

CULTURE AND CREATIVITY AWARD



GEORGIA PAIZI
Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance

Georgia Paizi is a movement practitioner, teacher and choreographer. Her work evolves around relational choreography, organic learning for performing arts and consent. In addition to providing the highest quality of technical training, Georgia believes that her UK education set the standards for the inclusive and safe environment for training and creating that she is now actively contributing to in Greece. As one of the very few performing arts professionals training as intimacy choreographers in the Balkans and the Mediterranean, Georgia aspires to share her skills and expertise with the local and international community while advocating for the necessity of more paid positions for intimacy professionals in the theatre, dance and film industries. Georgia holds a Postgraduate Diploma in Creative Practice: Dance Professional Pathway from the Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance.



Dr STERIANI TSINTZILONI
University of Surrey
University of Roehampton

Dr Steriani Tsintziloni is a pioneering dance practitioner, theorist and researcher with a particular interest in the history of the Greek dance scene. Over the past 25 years, she has collaborated with all the major dance institutions in Greece and has made significant contributions to the field. Her UK education taught her to be self-reflective and self-motivated, and also developed her creative thinking skills. She believes that it equipped her with a deep understanding of the impact of academic knowledge and respect for diverse perspectives. Steriani is Assistant Professor in the Department of Theatre Studies at the University of Athens, where she teaches Dance Studies. She is keen to bring dance to wider audiences and interact with other fields and disciplines. Steriani holds a Master of Arts in Dance Studies from the University of Surrey and a Doctor of Philosophy in Dance from the University of Roehampton.



Dr DESPINA ZACHAROPOULOU
Royal College of Art

Dr Despina Zacharopoulou is a leading expert in the emerging field of performance philosophy. Despina's live performances, publications, lectures and academic teaching have had an impact on artists, academic scholars and wider audiences worldwide. Despina observes that the Royal College of Art equipped her with all the necessary tools and values that have shaped her current path: critical thinking, practice-led research methods, transdisciplinarity, commitment to equality, diversity and inclusion. Despina is now sharing her expertise with key academic and art institutions around the world, promoting contemporary performance art research as a form of inhabited philosophy towards other ways of being. Despina holds a Doctor of Philosophy in Philosophy & Fine Art from the Royal College of Art.

BUSINESS AND INNOVATION AWARD



Dr DESPOINA GEORGIOU
University College London (UCL)
University of Cambridge

Dr Despoina Georgiou is a leading world expert on algorithmic management and the platformisation of work. Her research has won multiple prestigious awards and she has been invited by the European Parliament to provide expert consultation on the EU's Directive on Platform Work. Despoina observes that her time at the University of Cambridge and University College London (UCL) was instrumental to her success. She gained the necessary knowledge and skills and took advantage of various extra-curricular opportunities, including her time as a visiting researcher at Harvard University and serving as the Editor-in-Chief of the Cambridge Law Review. Despoina is pursuing a career in academia, while advising the EU and governments on various regulatory topics concerning the interface between business, law and technology. Despoina holds a Master of Laws in Public Law from UCL and a Doctor of Philosophy in Law from the University of Cambridge.



DIMITRIOS GEORGIOU
University of Cambridge

Dimitrios Georgiou stands out for his multidisciplinary approach, combining finance, tourism, culture and technology with experience and working in organisations such as the European Central Bank and Greek National Tourism Organisation. Dimitrios has contributed to over 20 projects, ranging from UN World Tourism Organisation research to shaping sustainable tourism strategies. His initiatives include founding Dishcover, a food tourism start-up featured in Forbes 30 Under 30 Greece, and launching Mangata Seaside, a mission-driven boutique hotel. Dimitrios observes that his UK education enriched his perspectives, deepening his understanding of finance's diversity and the role of collective intellect in community development. He focuses on leveraging cutting-edge technology and innovative governance/funding models to utilise the unique qualities of locations for broader societal impact and set new standards in tourism. Dimitrios holds a Master of Philosophy in Finance from the University of Cambridge.



KONSTANTINOS KOUSOURIS
Cardiff University (Prifysgol Caerdydd)

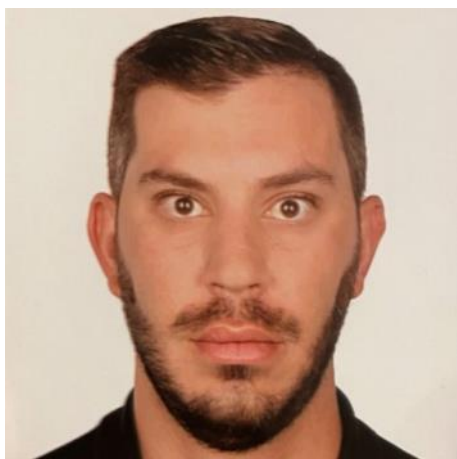
Konstantinos Kousouris is the co-founder of Blink, a budgeting app for university students that offers personalised advice powered by AI. The app was inspired by research showing that 80 per cent of university students in the UK experienced financial stress at the end of each month, which negatively affected their grades and mental health. Konstantinos has won a Global Student Entrepreneur Award and has also been awarded by the National Bank of Greece. He has featured in Forbes 30 Under 30 Greece in recognition of his innovative solution to a crucial problem. Konstantinos attributes his success to his UK education, which he believes has equipped him with excellent critical analysis skills. He plans to expand his AI financial tools solution for young adults throughout Europe. Konstantinos holds a Bachelor of Science in Business Management from Cardiff University.

SCIENCE AND SUSTAINABILITY AWARD



Dr FREIDERIKI MICHAILIDOU
University of St Andrews

Dr Freideriki Michailidou is a scientist and entrepreneur who has developed sustainable processes for creating fragrant materials, impacting the food, pharma, agrochemical and advanced materials industries. As part of her research, she led an expedition to Mount Olympus, Greece's highest mountain, to collect volatile emissions from rare, protected plants. Using cutting-edge analytical technology, she not only identified the molecular structures contributing to the unique scents of these plants, but her research is also paving the way for the protection of the biodiversity and flora of Greece. She credits her UK education for laying the foundation for her dedication to innovation in the sustainable formulation of fragrances. Her UK education also provided her with mentorship, support and a focus on gender equality, which fostered her commitment to female empowerment in STEM. She aspires to start her own company and envisions advising businesses on sustainable fragrance practices, fostering innovation and contributing to ongoing research. Freideriki holds a Doctor of Philosophy in Chemistry from the University of St Andrews.



Dr FOTIOS PELESIS
Swansea University (Prifysgol Abertawe)

Dr Fotios Pelesis works as the Plant Continuous Improvement Manager for a Cenergy Holdings S.A. subsidiary where he leads the Operational Excellence Programme. Among his achievements is the implementation of a state-of-the-art digital twin technology, a global innovation in the steel pipe industry. For his accomplishments, he has won two Silver Manufacturing Excellence Awards. Fotios credits his world-class engineering knowledge to his UK education, which provided him with access to funding and leading laboratories that played a key role in his breakthrough PhD results. He strives to drive a continuous improvement culture in one of the largest and most advanced submarine cable plants globally, which he considers to be a never-ending journey. Fotios holds a Bachelor of Engineering in Mechanical Engineering and a Doctor of Philosophy in Mechanical Engineering from Swansea University.



IZABELLA M. TSIRBA
London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE)

Izabella M. Tsirba has been advising multinational enterprises for over a decade and has gained first-hand insight into the impact of corporations on society. Committed to shaping a more equitable future, Izabella has spearheaded and supported a number of initiatives in Greece to advance the conversation on corporate sustainability, focusing on corporate governance and human rights. She believes that the interdisciplinary approach of her UK education fuelled her curiosity, exposed her to new concepts, fostered innovative thinking skills and provided valuable networking opportunities. Izabella is a passionate advocate for sustainability, sharing her views through her writings and public speaking. She aims to inspire broad engagement in the corporate sphere, encouraging practical measures to address pressing societal challenges. Izabella holds a Master of Laws from the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE).

SOCIAL ACTION AWARD



DIMITRIOS CHAIDAS
University of Edinburgh
University of Oxford

Dimitrios Chaidas is a Communication and Strategy Consultant with vast experience in EU and UN projects. He has served as Vice President of the Onassis Scholars' Association and has initiated various projects aimed at reducing inequalities. He leads an initiative that has mobilised 128 internationally renowned professionals to act as online career mentors to approximately 2,500 young students from more than 70 schools and 45 regions in Greece. Dimitrios believes that his education in the UK has exposed him to interdisciplinary knowledge, global debates on inequality, societal leadership and how education can drive sustainable development. He is now planning to apply his expertise to larger projects, foster more partnerships between stakeholders and make use of digital technologies for sustainable and inclusive development. Dimitrios holds a Master of Science in Applied Linguistics from the University of Edinburgh and a Master of Studies in Modern Languages from the University of Oxford.



Dr VASILEIOS ARISTARCHOS GKREKAS
Durham University

Very Revd. Dr Aristarchos Gkrekas is a clergy member and an Assistant Professor at the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens. His multifaceted work encompasses teaching, research, participation in EU programmes and leading intercultural projects. These efforts promote peaceful co-existence and have a significant impact at both local and international level. Very Revd. Dr Aristarchos Gkrekas credits his UK education for developing his critical analysis skills and academic rigour, while also improving his ability to integrate theory and practical global initiatives. Continually engaged in international projects, he strives to enhance interfaith dialogue, peacebuilding and tolerance, combining these efforts with innovative AI applications to enrich social practices. Very Revd. Dr Aristarchos Gkrekas holds a Master of Science in Conflict Prevention, Sustainable Peace and Security from Durham University.



DIMITRIOS VOULGARIS
London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE)

Dimitrios Voulgaris is a Project Manager at Mataroa, a non-profit organisation, where he leads projects aimed at reducing gender disparities in technology. Initiatives such as CodeGirls and Coding Bees have been successful in empowering over 820 girls and women in Greece and promoting gender inclusivity in the tech industry. Dimitrios credits his success to his UK education, which equipped him with a blend of academic rigour, diverse cultural exposure and practical urban analysis, enabling him to tackle complex social challenges. Dimitrios envisions creating innovation hubs to empower women and foster a globally inclusive tech landscape as he continues to advocate for gender equality in the tech industry in Greece. Dimitrios holds a Master of Science in Regional and Urban Planning Studies from the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE).