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Iconoclastic Controversies

Submitted on *October 30, 2015*[BACK TO NEWS](#)

Iconoclastic Controversies

Exhibition

“Iconoclastic Controversies

A visual sociology of statues and commemoration sites in the southern part of Cyprus”

by Prof. Dr. Nico Carpentier

in collaboration with the Association for Historical Dialogue & Research (AHDR) and the Cyprus Community Media Centre (CCMC)

Supported by the Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB - Belgium), Uppsala University, the Research Foundation – Flanders (FWO - Belgium) and the Cyprus University of Technology

Do statues talk? Do monuments narrate our own existence? What is it that we are missing when we walk by them every single day?

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From **Friday, November 13th to Saturday, November 21st 2015**, Cyprus has the opportunity to witness a visual sociology on the Cyprus conflict. A corpus of 20 photographs will be exhibited for a week in the Home for Cooperation, situated in the UN Buffer Zone, Nicosia, opposite Ledra Palace.

These photographs, taken in the southern part of Cyprus, investigate the monuments, landmarks and statues that are part of the everyday life of Greek Cypriots. “The statues are vehicles of communication. They are vehicles of ideology and of information”, explains the professor and photographer, Nico Carpentier.

The pictures were taken during the researcher/photographer’s stay on the island, from September of 2013 to September 2014. This ground-breaking project moves away from traditional academic texts to examine and analyse complicated social phenomena, such as those produced by the political situation in Cyprus. The idea behind this exhibition is that photographs can work just as effectively to communicate an academic analysis. Quite possibly they work even more intuitively.

The photographs analyse how statues and commemoration sites in the Greek Cypriot community narrate and frame the Cyprus conflict, and how they in many cases contain references to the “Self” and the “Other” by presenting a heroic “Self” to the “Own” community, or by showing the suffering of the “Self”. But the exhibition also investigates how some (exceptional) statues undermine this traditional presentation of the “Self” and offer a different narrative of the conflict, and of the identities of the people involved.

To stimulate further dialogue, two debates will be organized during the period of the exhibition. These debates are open to the public.

- The first debate, on 18 November, is entitled “Monuments and memories. A debate on the relevance of remembering the past through memorials” and is co-organised by the Association for Historical Dialogue & Research (AHDR)
- The second debate, “Covering the Cyprus conflict” takes place on 19 November, and is co-organised by the Cyprus Community Media Centre (CCMC)

- Download the AHDRs Supplementary Educational Materials
- Europe Direct Information Centre, Nicosia
- AHDR Activity Report - January 2014 to September 2015

Home for Cooperation (H4C)

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• How to Introduce a Gender Perspective in History Teaching

28 November | 10:00

These debates will allow invited speakers and audience members to reflect about the role of history, memory and identity in Cyprus. **They will take place at the Home for Cooperation at Ledra Palace Buffer Zone, on November 18th and on November 19th, from 18:00-20:00.**

For further information contact the AHDR at ahdr@ahdr.info or (00357) 22 44540 (ext. 101) or visit the event's website at: <http://giannoukoue.wix.com/iconroversies>

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// Integrating Gender in...

▪ **Debate: 'Covering the Cyprus conflict'**

19 November | 18:00

// Within the context of...

▪ **Debate: 'Monuments and memories'**

18 November | 18:00

// Within the...

▪ **Launch of 'Iconoclastic Controversies' exhibition**

13 November | 19:00

// Do statues talk? Do monuments na...