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8 October 2024

UCT professor unpacks drivers, economic effects of defence spending

10 October 2024 | 17:00 | School of Economics Seminar Room on Level 4, School of Economics Building, middle campus

What are the economic effects of defence spending? How does military expenditure affect public debt? What are the political, economic and strategic determinants of military spending? Can high military spending by countries that do not face security concerns be justified on economic grounds?

These are the thought-provoking questions that [Professor Eftychia Nikolaidou](#), a professor of economics at the University of Cape Town's (UCT) [School of Economics](#), will delve into during her inaugural lecture on Thursday, 10 October 2024.

Her work in this area has sought to contribute to and influence the ongoing debate on the links between military spending, public debt and economic growth both in developed and developing economies.

Professor Nikolaidou has an international reputation in the defence and peace economics area, with a number of contributions in this field over the last 25 years. She has also developed her research in the area of banking and finance. She serves as a member of the editorial board of Defence and Peace Economics and the Economics of Peace and Security Journal; and is a member of the US non-for-profit organisation "Economists for Peace and Security".

Her journey into the defence and peace economics field started when she was a graduate student in London. She was fascinated by the discussions around the secrecy and corruption that surrounds military spending. While world military spending is an important part of government spending, its economic effects have received relatively little attention.

Being born and raised in Greece, Professor Nikolaidou was always puzzled by the appreciable amount of defence spending allocated by her country in order to 'deal with the Turkish threat'. Defence spending is usually justified on the basis of security concerns, but many times, security concerns are exaggerated to justify high defence budgets while countries face important developmental issues. She decided to look into the drivers and

economic effects of such spending during her PhD. This was the start of her journey into this niche area of economics.

Date: Thursday, 10 October 2024

Time: 17:00 SAST

Venue: School of Economics Seminar Room on Level 4, School of Economics Building, middle campus

Members of the media wishing to attend the lecture in person or virtually are requested to [RSVP](#).

ENDS

Issued by: UCT Communication and Marketing Department

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