

Judith Kirschner

PhD Student

European University Cyprus

Country of Origin: Germany

Academic Interests Research Journey

"I am a PhD candidate studying wildfire governance at European University Cyprus. My project is associated with the PyroLife ITN: a research and training network on integrated wildfire management funded by the European Commission. For my research, I look closely at how authorities, communities, and agencies share resources, interests, and responsibilities to tackle the many aspects of fire in landscapes. This includes the risk of wildfire disasters, but I also pay attention to settings where burning is done carefully and purposefully – to achieve benefits for the environment and society".

"Before starting my PhD, I studied the role of fire in Earth and human history (palaeofires) during my Master's degree in Earth Sciences at the University of Amsterdam".



Why Cyprus

"Wildfires and the risk they pose to society and the environment have complex drivers and impacts. The project offered by the PyroLife network at the European University Cyprus follows a comprehensive approach to the fire problem: I am encouraged to learn across disciplines (social science theory and environmental studies) and research fields (water and flooding have much in common with fire and burning), sectors (building on academic, but also on practitioner and traditional knowledge), geographies (many countries have a long tradition of living with fires, others only recently experience wildfires), and to promote social diversity in science and practice".



My advisors and research group at the European University Cyprus form part of a large network of scientists, policy makers, NGOs, civil society groups, government agencies, and other groups – based in Cyprus, the wider region, Europe and beyond. Science is a team effort, and without their continuous support and encouragement I would not be able to do my research.