

Curriculum Vitae



Christina Nicole Giannikas, Ph.D

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❖ Personal Profile

Dr. Christina Nicole Giannikas is a computer literate English Language professional with extensive experience in Applied Linguistics, specifically in early language learning, teaching practices and Computer Assisted Language Learning (CALL) within monolingual and multilingual contexts, and a language teaching professional in EFL, EAP, EYL and language exam preparation (IELTS, TOEIC, TOEFL, CAE, CPE, FCE, ECCE, ECPE). Through qualitative and quantitative research within state and private language schools, conducted for the needs of her Ph.D, she has acquired extensive knowledge of the needs of non-native speakers of English, educational policies and language learning from a psycholinguistic perspective. She is committed to the learning and progress of language learners and searches to motivate human values and develop basic abilities through research. She is an effective communicator and motivator with excellent organizational and planning skills, and the ability to develop stimulating materials meeting student and course needs.

❖ Career History

Cyprus University of Technology

March 2013-present

30 Archiepiskopou Kyprianou St.

Limassol

3036

Cyprus

Special Scientist

Dr. Giannikas holds the position of Special Scientist at the Language Centre of Cyprus University of Technology. She is an instructor for the MA in CALL programme and teaches Second Language Acquisition and Research Methods and Design. She is also an instructor of English for Academic Purposes. Dr. Giannikas has also been awarded a grant from the University for the preparation of three research proposals for Horizon 2020 for two years in a row and is currently involved in research projects within and outside of the University.

Freelance English Language Teaching Materials Writer and Editor

June 2014-present

Dr. Giannikas offers her services to publishers and writes material for all age groups and levels.

Dr. Giannikas is currently working on the compilation of a Teacher's Book with creative ideas for young learners, ages 7-10 and a Teacher Trainers book for teachers of young language learners.

IATEFL YLTSIG

March 2013-present

Social Media and Webinar Coordinator

Dr. Giannikas is responsible for the Young Learners and Teenagers Special Interest Group's social media (Facebook, twitter, and Instagram) regarding young and teenage language learners. **Dr. Giannikas had been entrusted by IATEFL to deliver an edited volume, as chief editor and project coordinator. The book was published in August 2015.**

Giannikas Language School (family-owned)

107 Somerset, Rio-Patras, 26504

September 2007- June 2008

September 2011-June 2012

Director of Studies (DOS)

As DOS of the school, Christina Nicole Giannikas made sure that the students were provided with a warm and safe environment. The school prepares students for language examinations held by the British Council (IELTS, CAE, CPE) and the Hellenic American Union (ECCE, ECPE). Students were also given the opportunity to learn French and German at the Giannikas Language School and sit the language exams of the language they choose. Christina Giannikas also made the curriculum her responsibility and provided guidance on the books that could be used in each class. Additionally, the school takes part in various charity events where the children become aware of the value of giving and helping others.

- Responsible for the development and running of the language school
- Curriculum and materials development for all courses
- Ensured that the language courses remained current and valid and that the learning outcomes were relevant and attained by students
- Arranging monthly meetings with parents and update them on students' progress, specifically students preparing for ESOL examinations

Dr. Giannikas has conducted Action Research at the specific language school, a form of research carried out by practitioners into their own practice and, with the consent of her students and their parents, she has analyzed linguistic and cultural factors identified in class.

London Metropolitan University

166-220 Holloway Road, N7 8DB, London

February 2009-April 2009

Assistant Researcher ELLiE (Early Language Learning in Europe)

- Conducting research for the needs of a European program for the study of young language learners in Europe. Dr. Giannikas collected data through observations, teacher and students' interviews and questionnaires. She also analysed data and delivered reports to the supervisor of the project in the progress of the UK schools that participated in the study.

Longman and Pearson

Online Academic Examiner

September 2009-May 2010

- Examiner for the writing and speaking sections of the Academic online tests. Students who took the test used their final scores for their University admission.

London Metropolitan University

166-220 Holloway Road, N7 8DB, London

September 2008- October 2010

Seminar Tutor/Guest Lecturer

- Tutoring Postgraduate students on the module of *Issues in Language Learning: an intercultural perspective* Semester 1 and *Understanding the Language Classroom* in Semester 2. Dr. Giannikas also guided a group of students for their completion of MA research projects and supervised their submitted Portfolios.

LSI Hampstead

13 Lyndhurst Terrace, NW3 5QA, London

June 2008- September 2009

EFL/ EAP Teacher

Responsible for the preparation and development of candidate University students' academic skills

- CAE exam preparation
- IELTS exam preparation (for Academic Purposes)
- FCE exam preparation
- EAP (English for Academic Purposes)

Additionally, Dr. Giannikas was responsible for the Young Learners' Summer Programme.

ICS International Community School (Summer School)

4 York Terrace, Regents Park, London

June 2007- August 2007

English Language Teacher

Responsible for the Elementary level of 8-10 year olds

- Teaching English within a multilingual context
- Teaching language elements and British culture
- Grammar and vocabulary development
- Teaching Math, Science, Geography, ICT and Art
- Increasing students' interest and motivation.

Giannikas Foreign Language School

Astiggos 88-90, Patras, Greece

September 2006- June 2007

Assistant Director of Studies

Working with students of all levels

- Introducing teaching methods new to the Greek context
- Preparing University students for CPE and IELTS examinations
- Providing teachers with additional material to work with apart from course books
- Organized workshops for teacher development

The Cambridge School of English

3 Stukeley Street, Covent Garden, WC2B 5LT, London

October 2005-May 2006

English Language Teacher

Responsible working with professional adults develop language skills

- Teaching one-to-one lessons
- Preparing students for CAE and IELTS examinations

London Metropolitan University

166-220 Holloway Road, London, N7 8DB

October 2004- February 2005

Learning Support Advisor

- One-to-one lessons with Russian students
- Providing grammar support
- Proofreading assignments

Giannikas Foreign Language School

59 Somerset, Rio-Patras, 26504, Greece

September 2002- July 2004

English Language Teacher

- Teaching all levels from young learners to adults
- Preparing students for FCE, CAE, IELTS and CPE examinations

❖ Academic Achievements

Lancaster University

April 2015- May 2015

Cert. Dyslexia and Foreign Language Teaching (Online Professional Development Course)

Oxford University

September 2013-November 2013 (Full Time)

Certificate in Creative Writing

International House (OTTI)

July 2013-August 2013 (Full Time)

Certificate in Online Tutoring (COLT)

London Metropolitan University

February 2006-2013 (Part-Time)

PhD in Applied Linguistics

Research title: 'Early Language Learning within a Greek Regional Context'.

International House London

August 2005-September 2005 (Full-Time)

Certificate in English Language Teaching to Adults (CELTA)

London Metropolitan University

October 2004-September 2005 (Full-Time)

MA Teaching English as a Foreign Language (TEFL) with Merit (Dissertation with Distinction)

University of Hertfordshire

September 1999-June 2002 (Full-Time)

BA in English Language and Linguistics

❖ Academic Teaching Experience

- **Cyprus University of Technology**, Language Centre: MA in CALL instructor (Second Language Acquisition, Research Methods/Design and Dissertation Writing modules), Dissertation co-supervisor & EAP instructor (Nursing and Shipping)
- **Cyprus University of Technology**, Language Centre: Language Learning Support & Speaking Skills (5 Semesters).
- **University of Cyprus**, Department of English Studies: *Teaching Methods* (Undergraduate Course: 2 classes) and *Language Learning Assessment to Young Learners* (Postgraduate Course: 1 class).
- **London Metropolitan University**, Department of Applied Linguistics and TESOL: *Issues in Language Learning: an intercultural perspective* for Semester 1 and *Understanding the Language Classroom* for Semester 2 (Postgraduate Modules).

❖ List of participation in research projects

The Second Language Acquisition (SLA) module in Tertiary Education- From Traditional to Contemporary (a blend of SLA and CALL) (September 2016-present) The project is inspired by Dr.

Giannikas' SLA module which she teaches in the MA in CALL programme at Cyprus University of Technology. The module aims to bring out a more contemporary use of SLA and the aim of the study is to investigate the affect this has on students and the process of how such a module can be built. Dr. Salomi Papadima also participates in the study.

The Use of Interactive Whiteboards in the Young Learners' Classroom (June 2014-March 2016)

The project in question **was initiated and has been carried out by Dr. Giannikas**. The project took place in South Western Greece and focuses on the language learning process of students in primary and secondary school through the use of Interactive Whiteboards. The study consists of interviews, questionnaires and evaluations from both students and teachers in the private sector. The aim is to (1) to investigate different ways IWBs are used in the private sector; (2) to share ideas and expertise on the use of IWBs; and (3) to document teachers' current practice with IWBs. The project is currently in the data analysis stage.

Technology in Language Teaching (February 2013-March 2014)

The current project concentrates on the use of technology in secondary education from a language teacher's perspective. The study consisted of distributing Likert-type questionnaires to English language educators in four major cities of Cyprus together with in-service training. The aim was to prompt stakeholders and policy makers to address the teachers' concerns on the issue of integrating technology in their classes and offer them relevant training in order for them to feel more confident and make use of the equipment they are given in schools. The project was initiated by CUT and The Ministry of Education and Culture of Cyprus. The book chapter entitled 'Teachers' Attitudes towards the Use of Technology in EFL within Public Secondary Schools of Cyprus' submitted to TESOL Arabia was a result of this study. Two additional papers are currently being prepared for publication.

French vs. German Project (February 2012-June 2012):

This project **was initiated and carried out by Dr. Giannikas**. The research consisted of questionnaires distributed to language students learning an L3 in private language schools and their French/German language teachers. The study was carried out in two private language schools in South Western Greece with the purpose of collecting data focusing on gender preferences in connection to a troubled Greek economy. The submitted paper entitled 'French vs. German: gender MFL preferences from a sociolinguistic perspective' to the International Journal of Multilingualism is a result of this study.

ELLiE Project (February 2009-April 2009):

Dr. Giannikas participated as an assistant researcher for the ELLiE project. She was employed as one of seven part-time temporary research assistants on the UK section of the data collection/input (there were approximately 20 research assistants employed altogether). Prof. Janet Enever, who was principal investigator, was awarded a grant of EUR 572,538.00 for the full three year research study across six EU member states, Ref. Lifelong Learning Programme, Project No. 135632-LLP-2007-UK-KA1SCR. Each of the six partner universities contributed 25% of the grant, whilst the LLP provided the remaining 75%. Dr. Giannikas participated in systematic observations, teachers' interviews and the performance of tasks and interviews with focal learners. Additionally, Dr. Giannikas worked on the analysis of data from the findings in the UK.

❖ **Research Proposals Authored:**

Marie Curie Career Integration Grant: An Empirical Study on the Diglossic Interference in EAP/ESAP within a Greek Cypriot Academic Context "DIELL" (Year Submitted: 2013)

The Topic of the proposed project was Diglossia in EAP and was aimed toward researchers who moved to another European country. The score the proposal received was 77% (87% to receive the Grant)

Marie Curie Intra European Fellowships: An Empirical Study on the Diglossic Interference in EAP/ESAP within a Greek Cypriot Academic Context “DigloInt” (Year Submitted: 2013 will be re-submitted to Restart 2020 Aristeio IPE in March 2017)

The Topic of the proposed project was Diglossia in EAP and was aimed toward researchers who were going to be undergoing research training as well. The score of the proposal received was 71% (87% to receive the Grant)

Erasmus Plus: Understand Computer Assisted Language Learning (U-CALL) (Year Submitted: 2015 and will be re-submitted in April 2017 and is currently under preparation)

The Topic of the proposed project was to create and execute an in-service teacher training course for secondary language teachers. We have two more partners for this project from Portugal and Spain. The proposal was first runner up in 2015.

COST Horizon 2020: NetCALL (under review)

The Topic of the proposed project was to create a CALL network including researchers, practitioners and software developers.

Restart 2020 IPE Didaktor: Understanding Computer Assisted Language Learning (under preparation and due to be submitted in December 2016)

The topic of the project is to create, execute and conduct research on a teacher training course for in-service secondary teachers.

❖ International Collaborations

1. **Teacher Training Handbook:** Dr. Giannikas, in collaboration with Dr. Lou McLaughlin, are co-writing a handbook for teachers of young language learners, which guides professionals through the process of teaching the specific age group. The book focuses on teaching practices and aims to be of use to teacher trainers and University professors with an interest in early language learning.

❖ List of Publications:

❖ Edited Volumes:

1. **Giannikas, C.N.; McLaughlin, L., Fanning, G. & Deutsch Muller, N. (Eds.)** (2015). *Children Learning English: from research to practice*. Reading, UK: Garnet Publishing Ltd.

❖ Published Papers/Articles:

2. **Giannikas, C.N.** (2011). L1 in English Language Learning: A Research Study in a Greek Regional Context. *International Journal of Applied Linguistics* Vol. 21 no. 3, pp. 319-339.
3. **Giannikas, C.N.** (2013). Action Research in the Language Classroom: the Greek educator’s answer to the educator’s answer to the Financial Crisis. *IATEFL TDSIG* Issue 68, pp. 22-25.
4. **Giannikas, C.N.** (2013). Task-based Learning: the building blocks for the young language learner. *Humanising Language Teaching* Vol. 15, Issue 3.
<http://www.hltmag.co.uk/jun13/sart07.htm>

5. **Giannikas, C.N.** (2013). Parental Influence in Early Language Learning: how teachers can make it work. *British Council ELTA Newsletter* (Lifelong Learning).
http://www.britishcouncil.rs/files/2013/07/serbia-elta-newsletter-2013-junelifelong_learning-giannikas.pdf
6. **Giannikas, C.N.** (2013). The Benefits in Management and Organisation: a case study in the young language learners' classroom. *CEPS Journal*. Vol. 3 no. 3, pp. 87-104
7. **Giannikas, C.N.** (2013). Early Language Learning. *IATEFL Voices*, issue 236.
8. **Giannikas, C.N.** (2013). Let's play a game: encouraging children to enjoy their language learning. *IATEFL C&TS*.
9. **Giannikas, C.N.** (2013). Focus on the Primary Language Teacher: a study within a Greek regional context. *British Council ELTA Journal*, Vol. 1 no. 1, pp 79-87 (*submitted to the Serbian Ministry of Education*).
10. **Giannikas, C.N.** (2014). The Optimum Conditions of Foreign Languages in Primary Education. *Language Learning Journal*, Vol. 19 no. 2
11. **Giannikas, C.N.** (2015). Classroom Management and Organisation: there's more to it than we think. *IATEFL C&TS Newsletter*.
12. **Giannikas, C.N. & McLaughlin, L.** (2016). Games in the Spotlight: teaching English to the Young Learner. *IH Journal*, Issue 40.

❖ **Book Chapters:**

13. **Papadima, S.; Kakouli-Constantinou, E. & Giannikas, C.N.** (2014). *Teachers' Attitudes towards the Use of Technology in EFL within Public Secondary Schools of Cyprus*. TESOL Arabia.
14. **Giannikas, C.N.** (2015). Let's Pretend we are in England: the needs of the young language learner. In: Giannikas, C.N.; McLaughlin, L., Fanning, G. & Deutsch Muller, N. *Children Learning English: from research to practice*. Reading, UK: Garnet Publishing Ltd.
15. **Papadima-Sophocleous, S., Kakouli-Constantinou, E., Giannikas, C.N.** (2015). ICT in EFL: the case of Cypriot secondary education. Cited in: Giannikas, C.N.; McLaughlin, L., Fanning, G. & Deutsch Muller, N. *Children Learning English: from research to practice*. Reading, UK: Garnet Publishing Ltd.
16. **Tsagari, D. & Giannikas, C.N. (accepted book chapter)** (in print). To L1 or not to L1 that is the question: a research study in the young learners' foreign language classroom. In Sifakis, N. & Bayyurt, Y. *English language education policies and practices in the Mediterranean countries and beyond* (working title). Peter Lang.

❖ **Submitted/Under Preparation Papers:**

17. **Giannikas, C.N.** (submitted) French vs. German: gender MFL preferences from a sociolinguistic perspective.
18. **Papadima-Sophocleous, S., Giannikas, C.N. (corresponding author) & Kakouli-Constantinou, E.** (submitted) ICT in EFL: The Global Effect of New Technologies in the Language Classroom.
19. **Tsagari, D. & Giannikas, C.N.** (submitted). Early Language Learning in Private Language Schools in the Republic of Cyprus: teaching methods in modern times.
20. **Giannikas, C.N.** (under preparation). Interactive Whiteboard in EFL from the Teachers' and Students' Perspective.
21. **Giannikas, C.N.** (submitted). Using a Rhyme as a Teaching Paradigm: the Young Learners' classroom.

❖ **Proceedings:**

22. **Papadima-Sophocleous, S.; Giannikas, C.N. & Kakouli-Constantinou, E.** (2014). ICT in EFL: The global effect of new technologies in the language classroom. EuroCALL conference.
23. **Τσαγγαρή, Ν. & Γιαννίκα, Χ.Ν.** (2014). Η Διδακτική Ξένων Γλωσσών σε Παιδιά Δημοτικού στην Ιδιωτική Εκπαίδευση: νέοι καιροί, νέες προκλήσεις; 13^ο Παγκύπριο Συνέδριο Παιδαγωγικής Εταιρείας Κύπρου.
24. **Giannikas, C.N.** (in print). The Use of Interactive Whiteboards: enhancing the nature of young language learners. EuroCALL Conference.

❖ **Book Reviews:**

Lobo, V.R. (2013). Teaching L2 English at a very young age: a study of Dutch schools. LOT: Netherlands Graduate Schools of Linguistics

Gao, J.T & Mingyue, X.G (2014). Language Teacher Education in a Multilingual Context. Springer

❖ **Editorial Work:**

Canadian Journal of Education and Learning (Editorial Board)

❖ **Academic Reviewer:**

1. TESOL Journal (five papers)
2. International Journal of Applied Linguistics (one paper)
3. Modern Journal of Languages (two papers)
4. SAGEOpen (one paper)
5. EuroCALL Conference Proceedings (2016) (two papers)

❖ **Conference/Research Seminars Participation**

1. Giannikas, C.N. (2010). English Teaching in Greek Primary Schools, Research Seminar, Centre of Transcultural Research. London, UK. **Talk**
2. Giannikas, C.N. (2013). The Action Research Approach in the Language Classroom. CyTEA, Nicosia, Cyprus. **Talk**
3. Giannikas, C.N. (2014). Classroom Management and Organisation in the YLT Classroom. IATEFL, Harrogate, UK. **Poster Presentation**
4. Papadima-Sophocleous, S., Giannikas, C.N. & Kakouli-Constantinou, E. (2014). ICT in EFL: the global effect of new technologies in the language classroom. EUROCALL. **Talk**
5. Giannikas, C.N. (2014). Professional Development in CALL. Where are we and where are we going? Wiz IQ. **Invited Webinar**
6. Τσαγγαρή, Ν. & Γιαννίκα Χ.Ν. (2014). ‘Η Διδακτική Ξένων Γλωσσών σε Παιδιά Δημοτικού στην Ιδιωτική Εκπαίδευση: Νέοι Καιροί, Νέες Προκλήσεις;’ 13^ο Παγκύπριο Συνέδριο Παιδαγωγικής Εταιρείας Κύπρου. **Talk**
7. Giannikas, C.N. (2014). ‘How to Write a Successful Research Proposal’ Cyprus University of Technology. **Invited Workshop**
8. Giannikas, C.N. (2016). ‘Acting on Creativity: using poems and reflection when teaching YLs’. Innovate ELT, Barcelona, Spain. **Workshop**
9. Giannikas, C.N. (2016). ‘Assessing Language Learners through Games’. Erasmus TALE Project, Multiplier Event. (2016). **Invited Workshop**

10. Giannikas, C.N. (2016). 'The Use of Interactive Whiteboards: enhancing the nature of teaching young language learners'. EuroCALL. **Talk**
11. Giannikas, C.N. (accepted workshop) (2017). 'Assessing Early and Young Learners through Games' Selected for the YLT SIG Day. IATEFL Annual Conference. **Workshop**

❖ **Additional Information:**

Guest Author for **Oxford University Press English Language Teaching Global Blog**

The 8th academic paper on the list of publications, published by The ELTA Journal, was **submitted to the Serbian Ministry of Education as a guide for language education development and changes needed in primary language education in the country.**

Chair at the IATEFL and CyTEA joint conference in Nicosia, Cyprus: **Language Learning 2-6: International Perspectives on Early Years Plurilingualism Conference**, for the following Sessions:

- Carla Rocha: Collaborative practices in Kiitos, a pre-primary English project in Ponte de Sor, Portugal.
- Heana Hilton, Shardea Brown and Christina Fears: A model bi-literate program for young children based on research and practice.
- Bee Eng Wong and Sook Wah Ho: Vocabulary selection in English language materials for Malaysian pre-school ESL learners.
- David Brining: Teaching Very Young Learners: Implications for teacher training and development.
- Elena Sofronidou and Marina Mattheoudakis: Training the early bird to catch the worm: wishful thinking or reality?
- Sonia Ferreirinha: EFL Kindergarten through Nursery Rhymes
- Nicoleta Vassiliou: A personal account of one teacher's journey through a challenging and rewarding experience of teaching very young learners
- Peri Stavrou: Working with CLIL in pre-primary education

Συντονίστρια: 13^ο Παγκόπριο Συνέδριο Παιδαγωγικής Εταιρείας Κύπρου, 'Μπροστά στις Εκπαιδευτικές Προ(σ)κλήσεις: Από τη Θέση και την Αντίθεση στη Σύνθεση των παρακάτω παρουσιάσεων (Chair at the 13th Conference held by the Pedagogic Institution of Cyprus) :

- Θεοδώρου Θεόδωρος και Τσιάκκρος Ανδρέας: Σχολική Αυτονομία στο Κυπριακό Εκπαιδευτικό Σύστημα: Μπορεί να εφαρμοστεί;
- Καϊλή Χριστίνα και Κυριακίδης Λεωνίδα: Μελετώντας την επίδραση της συνεργασίας των εκπαιδευτικών στα μαθησιακά αποτελέσματα: Μια διαχρονική μελέτη
- Δημοσθένους Άντρια και Κυριακίδης Λεωνίδα: Η Επίδραση του Περιβάλλοντος Μάθησης του Σπίτιου στην Επίδοση των Μαθητών στα Μαθηματικά όταν Εισέρχονται στο Δημοτικό

❖ **Training Sessions Attended**

1. *University of Cambridge, ESOL Examinations, Cambridge ESOL Day, Preparation of FCE writing, Patras Greece, September 2003*
2. *Oxford University Press, 'Teaching Transferable Skills for all Exams at B2 level', Fiona Scott-Barrett, Patras Greece, March 2004*
3. *IH Professional Development Centre, 'Accelerate Your Learning' Elaine Rees, London, February 2006*
4. *IH Professional Development Centre, 'REACT: from correction to testing and all stages in between' Jeremy Harmer, London, April 2006.*
5. *Edexcel London Exams, 'Writing for the London Tests of English: Applying the Marking Criteria for Teaching and Assessment' Fotini Polychronopoulou, Patras Greece, October 2006*
6. *Longman & Pearson, Amazing Minds-Teacher Development Seminars 2007 Judy Copage, Elaine Boyd and Jeanne Perrett, Patras Greece, April 2007*

7. *Longman & Pearson Online Academic Examiners' Training*, Charing Cross London, September 2009
8. *TOEIC Training*, LSI Hampstead, London, May 2009
9. *Panyprian Association of Teachers of English*, 'Formative Assessment: Rationale and Practices' The Pedagogical Institute in Limassol, March 2014.

❖ **Participation in National and International Organisations:**

IATEFL (International Association of Teaching English as a Foreign Language)
LAGB (Linguistics Association of Great Britain)
EUROCALL (European Association of Computer-Assisted Language Learning)
PALSO (Pan-Hellenic Federation of Language Schools Centre)
TESOL (Teaching English as a Second or Other Language)
CyLing (Cyprus Linguistic Society)

❖ **Personal Details**

Nationality:	Greek-American
Interests:	Reading, Cinema, Art, Writing, Traveling
Languages:	English, Greek (native-bilingual) French, Spanish (intermediate)

❖ **References**

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