

STAVROULA ALEXIOU

PhD candidate

Department of Planning and Regional Development

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<https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=SGxOFDYAAAAJ&hl=en>



UNIVERSITY OF
THESSALY



FIELDS OF SPECIALIZATION AND RESEARCH INTERESTS

- Economic geography
- Regional development
- Spatial inequalities
- EU integration
- Regional policy
- Regional convergence
- Public discontent

EXPERIENCE

- Teaching Assistant, Department of Planning and Regional Development, University of Thessaly, Greece (2026).
- Economist – SME Consultant, self-employed, Volos, Greece (2017–present).
- Economist – Social Entrepreneurship Consultant, Centre for Social and Solidarity Economy of Magnesia, Volos, Greece (2019–2021).
- Office Employee, TEKMIROS LTD, Volos, Greece (2013–2014).
- Economist, Management Body of the National Marine Park of Alonissos Northern Sporades, Volos, Greece (2008–2009).

EDUCATION

PhD candidate in Economic Geography, Department of Planning and Regional Development, University of Thessaly, Greece (2022–present).

Thesis: Regional inequalities, political discontent and the anatomy of integration and disintegration in Europe, in the context of the DISINREG research project, funded by H.F.R.I.
Supervisor: G. Petrakos

M.Sc. in New Entrepreneurship, Innovation & Development, Departments of Planning and Regional Development, Economics and Mechanical Engineering, University of Thessaly, Greece (2017–2020).

Research thesis: Performance analysis of Small and Medium Enterprises using financial ratios: the cases of food industry and retail in Greece (in Greek), 10/10. Supervisor: Y. Stamboulis.

Master in International Economics, Department of International and European Studies, University of Macedonia, Greece (2006–2010).

Research thesis: The impact of Greek FDI on Bulgaria's economic growth (in Greek), 10/10.
Supervisor: F. Siokis.

BSc in International and European Economic and Political Studies, University of Macedonia, Greece (2001–2006).

Specialisation: International and European Economics.

PAPERS IN REFEREED JOURNALS

1. Alexiou, S., Petrakos, G. and Sotiriou, A. (2026). Integration Without Convergence? Regional Growth and Discontent in Greece. *Review of Regional Research*. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10037-026-00282-2>
2. Petrakos, G., Alexiou, S., & Sotiriou, A. (2026). Unpacking Endogeneity: Growth, Discontent and Cohesion Policy in the EU Regions. *Growth and Change*, 57(1). <https://doi.org/10.1111/grow.70097>
3. Petrakos, G., Sotiriou, A., & Alexiou, S. (2026). Endogenous Cohesion Policy. *Regional Science Policy & Practice*, 18(1). <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.rspp.2025.100255>
4. Petrakos, G., Sotiriou, A., & Alexiou, S. (2025). The geography of integration and regional growth in the EU. *Regional Studies*, 59(1). <https://doi.org/10.1080/00343404.2025.2534687>
5. Sotiriou, A., Petrakos, G. and Alexiou, S. (2024). The drivers of regional discontent in the EU. *Global Challenges & Regional Science*, 1, 100002. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.gcrs.2024.100002>

BOOK CHAPTERS

1. Sotiriou, A., Alexiou, S. & Petrakos, G. (forthcoming). Regional inequalities in the EU: patterns and evolution. In G. Petrakos, S. Niavis & D. Kallioras (Eds.), *The Inequality Gap in Europe: Perceptions, Realities, Policies*, London: Edward Elgar.

RESEARCH PROJECTS

Member of research teams

1. DISINREG: Regional inequalities, political discontent and the anatomy of integration and disintegration in Europe, Funded by the Hellenic Foundation for Research and Innovation (H.F.R.I.) (2022–2025).
2. Small Business Clinic, Funded under the “Competitiveness, Entrepreneurship and Innovation” programme (EPAnEK), NSRF 2014–2020 (2021–2022).

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

1. Petrakos, G., Alexiou, S. and Sotiriou, A., “Endogenous Cohesion Policy”, 7th Panhellenic Planning and Regional Development Conference, Department of Planning and Regional Development, University of Thessaly, Volos, 25–28 September 2025. Presenter: S. Alexiou.

2. Petrakos, G., Kallioras, D., Sotiriou, A., Saratsis, Y. and Alexiou, S., "The European Cohesion Policy and its impact on inequalities in Europe", 7th Panhellenic Planning and Regional Development Conference, Department of Planning and Regional Development, University of Thessaly, Volos, 25–28 September 2025. Presenter: Y. Saratsis.
3. Petrakos, G., Kallioras, D., Sotiriou, A., Saratsis, Y. and Alexiou, S., "The impact of the EU Cohesion Policy on regional inequalities", 64th ERSA Congress, Athens, 26–29 August 2025. Presenter: Y. Saratsis.
4. Sotiriou, A., Petrakos, G. and Alexiou, S., "The Geography of Integration and Regional Growth in the EU", 64th ERSA Congress, Athens, 26–29 August 2025. Presenter: A. Sotiriou.
5. Alexiou, S., Petrakos, G. and Sotiriou, A., "Case study of Greece: weak growth performance, regional inequalities, unbalanced integration and political discontent", 9th International Conference on Applied Theory, Macro and Empirical Finance (AMEF 2025), Department of Economics, University of Macedonia, Thessaloniki, 14–15 April 2025. Presenter: S. Alexiou.
6. Alexiou, S., "A generalized model of growth, integration, discontent and endogenous cohesion policy", Early Career Colloquium 2025, Regional Science Association – British & Irish Section, online, 23–24 January 2025.
7. Alexiou, S., Petrakos, G. and Sotiriou, A., "Endogenous Cohesion Policy", 1st Scientific Conference on Spatial Planning and Development: Challenges and Prospects, Department of Planning and Development, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, 17–18 June 2024. Presenter: S. Alexiou.
8. Petrakos, G., Sotiriou, A. and Alexiou, S., "Detecting the sources and drivers of political discontent in the EU", 18th Annual Scientific Conference of the European Regional Science Association – Greek Section, Athens, 22–23 September 2023. Presenter: S. Alexiou.
9. Alexiou, S. and Petrakos, G., "The impact of integration on regional growth and cohesion in Greece", 10th PhD Symposium on Contemporary Greece and Cyprus, Hellenic Observatory, European Institute, LSE, London, 26 May 2023. Presenter: S. Alexiou.
10. Brimpou, V., Stamboulis, Y., Alexiou, S. and Vetsikas, A., "Determinants influencing the profitability of firms: A case study on the Greek retail sector", 5th International Conference of Development and Economy (I.CO.D.ECON.), University of the Peloponnese, Kalamata, 21–23 October 2022. Presenter: V. Brimpou.