

12th Annual TESOL Greece – HAEF event
Culture in the Classroom



Plenary Speaker: Michelioudakis, Nick

TESOL Presenters: Kaniklidou, Themis; Robbs, Michael; Tziovaras, Theoharis

HAEF Presenters: Avayanou, Malvina; Drimili, Gelly; Giannakopoulou, Marianthi; Harr, Toni; Ioannou, Anna; Kafetzopoulou, Faye; Kagiariou, Kalliope; Kioussi, Fotini; Maniatis, Vicky; Manousselis – Musurakis, Marianne; Marazioti, Alexandra; Papamichalopoulos, Helen

February 16th, 2014

Registration: 9.30 – 10.00

Athens College – Psychico College campus
Stefanou Delta 15, Psychico
Benakeio Building

Entrance is free to TESOL Greece members

9.30 - 10:00 Registration

10:00 – 10:10 Opening Remarks

Maria Vergos, HAEF Interschool English Department Head

10:15 – 11:00 Plenary

Building Bridges: Using Human Universals to Span the Us and Them Divide

Presenter: Nick Michelioudakis

Can you tell the race or ethnicity of a human being by looking at their skeleton? You cannot, can you? Important though cultural differences are, they are a bit like skin and clothes – they lie on the surface; underneath there lies the bedrock of ‘Human Universals’ – we are far more similar to each other than we are different. What is more, there are ways of breaking through people’s prejudices and fear of the ‘other’. Psychology has identified at least 3 elements which we can use in class to increase group cohesion: highlighting similarities; cooperation and (not least) humour!

Nick Michelioudakis (B. Econ., Dip. RSA, MSc [TEFL]) is an Academic Consultant with LEH (the representatives of the Pearson PTE G Exams in Greece). In his years of active involvement in the field of ELT he has worked as a teacher, examiner and trainer for both teachers and Oral Examiners. His love of comedy led him to start the ‘Comedy for ELT’ project on YouTube. He has written numerous articles on Methodology, while others from the ‘Psychology and ELT’ series have appeared in many countries. He likes to think of himself as a ‘front-line teacher’ and is interested in one-to-one teaching and student motivation as well as Social and Evolutionary Psychology. When he is not struggling with students, he likes to spend his time in a swimming pool or playing chess. For articles or handouts of his, you can visit his site at www.michelioudakis.org.

11:00 – 11:45

Cultural Perspectives in a Translation Class

Presenter: Themis Kaniklidou

Culture has been a high-stakes term for decades “courted” by more than one discipline, translation included. This presentation attempts to shed light to culture i) as a domain of investigation and inquiry in a translation class, addressing issues of domestication and foreignization of culture-bound terms (Venuti 2008), ii) as a key component of interaction and co-understanding of the learning experience in contemporary translation classes. While much research has been conducted in terms of the first aspect, the second remains largely underrepresented in the literature. As it will be shown culture has more than one face, particularly when it interfaces with translation which has been identified as a culture-bound activity, especially during the so-called cultural turn in translation studies (Bassnett & Lefevere 1990). This presentation will first look at the specificities and challenges of translating and rewriting culture in the target text environment and then will show how culture can be harnessed as a teaching tool in a translation class.

Themis Kaniklidou obtained her PhD in Translation Studies from the University of Athens where she wrote her Thesis on Narrative Theory and News Translation. She also has an MA in Specialized Translation from the University of Surrey. Since 2002, she has been working as a professional in-house and freelance translator. She is currently teaching translation and interpreting at Hellenic American University.

Examining Culture Through Social Media and Social Movements

Presenters: Marianne Manousselis-Musurakis, Toni Harr

The force of globalization is embedded in our culture, and the Internet, social media, and social networks have significantly altered how humans interact with their environment and with one another. Through the lens of social media, this presentation chronicles an Internet Webquest designed for high school students that illustrates the force of globalization through three very different cultural perspectives. Using published news articles that examine movements like Occupy Wall Street in the United States, the rise of democracy in the Arab world, and Chinese government censorship, students grasp a basic understanding of

how forms of social media, like Facebook, can provide free, instant communication and become catalysts for movements that may change the world.

Marianne Manousselis-Musurakis received her BA in English from the University of Illinois at Chicago in 1991. She has taught one-on-one and at language institutes in Greece, and for the past nine years has been teaching English as a foreign, second and native language at the Psychico College Junior High and High School. As Head of the English Department at Psychico College, she is actively involved in curriculum development that meets the needs and learning styles of today's students.

Toni Harr is a 2013 graduate of Juniata College in Huntingdon, Pennsylvania, with a BA in Liberal Arts and majored in Social Studies Secondary Education. She also possesses a Pennsylvania teaching credential for her content area. Currently she is a Fulbright/HAEF Teaching Fellow at Psychico College Junior High and High School, where she contributes significantly to increase cultural awareness and sensitivity within the English classroom and instruction, one of her particular interests. Upon completion of her fellowship, Toni plans to return to the United States to pursue a career as a secondary level social studies teacher.

11:45 – 12:30

Cross-cultural settings as an opportunity for sustainability education

Presenter: Theoharis Tziovaras

The presence of students from different cultures in the classroom offers unique opportunities for the teaching of sustainability. Sustainability addresses the challenge of meeting current needs without endangering the ability of future generations to meet their own needs, hence is founded on empathy, respect and understanding of the other. All such traits can be developed in a cross-cultural setting, using tools such as non-violent communication. Moreover, many sustainability challenges are transboundary in nature and merit an international approach. Students who experience different cultures have the capacity to develop an understanding of different values, but also to appreciate different approaches and perspectives on a given challenge, thus enriching their problem-solving capacity. Finally, the presence of students from different cultures enables the educator to focus on what unites people

around the world, exploring the universal human needs which need to be met sustainable, today and tomorrow.

Theoharis Tziovaras holds a M.Sc. in Environmental Studies and Sustainability Science from Lund University, Sweden, and a B.Sc. in Psychology from the University of La Verne, Athens Campus. He has worked as a foreign news editor at the Greek newspaper “To Vima”, as a scriptwriter, and as a project manager and scientific consultant at the World Carfree Network. Mr. Tziovaras currently teaches environmental and sustainability science at the Hellenic American College. His main academic interests revolve around the narrative needed in order to facilitate the transition towards a sustainable society.

Stop Translating and Start Thinking in English!

Presenters: Anna Ioannou, Fotini Kioussi, Vicky Maniatis, Helen Papamichalopoulos

“Stop translating and start thinking in English!” said the teacher. How is this possible without bringing culture in the classroom? This is why experts are now claiming that Teaching English through Culture is the “fifth language skill”. This session will show you another level of understanding culture.

Anna Ioannou was born and raised in Toronto, Canada. She has a Bachelor’s Degree in Arts and Science from York University, Canada. She has been trained to translate for the deaf and blind at the Canadian National Institution for the Blind (CNIB), Toronto, Canada. She has been a staff member at HAEF since 1985. She’s been teaching English as a Foreign Language, Second Language and Native Language in the primary school for the last twenty-five years. She has also taught Theatre Arts in the high school for four years and oral skills in the junior high school for three years. Ms. Ioannou has also co-ordinated and taught in the adult continuing education program. She was a Forensics drama coach for over 10 years, specializing in duets. Throughout the years she has directed and produced two high school plays, and written and directed five children’s plays with specific cultural orientation and purpose.

This is her fourth TESOL presentation.

Fotini Kioussi was born in Boston, Massachusetts and holds a Bachelor of Arts and Science Degree in English and Italian Literature. She worked as a tutor teaching Italian at the University of Massachusetts. She moved to Greece in 2004 and taught English at different levels including TOEFL and all certificates in private institutions, and she has also worked as a freelance translator. She worked for a year at Psychico College Junior High and High School before making the transition to the Elementary School where she has been teaching English as Foreign and Second Language for the last five years. Furthermore, she has completed a Harvard Wide World online course on “Teaching to Standards with New Technologies 1.”

Vicki Maniatis was born and raised in Melbourne, Australia. She moved to Greece with her family and continued her studies at the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens by attaining her Bachelor of Arts Degree in English Language and Literature. Her energetic spirit drew her into the classrooms of many schools very early in her teaching years. She has been a teacher at Psychico College Elementary school since 1995 and has taught students of all grades and levels. Throughout her 25 years of teaching both elementary and secondary students, she has attended many educational conventions for professional development and participated in computer seminars. Furthermore, she has completed two Harvard Wide World online courses. The first entitled “Teaching to standards with new Technologies1” and the second, “Differentiating Instruction: Strategies for Teaching English language learners.

Helen Papamichalopoulos was born and raised in Montreal, Canada where she studied both in the English and French system. She holds a Bachelor of Education in TESL from McGill University. She taught English as a second language in high school for three years in Montreal before moving to Greece, where she worked at Express Publishing for three years and wrote English school books. She also taught Essay Writing and Elementary English at New York College, and worked as a freelance translator. She’s been teaching English as a Foreign Language, Second Language and Native Language at Psychico College Elementary for four years. She is one of the coordinators of the English Summer Camp at her school. Additionally, she has completed two Harvard Wide World online courses. One in “Teaching to Standards with New Technologies 1” and the other in, “Differentiating Instruction: Strategies for Teaching English Language Learners”.

Changing Attitudes Through Literature

Presenters: Kalliope Kagiadou, Alexandra Marazioti

As all ESL teachers would agree, language and culture are inseparable. But how often does our teaching encourage students to interpret and develop cultural insights of the target language? In Athens College, we believe that this is a crucial part of our current role as ESL teachers. The ability to grasp hidden cultural elements in language is a necessity for successful communication and interaction between people from different backgrounds. Given that the language we teach shapes our students' way of thinking, this lesson aims not only to analyze literature, but also to promote cultural awareness, cross-cultural competency and to convey the ethnic ties that profoundly influence the way our pupils see the world.

Using cutting-edge technology and an innovative framework to help students master the multidimensional abilities required of them in the 21st century, the presentation will demonstrate classroom activities, practiced mainly in our ESL classrooms in Athens College Junior High School.

Kalliopi Kagiadou holds a BA in English Language and Literature from the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens. Having finished an English High school herself in Johannesburg, South Africa, travelling and teaching English has always been her passion. She has worked mainly as an ESL teacher in Denmark and Spain, while she has dedicated her efforts to integrating modern technologies in everyday classroom practices, in order to enhance student motivation and understanding. For the past 11 years, she has been teaching English in Greece, while she has been a staff member of Athens College Junior High School since 2008. She mainly focuses on educational practices and approaches that develop effective teaching through the "Teaching for Understanding" framework.

Alexandra Marazioti received her BA in English Language and Literature from the University of Athens and her MA in European Languages and Cultural Studies from the University of Bradford, UK. She has been learning foreign languages for as long as she can remember and she is proficient in English and Greek (obviously!), French, Italian and German. Her field of interest lies in sociolinguistics and the cultural elements that need to be integrated in ELT. Since 2005, she has been teaching English

as a Foreign, Second, and Native Language at the Athens College Junior High School, where she also completed a two-year teaching degree within the framework of the “Educating the Educators” program.

12 :30– 13 : 15 Lunch Break

13:15 – 14:00

Crisps and Chips, Pants and Trousers, Rubbers and Erasers? Intercultural Awareness in the EFL Classroom

Presenter: Michael Robbs

This interactive talk will explore (some!) of the issues surrounding intercultural communication in the EFL classroom. We’ll unpack the issue of different Englishes, examine the significance of teaching students to interact with other non native speakers, and discuss the importance of looking at the cultural differences between the students’ mother tongue and English. Participants will be shown practical exercises they can use the next day in their classrooms to raise intercultural awareness, tips they can follow to avoid the pitfalls involved in intercultural communication, and some food for thought on this increasingly relevant subject.

Michael Robbs is from Britain and has lived and worked in Greece for twenty years as an English teacher, Business English teacher, cross cultural trainer and teacher trainer for the Hellenic American Union. His BA is in Psychology and Sociology, and his MA is in TESL/TEFL. He was the 2007 – 2008 Chair of TESOL Greece.

Young Globe Trotters

Presenters: Malvina Avayanou, Gelly Drimili, Marianthi Giannakopoulou, Faye Kafetzopoulou

Our presentation focuses on how to incorporate different cultures into the teaching process. In particular, the first part of the presentation will focus on the 'Around the World in 80 minutes' lessons, aimed at 5-6 year-olds who cannot yet read or write. These lessons take students on a journey around the 6 continents making stops at different countries each time. In the second part the 'Around the UK in 7 days' lessons will be presented. These cater for 6-7 year-olds who have had at least one year of English and are at pre-reading level. Through these lessons students will become familiar with the four countries comprising the UK and be exposed to legends and traditions related to these countries.

Malvina Avayanou has a BA in English Language and Literature (National and Kapodistrian University of Athens) as well as an MA in English Literary Studies (Durham University, UK). She also holds a degree in translation which she attained after completing her studies at the European Centre for the Translation of Literature and the Humanities (Athens). She is an EFL, ESL teacher at Athens College Elementary School and has designed supplementary teaching material – currently used in Grades 1 and 2 EFL & ESL – as well as an extracurricular science programme for Grade 4. She also works as a literary translator for Greek publishing houses.

Gelly Drimili holds a BA in English Language and Literature from the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens and has taken special courses on "Teaching Strategies and Techniques in an EFL/ESL classroom" at the Blackpool and the Fylde College (University of Lancaster, UK). She has attended various seminars, workshops and lectures on Teaching English as a Foreign Language, as well as on Motivating Learners. She started working as an EFL/ESL teacher and Drama teacher in 2005. She also worked as a teacher trainer from 2008 until 2011. She was an oral examiner for Cambridge University and a book editor for "Express Publishing" publishing house. She is an EFL teacher at Athens College Elementary School where she started working in 2011. She is also interested in attending an MA in Educational Leadership (Institute of Education, University of London), starting July 2014.

Marianthi Giannakopoulou holds an MEd in Inclusive Education & Teaching Students with Social Emotional and Behavioural Difficulties (SEBD) (University of Birmingham, UK), a BA in English Language and Literature from the National Kapodistrian University of Athens and a BA in Social Work. She has been an EFL teacher since 1995 and has attended a number of seminars, lectures and workshops related to the field of Didactics. She is particularly interested in the problems that students with learning differences face in the mainstream EFL classes. She holds the position of a learning specialist at Athens College Elementary School, where she runs the program of differentiated instruction for students with LD.

Faye Kafetzopoulou holds an MA in Media and Communications from the University of London, Goldsmiths College, and a BA in English and Greek Language and Literature from the National Kapodistrian University of Athens. She has also successfully completed the postgraduate course by the University of the Peloponnese leading to the Certificate of Pedagogical Instruction (ΠΠΚ), the 'Leading Enquiry-Based Development' course by the University of Cambridge leading to the Postgraduate Certificate in Professional Study as well as the Wide World course Differentiating Instruction: Strategies for Teaching English Language Learners run by the Harvard Graduate School of Education. She has been teaching English in Greece and the UK since 1997 and she currently is an English teachers Athens College Elementary School where teaches EFL and ESL classes as well as designing lesson plans and supplementary material. Lastly, she is an Oral Examiner for Cambridge English and KPG exams and has attended a number of seminars, lectures and workshops in the field of English language teaching.