

Marios Constantinou

Constitutional Learning for Cypriots in the Light of the Swiss
and EU Experience: A Sociological Perspective
Part I: Inducing Reflexivity in the Turkish-Cypriot
Constitutional Vision

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Public misconceptions in Cyprus concerning the “Swiss model” abound on both sides of the contentious federalist debate. This aggravates an already intractable conflict and further complicates attempts to apply constitutional principles of justification to the settlement of rival constructions of rights. I wish to argue that Greek-Cypriot and Turkish-Cypriot impressionistic understanding of Swiss federalism instrumentalise the federalist debate through cursory remarks and perfunctory summaries that trivialise the Swiss experience, hampering thus comparative constitutional learning through the initiation of constitutional reflexivity in the public discourse of both sides of the ethnic divide. This will be attempted through extracting some orientations from an analysis of the Swiss model which are deemed appropriate to the purpose of breaking through the systematically distorted communication that prevails in the constitutional hermeneutics of both communities. The aim will be to establish the comparative value of the Swiss experience in the federalist debate on Cyprus hoping to convert learning to policy relevant theory, encompassing as much complexity as the deadlock under consideration allows. In this first of two articles I critically examine the Turkish Cypriot constitutional vision; in a sequel I consider relevant Greek Cypriot views.

Anna M. Agathangelou and Kyle D. Killian

In the Wake of 1974: Psychological Well-being and Post-Traumatic Stress in Greek Cypriot Refugee Families

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This study examines the health of Greek Cypriot refugee families who suffered the traumas of displacement and death of family members. Thirty refugee and twelve non-refugee families (N=118) completed ten self-report inventories assessing their resources, coping styles, well-being, and post-traumatic stress. Results indicate that the resources of social support, education, income, and family adaptability, and coping through support-seeking, positively predicted adaptation to war trauma. Twenty-two per cent of the refugee family sample and none of the non-refugee family sample exhibited PTSD, and 94% of these subjects were women. A model of family adaptation is presented, and implications for clinical intervention and public policy are discussed.

Fusun Coban Doskaya

Legitimizing Discourse: An Analysis of Legitimation

This article is about a concrete example on the discursive aspects of political legitimization. It studies the press briefings and press conferences that are delivered by US officials roughly through the second-term period of former US president Bill Clinton. After a theoretical analysis of legitimization, this article aims to examine what a legitimating discourse says and how it says these things. In order to study the legitimization process of US official political discourse on Cyprus, of the vast number of discourse structures and strategies it only concentrates on semantic macrostructures.

Hubert Faustmann

Independence Postponed: Cyprus 1959 - 1960

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From the settlement of the Cyprus dispute at a conference in London in February 1959 until the declaration of independence on August 16th 1960, a final agreement on all outstanding issues concerning the putative Republic had to be reached. By July 1960, the political and constitutional order of the new state was finalised. Cyprus was ready for independence. But on some of the controversial issues only temporary arrangements had been made by the two communities which would soon be disputed or not adhered to. Moreover, the constitutional order created during the Transitional Period on the basis of the agreements of Zurich and London was not to last for longer than three years. The article will focus on some of the most controversial issues that were negotiated during these eighteen months and assess the extent to which the breakdown of the constitutional order in 1963 might have had its roots in the Transitional Period.

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