

### ***Curriculum Vitae of Prof. Dr. Nestor Courakis***

*The following Curriculum Vitae was presented as a laudatio by Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. mult. Ulrich Sieber, Director of the Max Planck Institute for Foreign and International Criminal Law, at a ceremony held in Freiburg, Germany, in 2018, in honor of Prof. Dr. Courakis. During this ceremony, a Festschrift (honorary volume featuring 84 essays) was dedicated to him, comprising approximately 2,000 pages.*

*(<http://crime-in-crisis.com/en/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/CEREMONIAL-PRESENTATION.pdf> pp. 5-9)*

With this Festschrift, friends, students, and colleagues pay tribute to Professor Dr. Nestor Courakis, who is celebrating his 70th birthday this year. They wish to honour an outstanding scholar who gathered a wealth of international experience early in his career, significantly promoted the advancement of the criminal sciences, made important contributions to improvements in crime control, and who always supported young researchers and colleagues with great commitment.

- I. Nestor Courakis' academic career epitomizes that of an open-minded, international researcher with wide ranging interests. He completed his law studies at the University of Athens (1971) and his studies of economics and political science at the University of Thessaloniki (1973). In 1977, he was awarded a doctorate from the University of Freiburg for his dissertation, *Zur sozioethischen Begründung der Notwehr* (On the Socio-

Ethical Rationale of Self-Defence), written under the supervision of Prof. Dr. Hans-Heinrich Jescheck. Nestor Courakis continued his education at the University of Paris II and at the Paris Institute of Criminology, where he earned diplomas for advanced studies in criminology. Subsequently, he returned to Freiburg to conduct research and - along with Prof. Anna Benaki, later Speaker of the Hellenic Parliament – joined the Greek researchers who laid the foundations for the close cooperation between the Max Planck Institute for Foreign and International Criminal Law in Freiburg and Greek criminal law science that is still flourishing today. After his time abroad, Nestor Courakis returned to Greece in 1981 to pursue his academic career. In 1984, he earned a post-doctoral lecturing qualification (Habilitation) at the University of Athens, and in 1993, he was appointed professor in the Department of Criminal Sciences at its law faculty, where he taught criminology, economic criminal law and criminology, juvenile criminal law and criminology, gender criminology, criminalistics, penology, and criminal policy. Nestor Courakis also took on a position as director of the Centre for Research in Criminal Law and Criminology in 2001. During this time, he never lost interest in foreign legal systems: He taught as a visiting professor at Oxford University (1996, 1997) and later 6 at several universities in Cyprus and Italy; in the following years, he was often a guest researcher at the Max Planck Institute for Foreign and International Criminal Law and at Prof. Dr. Klaus Tiedemann's Department of Criminology and Economic Criminal Law. In 2014, he was awarded the title of Emeritus Professor at the University of Athens, which did not diminish his creative energy in the least. Since then, he has been teaching and researching as a full-time professor of criminal law and criminology at the University of Nicosia in Cyprus.

II. Nestor Courakis is an enormously productive scholar. In addition to 14 monographs, his academic oeuvre comprises approximately 200 contributions to journals, Festschrifts, and anthologies in Greek, German, English, French, and Italian. Furthermore, he has served as editor and co-editor of numerous anthologies and journals, including the e-journal called "The Art of Crime". This comprehensive body of written work is astonishingly diverse. It includes articles on criminology as well as on criminal law, whereby the subject of his research is often viewed from the perspective of both disciplines - the honouree is one of very few researchers who have mastered both disciplines equally. Publications on the fundamental subjects and questions of law round off his contribution to "the entire spectrum of criminal science." A theory of punishment and the law of penal sanctions are at the heart of his criminological research, including the analysis and development of alternative penal sanctions. The range of criminological subjects addressed by Nestor Courakis is, however, much broader: He has conducted research on the development of crime in Greece and on juvenile gangs in Athens, analysed political violence, "bullying", and violence in connection with soccer matches, traced the development of ethno-psychology in the context of criminal law, written papers on the prison system, and drafted blueprints for future developments in criminology. As director of the Centre for Research in Criminal Law and Criminology at the law faculty of the University of Athens, he headed 15 empirical research projects on key issues of criminal law, such as euthanasia, corruption, incarceration of women and juveniles, and hooliganism. Nestor Courakis' contributions to criminal law are equally broad. They primarily address the general part of criminal law, economic criminal law

(with groundbreaking contributions to the development of the *fraus legis* clause in criminal law, to EU fraud, and to financial crime), corruption, sentencing, the legal definition of organized crime, and legal issues of migration. One of his masterpieces is his treatise on the historical development of Greek criminal law from antiquity to the present (with a focus on the theory of punishment and the prison system). Special mention should also be made of his textbook on economic criminal law - already in its third edition - which has become a standard reference work in Greek criminal law science. The publications in which Nestor Courakis brings criminology and criminal law together methodologically are particularly interesting. This approach is clearly apparent in his papers on criminal policy, in which he convincingly achieves the cross-fertilization of criminal law and criminology as called for by his doctoral supervisor. Focuses on criminal policy can be found in his work in the areas of juvenile criminal law, economic criminal law, prison law, and hooliganism. His keen perception of current developments and the broad perspective of his criminal policy analyses are also evident in his recent work on the relationship between criminal policy and social justice; initial results in this area were published in a first volume in 2016. Nestor Courakis' research is based not only on criminological approaches and criminal law doctrine. It often also relies on the method of comparative legal research, e.g., in studies on the structure and interpretation of English criminal law and in his comparative analysis of the criminal law of corruption. Thus, his oeuvre – like that of his teachers Hans-Heinrich Jescheck and Klaus Tiedemann in Freiburg and his mentors Jacques Léauté and Jean Carbonnier in Paris – is characterized by a successful union of criminal law, criminology, comparative criminal law, and criminal policy. In

order to respond to the challenges posed by today's global information and risk society, this approach - one adopted early on by Nestor Courakis – is indispensable. Finally, it is hard to overlook the fact that Nestor Courakis' interests go far beyond the sciences of criminal law and criminology: This is readily apparent from his book on classical ideals for a modern education, his writings on the culture and ideals of Classical Greece, as well as his publication on the military strategy of the Byzantine emperors - presented to the members of the Academy of Athens. In an era of scientific specialization, the honouree, with his expertise in many fields and with the broad sweep of his writings, evokes the Renaissance ideal of the *homo universalis*.

- III. Nestor Courakis has not only committed his thoughts on law and criminology to paper. He has actively translated them into practice by presenting them to students and legal practitioners, and he has been widely acclaimed for doing so. As a teacher at the University of Athens, he developed new courses that expanded the boundaries of previous university curricula and led to the publication of three standard textbooks in the areas of economic criminal law, gender criminality, and criminal policy. As evidenced by the numerous contributions from young researchers in this Festschrift, he was the dedicated mentor of numerous students, masters' degree students, and doctoral candidates, whom he encouraged to present their ideas at the many conferences he organized. Nestor Courakis also enriched the practice of law by contributing to the drafting of many legislative proposals in Greece and by making recommendations to the Council of Europe, including a recommendation on new ways of addressing juvenile delinquency. Greek legislation on the law of sanctions, prison

administration, drug law, hooliganism, and juvenile criminal law all bear his hallmark. He was a member of the Criminal Law Commission responsible for the new Greek criminal code, vice president of the National Radio and Television Board, advisor to the Greek government in criminological matters, and served as his homeland's representative on various committees of the Council of Europe, the European Union, and the United Nations. Within this framework of administrative and practical activities that were entrusted to the honouree, he was able to put his research results into practice. For example, from 2007 to 2010, he headed Epanodos, the Centre for the Rehabilitation of Former Inmates of Correctional Institutions supported by the Greek Ministry of Justice, and was president of the Greek Consultative Body against Corruption from 2013 to 2015. In addition, he served as a defence lawyer in Greece. Nestor Courakis' academic and practical efforts earned well-deserved recognition when he was still quite young. He was a fellow of the Athens Bar Association, the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), the French government, and the Max Planck Society. For his doctoral dissertation, he earned the distinction "summa cum laude" from the law faculty of the University of Freiburg. Already in 1974, he received the Aghis Tambakopoulos Prize from the Academy of Athens for his essay on the abuse of rights in civil and public law. He was awarded the Prize of the Society of Greek Penalists in 1985. In addition, in 2012 he was distinguished with a very special honour: He was appointed a full member of the European Academy of Sciences and Arts in Salzburg - a position reserved for only a small number of European scholars. In 2015, 137 of his colleagues, most of them Greek, presented him with a remarkable volume based on a congress organized in honour of the occasion of his

35th anniversary as a professor. It can be seen as the first volume of the present international Festschrift.

- IV. The most outstanding features of Nestor Courakis, however, are his fine character and his exceptionally friendly nature. Nestor Courakis has remained the same friendly, considerate, and polite scholar I came to know and appreciate 40 years ago when he was conducting research at the Freiburg Institute for Criminology and Economic Criminal Law. Despite his modest nature, in any discussion with Nestor Courakis, one quickly senses his keen interest, his attentiveness, and his vibrant personality. His empathy and enthusiasm also enrich any scientific discussion: He expresses criticism clearly, but also always objectively, constructively, and courteously. In academic debates, his positive attitude to others is often reflected in the fact that he prefaces his critical commentary, even to questionable contributions, with a few words of praise. Due to his calm and dignified manner, he enjoys a high standing as a mediator and builder of bridges in situations involving academic controversy and other differences of opinion. For his students and pupils, he has always been a reliable counsellor whose suggestions for improvement are at the same time encouraging and confidence-building. Nestor Courakis' balanced temperament and optimism have also shaped his approach to scientific thinking as a whole. His studies often take a holistic approach towards combining contrasting views. One example is his theory on "synthetic criminology", which since the 1980s, has been recognized as a fundamental and progressive synthesis of traditional and contemporary thought on the nature and function of criminology. Nestor Courakis is highly respected not only for his academic achievements but is also held in high esteem in Greece and abroad for his fine

character. He is well known both nationally and internationally. It therefore comes as no surprise that 93 friends and colleagues from Greece, Germany, France, England, and many other countries immediately agreed to contribute to this Festschrift. It is a personal honour and privilege for me to author the foreword to this publication, both because of my high regard for the rich tradition of Greek criminal law science and because of my great admiration for my friend Nestor Courakis. In closing, it is my great pleasure to congratulate Nestor Courakis on his 70th birthday on behalf of all the contributors to this Festschrift and to thank him for many years of cordial friendship as well as for his significant contribution to criminal law, criminology, criminal policy, comparative criminal law, and to the history of law. We wish him many more successful and happy years with his family, friends, and research colleagues, and we also wish him quiet moments on the beaches of his cherished sea, which he loves to gaze upon while pondering wise solutions to the problems of our time.

For more information on Prof. Courakis's publications, please refer to his Wikipedia pages:

- [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nestor\\_Courakis](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nestor_Courakis)
- [https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nestor\\_Kourakis](https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nestor_Kourakis)
- [https://upwikifr.top/wiki/Nestor\\_Courakis](https://upwikifr.top/wiki/Nestor_Courakis)