Assoc. Prof. Dr. Şevket ÖZNUR

He was born in Nicosia on 13th July 1974, a mere two days before the Greek- inspired coup d’etat that deposed Makarios as President of the Cyprus Republic. Makarios was replaced by Nikos Sampson, a famed ex-terrorist. A week later, on 20th July 1974 Turkey, one of the three guarantor states, intervened militarily to protect the lives of the Turkish Cypriots. The island has been partitioned into two since then and the Turkish Cypriots now live in the northern part of Cyprus while the Greek Cypriots live in the south of the island. His family, in accordance with the population exchange agreement, moved from the town of Larnaka in the south to the village of Dikmen in the north in 1975.

Şevket Öznur, for four years, went to the local primary school before completing his elementary education at Şehit Ertuğrul in Lefkoşa. He then attended 20 Temmuz High School for his secondary education and following his graduation from there he enrolled at the Department of Turkish Language and Literature, Near East University. After he finished his undergraduate studies he joined the army for his compulsory military service. He was stationed in Alsancak, Girne and while in the army he enrolled in a post-graduate diploma program at Girne American University. Advised by Prof. Dr. Abdurrahman Güzel he successfully received his Master’s degree in the same field with a thesis entitled “Kıbrıs Türk Halkbiliminde Bulunan Türkü, Destan ve Manilerde Maddi Öğeler”. He later, advised by Prof. Dr. Ismail Parlatır, went on to complete his doctoral studies and obtained his PhD degree from the Near East University, Social Sciences Institute with a thesis entitled “Kıbrıs Türküleri”.

He worked from 2000-2003 at the Girne American College. As from 2003 he has been working as a lecturer at the Near East University, Faculty of Arts and Sciences, Department of Turkish Language and Literature. He is also the editor of the culture and art page of the daily Halkın Sesi newspaper.

He is a dedicated researcher and many of his papers and articles have been published in national and international academic journals. Şevket Öznur is also the author and/or co-author of twentyone books on the subject of Turkish Cypriot Folklore and Literature.