

## **Dr. Ioannis Karras**

**Title:** *Culture-Intercultural Communication and its fundamental principles*

**Seminar Description:** This seminar will provide an overview of the key notions of culture. It will examine the importance of cultural awareness and cultural understanding through various cultural dimensions. Moreover, it will cover key concepts and principles of intercultural communication. Examples of how communication is impacted in a culturally diverse milieu will be provided. How culture influences verbal and non-verbal communication will be discussed. Other focus areas include culture shock, cultural stereotypes and prejudices will be covered.

**Bionote:** Dr. Ioannis Karras holds a B.A. in English and a B.A. in Linguistics from the University of Calgary, Canada; an M.Ed. in TEFL from the HOU, Greece, an M.Sc. in Intercultural Communication from the University of Warwick, UK and a Ph.D. in Applied Linguistics, from the University of Athens, Greece. He is a tenure-track Asst. Professor at the Ionian University (Dept. of Foreign Languages Translation & Interpreting), where he teaches undergraduate courses and supervises doctoral theses and he is a Tutor on the M.Ed. programme of the Hellenic Open University, Greece. Ioannis Karras has worked as a lecturer at the Universities of Thessaly, Patras and Piraeus, the Technological Education Institute of Patras as well as the New York College of Athens. The courses he has taught range from TEFL, Literature, Discourse Studies and Applied Linguistics to Intercultural and Business Communication. He teaches at all levels (BA, MA, PhD). He has also delivered lectures at universities in Finland, Italy, Turkey, Russia and Bulgaria. Moreover, he has been involved in teacher training and has participated in many Comenius and other European research projects. Finally, he has published articles in the areas of teaching methodology, applied linguistics and intercultural communication and has delivered numerous talks at national and international conferences.

## **Prof. Dr. Anastasia Parianou**

**Title:** *Language Attitudes, Culture, Identity and Power or Us and the Others*

**Seminar Description:** Language attitudes affect a continuum constituted by language, society and culture as its central notions. Language attitudes are actually the feelings people have about their own language or the languages of others, and further defined, as the individuals' psychological construction regarding their own language and/or the languages of others. Because the political, cultural or economic situation of a country may change at any time, language attitudes are also changing and may produce a different language status among its speakers and/or potential speakers. As a consequence, the changing speaker's attitude as a non-linguistic parameter of the political, social and cultural contexts is a very important topic in language attitude studies and affects language status with its niches and needs.

We will examine the different components coming from different scholars, which determine a language's status and power with regard to language production e.g. in major and minor languages, cultures and literatures as well as domain loss in scientific writing.

**Bionote:** Anastasia Parianou has a degree in Translation Studies from Heidelberg University, a DEA in translation studies from Paris X-Nanterre, and a PhD in Translation Studies from the Ionian University in Corfu. She is Professor and teaches Technical Translation (DE>EL and EL>DE), Intercultural Specialized Communication, Theory of Interpreting and Community Interpreting in the undergraduate course of the Department of Foreign Languages, Translation and Interpreting (DFLTI) at the Ionian University. In the MA course of the DFLTI she currently teaches Theory and Methodology of Translation. Her main areas of research and publication are on Technical

Translation, Specialized Translation and Risk Communication, Translation between Major and Minor Languages, Interpreting, Phraseology Studies and Name Studies. She has published three monographs, numerous articles and has co-edited three international anthologies on translation studies. Moreover, she has participated in European research projects, programmes and seminars, e.g. WISSTRANS Erasmus Programme (Norway, 2006-2014), PACTE Group Project (Barcelona), MUST Project (Louvain), Text Analysis and Translation (Norway). Finally, she is co-editing the international translation journal *mTm*.

### **Dr. Julia A. Spinthourakis**

**Title:** *So you think you know about culture and diversity in communication!*

**Seminar Description:** In this seminar we will look at the role 'culture' plays in intercultural communication. The seminar will have both theoretical and experiential elements. Beginning with a historical review towards understanding culture and the role it has played through history in terms of communication, we will move onto identifying the determinant of culture and how they relate to one's identity and how that colors what and how we see things. Experiential activities geared towards enabling the participants to understand their cultural and social identities and how these play critical roles in successful intercultural communication.

**Bionote:** Dr. Julia A. Spinthourakis a dual national, she is 4th generation American via her maternal heritage (Czech, Slovak, Hungarian, Romanian & Greek) and first generation Greek via her paternal heritage (Greek). Her first language is English, her second Greek and she has reading knowledge of French and Spanish. She holds a BA in History and Social Sciences, an MA in Counseling and a PhD in Multilingual & Multicultural Education. Her research interests lie in the area of language, identity, culture and teacher education. She seeks to understand how these coalesce to enhance or impede one's ability to effectively work in multicultural and multilingual environments.

She has worked with immigrant and refugee programs, taught in primary and secondary schools in the United States as well as in tertiary education in both traditional and distance educational environments in the United States and Europe, most recently as a full Professor at the University of Patras, Greece. With numerous publications, seminars and presentations her work focuses on the how and why, seeking to meld theory with effective practice.

### **Dr. Vasilios Zorbas**

**Title:** *At the crossroads: Intercultural awareness through literature*

**Seminar Description:** This two-day hands-on, interactive workshop centers on raising intercultural awareness by weaving the cultural, linguistic and thematic strands of world literature into a multicultural tapestry, working within the theoretical framework of reader-response criticism, transformative learning and diversity.

**Bionote:** Vasilios Zorbas obtained a B.A and M.A in English Literature from New York University. He then furthered his graduate studies at the English department of Columbia University (Teachers College) where he pursued an Ed.M in TESOL and completed his graduate work with an Ed.D in English Education specializing in Educational Drama. As an NYC permanent licensed English teacher (with tenure), he taught English language, literature and drama courses. He also taught English Education courses at Hunter College and was a research associate at the *Research Centre*

*for English Language Teaching, Testing and Assessment* of the University of Athens. Currently, he teaches at the Hellenic Open University. His main research interests are: Drama in Education, Alternative Forms of Assessment, Curriculum Design and Teacher Education, Qualitative Research. He has publications in these areas in local and international journals.