



HELLENIC AMERICAN EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION  
ATHENS COLLEGE – PSYCHICO COLLEGE

## 16<sup>th</sup> Annual TESOL Greece – HAEF Event

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## Empowering Student Learning Through Engaging Activities

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*Plenary: Kallina Basli*

*HAEF Presenters:*

*Elizbeth Laskaris  
Eleni Paraschopoulou  
Katy Przybylski  
Heather Quirk  
Christopher Zimmer*

*TESOL Presenters:*

*Ioanna Georgakopoulou  
Valia Gotsi  
Jane Mandalios  
Katerina Mantadaki*

February 4, 2018  
10.30 – 14.30

Registration: 10.00 – 10.30

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

***Entrance is free to TESOL Greece members***

**10.00 - 10:30 Registration**

**10.30 - 10:40 Opening Remarks**

**10:40 – 11:30 Plenary**

## **Debating in the Classroom**

**Presenter: Kallina Basli**

Debating develops a wide range of transferable skills, including critical thinking, research and communication skills. It can be used in the classroom both directly for the development of these skills, but also as a student-led method to engage with different topics and parts of the curriculum. This presentation will cover four sections: Reasoning & Evidence, Listening & Response, Organization & Prioritization, and Style & Delivery. All sections will include suggested individual, small group and whole-class activities.

**Kallina Basli** holds a Bachelor's degree in Politics from Queen Mary University of London and a Master's degree in Conflict Studies from the London School of Economics. She is HAEF's Forensics Head Coach, and the coach of Team Greece for the World Schools Debating Championship. She has delivered debate training to students aged 8-22 in over 20 countries, as well as Continuing Professional Development for teachers in the UK.

**11:45 – 12:35 1st Session**

## **Maybe Our Students Need All That Drama After All!**

**Presenters: Ioanna Georgakopoulou and Valia Gotsi**

Drama has undoubtedly been used as a creative tool and a learning medium in the EFL classroom. Together we are going to explore the potential of a story as a springboard for learning, motivation and fun! This is an active workshop so participants are requested to wear comfortable shoes and clothes!

**Ioanna Georgakopoulou** was born in Rochester, NY, USA and followed her passion of studying English Language and Literature (UOA, Greece) and obtained an MA in Drama and Theatre Education (Warwick, UK). She currently works as an EAP/ESP Instructor.

**Valia Gotsi** holds a BA in English Language and Literature, an MA in Drama and Theatre Education and a Diploma in Creative Thinking. She works as an IB English teacher and served on the TESOL Greece board from 2013-2017.

### *Engaging Critical Thinking in Literature through Student-Centered Learning*

**Presenters: Heather Quirk and Katy Przybylski**

Often as teachers we rely on strategies of direct instruction and lecture in our lessons. However, how can we be certain that each of our students is making progress towards their learning goals if we are the ones doing all the talking? This presentation focuses on instructional strategies and learning activities that we have used with the literature in our curriculum. These activities aim to encourage critical thinking by shifting our instructional focus to student participation, rather than teacher participation. By taking a constructivist approach to learning, we hope to engage students with literature through student-centered, hands-on activities.

**Heather Quirk** received her BA in Linguistics at Boston College in 1991 and a Masters in Educational Leadership from the University of London, Institute of Education in 2011. Since 1994, she has been teaching English as a foreign, second, and native language in Athens College High School. She has been actively involved in developing curriculum at all levels and is a strong advocate of student-centered learning, particularly through the use of technology.

**Katy Przybylski** graduated from Washington University in St. Louis with a BA in English Literature and Secondary Education. Currently, she is a Fulbright Fellow at Athens College High School. As a creative thinker, Katy's focus in the classroom is to increase the use of collaborative learning opportunities and engaging activities for students.

### *Creativity: Thinking Outside The Box Of Prescribed Lesson Plans!*

**Presenter: Eleni Paraschopoulou**

This workshop is targeted towards English teachers who seek creative ideas to implement in class. The participants will be introduced to a plethora of teaching strategies and through experiential learning they will be encouraged to use them in their teaching context. There will be a

wide variety of activities from which the participants will benefit, while their experience and knowledge will be taken into account using critical thinking and interaction between them.

**Eleni Paraschopoulou** has a BA in English Language with Linguistics from The University of Sheffield, as well as from the Kapodistrian University of Athens. Prior to coming to Psychico College as an Elementary school English teacher, she was PYP Coordinator, and served as Head of the English Department, at the International School of Piraeus. She has 20 years of teaching experience in various teaching contexts working in private schools, foreign language institutes and private tutoring.

**12:35 – 13:20 Lunch**

**13:30 – 14:20 2nd Session**

### ***Developing Communicative Language Competence***

**Presenter: Katerina Mantadaki**

The goal of language teaching is developing communicative language competence. Competences consist of essential skills, knowledge, attitudes and behaviour required for effective performance of a real-world activity. The speaker will focus on ways to maximise the effectiveness of realistic, meaningful input and suggest classroom techniques that will successfully turn this into output.

**Katerina Mantadaki O.TR.**, is an Educator, a Teacher Trainer and an Educational Consultant.

### ***Gatsbesia: Adding Creativity and Active Learning to our Interdisciplinary Language & Literature Class***

**Presenters: Elizabeth Laskaris and Christopher Zimmer**

The Gatsbesia project injected student creativity and critical thinking into the 11<sup>th</sup> grade *History Through Literature* course as they embarked on the last unit of the year, the Progressive Era. The *History Through Literature* students were tasked with creating advertisements that reflected the economy, production, and marketing strategies of “The Roaring 1920s.” In this talk, Ms. Laskaris and Mr. Zimmer will detail the creation of the Gatsbesia project in their interdisciplinary language and literature class, and show how project work can lead to deeper student understanding of the relevant concepts taught.

**Elizabeth Laskaris** holds two Bachelor of Arts degrees in English Literature, from Deree College and Kapodistrian University of Athens, and a Master's Degree in Literature and Modernity from the University of Warwick. Ms. Laskaris has diverse experience in teaching English from elementary to university level; her true love, however, lies in literature, where she aims to share her passion with her students. By incorporating authentic tasks into her syllabi, Ms. Laskaris gives them the opportunity to apply knowledge acquired in the classroom to real life situations.

**Christopher Zimmer** is a Fulbright Fellow in the Psychico High School English Department, where he helps teach English Literature, Current Events, and *History Through Literature* courses. Prior to coming to Greece, Mr. Zimmer studied Political Science, History, and Educational Psychology at the University of South Dakota. Mr. Zimmer holds U.S. Government, World History, and U.S. History teaching certifications for the State of South Dakota.

### ***Students as Teachers: The Ultimate Empowerment!***

**Presenter: Jane Mandalios**

The speaker will share her recent experiences with ***student-led seminars***, where students take on the role and responsibilities of teachers for part of a course. This is a new and successful feature of an MA TESOL course, and has very relevant applications for general EFL/ESL classes.

**Jane Mandalios** teaches at the American College of Greece – Deree. Before coming to Greece, she spent 25 years in tertiary education in the Arab world (Libya, and then Dubai).