



# MIGS NEWS

A bi-annual publication by the Mediterranean Institute of Gender Studies (MIGS)

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Dear readers

I am very excited to be introducing the activities of our team in this first newsletter of the Mediterranean Institute of Gender Studies [MIGS].

MIGS was born in the year 2000 out of the passionate belief of a few friends who happened to be gender researchers and activists and who wanted to make a difference. The concept of gender [let alone feminisms] was only just becoming more familiar to a wider audience and we felt stifled and ready to create a place where we could be at home and where our views and ideas could be incorporated and utilised in a meaningful manner for society at large; we wanted to do this in an way that was professional, systematic and effective.

So MIGS came into being with volunteers, working very professionally and very hard during daytime, weekends, and evenings, feeling tired at times and frustrated, but above all, feeling excited about what finally became to be a bit like a family who enjoy working together. In all this, Intercollege, the largest private higher education institution in the Republic of Cyprus, has been instrumental from the beginning in believing in us, and literally providing us with a home.

Since then, I feel we have come a long way. We have conducted research, trainings, conferences, seminars, art exhibitions and all sorts of gender related programmes. The team has grown substantially and we have created links, friends, and partners in Cyprus, the Mediterranean, and the European Union more broadly. We all hope that through these activities we have made a small contribution to transforming long-held perceptions on gender and that we have done this in ways which are positive and sustainable.

This newsletter provides a short description of our more recent work and activities - more information is available on our website. We look forward to your comments, advice and contributions.

Enjoy reading!

Myria Vassiliadou  
Director  
Mediterranean Institute of Gender Studies

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## INTRODUCING MIGS

The Mediterranean Institute of Gender Studies was founded in 2000 and was officially registered as an NGO in 2004. It has a very close cooperation with Intercollege, the largest private higher education institution in the Republic of Cyprus. The Institute promotes and contributes to projects of social, political, and economic themes relating to gender. In the case of Cyprus, where the Institute is based, a gendered perspective and feminist activism comes at a very crucial time to link, prepare, and promote the socio-economic and political ideals necessary for a smoother adjustment to European Union membership.

MIGS's major aims are to act as a main contributor to the intellectual, political, and socio-political life of the Mediterranean region as this relates to issues of gender and to do so with a multidisciplinary approach and in collaboration with other institutions.

The Institute recognises the institutional discrimination against women in the Mediterranean and accepts that this discrimination takes different forms. It is committed to the elimination of this discrimination and uses a combination of scholarship, academic research, and activism with the aim to:

- Stimulate interest in gender research in the Mediterranean region and identify key areas of concern and action in the area.
- Systematically address, analyse, and conduct research on, for, and by, women; review and use existing information on women and the gender system such as research, statistical information and other available data and make relevant recommendations on policy and practices in related areas. Support gender research through library and documentation services, including the introduction and promotion of a system of data collection by gender.
- Identify the need to develop new legislation that corresponds to the new conditions and protects women's rights effectively.
- Increase awareness of gender issues in civil society and facilitate the capacity for action by providing all interested parties with

information and organising training, campaigns, seminars, workshops, and lectures.

- Support and promote educational programmes, including post-graduate work, in related areas in collaboration with research institutes and universities.
- Develop methods and take initiatives on peace-building and conflict transformation as these relate to gender issues.
- Support regional, European, and global initiatives and programmes concerning issues affecting women's lives, such as domestic violence, substance abuse, trafficking, war, and the labour market.
- Create and support networks with other non-governmental organisations in related areas.



MIGS has compiled a glossary of useful gender terms that aims to contribute towards a general and clearer understanding of some of the frequently used terms and concepts in relation to gender. It is addressed to policymakers, researchers, students and/or anyone interested in such issues. MIGS fully acknowledges that the glossary is neither definite nor complete and that the reader's understandings of these terms will depend on her/his background and experiences. The terms listed are constantly being developed and changed and we welcome additions.

The glossary is available at <http://www.medinstgenderstudies.org/gender%20glossary%20FINAL%208.051.pdf>

We hope you find the glossary helpful and we look forward to any comments or suggestions you might have. Please email [josie@medinstgenderstudies.org](mailto:josie@medinstgenderstudies.org)



## MIGS MEMBERSHIPS

The Mediterranean Institute of Gender Studies has recently become a member of the following international organisations:

### ● European Women's Lobby (EWL)

EWL is the largest coordinating body of national and European non-governmental women's organisations in the European Union, with over 3000 member associations in the 25 Member States. The EWL's goal is to achieve equality of women and men in Europe and to serve as a link between political decision-makers and women's organisations at the EU level.

[www.womenlobby.org](http://www.womenlobby.org)

### ● Women's International Studies Europe (WISE)

WISE, founded in 1990, is a European feminist studies association. WISE is grounded in women's studies organizations throughout Europe. WISE stands for the promotion of women's studies research, teaching and publication in Europe; and the defence of women's studies on a European and international level in all appropriate institutions and organisations.

MIGS has recently assumed the secretariat of WISE.

[www.wise.medinstgenderstudies.org](http://www.wise.medinstgenderstudies.org)

### ● Network Women in Development Europe (WIDE)

WIDE is a European network of development NGOs, gender specialists and human rights activists. WIDE monitors and influences international economic and development policy and practice from a feminist perspective.

[www.eurosur.org/wide](http://www.eurosur.org/wide)

### ● Association for Women's Rights in Development (AWID)

AWID is an international membership organization connecting, informing and mobilizing people and organizations committed to achieving gender equality, sustainable development and women's human rights. Its goal is to cause policy, institutional and individual change that will improve the lives of women and girls everywhere.

### ● Women Against Violence in Europe (WAVE)

WAVE is a network of European women's non-governmental organisations working in the field of combating violence against women and children (women's refuges, counselling centres, SOS hotlines/helplines, organisations focusing on prevention and training, etc).

MIGS has recently been made the WAVE Cyprus focal point.

[www.wave-network.org](http://www.wave-network.org)

### ● ATHENA II

ATHENA is a Socrates Thematic Network Project in which 80 Women's and Gender Studies Programmes at universities, research institutes and documentation centres in Europe participate. ATHENA was created in 1996 by the Association of Institutions for Feminist Education and Research in Europe (AOIFE), and was selected as a Socrates Thematic Network Project in September 1998. The ATHENA central coordination is located at Utrecht University, the Netherlands.

[www.athena2.org](http://www.athena2.org)

**For useful links to other Mediterranean gender organisations, please visit our website at:**

<http://www.medinstgenderstudies.org/world.htm>

**If you would like to include your organisation on this list please email [susana@medinstgenderstudies.org](mailto:susana@medinstgenderstudies.org)**



## Current Projects

### Measures to integrate women refugees into society in Cyprus and to promote a Multi-cultural Society

The Mediterranean Institute of Gender Studies has received funding from the European Commission, the European Refugee Fund, and the Government of the Republic of Cyprus to implement a project entitled *"Measures to integrate women refugees into society in Cyprus and to promote a Multi-cultural Society"*. The project was launched in November 2004 and will be concluded in September 2005.

The project targets women refugees, currently living in the southern part of Cyprus. Out of the total of 400 recognized refugees in Cyprus, 117 are adult refugee women and 44 are minors (under 18). Taking into consideration the large number of women refugees in Cyprus, the need for sustained government and societal support is crucial. Women refugees face isolation, lack of support and representation, misunderstanding, assault, abuse, language barriers, lack of private life, and lack of access to employment. The phenomenon of refugees and the influx of immigrants to Cyprus is a relatively new and growing phenomenon in what was commonly perceived as a homogenous society. The problems faced by refugees attest to the fact that Cypriot society, as well as the authorities, is clearly unprepared for such changes.

Through this project MIGS aims at empowering and supporting women refugees through organized workshops and information seminars to educate them on their rights at a social level; providing Greek language courses for the refugees in order to provide them with the basic knowledge of the language and assist them in daily communication; seminars for women from all communities in Cyprus to raise awareness about refugees and related issues; and a final intercultural evening aimed at exchanging information, identifying commonalities and differences between women refugees and Cypriot women. The evening will include folkloric story-telling, national food/drinks

and recipe exchanges, discussion of customs, traditional music and dancing, and sharing experiences about different cultures.

More information on this project can be found on our website at:

<http://www.medinstgenderstudies.org/ERFproj.htm>

On the occasion of the International Day of the Elimination of all Forms of Racial Discrimination, 18 March 2005, the Mediterranean Institute of Gender Studies (MIGS) organized an event at Intercollege Nicosia entitled *"Migrant Women: Realities, Problems and Suggestions"*.

Main speakers at this event were the Chief Migration Officer, Ms. Annie Shiakali, as well as a representative of the Ombudsman's Office, Non Governmental Organizations, migrant women and female international students.

The aim of the event was to give women migrants the opportunity to provide its audience and governmental officials insights on their situation in Cyprus.

The issues raised from the discussion were discrimination against migrant women in the labour market, discrimination based on religion, colour, and gender and lack of awareness in society.

This event was organized as part of the project entitled *"Measures to integrate women refugees into society in Cyprus and to promote a Multi-cultural Society"* funded by the European Commission, European Refugee Fund and the Government of Cyprus.

MIGS has compiled a glossary of useful migration terms that can be downloaded at:

<http://www.medinstgenderstudies.org/MIGRATION%20GLOSSARY%20final.pdf>

MIGS fully acknowledges that the glossary is neither definite nor complete and that the reader's understandings of these terms will depend on her/his background and experiences. The terms listed are constantly being developed and changed and we welcome additions.



## Prevention of Violence against Girls and Women in Patriarchal Families

The Mediterranean Institute of Gender Studies is participating as a partner in a project entitled "Prevention of violence against girls and women in patriarchal families" coordinated by Kvinnoforum, an organization in Sweden, and funded by the European Commission within the framework of the Transnational Exchange Programme Phase II.

The project aims to prevent violence against girls, women and boys in patriarchal families. The project is now at its Second Phase, whose main features are:

- to facilitate and speed up the exchange of learning concerning Honour Related Violence (HRV), through a mapping of existing support and best practices in participating countries, plus conferences and trainings;
- to develop methods of cross-sectoral cooperation on the national and international level for relevant actors. These methods could also be used in other areas in the European work against poverty and social exclusion;
- to focus on the work of the police in the partner countries.

### Honour Related Violence - European Resource Book and Good Practice

As a partner in this project, MIGS carried out a survey of the current services and practices available in Cyprus to victims of honour related violence, mainly by government services and NGOs. The report can be described as a mapping of these services as well as examples of good practice.

The resulting report, the first of its kind in Cyprus, includes an important discussion on the term HRV, which in Cyprus gains a different meaning and importance after this survey.

Using the existing public policy for the combating of domestic violence, the survey discusses the existing support and prevention

services provided by different actors such as the police, social services, schools, the legal service, health services and various NGOs.

'Honour related violence' has been defined as "violence occurring when families with 'honour-norms' violate girl's, women's and boy's rights", (UN Convention on Human Rights, UN Convention on the Rights of the Child).

The report also includes discussions on the occurrence of HRV, describing the existing databases and recording practices with references to statistical data and their findings and makes recommendations for the improvement of short-term and long-term support.

The report suggests that prevention should be given equal importance to combating HRV and supporting victims, as HRV constitutes a vicious circle that needs to be addressed as a whole for results to be achieved.

The report also points out that cooperation in Cyprus among different actors is still undeveloped and recommends that the Cyprus Government, in cooperation with NGOs, create a National Action Plan against HRV.

For more information on this project please see our website at

[http://www.medinstgenderstudies.org/honor\\_violence\\_project.htm](http://www.medinstgenderstudies.org/honor_violence_project.htm)

The full-text report "Honour Related Violence - European Resource Book and Good Practice" can be down-loaded here (pdf-format):

<http://www.kvinnoforum.se/PDF/HRV2005.pdf>



## Gender, Conflict and the Media Working Towards Egalitarianism and Peace

MIGS has recently concluded an 18-month-long bi-communal project supported with a grant from the Bi-Communal Development Programme which is funded by USAID and UNDP and is executed by UNOPS.

Our objectives were the sensitisation of Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots to gender related issues, through the media, particularly cultural practices that hinder women's development. We aimed at creating a dialogue amongst journalists and media owners on gender issues and on how these relate to ethnic and other types of violence and conflict, especially in Cyprus. Through this project we tried to contribute towards the creation of a place where women of all ethnic, class, age and educational backgrounds were encouraged to participate in public dialogue, decision-making processes, and politics. Furthermore, we helped journalists discuss ways in which they could inform and educate women on their indispensable role and contribution to the political life of Cyprus.

Media pervades all levels of society; it is everywhere, and influences attitudes towards politics and how we talk about politics. Fair treatment and representation of Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot women in media coverage is crucial, especially at this time when information and communication have assumed such an important role in influencing public opinion, forming attitudes and formulating policy. Both Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot women are underrepresented in all stages/aspects of social, political and economic life. Change the media, and you can change society.

The project was implemented in five phases and included pioneering research on how media in Cyprus reports gender, as well as workshops with journalists, a meeting with media owners/editors, an international conference with scholars, media owners/editors and all other interested organisations/individuals, and, finally, the publication of a policy handbook (see p.7).

A research on how media in Cyprus reports gender and what the implications are for the ethnic and social issues in both Greek Cypriot

and Turkish Cypriot communities was conducted. Two reports were prepared upon conclusion of the research with analysis of the results, discussion and recommendations.

The abstracts of the reports are available on-line at:

<http://www.medinstgenderstudies.org/researchers.htm>

Approximately twenty media owners/editors from the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot communities participated in a seminar organised on 24th February 2004 at Intercollege in Nicosia, where the findings of the research were presented and discussed. The seminar focused on informing the media industry on issues affecting gender issues, conflict and democracy. The scope was to engage media owners and editors in discussion on their role as gatekeepers and the need to highlight issues of gender and ethnic relations through their newspapers, radio and TV stations.

Two training workshops with women journalists from both communities in Cyprus were also organised from 4th to 7th June 2004.

The goals of the training workshops included the continuation of efforts to intensify and continue discussion on gender equality and women's empowerment; a discussion on how gender and related issues are presented in the news, as well as their implications for gender inequality; and the exploration of strategies for building networks and promoting issues of gender equality and women's empowerment through the media.

**For a list of Media and Gender organizations and networks please see our website at:**

[http://www.medinstgenderstudies.org/Media\\_orgs.htm](http://www.medinstgenderstudies.org/Media_orgs.htm)



## NEWS/ACTIVITIES



The Mediterranean Institute of Gender Studies is proud to announce the launch of its new publication *The Gender and Media Handbook: Promoting Equality, Diversity, and Empowerment*, the outcome of phase five of the *Gender, Conflict, and Media* project.

*The Gender and Media Handbook* is an educational tool and resource manual which provides the conceptual tools, practical information and know-how necessary to challenge gender inequality. It also encourages interventions and activities which work to promote gender equality in and through the media, on Cyprus and around the world. The book has been developed to be used by journalists, media professionals, universities and NGOs.

The handbook represents the first publication in Cyprus addressing this issue. It is written in a simple and clear language and includes animations and pictures to make it more user-friendly and easy to read. It has exercises that can be used for training and group discussions as well as detailed appendixes. It presents useful models of how gender equality in the media has been fought for around the world, by individuals, NGOs and women's associations. Widely distributed to local and international media professionals, editors, journalists as well as scholars, activists and students, it provides information that has been researched and published in Cyprus for the first time.

Contributors to the handbook are Dr. Krini Kafiris, Scientific Development and Research, Dr. Spurgeon Thompson Research and Editing, Dr. Hanife Aliefendioglu, Research, and Ms. Yetin Arslan, Research. Project Coordinator was Dr. Myria Vassiliadou, Director of MIGS.

The full text of *The Gender and Media Handbook* will be available on our website shortly!

On 19 May 2005 the Mediterranean Institute of Gender Studies organized an EU training seminar on *"Preventing Violence against Girls and Women in Patriarchal Families"*. The focus of the seminar was on naming the problem of honour related violence, as well as on highlighting ways with which patriarchal and widely held ideas and values can be broken down. Special emphasis was given to honour related violence and the results of the EU-funded survey for Cyprus were presented as part of the training.

The seminar was targeted towards NGOs dealing with gender and family violence. The participants were made up of individual social workers/psychologists, representatives from the Association for the Prevention and Handling of Domestic Violence in Cyprus, representatives from the Family Planning Clinic, a civil affairs officer from UNFICYP as well as MA Psychology students from Intercollege and the University of Cyprus.

The seminar was provided as part of our activities as partner in the project *"Prevention of violence against girls and women in patriarchal families"*, coordinated by Kvinnoforum, an organization in Sweden and funded by the European Commission within the framework of the Transnational Exchange Programme Phase II.

This year, the partners to the project *"Prevention of violence against women and girls in patriarchal families"* met in Cyprus for a two-day training seminar at Intercollege, Nicosia on 6-7 June 2005. The objective of the meeting was to share experiences and best practices regarding the national trainings that took place in the partner countries on honour-related violence. The meeting also provided a forum to discuss ways in which the partners can network with key actors on incorporating their concerns in their respective National Action Plans for social inclusion.



**Partners to the project "Preventing violence against girls and women in patriarchal families" working in groups at the Cyprus meeting in June 2005**

MIGS is proud to announce that it has recently assumed the secretariat of **Women's International Studies Europe (WISE)**, a European association for individuals and institutions involved in women's studies, founded in 1990. Everyone interested and involved in women's studies and gender research can become a member of WISE. Members receive our regular newsletter, WISE Women's News, as well as new special publications. Full membership also includes a subscription to the European Journal of Women's Studies. For more information on becoming a member of WISE please visit the website at

[www.wise.medinstgenderstudies.org](http://www.wise.medinstgenderstudies.org).

MIGS has also become the focal point for Cyprus of **Women against Violence in Europe (WAVE)**, a network of European women's non-governmental organizations working in the field of combating violence against women and children. Please see [www.wave-network.org](http://www.wave-network.org).

As an active member of the **Athena Network**, MIGS participated in the annual Athena meeting that took place in Barcelona, Spain on 26-29 May 2005. ATHENA is a Socrates Thematic Network Project in which 80 Women's and Gender Studies Programmes at universities, research institutes and documentation centres in Europe participate. The Athena Central Coordination is located at Utrecht University, the Netherlands. The host was the Centre Francesca Bonnemaïson, the

oldest women's library in the world and a place of reference to promote the active participation of women in every field, to instigate policies of equal opportunities and to advance the rights of women.

The network is divided into 14 working groups. MIGS is an active participant of the working group 3B entitled "Equal Opportunities, Rethinking Policy Aims, Instruments".

In preparation for the meeting, Susana Pavlou, Project Administrator at MIGS, prepared a paper on equal opportunity policy in Cyprus.

The working group met for approx. 9 hours and presentations of equal opportunity policies were presented by representatives from Malta, Austria, Greece, Belgium, and Sweden. Discussions that followed the presentations were productive as well as inspiring.

The working group also discussed at length the content of an inventory that participants will be expected to complete on European educational and other institutions teaching equal opportunity. All participants are expected to choose examples of 'best practices' in equal opportunity courses offered in their respective countries. The European inventory, once complete, will be one of the products of the Athena working group 3B.

The full-text report can be downloaded at <http://www.rosadoc.be/site/maineng/athena/papers8.htm>

For more information on ATHENA II please visit the website at:

<http://www.athena2.org>.

For information on the Athena working group 3B please visit:

<http://www.rosadoc.be/site/maineng/athena/setting3b.htm>.



The Utrecht Coordination team at the ATHENA plenary meeting in Barcelona



The ATHENA workgroup 3b "Equal Opportunities, Rethinking Policy Aims, Instruments"

ATHENA is happy to announce the publication of Volume VI in the series "[The Making of European Women's Studies](#)", a joint publication with the Universiteit Utrecht. The volume includes reports, news from the AOIFE secretariat, a position paper by one of ATHENA's leading experts, case studies, and country reports from Denmark and Finland.

The production and dissemination of Volume VI is being funded by the Socrates programme of the DG Education & Culture of the European Commission.

To order this or previous volumes, please send an email with your book order to [Athena@let.uu.nl](mailto:Athena@let.uu.nl).

## Suggested Reading



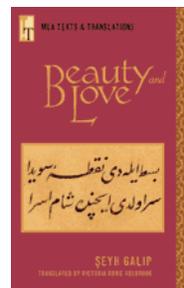
***Dancing Fear and Desire: Race, Sexuality, and Imperial Politics in Middle Eastern Dance*** by Stavros Stavrou Karayanni, 2004 [Wilfrid Laurier University Press] ISBN: 0-88920-454-3

Throughout centuries of European colonial domination, the bodies of Middle Eastern dancers, male and female, move sumptuously and seductively across the pages of Western travel journals. Evoking desire and derision, admiration and disdain, allure and revulsion, this profound ambivalence forms the axis of an investigation into Middle Eastern dance—an investigation that extends to contemporary belly dance.

Stavros Stavrou Karayanni, through historical investigation, theoretical analysis, and personal reflection, explores how Middle Eastern dance actively engages race, sex, and national identity. Close readings of colonial travel narratives, an examination of Oscar Wilde's *Salome*, and analyses of treatises about Greek dance, reveal the intricate ways in which this controversial dance has been shaped by Eurocentric models that define and control identity performance.

Stavros Stavrou Karayanni's publications include critical and creative work on culture, politics, gender, and sexuality in the Middle East. He has presented and performed at international conferences and cultural festivals. He teaches at Cyprus College in Nicosia, Cyprus.

He can be contacted at [skarayanni@cytanet.com.cy](mailto:skarayanni@cytanet.com.cy)



***Beauty and Love***  
Author(s): Seyh Galip

Translator(s): Victoria Rowe Holbrook  
Published: 2005  
ISBN 873529340

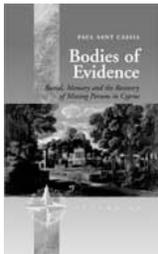
The girl Beauty and the boy Love are betrothed to each other as children. But Beauty violates the custom of the tribe by falling in love with him,



and Love must undergo the trials of a journey to the Land of the Heart to prove himself worthy--a journey to realization of both his and Beauty's true nature.

The Turkish verse romance *Beauty and Love*, written in 1783 by Seyh Galip, head of an Istanbul center of Rumi's order of the Whirling Dervishes, is an innovative interpretation of the Islamic love tale as a story of the action of God's qualities in the world. With its stunning imagery, fast-moving plot, and nonchalant, erudite humor, it is widely known as the greatest work of Ottoman literature.

In her introduction Victoria Rowe Holbrook discusses the heritage of Ibn Arabi and Rumi in Ottoman thought, the traditions of verse romance and allegory, Indian style imagery, and Galip's political loyalties.



**"Bodies of Evidence: Burial, Memory and the Recovery of Missing Persons in Cyprus"** Paul Sant Cassia, April 2005, Berghahn Books.

In the course of hostilities between Greek and Turkish Cypriots between 1963 and 1974, over 2000 persons, both Greek and Turkish Cypriots, went "missing" in Cyprus, an island in the Mediterranean with a population distribution of 80% Greeks and 18% Turks. This represents a significant number for a population of only 600,000. Few bodies have been recovered; most will probably not be. All are still mourned by their surviving friends and relatives. The conflict has still not been resolved and the memories are still alive.

Paul Sant Cassia is Reader in Anthropology at the University of Durham, UK, and Editor of History and Anthropology. He previously lectured at the University of Cambridge, UK, where he was Curator of the Anthropology Collections at the Cambridge University Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology (1985-1990). He was Visiting Professor at the Universities of Paris (Nanterre) (2000), Aix en Provence, and Malta (1992-94). He has conducted anthropological research in the Mediterranean (Cyprus, Greece, Tunisia, and Malta), and has published on politics, banditry

and violence, oratory, property transmissions, family and kinship, and ethnomusicology. He is the author (with Constantina Bada) of *The Making of the Modern Greek Family* (Cambridge University Press, 1992).

### Women and Gender Studies Journals by Taylor & Francis

For a limited period, Taylor & Francis are offering **FREE ONLINE TRIAL ACCESS** to a selection of their range of journals in the discipline of Gender Studies. Why not spend a few minutes to examine what our journals have to offer?

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- [Gender and Development](#)
- [Gender and Education](#)
- [Gender, Place and Culture](#)
- [Healthcare for Women International](#)
- [Journal of Gender Studies](#)
- [Minerva: Women and War](#)
- [Sexualities, Evolution & Gender](#)
- [Studies on Women and Gender Abstracts](#)
- [Women: a cultural review](#)
- [Women's Studies](#)

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Take up this trial so that you can discover more about what our range of titles offer and determine whether you and your university would benefit from a subscription.

**This offer ends 31<sup>st</sup> October 2005.  
Register today!**



## faces @ MIGS

In every issue of MIGS News, two members of the MIGS team will be introduced!



**Josie Christodoulou,**  
Project Officer

Josie Christodoulou joined MIGS as an independent consultant in September 2004, although she has had a close relationship with MIGS since its inception. She holds an undergraduate degree in Psychology from the University of Indianapolis in the U.S.A and a graduate degree on Racial Equality Studies and Youth Justice Probation and Criminology from Middlesex University in the U.K. She has worked as social advisor for migrants and refugees at Action for Support Equality and Antiracism (NGO) and as a project coordinator at the EU program Youth for Europe. She has also worked as an assistant researcher at the Labour Institute of Cyprus.

A passionate and committed anti-discrimination activist, Josie is currently responsible for the project "Integration of Women Refugees in Cypriot Society" (see p. 4). Through her work with this project she has conducted seminars for women refugees on issues concerning their integration in Cypriot society, seminars for Cypriot women working in NGOs and government departments dealing with asylum seekers and refugees, has compiled a glossary on useful migration terms and another on gender terms, and has organised intercultural events for women refugees and Cypriot women to exchange experiences and ideas on how to promote a more tolerant and integrated society.

Josie also represents MIGS in various forums for the promotion of the rights of women refugees, asylum seekers, and other migrant women. She spends her free time being a super nice friend and an ardent football fan!

Email: [josie@medinstgenderstudies.org](mailto:josie@medinstgenderstudies.org)



**Alexia Panayiotou,**  
Board Member

Alexia Panayiotou has an undergraduate and graduate degree in Political Science and Economics from Stanford University, a Master's in Public Policy from the Harvard Kennedy School of Government and a doctorate in Human Development and Psychology from the Harvard Graduate School of Education. Her research interests include social constructionism, feminist analysis of organisations, emotions and work, and gender issues in the workplace.

Alexia is currently the Cyprus Independent Expert for the Mutual Learning Programme for the European Employment Strategy fund by DG Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities. She has recently served as an evaluator for social science research projects funded under the Sixth Framework Programme of DG Research, and is also the Cyprus National Expert on Gender for the European Union Group on Gender, Social Inclusion and Employment.

A tireless and dedicated member of the MIGS team since its inception, Alexia has provided invaluable insight and guidance during every stage of MIGS development, and manages to do so in her free time from being a passionate scholar, activist and mum!

She is currently the project coordinator of the project "Prevention of violence against women and girls in patriarchal families".

Email: [alexia@ucy.ac.cy](mailto:alexia@ucy.ac.cy)



## Past Conferences (MIGS)

**The Mediterranean Institute of Gender Studies (MIGS)** organised a one-day conference entitled *Gender, Diversity and the Media*, on 19<sup>th</sup> June 2004 at Intercollege, Nicosia, Cyprus.

The objective of the conference was to sensitise media professionals and other crucial social and political agents in Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot public life about gender issues and the media. In particular, the aim was to initiate public debate on the media's present and potential role in sustaining and challenging gender inequality and promoting the empowerment of women.

Distinguished international and local speakers from the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot communities presented papers on the situation in Cyprus and abroad, including Dr. Cynthia Carter, Lecturer, School of Journalism, Media and Cultural Studies, Cardiff University and Co-Editor of *Feminist Media Studies*.

For the conference programme please see:

<http://www.medinstgenderstudies.org/confmedia.htm>

## International Conference entitled "Gender in the Mediterranean: Emerging Discourses and Practices", 5<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> March 2004, Nicosia, Cyprus

A conference entitled "Gender in the Mediterranean: Emerging Discourses and Practices" was organised in collaboration with the British Council from 5<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> March 2004 in Nicosia. The Conference was co-financed by various funding sources namely the United States Agency for International Development/United Nations Development Programme, Intercollege (hosting institution), the National Machinery for the Rights of Women in Nicosia and the Embassy of the United States of America.

Widely known scholars in the field of gender issues delivered keynote speeches including Floya Anthias, Oxford Brooks University (UK), Cynthia Cockburn (City University, UK), Maria Hadjipavlou (University of Cyprus, Cyprus), Victoria Holbrook (Ohio State University, USA), Michael Kimmel (SUNY at Stony Brook, USA), Mary Maynard (University of York, UK), Lidia Puigvert (University of Barcelona, Spain), and Fatima Sadiqi (University of Fes, Morocco).

The conference included diverse panel discussions with paper presentations by 93 scholars, activists, NGO representatives, story tellers and artists, including people from Turkey, Greece and both communities in Cyprus. Approximately 100 other participants were present at various stages of the program. For details and the conference programme please see:

<http://www.medinstgenderstudies.org/conference.htm>

[http://www.medinstgenderstudies.org/Conference\\_Program.htm](http://www.medinstgenderstudies.org/Conference_Program.htm)

## Conferences – Calls for Participation

**Title:** Gendering Borders Studies (Inter) Disciplinary Approaches

**Dates:** 13-15 October 2005

**Place:** Centre for Border Studies, University of Glamorgan, Centre for Critical and Cultural Theory, Cardiff University, Centre for Comparative European History, Berlin

[www.glam.ac.uk/hass/research/border/](http://www.glam.ac.uk/hass/research/border/)

[www.centreforborderstudies.co.uk/](http://www.centreforborderstudies.co.uk/)

**Title:** 10th AWID International Forum on Women's Rights and Development: How does change happen?

**Dates:** October 27-30, 2005

**Place:** Bangkok, Thailand

[http://www.awid.org/forum/about\\_the\\_forum.htm](http://www.awid.org/forum/about_the_forum.htm)

**Title:** WAVE Conference 2005 on Migrant Women and Ethnic Minorities

**Dates:** December 1-3, 2005

**Place:** Copenhagen, Denmark

<http://www.wave-network.org>

<http://www.umich.edu/~gpccconf/>

**Title:** Beijing: 10 Years Later: A Conference on Policy and Gender 10 Years After Beijing

**Dates:** May 14-16, 2006

**Place:** The Penn Stater Conference Center Hotel, The Pennsylvania State University, University Park, Pennsylvania

<http://womensstudies.la.psu.edu/event/s/beijing.htm>



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