

Anastasia Nikolopoulou
Associate Professor
Department of English Studies
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Short Biography

Anastasia Nikolopoulou is an Associate Professor in the Department of English Studies and the current Dean of the School of Humanities at the University of Cyprus. She is also the Chair of the Language Center Board at the University of Cyprus. She was Chair of the Department of English Studies (then Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures, 1998-2002) and served as Dean of the School of Humanities from September 2008 to May 2010. Nikolopoulou received her BA from the University of California, Santa Barbara (1984), and her MA and PhD from Cornell University (1987,1990). Prior to pursuing scholarly studies, Nikolopoulou trained and performed as an actor. A graduate of the Pelos Katselis Drama School in Athens, Greece (1978) she performed with the Greek Theatre, the National Greek Theatre (Arma Thespidos) and with Christos Pittas on Sophocles' *Electra* in Aspasia Papathanasiou's *Desmoi* (1978-1980). Before coming to the University of Cyprus (1997) she taught courses in theatre history, cultural studies, and English literature at the College of Wooster (1990-1994) and at the National Central University in Taiwan (1994-1997) where she also directed plays by Moliere and Ibsen.

Research Interests

Nikolopoulou's research interests focus on theatre history and cultural studies; eighteenth- and nineteenth-century studies; literary hermeneutics; transdisciplinary approaches to environmental studies; and refugee communities and higher education.

Current Project 2017: Rebuilding Refugee Communities

Nikolopoulou organized the workshop Rebuilding Refugee Communities (2-3 October 2017) in collaboration with Kilian Kleinschmidt (www.Switzboard.org) and representatives from EU and US educational and entrepreneurial platforms www.SPARK-online.org (Netherlands), www.KIRON.ngo (Germany), and www.RBK.org (Jordan, US).

Online courses: The project Rebuilding Refugee Communities aims to build a consortium of universities that will collaborate with the University of Cyprus and the Open University of Cyprus to offer online courses to refugees and develop related initiatives in the areas of demand: languages, engineering, business, computer science, social work.

Theatre for refugees: An offshoot of the project Rebuilding Refugee Communities under consideration is the development of a network of theatre academies and departments of theatre studies in the region. This initiative aims to use theatre to develop capacity-building skills among young refugees.

Awards and Past Research Projects

European Commission funding and UNESCO awards.

Nikolopoulou is the recipient of two UNESCO Participation Program Awards (2007 and 2009) for organizing conferences and research activities on sustainable development and higher education: A) “Shared Visions and Futures: Education for Sustainable Development across Disciplines and Cultures” (2007); This project was organized in collaboration with the Pedagogical Institute of the Cyprus Ministry of Education and Culture; The Cyprus Ministry of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environment; the Mediterranean Information Office for the Environment, Culture and Sustainable Development; and the Dialogue Chair in Middle Eastern Studies (University of Nicosia). B) The 2009 event “The Geography of the Human: Reflecting on Science and Technology as Parts of a Humanistic Education” was also joined by faculty from Stellenbosch University (Philosophy), Mykolas Romeris University (Faculty of Law), Queen’s University Belfast (Geography), Notre Dame University, Louaize, Lebanon (Engineering) and the Council of Europe Education Department Secretary.

In 2005, with generous funding opportunity granted by the Nehru Memorial Museum and Library in New Delhi, India, Nikolopoulou organized, with Dr. Taisha Abraham (University of New Delhi), a conference on higher education and sustainable development at this institution.

In 2010 Nikolopoulou organized the Erasmus Intensive Program “Reconfiguring Values and Knowledge for Sustainable Communities.” This initiative received funding from the European Commission and IDEP Cyprus (Foundation for the Management of EU Lifelong Learning Programmes) to run as a Summer Graduate School for three years (2011-2013). The Summer School was open to students from all disciplines and focused on major issues pertaining to environmental studies and sustainable development. The Summer School was housed in the beautiful village of Agros, at Rodon Hotel. The consortium comprised faculty from the Departments of Civil and Environmental Engineering and Architecture (University of Cyprus); the Faculty of Law and the Department of Environmental Management and Strategic Policy (Mykolas Romeris University) and the School of Geography, Archaeology and Palaeocology (Queen’s University Belfast). Representatives of Agros Youth Organization, Troodos Development Company, and the Cyprus Chamber of Commerce and Industry also joined the workshops. www.ucy.ac.cy/erasmus-ip.

Teaching Activities

Nikolopoulou has taught the following courses at the University of Cyprus.

- Introduction to Theatre
- Modern Drama
- Outcasts and Nineteenth Century Melodrama
- Literature and the Care of the Self
- Literature and the Art of Living (Graduate/Undergraduate)
- Literature and Technologies of the Self
- Imagined Worlds: The Nineteenth Century (Graduate)
- Cultural Representations: Class, Gender, and Slavery in Eighteenth and Nineteenth Centuries
- Restoration and Eighteenth Century Drama
- Gothic Representations of the Orient
- Studies in the Gothic: The Politics of Fear
- Historical and Ideological Transformations in the Nineteenth Century (Graduate).

Selected Publications

Education for Sustainable Development: Challenges, Strategies, and Practices in a Globalizing World. Anastasia Nikolopoulou, Taisha Abraham, Farid Mirbagheri. New Delhi and London, Sage, 2010, 260+pp. E-book, Sage Knowledge, 2012.

The Aesthetics and Ideology of Melodrama: Generic and Cultural Transformations (in Greek). Co-edited with Savas Patsalides. Thessaloniki, Greece: University Studio Press, Aristotle University, 2001. 743 pp.

Melodrama: The Cultural Emergence of a Genre. Co-edited with Michael Hays. New York: St. Martin's Press, 1996, 1999. 285 pp. Reissued in paperback, Palgrave, MacMillan, 1999, 304 pp. Reviews: *Choice*, *Theatre Journal*, *Theatre Survey*, *Henry Street*.

Conference Presentations

Nikolopoulou has presented conference papers on nineteenth-century theatre and cultural studies, environmental studies and higher education, eighteenth- and nineteenth-century century popular culture, melodrama, artisan culture and aesthetics, and gothic studies. Recent papers include “Environmental Studies and the Future of the University” (Interdisciplinary Research Foundation, Warsaw, May 2017), “Radical Orientalism, Aesthetic Alienation and Artisan Culture, 1790-1850” (Interdisciplinary Research Foundation, Warsaw, October 2016), “Multitude, Spectacle, and Academic Criticism” (Fifth Anglo-Italian Eighteenth Century Conference, University of York, September 2015), and “Thomas Spence and the Interpretive Commons 1750-1814” (University of Toulouse, November 2014).