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The Quiet Deflation of *Den Xehno*? Changes in the
Greek Cypriot Communal Narrative on the Missing
Persons in Cyprus

15 – 33

Since 2004, there has been movement around the missing persons' issue. The most important set of events has been significant progress by the United Nations' (UN) Committee for Missing Persons (CMP) in locating and exhuming bodies buried in mass graves all over the island. The continual unearthing of remains is keeping the missing persons issue in the public consciousness in a very different way to what has become, over the years, its 'normal' presentation. In addition, there are a number of recent legal cases which may also be significant to the issue's changing public conceptualisation. This paper focuses its attention on the potential of the CMP's progress, the civil cases against the Republic of Cyprus, and the case of Varnavas a.o. v. Turkey to change the public persona of the missing persons issue in Greek-Cypriot society, and points out that any changes to the dynamics of the issue could also have significant impact on the Greek-Cypriot conceptualisation of the Cyprus problem as a whole.

Keywords: Missing Persons, *Agnooumenoi*, Public Perception of Conflict, Developments in Cyprus Conflict

Nicos Peristianis and Katerina Kokkinou

Single-Parent Families in Cyprus

35 – 55

This article utilises the findings of the research programme "Single-Parent Families in Cyprus (2004-2006)",¹ which attempted to map the phenomenon of Greek-Cypriot single-parent families, focusing on the social, psychological and financial dimensions. Four aspects in particular are highlighted: a) the major changes that Greek-Cypriot families have undergone in the past few decades, b) the phenomenon of single parenthood in Cyprus diachronically, c) the main differences between single-parent families, and other families in Cyprus (the comparisons draw on a wider survey of families in Cyprus, which the authors carried out in 2004), and d) the Cypriot state and its welfare policies as regards single-parent families.

Keywords: single-parent families, families in Cyprus, support network, family roles and responsibilities, welfare system

Mashoed Bailie and Bekir Azgin

A Barricade, a Bridge and a Wall: Cypriot Journalism
and the Mediation of Conflict in Cyprus

57 – 92

This paper draws on frameworks provided by scholars concerned with the possibility of peace oriented journalism in order to highlight a decidedly conflict-centred approach guiding the production and circulation of information in Cypriot media and underscore the problematic (and often unquestioned) role that Cypriot media play in

helping to shape the knowledge environments in which publics and policy makers take their cues and consider their options for intervention and action in the seemingly intractable “Cyprus Problem”. One example through which this dynamic becomes visible is a series of news articles published between November 2005 and February 2006 reporting on the opening of an historic landmark that has divided Nicosia,¹ the capital of Cyprus, for over forty years. These newspaper articles suggest that the Cypriot media embrace a conflict-centred approach to peace efforts by shaping news that contributes to the increased mystification of the conflict and to a retrenching of divisive attitudes, sympathetic to a cementing of division. The “shaping” takes place indirectly through the “selection” of quotes from elite sources that re-present dominant points of view from within each community. News reporting tends to follow the lead and reproduce the limited perspectives of major national party politics rather than provide a sustained critique of those points of view.

Keywords: Nicosia, Communication, Media, Journalist, Journalism, Peace, Press, Ledra Street

Olga Demetriou

Reading the Paratexts of the Cyprus Conflict:

Policy, Science, and the Pursuit of ‘Objectivity’

93 – 113

This article addresses the way in which ‘the Cyprus conflict’ post-1974 has been constructed in studies that straddle the academic/political divide. Since their inception, analyses of the Cyprus conflict have striven to produce accounts that are insightful, impartial, yet at the same time engaged. The article focuses on authors who have had an impact on wider Greek-Cypriot public perceptions beyond academia and analyses their treatment of impartiality and engagement. What such works have in common, the article suggests, is the fact that they attempt to navigate the space between political analysis and political involvement, and therefore, the tension between impartiality and engagement is of primary importance in the interpretation of the discourse each deals with. Genette’s concept of ‘paratexts’ is used to argue that strategies of managing the tension between impartiality and engagement as well as further tensions arising from it are evident in paratextual material, emphasising what perhaps might not be directly stressed in the text.

Keywords: textual analysis, the politics of objectivity, epistemology, Cyprus conflict, paratext, paraliterature

Theodora Christodoulidou

The Legal Status of the Buffer Zone in Cyprus

115 – 126

The legal status of the buffer zone in Cyprus, its regulation and operation is ambiguous. The present article argues that it is not clear what the legal basis of the buffer zone is: is it an agreement between the two respective armies/states in the conflict? (i.e. Cypriot National Guard and Turkish army or Republic of Cyprus and Turkey); is it an implied agreement/acquiescence in case a formal one is not found? Has it been established by the United Nations (UN) Security Council (SC) resolution under Chapter VI of the UN Charter? This ambiguity regarding the basis of the zone raises further questions: who regulates its operation? What activities are permitted

in the buffer zone? Are civilian activities permitted in the buffer zone? This paper attempts to tackle some of the most complex questions on the buffer zone in Cyprus.

Keywords: buffer zone, “green line”, UNFICYP, Cyprus peacekeeping operation, SC mandate

Plus Commentary Article by:

Panayiotis Constanti

Tradition, What Tradition? 129 – 131

Book Reviews:

The Cyprus Issue: A Documentary History, 1878-2007

Edited by Murat Metin Hakki

(I.B. Tauris: London, 2007) 664 pp.

(Andrekos Varnava) 135 – 139

Legal Aspects of the Cyprus Problem: Annan Plan and EU Accession

By Frank Hoffmeister

(Martinus Nijhoff Publishers: The Netherlands, 2006) 289 pp.

(Kudret Özersay) 141 – 144

Update on the Cyprus Conflict

By Clement Dodd

(The Eothen Press: Huntingdon, Cambs, 2006) iv + 59 + 8 pp.

(Erol Kaymak) 145 – 148

Cultures of Memory / Memories of Culture

Edited by Stephanos Stephanides

(The University of Nicosia Press: Cyprus, 2007) xii + 355 pp.

and, *Coffee House Embellishments*

By Nicos Philippou

(The University of Nicosia Press: Cyprus, 2007) 111 pp.

(Paul Gibbs) 149 – 150

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Edited by Nursin Atesoglu Guney

(Ashgate: Burlington, Vt., 2007) xvii + 197 pp.

(Glen D. Camp) 151 – 155

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Edited by Gunther Hauser and Franz Kernic

Ashgate: Aldershot, 2006) viii + 216 pp.

(George Christou) 157 – 160
