

Maria Katsantoni**Grade – Institution:** Associate Professor – School of Humanities – Hellenic Open University**Subject Area:** *Teaching French as a Foreign Language: development of language and communication skills, and assessment of written and oral language***Email to:** mkatsantoni@eap.gr

Maria Katsantoni is a permanent member of the Teaching and Research Staff and an Associate Professor in the School of Humanities at the Hellenic Open University in the subject area of *Teaching French as a Foreign Language: development of language and communication skills, and assessment of written and oral language*. Since March 2021, she has been serving as Director of the Postgraduate Study Programme titled “Teaching French as a Foreign Language”, as Coordinator of the GAL 10 Thematic Unit (TU) and also as Coordinator of the GAL 11, GAL 20 and GAL 21 single-departmental TUs. She holds a degree in French and Greek Language and Literature awarded by the University of Athens, and during her last semester she specialised in the field of *Teaching Languages and Cultures* (Vrije Universiteit van Amsterdam) as part of the EU Erasmus/Lingua programme. She holds two (2) master’s degrees: *DEA* in Language Sciences and Translation (Université Sorbonne Nouvelle Paris 3) and *DESS* in the field of Social Sciences and Management (Department of History, Geography, Sociology), specialising in the Sociology of Culture and Cultural Planning (Université Paris Ouest Nanterre La Défense). In 2003 she obtained a PhD in *Language Sciences* from the University of Sorbonne Nouvelle Paris 3, while a large part of her PhD thesis was carried out at Brown University on Rhone Island in the USA (2001) on a scholarship granted by the French State, the focus being on postmodern writing practices (polyphony - dialogism - hybrid writing).

She has a long and multifaceted teaching background (2003-2022), and an international presence at Universities in Greece and abroad, including the University of Cyprus (2003-2004), the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens (2004-2011), the Paris Sorbonne-Paris IV University (2009-2014), Paris-Ouest Nanterre La Défense University (2015) and the Hellenic Open University (2004-2022).

In the framework of Open and Distance Learning, she has been collaborating with the Hellenic Open University on a steady basis from 2004 to date, initially as a member of Collaborating Teaching Staff (2004-2016) in the Postgraduate Study Programme titled “Postgraduate Specialisation of French Language Teachers” in the GAL 50 TU “*Planning Lessons and Syllabi for Teaching French*”, while at the same time participating in the TU “*Supervision of Postgraduate Diploma Theses*”, and from 2016 to 2021 she also collaborated on the Joint Postgraduate Study Programme in “Creative Writing” (Joint Degree) offered by the Hellenic Open University and the University of Western Macedonia in the DGR 50 and DGR 53 TUs. She was given a grant by the Hellenic Open University via the Erasmus+ mobility programme for academic staff and researchers, in order to teach written communication skills and, in particular, professional writing skills in the Postgraduate Study Programme (Master II Pro) *Écrifore* (Écriture - Formation - Remédiation), in the fields of *Éducation-Médiation Culturelle-Ressources Humaines* at Paris-Ouest Nanterre La Défense University.

She served as a salaried scientific associate (2005-2007) in the research programme implemented by the Academy of Athens for the publication of the *Dictionary of Modern Greek Usage* (2014), as part of which she contributed to the translation and compilation of demanding entries and neologisms from French to Greek, and also in the research programme (2007-2009) implemented by the Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs – Operational Programme “Education and Initial Vocational Training”-EPEAEK (PE02 Language Proficiency Assessment and Certification System – Department of English Language and Literature at the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens – in terms of implementing the standard methodology for assessing foreign language proficiency as regards the French Language – National Foreign Language Exam System (KPG)). She actively took part in the Programme for the Reform of Undergraduate Study Programmes (Undergraduate Study Programme Reform – EPEAEK 2007-2008) implemented by the Department of French Language and Literature at the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, and also submitted a proposal to introduce the innovative – at that time – module of *Creative Writing and Reading* to the Department. She recently (2022) served as event coordinator for Greece in the framework of the initiative titled *RELANG Relating foreign language curricula, tests and examinations to the CEFR and its Companion Volume* implemented by the European Centre for Modern Languages of the Council of Europe (ECLM/CELV).

She has an international presence and considerable participation in conferences, public lectures and trainings in Greece and abroad, while her extensive, original and independent studies have been published in Greek and international scientific journals, conference proceedings and edited volumes. Her research fields and interests focus on the study and teaching of French, the development and assessment of written and oral communication skills, the relation between writing and reading in the school and academic community, the analysis of literary and non-literary narratives through interdisciplinary views that relate to text-linguistic, pragmatic, narratological and pedagogical approaches. She has edited and published the edited volume titled *Sentiers d’écriture* published in 2013 (pp. 205), which presents pedagogical techniques for the production of written creative language.