



Plato

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President's Message

The Athens Institute for Education and Research (ATINER) is pleased to announce the publication of a number of peer reviewed, open access journals of original research work. Most of the articles will be selected from the numerous papers that have been presented at the various annual international academic conferences organized by the different research divisions and units of the Athens Institute for Education and Research. The plethora of papers presented every year will enable the editorial board of each journal to select the best, and in so doing produce a top quality academic journal. In addition to papers presented, ATINER will encourage the independent submission of papers to be evaluated for publication.

The current issue is the first from the second volume of the *Athens Journal of Social Sciences* published by the Social Sciences Research Division of the Athens Institute for Education and Research (ATINER). Currently, the division includes five research units: (a) [Economics Research Unit](#) (b) [Sociology Research Unit](#) (c) [Psychology Research Unit](#) (d) [Politics & International Affairs Research Unit](#) (e) [Mass Media & Communication Research Unit](#)

The Director of the Division of Social Sciences and the heads of the aforementioned research units are members of the Editorial Advisory Board. The Academic Members of each research unit are members of the Editorial Board and will assist the editor and the Editorial Advisory Board with the peer reviewing of all submitted papers. Currently, the academic members of the five research units consist of over 100 international experts from about 50 countries.

Gregory T. Papanikos

President

Athens Institute for Education and Research

Editor's Note

The *Athens Journal of Social Sciences* is an interdisciplinary peer reviewed journal published by the Athens Institute for Education and Research (ATINER). ATINER has been involved in the organizing and hosting of a multitude of Conferences and Symposiums in the past, and even though it has produced numerous publications in the form of, *inter alia*, books, abstracts, and an on-line paper series, there has been a growing need to recognize outstanding papers, and thus the idea was conceived of having such papers published in journals.

The *Athens Journal of Social Sciences* encourages and supports scholarly works that focus on theories, research, and applications regarding topics related to Social Sciences, such as Anthropology, Economics, Human Geography, Political Science & International Relations, Psychology, and Sociology, as well as to interdisciplinary fields of inquiry such as International Studies, Foreign Affairs, Communication Studies, Area Studies, Development Studies, and Interdisciplinary Studies. This journal will hopefully go a long way in reflecting the inherent usefulness of these disciplines and interdisciplinary fields, and the vital role they play in providing a better understanding and perspective on human interaction.

The editor of the *Athens Journal of Social Sciences* welcomes quantitative, qualitative, theoretical-based, and conceptual papers. The editors are committed to blind and fair review of all submitted articles based on the following criteria: importance and timeliness of the issue, clarity of purpose, compatibility of the purpose and the design of the study, soundness of the methodology, and readability and flow of the materials. The *Athens Journal of Social Sciences* encourages its reviewers to provide professional, constructive and timely feedback to the author(s) for continuous improvement in their current and future scholarly works.

With the introduction of the *Athens Journal of Social Sciences*, we look forward to making a further contribution to the study of Social Sciences and to furthering our knowledge in the various fields of study that are generally recognized under this umbrella 'term'.

As editor, I am joined in this endeavor by a truly excellent Editorial Board, as well as highly competent publishing support at ATINER. It is envisaged that the *Athens Journal of Social Sciences* will be published quarterly.

Yannis A. Stivachtis

Editor of the *Athens Journal of Social Sciences*