

# Curriculum Vitae

## Personal Information

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Name: Despoina Skourti  
Date of Birth: 21st April 1982  
Place of Birth: Athens, Greece  
Family Status: Single  
Nationality: Greek  
Contact Information: Address: Romanstr.21  
80639 Munich/Germany  
email: despinaskourti@hotmail.de  
Mobile Tel: 0049176-56722451  
Tel. (landline): 004989-92560210



## Education and Training

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- 1.04.2010 - today **Ludwig-Maximilians University of Munich**  
PhD in Modern Greek Studies and Comparative Literature at the Ludwig – Maximilians University of Munich - dissertation supervisor: Prof. Dr. Marie – Elisabeth Mitsou
- 10.2007 – 10.2009 **Ludwig-Maximilians University of Munich**  
**M.A.** in Comparative Literature at the Ludwig Maximilians University of Munich (Germany). Major subject: Comparative Literature, minor subject: Modern Greek. M.A. Thesis: Political aspects in Literature: A comparative approach of the German and Greek post-war prose; the paradigms of Gunther Grass' *The Tin Drum* and Stratis Tsirkas' *Drifting Cities* Cumulative Grade: **1,92 "good"**
- 10.2000 – 10.2005 **National and Kapodistrian University of Athens**  
**Graduation (ptychion)** from the Greek Philology Department at the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens (Greece) with specialization in Modern Greek and Byzantine Studies. Graduation Thesis: Representations of Foreigners in M. Karagatsis' Prose (The under the sun of Phoivos - Trilogy) - Cumulative Grade: **8,13/10 "very good"**
- 10.09.1997- 21.07.2000 **Graduation (apolytirio)** from the classical Lyceum of Anavryta School, in Athens (Greece), with theoretical specialization. A' grades in Ancient and Modern Greek Cumulative Grade: 18,6/20 "excellent"

## Academical Honors

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- Recipient of a scholarship of the Athens Academy the academic years 2007/2008 and 2008/2009
- Admitted to the University of Athens following the national exams with a grade of 18,6/20, first in the rank.
- Won Greek State Scholarship funded by IKY for the years 2000-2001, 2001-2002 and 2003-2004 as best or second best student for each academic year in the department of Greek Philology

## Additional Academic Information & international appearances

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- Lisbon, Portugal: 34th APEAA Meeting – *Academy as Community: English and American Studies in Portugal and Europe* (9.5.2013-10.5.2013); participation with a paper presentation entitled: The language of Silence – Speechlessness as a political Reaction by the Literary Process
- Athens, Greece: 7<sup>th</sup> international Conference of doctoral and post-doctoral students in Greek Studies (16.05.2013-18.05.2013): participation as a doctoral student with a paper presentation entitled: Apocryphontas tin kritiki tis pantomimas - mia protasi anagnosis ton dokimion logotechnikis kritikis tis Noras Anagnostaki apo tin period tis diktatorias [Αποκρυπτογραφώντας τη γλώσσα της Παντομίμας - μια πρόταση ανάγνωσης των δοκιμίων λογοτεχνικής κριτικής της Νόρας Αναγνωστάκη από την περίοδο της δικτατορίας]
- Bratislava, Slovakia: *The Character of the Current Philosophy and its Methods* (21.3.2013 – 22.3.2013): participation as a doctoral student with a paper presentation entitled: The language of silence; Silence as a philosophical demand in the literary text
- Reims, France: *Literary Texts: the power and the possible*, International Conference (17.2.2013-18.2.2013); participation as a doctoral student with a paper presentation entitled: Experimenting to breaking the censorship - the Dynamics of Literature in difficult times
- Paros, Greece: Inter-University Summer School for Modern Greek Studies (LMU Munich, Hamburg University, FU Berlin) (Sept. 2011); participation as referent of a master-class - with Subject: M. Karagatis – History and Biology (Prof. Dr. M. Pechlivanos)
- Munich, Germany: 11<sup>th</sup> meeting of the German Society of Modern Greek Studies: (11.2.2011-12.2.2011); participation as a doctoral student with a paper presentation entitled: H kritiki tis Pantomimas tis Noras Anagnostaki - ena idrtiko keimeno tis sygchronis ellinikis logotechnias [Η κριτική της παντομίμας της Νόρας Αναγνωστάκη - Ένα ιδρυτικό κείμενο της σύγχρονης ελληνικής λογοτεχνίας]
- Paros, Greece: Inter-University Colloquium 2009 for Modern Greek Studies (LMU Munich, Hamburg University, FU Berlin); participation as a doctoral student of LMU Munich with a paper presentation entitled: Dictatorship and Literature: ‘Voicing’ the silent Dictatorship

- Paros, Greece: Inter-University Colloquium 2008 for Modern Greek Studies (LMU Munich, Hamburg University, FU Berlin); participation as a Master student of LMU Munich with a paper presentation entitled: Political aspects in Literature: A comparative approach of the German and Greek post-war prose

## Working Experience

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### a. Teaching Experience

November 2010 – today                      Cyclus After School Institution Munich  
(Sonnenstr. 21/ D- 80331 Munich)  
courses in Ancient and Modern Greek, Latin and History

### b. Editing and Translation

28.10.2011– 24.4.2013                      controlling translations from English to Greek  
Lingua Tec., Gottfried-Keller-Str. 12 81245 Munich, Germany

01.01.2009- 01.06.2010                      Translating in german und editing greek press releases  
SZ - Verlag (Hultschiner Straße 8 / 81677 Munich)

### c. Customer care

März 2009 - Februar 2011                      FinanceScout24 (Dingolfingerstr. 1-15/81673 Munich)

## Personal Skills and Qualifications

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Native Language: Greek

Other Languages: a. English (Proficient User C2)  
b. German (Proficient User C2)  
c. French (Independent User C1)  
d. Italian (Basic User)  
e. Russian (Basic User)

Computer Using Proficiency

### Social Skills and Competences

- Oriented towards problem-solving
- responsible, self-respect and self-reliant
- ability to establish and maintain good working relations with people of different national and cultural backgrounds
- sociable
- adept at team work

### Organizational Skills and Competences

- Extremely organized
- Good abilities for synthetic and global views over concrete situations
- Goal-oriented work capacity

## **I. Dissertation Project – A brief summary**

### **The thematization of the military Dictatorship in the contemporary Greek prose – From the Narrative Silence on the Traumatic to the Literature as Cultural Memory**

The Greek coup d'état of 21st April 1967 and the subsequent seven-year dictatorship constitute the most excruciating era in the history of Greece after the end of the civil war (1949). The end of this period in July 1974 is a turning point in the Greek history and signals the beginning of a liberalization process in the Greek society. Despite the fact that the time of the Military Junta abounds of historical events, which should be chronicled, it is evident that the historiography displays a remarkable deficit by registering this period.

On the contrary, there is a wide textual corpus in the Greek literate production, in which their narrators fictionalize this period and represent literately some aspects of the Dictatorship. Both the thematization of this historical era in the contemporary Greek prose and its study as a way of reflecting the Cultural Memory of a traumatic historical period are the main topics of my Dissertation Project. The examination begins with the literate publications among 1967 and 1974, which have been published partly under restrictions. During the Regime of Colonels, it was obligatory for the writers to conceal and hide issues in the narrative in consideration to the state - imposed censorship as a means of resistance and reconstruction. So the apparent silence about the current events should be seen not as an end, but as a starting point.

“*[W]hat we cannot speak about we must pass over in silence*”. With this remarkable comment, Ludwig Wittgenstein indicates in his work *Tractatus* that - in certain circumstances- experiencing silence may be discourse's ultimate goal. Especially by the censored literary process, the lack of a direct narration about the unsayable should be expressed through an undercover voice, which reticently reveals and fictionalizes the rough reality. This art of narration has many emotional, ethical, psychological and political implications.

In Modern Greek literature, such a reticence has been embodied as an extreme expression by the literary processing of the Military Junta, during this historical period as well as after the collapse of the dictatorship. In the aftermath of the regime's brutality, narratives of trauma confront the difficulty of expressing the inexpressible, even articulating the (no longer) censored. The post - dictatorship literature reflects the difficulties involved in the process of memory, in the representation and renegotiation of the past, and in any effort to disclose the traumatic. Even in the course of time, the narrative in a wide textual corpus fails to succeed the literate silence, which - according to George Steiner- originates from “*the failure of the word in the face of the inhuman*”. [Steiner, G.: *Language and Silence*, Ney York: Atheneum 1967, 51]

The cornerstone of my research is the Nora Anagnostaki's theoretical essay *Mia martyria*, appeared

in print by the popular collection *Dekaochto Keimena* (1970). It is targeted to show the connection between Anagnostaki's text and the tendency of the contemporary authors to narrative aposiopesis. Anagnostaki indicates another side of silence, which characterizes the contemporary Greek literature regarding the literary treatment of the Greek Military Junta period. According to her, these silent narratives should be written in a special way in order to reveal more than they hide.

Within the Greek paradigm, this silence can be interpreted as an aesthetic ideal, a release from the suppression and restriction of verbal language, an act of renunciation of the distrust of signifiers and signifieds, or an inefficacy to capture psychologically and emotionally traumatic experiences. The main aim of my dissertation is to scrutinize the silence as a literate device through studying narrative ellipses and reluctance by the significant concealing of the period between 1967 and 1974. Furthermore it is intended to examine the diverse narrative methods of the silence in contemporary Greek novels, by analyzing the wide range from the verbal plethora to laconism always in reference to the literate reconstruction of the Greek dictatorship. In this context, it is also interesting to study the interweaving of literature and politics by interpreting the variety of excess, wordiness and propagation of this silent expression from both literal and political perspectives. By tackling those two supposedly conflicting sides in narratives, it needs as well to be explained what each represents and determined how they might coincide, mainly as some writers assemble the two strategies.

Finally, the literature of silence, formulated as above, has also clear implications on the Greek prose after the restoration of Democracy till today. Silence may therefore be interpreted as a political stance, a way to deny the authority of the oppressor. In that case, silence, as a means of self – preservation and self – protection, is not necessarily a synonym for absence and submission, but can be a decision of the author. In that case, silence seems to be a parameter of a willful method to avoid confronting a painful (communicative or collective) memory.