

Eleni Vryza
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EDUCATION:

- 2007 M.A. Loyola University Chicago
Educational and Cultural Policy Studies
- 2005 M.Ed. The College of New Jersey, Cyprus and Spain campuses
Master Teacher (Secondary)
- 2002 B.F.A. Four Year Certificate Central Academy of Drama, Beijing, China
Dramatic Literature
Additionally, completed one academic year of graduate coursework including Ancient Chinese drama, Chinese puppets, and Beijing opera and four years of Beijing opera mask making and movement studies
- 1991 B.A. Swarthmore College, Swarthmore, PA
Theater Studies and English Literature

ACADEMIC HONORS AND GRANTS:

Second in the national exams graded by Greek University professors on American literature and civilization for graduate study abroad, Greek State Graduate Scholarship Agency, 1997
University of Innsbruck scholarship, year long language and civilization study in Innsbruck, Austria, September 1988-June 1989
Universite Paris IV-La Sorbonne grant, summer language and civilization study in Paris, France, summer 1989
Swarthmore Foundation Grant, community outreach in greater Philadelphia-multicultural storytelling and student-created performances in libraries, museums, and schools in Chester, Swarthmore, and Philadelphia, summer 1991

PUBLICATIONS, CREATIVE WORK:

"The State of Chinese Education" approved for publication in the journal Eastern Studies in August 2006.
Two one-act plays in Chinese-The Sea and My Mom's Apartment. Also, When We Were Young, a play based on the homonymous short story by Eileen Chang and the life of Eva Xiao, Jewish filmmaker and wife of poet and revolutionary Xiao San ; translation of Greek theater and world dramatic literature to Chinese (including Sam Shepard's one act play, Rock Garden; first translation in Chinese), The Central Academy of Drama, 2002.

PRESENTATIONS, MEETING ABSTRACTS:

"Nel Noddings' and Paulo Freire's pedagogies of the heart,"
"Dialogues in Faith and Study: An Interdisciplinary Academic Conference Exploring Faith in the Sciences, the Humanities, and the Professions," Loyola University Chicago, October 2006.
"American Indians and Vlahoi from the Balkans,"
32nd Annual Bilingual Multicultural Education Equity Conference (Excellence and Equity For All), Fairbanks, AK, February 2006.
"The Vlahoi linguistic and ethnic minority in the Balkans,"
Annual European and Global Studies Conference, University of Nebraska at Omaha, Omaha, NE, October 2005.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE: ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE AND OTHER LANGUAGES:

Spring 2006: Child Development Department, Lecturer, Harold Washington College, Chicago, IL. Taught "Human Development II," and "Math and Science for Young Children."

Fall 2005 – Spring 2006: Tutor in English, Speech, Spanish, and Math, Student Success Center, Harold Washington College, Chicago, IL.

Summer 2005 – Spring 2006: Pre-Credit ESL Lecturer, Harold Washington College, Chicago, IL. Taught "Reading," "Writing," "Speech," and "Critical Thinking" to adult native speakers of Mandarin, Cantonese, Spanish, Albanian, and Japanese.

2002-2003: Instructor, Beijing New Bridge School and Neptune Schools, Beijing, China. Taught English, Spanish, and French as a Foreign Language to Chinese University students. Extensively used technology to motivate and enhance students' learning; asked students to use CD ROMS ("Information USA") to select and research favorite topics and to conduct presentations and lead discussions in class. Language labs, repetitions in class for auditory feedback, use of songs and games in language to improve motivation and interest. Advised Chinese students on studies abroad. Conducted lively daily sessions of "Free talk" where students were encouraged to debate on contemporary issues of their choices in order to enhance conversational skills. Topics included discrimination and corruption in China and elsewhere, poems of Maxine Hong Kingston and other Asian American writers and translations of favorite Chinese writers' work by students in class.

2002-2003: Instructor, 96th Middle School, Beijing, China. Taught English language and drama. Extensively used improvisation theater games, language games, and the teaching of songs to engage students in conversation and improve their oral skills. Thorough use of pieces of Asian-American literature and Afro-American literature, such as poems by Maxine Hong Kingston and Rita Dove as well as Kingston's The Woman Warrior and Amy Tan's The Joy Luck Club; music, video tapes, DVDs, and computer games for instruction in and out of class.

1995-1996: Instructor, University of LaVerne, Athens Campus. Taught English language and drama. Taught "Rehearsing and Directing"; organized the Ensemble, and worked collaboratively with the students who performed two full-length plays at the end of the semester (written by British playwrights: Alan Ayckbourn's Confusions and Michael Frayn's Noises Off).

1994-1996: Instructor, YWCA, Athens. Taught groups of adult, not only Greek but also African, Japanese and European, women's multicultural literature. Taught Toni Morrison's The Bluest Eye, Jazz, and Song of Solomon; Alice Walker's In Search of Our Mothers: Black Creativity in the South; Maya Angelou's poetry and I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings; Isabel Allende's The Infinite Plan; Simone Schwartz-Bart's The Bridge of Beyond, and other works. Emphasis on techniques of women's autobiography. Encountered and solved situations where texts had to be "translated" when introduced to students of different linguistic and cultural backgrounds.

1990- 1991: Instructor, Berlitz Language School, Philadelphia, PA. Taught French, German, and Spanish to beginners. Used only target language in class following the Berlitz method.

GREEK LANGUAGE:

January-September 2003: Chinese Business and Cultural Association, Athens, Greece.
Taught Modern Greek to large groups of Chinese students.
Beginning and intermediate level students in one group. Culture study trips: Acropolis, Herodion Theater, Benaki Museum.

1998-2002: Central Academy of Drama, Beijing, China.
Thorough introduction to ancient and modern Greek theater, film, and major playwrights.
Advised on study abroad projects; took students to productions of the National Greek Theatre and Theatre Attis in China; participated and translated in workshops with Greek artists and Chinese students on the themes of ancient Greek drama such as Medea and Prometheus and contemporary Greek directors of ancient Greek drama such as Theodoros Terzopoulos.

1994-1995: Instructor, American Community Schools of Athens.
Taught High School elementary and advanced Modern Greek and drama to American students of various cultural backgrounds and of Greek heritage in the same class. Facilitated improvisations on concentration, observation, and imagination; required use of journal/diary by students; assisted in the writing and directing of student created monologues; assisted in the direction of the High School musicals, The Little Shop of Horrors and West Side Story.

1994-1997: The National Theater of Greece, Athens.
Taught and directed young adults in plays of Ancient Greek dramatists and Modern Greek poems in Modern Greek. Researched extensively Modern Greek playwrights and poets as performed in Athenian theatres.

September 1991 – June 1992: Language Analysis Laboratory,
University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA.
Tagged Greek-English, Polish-English, and other dictionaries.

SPECIALIZATION:

- Teaching:
African-American literature
Asian-American literature
Modern American theater
Creative writing/playwriting/mask making
Greek literature, theater, and film
Chinese theater and literature; Beijing opera
- Research:
Applied Linguistics
Second Language Acquisition
Autism in China
Xiangsheng, Yue, and Hebei operas

PROFESSIONAL TRAINING/RELATED WORK EXPERIENCE:

The School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, IL
Continuing Studies, Color Theory, Figure Painting, Printing Methods

Inlingua, Chicago, IL: Participated in the training workshop using the Inlingua method; presented using the target language of French. Summer 2005

Writing intern, New Dramatists, New York City, NY. Summer 1992

Writing intern, Women's Project & Productions, New York City, NY. Summer 1992

Theatre for the New City, New York City, NY: Wrote in workshop given by playwright Maria Irene Fornes. December 1995-January 1996

FIELD EXPERIENCE:

XingXingYu School for Autistic Children, Beijing, China. Summer 1998.

Conducted research for my master's at The College of New Jersey on current educational practices for autistic children: exploration of the interrelation between such parameters as language development, emotional growth and identity formation in autistic children.

Chinese Government Academic Exchange scholarship, selected by the Greek Ministry of Education for extensive language training and graduate work:

Chinese language and culture in Beijing, China, Beijing Language and Culture University, 1997-1998; The Central Academy of Drama, 1998-2002.

Literature and culture study, Italian Embassy in Athens. September 1994-June 1995.

Literature and culture study in Birzeit, Palestine, University of Birzeit. July-August 1994.

Language and culture study in Haifa, Israel, University of Haifa. September 1993-June 1994.

Language study in Cuernavaca, Mexico, Experiencia Centro Cultural, A.C. and Cuauhnahuac Esc.. December 1989-January 1990.

LANGUAGES:

Fluent in English, Mandarin, French, Greek, and Spanish.

Speaking, listening, and reading knowledge of Italian and German.

Speaking and listening knowledge of Hebrew.

AFFILIATIONS:

Member of Public Policy Committee, Illinois Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages

ACADEMIC SERVICE, COMMUNITY OUTREACH:

DuSable Museum of African-American History, Chicago, IL:

Presented in a training workshop for Chicago Public School teachers about Beijing opera and African masks. Fall 2005.

Chicago Public Schools, Office of Language and Culture, Chicago, IL: School outreach; presented workshops for teachers and students (elementary and middle school level) in Spanish; Mandarin and French language instruction through arts education (Beijing opera masks). 2004-2005.

Powell School, Philadelphia, PA: Presented Greek culture and language to middle and primary School students through the use of linguistic improvisation games. Spring 1992.

REFERENCES:

Heather Davenport, Language Analysis Laboratory, University of Pennsylvania

Allen Kuharski, Professor of Theater, Swarthmore College, Department of Theater Studies

Jose Camacho, Director of Spanish Language, Cuauhnahuac Esc., Cuernavaca, Mexico.