

CULTURE, CREATIVITY AND SPORT AWARD



Dr AMALIA ARSENI
Birkbeck, University of London
London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art (LAMDA)

Dr Amalia Arseni is a theatre actress, writer, researcher and educator whose work uses history, memory and personal narratives to create socially meaningful theatre. With a Doctor of Philosophy focusing on women's passage to adulthood, she explores aspects of feminism, philosophy, psychology and performance as guides to understand better the human condition. Her UK education nurtured a profound love for classical texts, respect for authorship and rigorous analytical skills. She is currently engaged in projects that introduce ancient Greek principles to international theatre, while she seeks to bridge cultures, deliver transformative teaching in schools, prisons and communities, and empower audiences to reflect, engage and act for social change. Amalia holds a Master of Arts in Text and Performance from Birkbeck, University of London and a Diploma in Classical Acting from the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art.



Dr ANASTASIA-STAVROULA VALTADOROU
The University of Edinburgh

Dr Anastasia-Stavroula Valtadorou is an internationally recognised classicist and educator, and a recipient of numerous awards globally. Her research on emotions in Euripides reshapes modern understanding of ancient drama. Her publications – peer-reviewed articles, book chapters and an edited volume – are read internationally by the academic community and students. Alongside global academic roles at prestigious educational institutions, she teaches in Greek public schools, inspiring students annually and widening access to higher education. Anastasia-Stavroula credits her UK studies for fostering intellectual independence, critical rigour and an international outlook. She seeks to connect world-class scholarship with public education, strengthening cultural life in Greece and beyond. Anastasia-Stavroula holds a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Classics from The University of Edinburgh.

Study UK Alumni Awards



Dr SOPHIA XENOPHONTOS University of Oxford

Dr Sophia Xenophontos is a leading scholar in Classics at the Academy of Athens and an elected member of the Academia Europaea. Her pioneering research connects ancient Greek and Byzantine thought to contemporary issues, shaping debates on mental health, ethics and human-animal relations, and producing globally influential publications and public engagement. Sophia notes that studying in the UK cultivated qualities essential for advancing Classics, such as intellectual independence, interdisciplinary insight and critical rigor, which have enabled her to connect ancient texts to modern society and foster lasting educational impact. She aims to advance interdisciplinary Classics research addressing societal challenges in animal rights. Sophia holds a Doctor of Philosophy (DPhil) in Classical Languages and Literature from the University of Oxford.

BUSINESS AND INNOVATION AWARD



Dr PANAGIOTIS BARKAS
University of Cambridge

Dr Panagiotis Barkas is a Greek economist and innovation policy leader. He has contributed to regulatory reforms in Greece led by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development to reduce investment barriers and strengthen competition. At the European Union level, his work on fintech, crowdfunding and cybersecurity has expanded access to finance for small and medium-sized enterprises and increased trust in digital services. Studying in the UK fostered his intellectual independence, critical thinking and ethical, evidence-based analysis and equipped him to design innovation-enabling policies. He now leverages his role at the EU Agency for Cybersecurity (ENISA) to help shape secure digital ecosystems, enabling Greece's public sector and businesses to grow, compete and scale with trust across Europe. Panagiotis holds a Master of Philosophy in Finance and Economics from the University of Cambridge.



THRASYVOULOS KIPOURGOS
Imperial College of Science, Technology and Medicine

Thrasyvoulos Kipourgos is transforming property transactions through technology, as Chief Commercial Officer of Uniko, backed by the National Bank of Greece. Previously, at the European Commission, he contributed to the successful completion of Greece's Economic Reform Programme. He has also co-founded Protio and earlier led Reload Greece, supporting young entrepreneurs. His work has helped modernise housing, unlock investment and promote sustainable urban development in Greece. He credits his UK education for inspiring him to become an agent of change, while strengthening his critical thinking, entrepreneurial mindset and teamwork. He now aims to scale technology-driven housing solutions nationally and across Europe. Thrasyvoulos holds a Master of Engineering in Civil Engineering from Imperial College of Science, Technology and Medicine.

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Dr ALEXANDROS STAMATIADIS The University of Sheffield

Dr Alexandros Stamatiadis is a cognitive scientist whose music-generating software is leading its category in the music production industry. Endorsed by GRAMMY® winners and multi-platinum producers, Alexandros' work exemplifies how academic research can translate into commercially successful, real-world innovation that redefines creative tools for the global music industry. Alexandros observes that studying in the UK was critical for developing his research skills, enabling him to pursue an internship at a major music production software company. Interacting daily with the global music space, Alexandros now visits studios, receives feedback and quietly develops highly inspirational tools for the music-making of the future. Alexandros holds a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Algorithmic Music Generation and a Master of Science in Cognitive Studies from The University of Sheffield.

SCIENCE AND SUSTAINABILITY AWARD



MARIOS DAFNOMILIS **Imperial College of Science, Technology and Medicine**

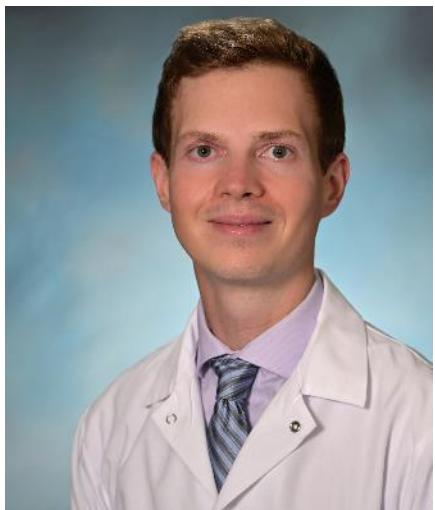
Marios Dafnomilis has a multifaceted background spanning sustainability engineering, foresight and public engagement – this has enabled him to consistently bridge science, policy and society. His work shapes national discourse on emerging technologies and sustainability, mobilising citizens while strengthening Greece's presence in international conversations on sustainable development and AI governance. The UK educational system equipped Marios with research-driven thinking, global perspective and scientific rigor – capabilities he now applies to shaping Greece's sustainability agenda, AI policy frameworks and forward-looking government decision making. He aims to expand his sustainability and foresight work internationally, bridging environmental policy, emerging technologies and democratic governance to help prepare Greece for a rapidly evolving future and empower the next generation of informed, engaged citizens. Marios holds a Master of Science in Geotechnical and Geoenvironmental Engineering from Imperial College of Science, Technology and Medicine.



CHRISTOS ISAIAS **Royal Holloway, University of London**

Christos Isaias is a Subject Matter Expert for Cybersecurity Resilience and Intelligence at Alpha Bank, overseeing red and blue teaming, AI-assisted Security Operations Centre operations and cyber testing across 15 subsidiaries. His work directly safeguards millions of customers, ensuring that banking systems remain resilient against cyber threats. A milestone achievement was building the bank's first in-house Adversary Simulation Team. He is a voice from the sector to European Commission's bodies, a Liaison Officer to FIRST, a Senior Member of IEEE, and a European Security and Defence College Fellow. Christos credits his UK studies for fostering critical thinking, global collaboration and ethical cybersecurity practice. He is now pursuing a Doctor of Philosophy in Cyber Defence, aiming to strengthen cyber diplomacy through AI governance, encryption resilience and cross-regional alliances for digital trust. Christos holds a Master of Science in Information Security from Royal Holloway, University of London.

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Dr DIMITRIOS MAGOULIOTIS University College London

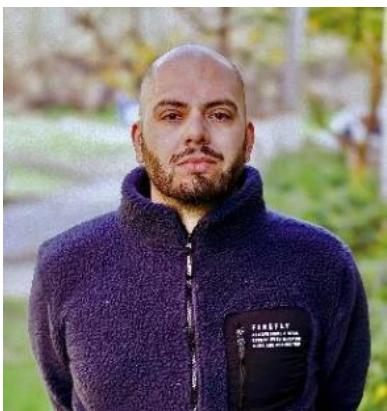
Dr Dimitrios Magouliotis is a surgeon-scientist whose work in cardiovascular research and surgical quality improvement is helping reshape outcomes for patients in Greece and internationally. His work integrates translational discovery with data-driven clinical practice, advancing safer and personalised cardiac care. He is a prolific author of peer-reviewed papers, co-editor of international textbooks and his studies have influenced practice and benefitted thousands of patients. Dimitrios credits his UK studies for embedding a spirit of disruptive thinking and global responsibility that transformed his approach to medicine. He was encouraged to challenge assumptions, connect science with societal impact and envision better systems of care. He seeks to lead international efforts to create precision tools that will redefine how aortic diseases are managed worldwide. Dimitrios holds a Master of Science in Perioperative Medicine from University College London.

SOCIAL ACTION AWARD



MELINA SOFIA ARMAGANIDOU **City, St George's, University of London**

Melina Sofia Armaganidou is a speech and language therapist, lecturer, and clinical co-ordinator at Metropolitan College. She oversees placements in the unique in-house multidisciplinary clinic offering free therapy to hundreds of people who would otherwise lack access. She leads high-quality, neurodiversity-affirming practice while supporting hundreds of students, children in the community and supervisors in delivering accessible services. Her UK education taught her to centre autistic voices and inclusion, embrace reflective, evidence-based practice and innovate responsibly in clinical education and community care. She is currently pursuing Doctor of Philosophy research aimed at shaping emerging standards of neurodiversity-affirming care in Greece, to improve outcomes and inclusion for neurodiverse individuals. Melina Sofia holds a Master of Science in Speech, Language and Communication Needs (Advanced Practice) from City, St George's, University of London (previously City, University of London).



ELEFTHERIOS BALTZIDIS **University of Kent**

Eleftherios Baltzidis is Co-Founder of Entaxis and Programmes Manager at Zero Stray Pawject. With a substantial track record in humanitarian work, he combines EU-funded social initiatives, programme evaluation and research in educational technology and psychology to deliver evidence-based social impact. Studying in the UK fostered evidence-based learning within a multicultural environment that equipped him with transferable skills and confidence to navigate complex humanitarian and educational contexts with rigour and empathy. He is currently pursuing a Doctor of Philosophy with the aim of contributing to academia and the professional community by generating evidence-based insights that inform policy and strengthen practice towards more effective and inclusive interventions. Eleftherios holds a Master of Science in Developmental Psychology from the University of Kent.

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Dr ANTONIOS CHRISTOU University of Birmingham

Dr Antonios Christou is an Assistant Professor at the University of Thessaly and a leading expert in inclusive education and disability policy with a growing international reach. His work has mobilised over €1.5 million through a cross-Atlantic partnership to strengthen inclusive leadership across education, health and social policy, and has informed national special education strategy through the 'Bridges of Acceptance' programme. He attributes his UK studies to shaping an interdisciplinary, evidence-based approach to large-scale systems transformation. He is now scaling this framework through international partnerships to position Greece as a regional and international reference point for inclusive leadership and social innovation. Antonios holds a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Psychology from the University of Birmingham.