (USI) is offering a Master of Advanced Studies in Intercultural Communication (MIC). The programme is designed for professionals engaged in managing multicultural situations with experience in the intercultural field and addresses interested parties in local or national governments, as well as in non governmental institutions and organisations and in media and education. The MIC course commences in November 2010 and will be conducted in English and French.

Full course and admission details can be found on the university's website link: [www.mic.usi.ch](http://www.mic.usi.ch).

### **POLICY AND ADVOCACY DIRECTORY VACANCY THE ELDERS, LONDON, UK**

The London-based Elders' Team is looking for a Policy and Advocacy Director: a seasoned, hands-on professional with a high level of energy and enthusiasm to expand and strengthen the organisation's capacity for policy and advocacy, strategic development, outreach and coordination of efforts.

For more information, please visit the website: <http://theelders.org/organisation/jobs/policy-and-advocacy-director>

### **INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF HISTORICAL LEARNING, TEACHING AND RESEARCH**

The most recent edition (9.1.) of the International Journal of Historical Learning, Teaching and Research [IJHLTR] has now been posted on the website of its publishing body, The Historical Association of Great Britain: <http://www.history.org.uk>

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## **HOME FOR COOPERATION (H4C)**

### **RENOVATIONS PICK UP SPEED AT THE HOME FOR COOPERATION**

Six months after the 6 February 2010 groundbreaking of the Home for Cooperation, and despite the scorching heat, renovations are picking up speed. The structure has been gutted and spaces are beginning to take shape inside the building.

Upon completion, which is expected in early Spring 2011, the Home for Cooperation (H4C) will be the first ever shared space for Cypriots from all over the island and across the divide, to engage in historical inquiry and advance contemporary understanding and dialogue and peace building. Along with being a landmark building located within a significant site, in the neutral UN Buffer zone, the H4C with its programs, will serve as a tangible and encouraging symbol of the far reaching benefits of intercultural dialogue, peace building and understanding in Cyprus and globally. The idea behind the Educational and Research Centre resulted from the efforts of the AHDR to create a shared space, an inter-communal, multi-functional Educational Centre in the UN buffer zone of Cyprus with Conference, Museum and Exhibition rooms, a Centre for Archives, a Research and Education centre for children and educators, a Library and a workplace for researchers and organisations with a shared vision of cooperation.

Learn more about the idea behind the H4C by watching the AHDR's video blogs: "**New Faces, Old Places: A History of Home**" and "**History on the Grill**" on the AHDR website: <http://www.cyprus-tube.com/historical-dialogue>

Our new and exciting video blog delving further into landmark H4C will be out soon. Don't miss September's newsletter for further information!

**Join us in counting down to the opening of the H4C on 9 May 2011**

**251 days and counting!!!**



### **Support the H4C**

Your support is critical to the completion of the Home for Cooperation. To help you help us, we encourage you to make a direct contribution to the H4C bank account, specifically opened for the funding of the Home for Cooperation project with:

**Société Générale Bank**

**Account number: 32-38068-0081-01-8 EUR**

**IBAN: CY81 0120 0032 0380 6800 8101 8978**

**SWIFT Code: SOGECY.2N**

*The Home for Cooperation project is approved under the EEA (European Economic Area) Financial Mechanisms by the donors Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein that will contribute most of the overall costs. It is supported by individuals, organisations, local authorities in Cyprus and abroad, embassies and UNFICYP and has received significant donations by Switzerland and Sweden. Contributions were also made by friends and members of the Association for Historical Dialogue and Research, historical and intellectual societies and organisations, academics and civil society in Cyprus, Germany, Denmark, Netherlands, United Kingdom, and United States of America.*

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## **RENEWAL OF MEMBERSHIP**

Your membership is fundamental to the growth of AHDR and we would like to extend a personal thank you to everyone that renewed their AHDR membership. Also, we thank you for sending your updated contact details, which will help you stay in close contact with AHDR news and more!

Should you wish to renew your membership, simply visit our website at <http://www.cyprus-tube.com/historical-dialogue> and email us your completed form at [ahdr.mide@gmail.com](mailto:ahdr.mide@gmail.com)

If you have changed your contact details, please, remember to send us your updated details and new email address to enable us to provide you with all the news on time.

## **CONTRIBUTIONS**

We welcome your ideas, thoughts, lesson plans, photographs, drawings, research findings, articles, news, links and suggestions at: [ahdr.mide@gmail.com](mailto:ahdr.mide@gmail.com)

**We thank you for your continued support!**