



23rd Annual TESOL Greece - Athens College Event
***Fostering Engagement through
Progressive Instructional Strategies***



Plenary Speaker: *Evangelia Karagianni*

Athens College Presenters

Mary Efthymiou
Marina Seitanidis
Maria Tanti
Mia Tierney

TESOL Greece Presenters

Maria Diavati
Natassa Manitsa
Alexandra Thanou
Nick Dellas

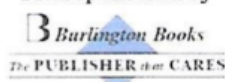
Sunday, 9 February 2025
9:30 – 15:30

Registration starts at 09:00

Athens College campus
Stefanou Delta 15, Psychico
Athens College Theater

Entrance is free to TESOL Greece members

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09:00 - 09:30 **Registration**

09:30 - 09:40 **Opening Remarks**

09:40 - 10:25 **Plenary Presentation**

Taming Task Overload: Tips for Teachers and Tactics for Learners

Plenary Speaker: *Evangelia Karagianni (TESOL Greece)*

Summary: This presentation addresses the growing challenge of task overload for both teachers and learners in today's educational environment. Educators will gain practical tips for streamlining lesson planning, prioritizing high-impact activities, and implementing efficient workflows to reduce stress and enhance student engagement. Learners will benefit from strategies like task chunking, single-tasking, and goal-setting to improve focus and manage cognitive load. By balancing productivity with purposeful learning, this talk aims to empower attendees to transform overwhelm into opportunity, fostering a classroom environment that supports sustainable, effective learning.

Evangelia Karagianni holds a Ph.D. in Teacher Development and an M. Ed. in TEFL. She has taught English in state Primary Schools for more than 25 years and she is currently serving as an ELT Education Advisor in East Attica. She also teaches the module of Educational Technology at the Hellenic Open University Master's programme. She is an IKY and a Fulbright scholar.

10:30 - 11:00 ***Metamorphosis: Evolving CLIL for Metaskill Mastery***

Presenter: *Maria Diavati (TESOL Greece)*

Summary: This 30-minute workshop explores how Content and Language Integrated Learning (CLIL) can foster metaskills such as critical thinking, collaboration, communication, and problem-solving. Participants will discover practical examples and strategies for implementing CLIL effectively, alongside resources like CLIL Portfolios to enhance metaskill development in their curricula for 21st-century learners.

Maria Diavati has a bachelor's degree in English literature from the National Kapodistrian University of Athens and a Master's degree in TESOL. She is certified in both Cert-TESOL and DipTESOL and has recently obtained her MBA in Educational Leadership from the University of Cumbria. Maria serves as an author, material developer, teacher trainer, and academic coordinator at two Foreign Language Schools in Athens. Her research primarily centers on CLIL and her findings have been published.

11:00 - 11:30 ***Redefining Progress: The Transformative Power of Going Back to Basics***

Presenter: *Mary Efthymiou (Psychico College Elementary School)*

Guest speaker: *Elena Marinopoulou (Psychico College Elementary School)*

Summary: In a world where technology challenges traditional learning, how can we reignite students' love for reading and critical thinking? This session explores how literature can engage young learners in meaningful ways. Through the lens of a 6th-grade novel study guide, discover how engaging texts can inspire curiosity and deepen understanding, proving that progressive education isn't limited to technology but thrives through creativity and connection.

Mary Efthymiou has been an English teacher for the past 28 years, 19 of which at Athens College. Before that, she had dipped her toes in different trades, such as concert, documentary and TV production, graphic design, and the theater. This experience, along with her background in Media Studies, have provided her with an array of teaching tools that render her school life quite stimulating, albeit a tad hectic!

11:30 - 12:00 ***Mindset Reset: Reimagining Education & Assessment with Art, SEL, and Philosophy***

Presenter: *Natassa Manitsa (TESOL Greece)*

Summary: Based on research, this presentation explores how incorporating philosophical methods and artistic expressions, alongside Social-Emotional Learning (SEL), transforms education. Through engaging examples, educators will discover activities that promote creativity, critical thinking, and emotional intelligence, resulting in holistic development and personal growth beyond traditional assessments.

Natassa Manitsa (BA, MSc, MA, DipTrans) is an English educator and marketing specialist with expertise in English, Translation, School Psychology, Philosophy & Arts, and Communication & Marketing. Founder of EduMarketing Agency and co-founder of EdSkills Academy, she co-authored two educational books, contributing significantly to academic excellence.

12:00 - 12:15 **Coffee Break**

12:15 - 12:45 ***A High School English Teacher's Guide to Surviving AI***

Presenter: *Marina Seitaniadis (Athens College High School)*

Summary: This presentation will discuss the challenges involved in teaching the responsible use of AI to high school students. Is AI used in schools around the world currently? What do educators know about AI? What questions do students have? What are the benefits and limitations of AI? How can educators help students use AI correctly? Research, discussions with colleagues, and a series of real classroom lessons provide some insight into the challenges of AI in education.

Marina Seitaniadis holds a BA in English Language and Literature from the National Kapodistrian University of Athens and an MA in Communication from the European University in Montreux, Switzerland. With 13 years of experience teaching English as a second language at Athens College High School, she focuses on enhancing her students' language, collaboration, digital literacy and critical thinking skills through a diverse range of literature, including both fiction and non-fiction texts. She is particularly interested in strategies that encourage self-directed learning, such as goal-setting, self-assessment, and fostering a growth mindset.

12:45 - 13:15 ***From Input to Impact: Rethinking Engagement in Receptive Skills Lessons***

Presenter: *Alexandra Thanou (TESOL Greece)*

Summary: How do we keep students engaged in an era of constant distractions? This session explores practical ways to transform receptive skills lessons into interactive, dynamic experiences that sustain focus and deepen learning. Through hands-on participation and collaboration, we will experiment with strategies that encourage active engagement, strengthen retention, and enhance the learning process in ways that go beyond traditional approaches, making lessons more impactful and responsive to the needs of today's learners.

"As an experienced Education Specialist, **Alexandra Thanou** integrates innovative teaching methodologies with practical, research-informed strategies to enhance student engagement and learning outcomes. Holding dual MAs from the University of Warwick, a CELTA, and Cambridge certifications as a Teacher Trainer and Examiner, she focuses on designing interactive, high-impact lessons that make learning more meaningful and effective. Passionate about bridging theory and practice, her work centers on fostering student participation, improving retention, and creating dynamic classroom experiences that adapt to the evolving needs of learners."

13:15 - 13:45 ***Empowering Students: Navigating Fake News and Building Media Literacy Skills***

Presenters: *Maria Tanti* (Athens College Library)
Mia Tierney (Fulbright Scholar)

Summary: This presentation provides an overview of the Grade 7 library orientation program, focusing on developing essential media literacy skills and addressing the challenges of fake news. It highlights the critical importance of teaching students to evaluate information, identify credible sources, and recognize misinformation. By fostering collaboration between teachers and the library, the program aims to equip students with the tools needed for thoughtful and informed engagement in today's information landscape as well as academic success.

Maria Tanti, holds a BA in English Language and Literature from the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens and an MSc in Information and Library Studies from the University of Strathclyde in Glasgow, Scotland. She has also acquired an MA in Educational Leadership from the Institute of Education, University College London. She has been working as a school librarian at the Athens-Psychico College library since 2007.

Mia Tierney holds a BA in English Literature from the University of Portland in Portland, Oregon. She is currently a Fulbright Fellow to Greece, working as an English Teaching Assistant in the Athens-Psychico College Library. Before the fellowship, Mia worked as a Paraeducator in Beaverton, Oregon, helping students develop their literacy and math skills. She also worked as a circulation desk assistant in the Clark Library at the University of Portland.

13:45 - 14:15 ***Supporting Teachers in Multitasking Environments: Promoting Well-Being, Productivity, and Professional Growth***

Presenter: *Nick Dellas* (TESOL Greece)

Summary: Discover how to thrive as an educator in today's demanding multitasking environment! This session dives into practical strategies for fostering teacher well-being, boosting productivity, and encouraging professional growth. With insights from both teaching and leadership perspectives, you'll gain actionable tools to create fulfilling, balanced, and supportive workspaces for educators at every level.

Nick Dellas is the founder and owner of CHRONOS, a foreign language school focused on delivering high-quality language education. Together with a team of 40 skilled teachers, Nick fosters a vibrant, interactive environment where students not only enhance their language proficiency but also develop essential soft skills, preparing them for real-world communication and success.

14:15 - 15:30 **Lunch & TESOL Greece Pitta Cutting**

