9



Alumni Network Launch Department of English Language and Literature National and Kapodistrian University of Athens

Friday 13th June 2025, 18:30 AULA – School of Philosophy, Zographos Campus

Welcome and Opening Remarks

Anna Despotopoulou, Professor Head of the Department of English Language and Literature

Alumni Reflections

- 1. Anastasia Spyropoulou, Chief Editor of ELT NEWS
- 2. Athanasios Dimakis, Adjunct Lecturer in English Literature, NKUA
- 3. Spiros Papageorgiou, *Principal Measurement Scientist, Educational Testing Service* (Video)
- 4. Eirini Arnaouti, English Teacher, Evangeliki Model High School of Smyrna
- 5. Danae Loukaki, Actor, Director, Translator
- 6. Anastasia Charchalioti, @thebookorchestra (Video)
- 7. Vasiliki Makri, Adjunct Lecturer in Linguistics, NKUA
- 8. Iné Alexakis, @Iné Alexakis
- 9. Kika Kyriakakou, PCAI Artistic Director, Curator of PCAI Art Collection (Video)
- 10. Alba Proko, Head of Audio Publishing, Bookouture (Hachette UK) (Video)
- 11. Anastasios Stefos, co-owner of "Mr. Alex" English Language School
- 12. Panagiotis Panagiotou, Dioptra Publishing

Reception – Open Mic

Share your story. Stay in touch.

Event organization: Anna Despotopoulou, Angelos Evangelou, Trisevgeni Liontou. Special thanks to Angie Kanellopoulou for her work on all Alumni promotional material.

Participants' bios

Anastasia Spyropoulou holds degrees in English Language and Literature as well as History and Archaeology from the NKUA. She has extensive experience teaching English across all levels and age groups in the private sector and serves as the Chief Editor of *ELT NEWS*, a monthly publication that has been part of the ELT scene in Greece since 1989.

Athanasios Dimakis holds an MA from Goldsmiths College, University of London, and a Ph.D. from the English Department NKUA. He conducted postdoctoral research for the project "Hotels and the Modern Subject, 1890-1940" (<u>https://hotems.enl.uoa.gr/</u>), funded by the Hellenic Foundation for Research & Innovation and hosted by the English Department. He currently teaches literature as Adjunct Lecturer at the English Department, while he is also Vice-President of the International Durrell Society.

Spiros Papageorgiou is a Principal Measurement Scientist at Educational Testing Service (ETS). He specializes in research on the assessment of English as a foreign language and coordinates the research program for the TOEFL test. He has also served on the boards of the International Language Testing Association (ILTA) and the Midwest Association of Language Testers (MwALT).

Eirini Arnaouti (PhD in Media Education) is an English teacher, a member of the Scientific Supervisory Council, Coordinator in Foreign Languages, Erasmus+ and IB Diploma Programme Coordinator at the Evangeliki Model High School of Smyrna. She also works as a teacher trainer and participates in projects of the Institute of Educational Policy. She runs the Cinema Club of her school, presents and publishes her work on media education and moving image literacy.

Danae Loukaki holds an MA in Performance Making from Goldsmiths College, University of London and is also a graduate of Theatro Technis, Karolos Koun Art Theatre. She has directed and acted in performances in Greece, London, and the Edinburgh Fringe. She starred in the series *Agries Melisses* by Ant1 TV and is now starring in *Electra* by ERT. In May 2025, she starred in *Tiny Beautiful Things* alongside Nia Vardalos at Pallas Theatre. She also translated Simon Stephens's *Vanya*, currently staged in Athens.

Anastasia Charchalioti is an MA student in Contemporary Theory, Literature and Culture at King's College London. Her academic interests include Marxist theory of social reproduction, affect theory and contemporary feminist fiction. Outside of academia she manages an Instagram account, @thebookorchestra dedicated to book reviews and recommendations. She works as a restaurant manager at Ottolenghi in London.

Vasiliki Makri is a linguistics scholar specializing in morphology, language contact, language change, and variation, holding degrees from NKUA, the University of Patras, and Guglielmo Marconi University. Formerly a post-doctoral researcher at the University of the Aegean, she is currently an Adjunct Lecturer at the NKUA's Department of English Language and Literature.

Iné Alexakis is a Corporate Educator, Communication & Marketing Strategist, entrepreneur, and resident plot twister. Passionate about self-actualization, she brings her innovator spirit into both education and the corporate world. Iné empowers professionals to show up as their full selves and connect authentically, while helping businesses find their soul. She loves a good pun with her name–but means businéss.

Kika Kyriakakou holds a PhD on Virginia Woolf and contemporary art from the University of Athens (Department of Communication and Media Studies). She is the Artistic Director of PCAI, an international contemporary art collection and institution dedicated to environmental consciousness using art as a vehicle. She has worked as a curator, a cultural manager and an arts editor for more than fifteen years.

Alba Proko holds an MA in Publishing from University College London. She has been in the UK book publishing industry for over a decade, working on bestselling and award-winning books including *The Housemaid* (Freida McFadden), *Phantasma* (Kaylie Smith), *My Thoughts Exactly* (Lily Allen). She's based in London, UK.

Anastasios Stefos holds an MSc in Literature and Modernity from the University of Edinburgh and has been teaching English as a foreign language for 10 years at his own language school, "Mr. Alex". He attended the SUISS 2015 and Tsinghua 2017 International Summer Schools (with scholarships), and he was also Undergraduate Scholar of the Foundation Αφών Ζωσιμά.

Panagiotis Panagiotou graduated from the Department in 2024 and is now working at Dioptra Publishing in Athens as assistant rights and acquisition editor, working with books that he loves.