

# Populism, Territories, Name Disputes, and Hyperreality: Greek Nationalism and the Macedonian Case



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## Abstract

The names of places or territories are considered crucial in constructing the general idea of a nation-state as they can refer to various meanings in the citizens' minds and hearts. Therefore, it is not a surprise that several nations, in their nationalistic narratives, use different names to describe disputed territories. Although nation-states with fixed borders are a key feature of the modern world, there are still several persistent territorial name disputes (Arabian/Persian Gulf, Kurdistan, the Kuril Islands/Northern Territories, Macedonia, Navasa Island/La Navase, Western Sahara, etc.). Many are important enough to the peoples, and they surface during elections as campaign issues. However, in social science research, few studies focus on explaining the power of territorial names or how they become instruments of contentious politics. Therefore, this working research through the study of the Macedonian Name Dispute (MND) contributes to communication studies' and other fields' by explaining the contentious politics of using different names for referring to a given territory through the new concept of Symbolic Name Disputes (SNDs). SNDs explain the reasons for using different names to refer to a territory by various political actors. Also, it highlights how they can be a powerful tool for winning electoral support that can result in an unprecedented degree of democratic deterioration worldwide, such as in the case of the Ukrainian war with the symbolic power of the names Luhansk and Donetsk People's Republic, or the war for Palestine.

## Biography

Dr. Minos-Athanasios Karyotakis is currently a Post-doc Research Fellow at the David C. Lam Institute for East-West Studies (LEWI) of Hong Kong Baptist University (HKBU). He was a recipient of the prestigious Hong Kong Ph.D. Fellowship 2018/19, HKBU's School of Communication Academic Achievement Award 2020/21 for his outstanding scholarly performance, and he has also received top-paper awards by AEJMC as a Ph.D. student. His research has advanced the understanding of global media politics through environmental communication, hate propaganda, media ethics, and power relations. He has published in *Journalism* (IF: 2.9, Q1 Quartile), *Journalism Practice* (IF: 2.1, Q1 Quartile), *Mediterranean Politics* (IF: 1.7, Q1 Quartile), *Sustainability* (IF: 3.9, Q1 Quartile), and other venues. For more information, please visit his website: [minoskar.net](http://minoskar.net).