

DIMITRIS CHRISTOPOULOS

FIDH President



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Dimitris Christopoulos is a Greek academic, writer and activist. He was born in Athens in 1969 and married to the Greek anchorwoman Marilena Katsimi. Together they have three children. He was elected President of FIDH on August 27th 2016 by the 184 member organizations during FIDH 39th Congress in Johannesburg.

Current academic status

Christopoulos is an **Associate professor of state and legal theory at the Department of Political Science and History of the Panteion University** of Athens (www.panteion.gr) where he has been teaching since 2003. His courses include an *Introduction at the European Legal and State Theory*, *Minorities in Europe*, *Citizenship and Migration* and *Art, Freedom and Censorship*. Christopoulos has taught as **visiting professor** and provided lectures in different universities in Europe and the US. He has published in Greek, English, French, Portuguese, Hebrew, Albanian and Serbo-Croatian in scientific reviews or journals in the field of legal and political theory focusing on issues related to human rights, the far right, minorities, migrants and citizenship.

Education and professional experience

Christopoulos studied law at the University of Komotini in Greek Thrace (1986-1991) and continued his postgraduate studies (**D.E.A**) at the Institute of Political Science at the University *Robert Schuman* in Strasbourg (1991-1992). He obtained a masters' degree in **legal theory** at the *European Academy for Legal Theory* in Brussels (1994-1995) and a **PhD** in public law at the University *Jules Verne* of Picardie (Amiens) in France from which he graduated in 1996. His Phd, under the supervision of Professor Alain Fenet, dealt with the **issue of minorities in Europe from a normative analytical perspective** (cf. publications 1).

From 1993 to 1994 he worked at the **Council of Europe** as temporary staff at the **Secretariat of the Parliamentary Assembly** and at the **Service of Editions and Documentation**.

From 1996 to 1998, he joined the OSCE (**Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe**) *Missions in Albania and Bosnia-Herzegovina* first as **election coordinator**, then as **senior human rights officer** and finally as **Head-of-Office**. Once he returned to Greece in 1998, he began working as a **senior investigator** at the **Office of the Greek Ombudsman** and taught for three years as **adjunct professor** at the Political Science Department of the *Aristotelion University* of Thessalonica until 2003 when he was hired as lecturer at Panteion University.

From 2001 to 2009, he was the **Manager of the *Eunomia institution-building project*** of the Greek Ombudsman, a project aiming at the promotion and networking of the ombudsman institutions in Southeastern Europe and the Caucasus region under the auspices of the High Commissioner for Human Rights of the Council of Europe.

Civic commitment

With Kostas Tsitselikis, he co-founded in 1996 the **Minority Groups Research Centre** (KEMO), the first Greek independent think tank on minority issues gathering a number of 40 – mainly Greek - academics and experts on minorities and migrants (www.kemo.gr). Since 1999, they have been directing the “*KEMO Series of Studies*” which has already published 15 different volumes dedicated to the study of migration and the minority phenomenon in Greece.

From 2003 to 2011 and after eight years on the administrative board, he served as **President of the Hellenic League for Human Rights** (www.hlhr.gr), the oldest and largest Greek NGO acting in the field of human rights and an affiliated member of FIDH, the *International Federation for Human Rights* (www.fidh.org). From July 2011 to 2013, he served as the League’s Vice President. During this period, the Greek League for Human Rights developed to the point of becoming a prestigious human rights association consulted by media, political parties, NGOs and International Organizations operating in Greece. In May 2013 he was elected FIDH **Vice President** .

Christopoulos is frequently interviewed by international and Greek media. He writes regularly for the Greek press, contributing to the promotion of a human rights awareness culture in the country, particularly as the country faces a financial crisis, handles the arrival of migrants and refugees as well as the issue of the far right rising in Greece and in Europe.

Other affiliations

- Member of the *Athens Bar Association*
- Member of the *Greek National Commission for Human Rights* from 2008 to 2015 (www.nchr.gr).
- Since 2009, he is the **Greek national expert** of the European Union Democracy Observatory (EUDO) providing reports and information on acquisition and loss of citizenship in Europe. (www.eudo-citizenship.eu) and participates as national expert in different research international activities.
- From 2010 to 2016, he is the **Greek senior expert of the Fundamental Rights Agency Focal Point in Greece** for the needs of the FRALEX project of FRA <http://fra.europa.eu/en/tags/fralex>

His books include :

(author)

1. ***Droit, Europe et minorités – Critique de la connaissance juridique***, Ed. Sakkoulas, Athens, 2000 (438 p.)
2. *Η ετερότητα ως σχέση εξουσίας (Otherness as a power relation)* , Ed. Kritiki, Athens 2002, (303 p. in Greek)
3. *Ποιος είναι έλληνας πολίτης; Το καθεστώς της ελληνικής ιθαγένειας από την ίδρυση του ελληνικού κράτος στις αρχές του 21^{ου} αιώνα. (Who is a Greek citizen? The status of the Greek Nationality from the creation of the Greek State to the down of the 21st century)* Viviliorama Pub. 2012 (404 p. in Greek)
4. *Στο ρίσκο της κρίσης – Στρατηγικές της αριστεράς των δικαιωμάτων (At risk in the crisis – Left human rights strategies)* Alexandria Pub. 2013 (213 p. in Greek)
5. *Η κρίση των δικαιωμάτων (The crisis of rights)* , Xbooks, 2015, (167 p, in Greek)
6. [*with Georgia Spyropoulou*], Προσφυγικό: «θα τα καταφέρουμε»; Ένας απολογισμός διαχείρισης

και προτάσεις διεξέδου, (**Refugees: “Will we make it”? A management account and recommendations for a way out**), Papazisis Pub. Athens, 2016 (118 p. in Greek)

([co-]editor):

7. Το μειονοτικό φαινόμενο στην Ελλάδα (**The Minority Phenomenon in Greece**), with K. Tsitselikis, Ed. Kritiki, Athens 1998, 4th edition, (461 p. in Greek)
8. Νομικά ζητήματα θρησκευτικής ετερότητας (**Legal Issues of Religious Otherness**) Ed. Kritiki, Athens, 1999 (330 p. in Greek)
9. Η γλωσσική ετερότητα στην Ελλάδα (**Minority languages in Greece**) with L. Baltsiotes, S. Beis, L. Empirikos, A. Ioannidou, E. Karatzola, Ed. Alexandraia, Athens, 2001 (393 p.)
10. Η ελληνική μειονότητα της Αλβανίας (**The Greek minority of Albania**) with K. Tsitselikis, Ed. Kritiki, Athens 2003 (p. 340 in Greek)
11. Τα δικαιώματα στην Ελλάδα από το τέλος του εμφυλίου ως το τέλος της μεταπολίτευσης (**Human Rights in Greece from the end of the civil war to the end of “change of regime”**) 1953-2003, with M. Tsapogas, Ed. Kastanioti, Athens 2004 (p. 517 in Greek)
12. Η Ελλάδα της μετανάστευσης (**Migration’s Greece**) with M. Pavlou, Ed. Kritiki, Athens, 2004, (p. 420 in Greek)
13. - **The Ombudsman in Southeastern Europe**, with D. Hormovitis, Ed. Sakkoulas – Bruylant, Athens-Brussels, 2005 (353 p.)
14. Όψεις λογοκρισίας στην Ελλάδα (**Aspects of censorship in Greece**) with L. Karabinis, G. Ziogas, Y. Stavrakakis Athens, Nefeli, 2008 (346 p.)
15. Το ανομολόγητο ζήτημα των μειονοτήτων στην ελληνική έννομη τάξη (**The unspoken issue of minorities in the Greek legal order**) Athens, kritiki, 2009 (216 p. in Greek)
16. Ιδιότητα του πολίτη: Πολιτικός λόγος, κανόνες, ιστορία σε συγκριτικές προοπτικές (**Questioning citizenship: Political Discourse, Norms and History in Comparative Perspectives**) with G. Kouzelis, Athens, Patakis Ed., Athens, 2012, (p 324 in Greek)
17. Ο θεός δεν έχει ανάγκη εισαγγελέα – Εκκλησία, βλασφημία και Χρυσή Αυγή (**God does not need an attorney. Church, blasphemy and Golden Dawn**), Hellenic League for Human Rights, Athens, 2013, p. 145 in Greek
18. Το βαθύ κράτος και η Ακροδεξιά στην Ελλάδα (**The Deep State and the Extreme right in contemporary Greece**) , Nisos Publications & Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung, Athens, 2014 (p. 321, in Greek) English summary at <http://rosalux-europa.info/publications/books/right-wing-extremism-in-greece/>
19. «Όλα μπορούν να λεχθούν» ή υπάρχουν «εκείνα που δεν λέγονται»; (**“All can be said’ or there are “unspoken words”?**, Athens, Vivliorama Pub., 2015 (p. 190, in Greek).

FIDH is an international NGO committed to the defense of human rights. It federates 184 organizations in 112 countries. Since 1922, throughout the world, FIDH investigates, documents, and urges states to adopt policies respectful of human rights. FIDH also prosecutes the authors of human rights violations and supports victims in legal proceedings. FIDH's headquarters are in Paris and the organization has offices in Abidjan, Bamako, Brussels, Conakry, Geneva, The Hague, New-York, Pretoria and Tunis.