

2015 Young Researcher's Award

The 2015 call for nominations for the University's [Young Researcher's Award](#) resulted in 18 high-calibre candidatures from a wide range of disciplines. The evaluation committee, comprising the Deputy Rector of Academic Affairs and the external members of the University Council, announced on 12 February 2016 that the 2015 Prize has been awarded jointly to Katerina Koutra and to Alexandros Katsigiannis.

Katerina Koutra's research activities span two fields in the Medical School: her doctoral research, under the supervision of Prof. Alexander Vgontzas (Psychiatry), and her work on the RHEA mother-child cohort epidemiological study (Chatzi group, Social Medicine). For her doctoral research, she received her PhD in 2015 from the University's Medical School for her thesis titled 'Study of intrafamilial relationships of people with major mental disorders in the initial phase of the disease'. In the course of this work Dr. Koutra adapted and validated Greek versions of two diagnostic tools which are currently being used by 65 Greek institutions for research and clinical purposes: the Family Questionnaire for assessing expressed emotion, and the Family Adaptability and Cohesion Evaluation Scales. This work together with the results of her analyses of family functioning in first episode psychosis has been published in peer reviewed journals such as *Social Psychiatry and Psychiatric Epidemiology*, *International Journal of Social Psychiatry*, and *Psychiatry Research*. For the RHEA cohort, her valued contributions to estimating the effects of environmental and psycho-social factors in neurodevelopment and cognitive functioning of infants and pre-school children are well recognized in the host of co-authored papers arising from this research, in journals such as *European Psychiatry*, *Journal of Epidemiology & Community Health*, *Public Health Nutrition*, and *International Journal of Epidemiology*. Currently, Dr. Koutra continues her research collaborations with both groups as well as working as a psychologist in the District Community Care Services.

Alexandros Katsigiannis was awarded his PhD in 2014 by the University's Philology Department for his thesis titled "The critical reception of Cretan Literature in the 19th century: from popular literature to the national literary Canon". His research, under the supervision of Professor Stefanos Kaklamanis, involves an original collation, mapping and analyses of the Cretan literature of the period in all its diverse forms. This scholarly endeavor led to the proposal of new methodological and interpretative tools for approaching the critical perception of literary works. This research has been presented at conferences and in Greek literary reviews, and will be published in book form. Since completing his thesis, Dr Katsigiannis has worked as an associate on a research programme on 19th century Greek journals (University of Athens, Prof. Tabaki's group) and also as a contributor to literary reviews and e-publications (www.kallipos.gr).