



Eleni Elefterias-Kostakidis

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PhD Candidate 2021

Key skills

- Research
- Teaching
- Modern Greek Language
- Musician & Lyricist
- Website skills
- Editing and publishing
- Coordinating events
- French Reading
- Public Speaking

Education

B.A. Communications NSWIT (U.T.S.)

Graduated 1983

Grad. Dip. Ed Sydney Institute of Education (S.I.E.)

Graduated 1985

B.A. (Hons) University of Sydney Graduated 1993

Awards

Music Grant from Australia Council for the Arts -1983 to study music in Greece for one year. * Vocal studies
*Music composition
*Classical Guitar
Vocal Studies Scholarships
NSW Conservatorium of

Summary

As a teacher, academic, researcher and published writer, I believe I have the skills to pursue a postgraduate research degree. I have researched the topic of *Balkan Nationalism through Balkan Documentary Film*. One of the films I researched is the catalyst for a book on the Balkans I am about to publish as editor called "Whose is this Song? Balkan Nationalism, Greece and Shared Culture" which includes contributions by many acclaimed academics and journalists including Dr Helen Vatsikopoulos of U.T.S. I am an avid writer of lyrics, songs and educational materials and am also in the process of publishing a series of educational bilingual Greek Australian books for children accompanied by songs.

Career history

Lecturer & Tutor at University of Sydney

March 2013 – current position in 2020

Teaching Modern Greek as a tutor and a lecturer since 2013. Also worked as a research assistant and editor for Professor Vrasidas Karalis, University of Sydney.

Teaching the Community Language Teaching Course as a lecturer since 2019 with the Sydney Institute for Community Language Education, University of Sydney.

Key responsibilities

- Creating teaching resources
- Setting and marking exams
- Delivering lectures and tutoring students & teachers

Achievements

- Adapting the Beginner's Modern Greek course for use in a language laboratory and via online Zoom teaching more recently.
- Adapting the Modern Greek beginner's course for Archaeology students.
- Presenting my research at the Postgraduate seminars.
- Using my IT skills to upload the Modern Greek Journal to the Fisher Library Website.
- Editing of papers for publication.
- Speaking at a teaching conference, on behalf of my professor, on Assessment at University level where I presented my own work.

Music which I was awarded twice in the early 80's where trained with Vocal teacher Helen McKinnon.

Interests

- Music Composition
- Modern Greek poetry and music
- Writing and Research
- Documentary Film
- Performance

Research Assistant for Associate Professor Nicholas Doumanis, Oral Greek Australian History Migration Project (Joint project with the State Library of NSW), Department of Social Sciences, University of NSW. September 2020.

Key responsibilities

To take oral histories of as many older Greek people as possible to do collect their migration stories. Using a film camera and audio recording equipment and formulating my own questions based on the criteria. Translating from Greek to English when necessary.

Publisher at Hellenic Theorem Publishing

August 2020- current new venture

In a publishing partnership with Professor Vrasidas Karalis (Dept. Modern Greek USYD) and Dimitris Koutroumanis (Printer & Newspaper Publisher of KAZAMIAS & ELLINON LOGOS)

Key responsibilities

- To coordinate the publishing of materials from inception to the completed product.
- Editing journals and books in Greek and English.
- Writing bilingual learning materials for Modern Greek at all levels.

High School Teacher at N.S.W. Department of Education

Feb - 1985 – December 2012

Taught English and History at Mitchell High School, Auburn Girls High, Macarthur Girls High School and various other schools. Taught Modern Greek and Modern History and as a casual many other subjects to Yr12 level. Mostly at the Open High School- Distance learning school which is now known as the N.S.W. Community Languages High School. Also taught at the Saturday School of Community Languages during this period,

Key responsibilities

- Created resources for Modern Greek including scripts for dialogues and recorded speaking examples for distance learners.
- Set and marked examinations

Achievements

- One of three researchers and writers of two previous extension courses in Modern Greek, one on a cycle of songs and the other on the film A Touch of Spice. I was responsible for creating the learning materials and analysis of the film for the Extension H.S.C. students.

Artistic Director & Coordinator at La Boîte Performance Space Association

Feb 2012 – current

Event Coordinator for various music, speaking and theatrical events for the Greek Community in Sydney and regional N.S.W. both in

voluntary and paid roles. Photographed and filmed speakers and events at the La Boîte. Paid and voluntary work

Key responsibilities

- Producing, managing, researching topics and performing for music and poetry events on behalf of the La Boîte Performance Space Association.
- Writing scripts for the presenters, writing comedy skits for performance, creating the PowerPoints with translations and information about the poetry put to music, the composers and the poets.

Achievements

- Creation of an alternative space for local musicians and artists to express themselves and a space to present non-commercial music and poetry performances not readily accessible in typical Greek tavernas and commercial concerts. A place to hear original music by songwriters and musicians of various backgrounds in the local community.

Bookshop Owner at Bilingual Bookshop

Jan-2012 – current

Event Coordinator for various music, speaking and theatrical events for the Greek Community. Recently I became the sole owner of the Bilingual Bookshop working on a voluntary and sometimes paid basis. .

Key responsibilities

- Researching, ordering and importing books from Greece and other sources and supplying orders to various N.S.W. libraries including the State Library of N.S.W.
- Duties include translating titles, data entry, selling, attending book exhibitions at libraries, schools and conferences.
- Responsible for the set up and maintenance of the online e-commerce website www.bilingualbookshop.com.au.

Achievements

- Photographed and filmed speakers and events at the bookshop.
- Interviewed authors at book launches and book presentations. Took part in speaking panels to do with academic publications and biographical works by local authors.

Compliance Officer at N.S.W. Federation of Community Languages

Feb 2019 – March 2020

To check that Community Language Schools comply with Department of Education guidelines for Community Language teaching.

Key responsibilities

- Check compliance with N.S.W. Syllabus stages for community languages.
- Check compliance with Teaching methodology and the running of schools and safety of students.

Achievements

- Identified problem areas and advised Community Language Schools on how they can comply with very complex rules as set out by the Dept.of Education.

Volunteer Radio programmer, announcer for two separate radio programs on 2MM Sydney, 2009-2010 about Books and Music. Greek-Australian program conducting Interviews with musicians, poets and writers.

Achievements

- Wrote the intro theme music and songs for both programs and all scripts and did the interviews.

Artistic Director -Coordinator – The Play Space. Coordinated Music events for up to 500 people at various venues with Vivienne Gemenis and George Doukas for four years and then on my own including researching and writing the scripts for the presenters, presenting programs and researching and creating from 1998-2010.

Key responsibilities

Researching and Writing scripts and comedy skits for up to four people and creating PowerPoints to accompany music events, performing original material and poetry put to music, writing articles for the local press to advertise events.

Achievements

Wrote a script based on my research for PowerPoints to accompany music and lyrics on REMBETIKA, FOLK SONGS and POETRY PUT TO MUSIC. Wrote the script for a History of Rembetika Musical/Theatre which was performed by 20 musicians and actors and toured Canberra and Sydney, 1998-2001.

Musical & Artistic Director – *Sympraxis* Concert for Σ.A.E. World Council of Hellenes Abroad, 2000 Concert at Angel Place as the culmination of events throughout Australia as part of the Greek Government's initiative before the Olympics in Greece.

Key responsibilities

Putting together and coordination of the program based on local talent, organising the venue, 150 performers and musicians and Sydney Symphony Youth Orchestra, choir and folk dancers, wrote scripts for presenters John Mangos and Mary Kostakidis and

coordinated all rehearsals, venue hire and use and health and safety issues. I organised the filming of the event and was responsible for a budget of \$150,00 for the concert.

Achievements

The main theme music was my original music and lyrics and was performed on the night by choir and orchestra.

Published & Recorded Work & Performances

"Whose is this Song?" Nationalism and Identity through the lens of Adela Peeva, Eleni Elefterias-Kostakidis, A Journal of Modern Greek Letters, Crisis, Criticism and Critique in Contemporary Greek Studies, ed. Vrasidas Karalis & Panayota Nazou, Vol 16-17 A, 2013-2014

"The Baker's Daughter" by Eleni Elefterias-Kostakidis, *Fathers From the Edge, Greek Australian Reflections on Fathers*, ed. Helen Nickas, Owl Publishing, 2015

«Η γιαγιά μου είναι μουσικός» / "My grandma is a musician" children's book and recorded song, book concept, lyrics, music and performance Eleni Elefterias for release 2020.

Recording **«Μια Κάμαρα γεμάτη σκιες» / "Shadows"** Song, Lyrics, Music and Performance by Eleni Elefterias-Kostakidis, 2017

Music Video & Song Recording **«Θέλω να μάθω ελληνικά» / I want to Learn Greek**, Music, Lyrics Eleni Elefterias, Sung by Marina Thiveos & Rap by Nicholas Antonoglou, Filmed by John Nikolakopoulos (Ikon Films), Film storyboard and concept, Eleni Elefterias, for release 2020.

Exploring the Balkan cultural topography through documentary film by Eleni Elefterias-Kostakidis, "Whose is this Song" Balkan Nationalism, Greece and Shared Culture, edited by Eleni Elefterias-Kostakidis, for release 2020

Articles, Theatre and Music Reviews and Interviews for Hellenic Herald, Kazamias, Urban Magazine in 2005 – 2006, various educational magazines and local Australian newspapers over the years.

"Identity in the Sand" Concert of original music and lyrics by Eleni Elefterias performed by choir and band 2012 Greek Festival of Sydney.

Concert 2000, Sydney Town Hall, Greek Archdiocese of N.S.W., Main theme music **«ΦΙΛΟΞΕΝΙΑ» / "FILOXENIA"** by Eleni Elefterias sung by the Millenium Choir and orchestra, orchestrated by George Ellis. In the year 2000.

OTHER RELATED STUDIES AND ACTIVITIES

MUSIC STUDIES IN GREECE

As part of my study in Greece for which I was awarded a Music Grant from Australia Council for the Arts, I studied Voice at the **SKALKOTAS Conservatorium of Music** and with Ms Poppy Petriolis, Classical Guitar at the **KALOMIRIS National Conservatory of Greece** and for which I had to audition once I was there.

Music Composition with composer Timotheos Arvanitakis.

MUSIC TOUR

While in Greece I joined the music group of composer Thomas Bakalakos and toured with him and his band across Greece, including Crete and Macedonia and travelled to perform in Germany and Austria. Some of our concerts were televised.

MUSIC & CULTURAL STUDIES IN AUSTRALIA

At the University of New England, I also undertook studies in Ethnomusicology, Musicology and Greek Cultural subjects (as part of a Master of Letters - incomplete) for two years and completed those units as a miscellaneous student.

MPHIL STUDIES

I was accepted into a degree to do a MPhil at the University of Sydney in 2014-2015 and began my research into Balkan Documentry Film but had to drop out due to illness at the time. My research is the basis for the book to be published on the Balkans.

Artistic Director

Since 1978 I have been involved in the creation of artistic. Musical and performance projects for the original *The Boîte*, From 1998-2011 *The Play Space*, where I provided a space for artists, musicians, poets, writers and performers, mostly of Greek background to express their artforms, which may not have been commercially viable elsewhere.

Alternative theatre and performances

I acted in and wrote the theme music for an experimental film project of a student of mine, Joshua Valageorgiou, and acted as one of the main characters. It was shown at the Palace Cinemas Paddington.

References

Professor Vrasidas Karalis, *Chair of the Department of Modern Greek University of Sydney, 93517252*

Alexandra Missiris, *School Manager School of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering Faculty of Engineering and Information Technologies, 93512470*

Nina Conomos, *N.S.W. Community Languages Schools Program, Coordinator, N.S.W. Department of Education 02 9244 5677*

Professor Ken Cruickshank *Director, Sydney Institute for Community Language Education University of Sydney 93516313*

Associate Professor Nicholas Doumanis, *School of Arts and Social Sciences , University of NSW. 93851705*

