

Georgios Argiantopoulos-PhD History

Doctoral School Research Awards, Academic Year 2022-2023

Title of the Thesis: The Politics of Community Building and Identity Formation: The Greek Diaspora in Egypt Amongst Local, Regional, National and Colonial Settings (1882-1922)

The funding provided by the Doctoral School Research Award has been a great support during my doctoral studies for several reasons and it is highly recommended to all PhD students especially those self-funded. From a practical point of view, this generous financial support fully covered the costs of my research trip from London to Athens and Alexandria and my stay of almost a month in Greece and Egypt. The amount of the award was a relief after an expensive and challenging trip.

The nature of my research required personal visits and field study of historical documents held in the premises of the Greek Community of Alexandria, the Michailides Library at the Greek Consulate in the city, the Bibliotheca Alexandrina and the Library of the Greek Cultural Institute of Alexandria. The findings proved vital to the writing of my doctoral thesis. In addition, while in Greece and Egypt, I had the opportunity to live and interact with the Greek diasporic community, the local population and other expatriate residents of Alexandria and Cairo, something that was essential for me in interpreting the way of thinking and living of the population that is my main research focus.

What was special about this award was that it came after my research trip. Acknowledgement served as validation of the time, effort and resources invested in the research. It confirms that the work has value and contributes to the body of knowledge in a particular field, that is diaspora studies in a transnational setting. I also feel that recognition contributes to my professional development and career progression as it also allows others to build on or engage with my research, fostering a collaborative environment and advancing the collective knowledge of the field.

Finally, the doctoral school's research award provided me with a sense of achievement and motivation to continue my work. It reinforced my commitment to making meaningful contributions to this field and encouraged the development of a positive research culture after a period of severe restrictions, delays and disappointments because of the coronavirus pandemic. During all this time an exceptional supervisory team consisted of Prof. Dan Stone, Dr Paris Papamichos Chronakis and Dr Charalambos Dendrinis, remained close to me and I'm grateful for that.





