



Conference Opening

(Wednesday 24, 12:00, Conference Venue)

Eleftheria N. Gonida, ICM 2016 Chair

Dear colleagues, dear friends, dear students,

On behalf of the Local Organizing Committee, I am honored and delighted to welcome you to the International Conference on Motivation 2016!

ICM2016 is jointly organized by the EARLI SIG 8: Motivation and Emotion and the School of Psychology of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki.

Thirty years have already passed since the first WATM meeting in Nijmegen, in The Netherlands (1985), where a relatively small number of European researchers working on motivation inaugurated the idea of biennial scientific meetings in an attempt to promote closer collaboration, exchanging ideas, and bridging theory, research and practice. The great success of this initiative led to the first International Conference on Motivation which was held here at the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki in 1998. Prof. Anastasia Efklides was the chair of that conference. We are proud to host the ICM again, for a second time!

The theme of this year ICM, *“The odyssey to the Ithaca of learning: Motivated persons, challenging contexts”*, points out the dynamic interaction between the person and the context in explaining the psychological processes or, in other words, ‘the journey’ towards goal attainment and learning. Odyssey captures the person's journey to learning, while Ithaca represents the goal of the journey. The triiris in the sea of letters and the bright sun depicted in the logo of the conference hopefully reflect the dynamic interaction between motivated persons and challenging contexts towards the goal of learning.

The Organizing Committee did their best to organize a successful conference that will meet your expectations. We are proud to present an interesting and stimulating scientific programme covering current research in motivation, emotion, and self-regulated learning conducted in 29 countries from all over the world.

Let's see some detailed info about the conference now.

- We are honoured to have 6 internationally renowned keynote speakers.

Ruth, Anastasia, Stuart, Markku, Allan, & Deborah, thank you so much for your contribution to ICM2016!

See Power Point, p. 4-12

The ICM 2016 Summer School took place in Epanomi, a beautiful suburb of Thessaloniki, next to the beach in the past three days. A group of 19 highly motivated Ph.D students enjoyed high level mentorship of six professors in their pursuit to motivation, emotion, and self-regulation research while meeting new friends and enjoying the sea, the sun and the Greek hospitality. We were very happy to listen to and read their warm comments about the summer school yesterday. Special thanks for their great mentorship to Therese Bouffard, Angeliki Leontari, Susanne Narciss, Francisco Peixoto, Marja Vauras and to Stuart Karabenick for being very willing to substitute Jari-Erik Nurmi last minute. Jari-Erik, unfortunately, was not able to come due to unexpected circumstances.

As we all know, the success of a conference depends on many people. I would like to express my sincere thanks to all those who have contributed to this conference. Both the academic and the social program that we are going to enjoy in the coming days are the result of many peoples' work, whose names deserve a special mention:

Firstly, special thanks are due to the SIG8 Co-ordinators, Marina Lemos and Hanke Korpershoek as well as Thomas Martens, the ex SIG8 co-ordinator, for the great collaboration we had during the two years of the ICM2016 preparation.

Secondly, special thanks to all members of the International Scientific Board, as well as to all the reviewers for their contribution to the demanding review process.

I would like to thank personally all my colleagues in the LOC for the excellent collaboration and their contribution to this conference: my dearest friend and colleague at the School of Psychology Yiota Metallidou as well as my young but dynamic colleague at the School of Psychology, Despoina Xanthopoulou, my good colleague at the University of Thessaly Irini Dermizaki, and my colleague at the School of Education at ATh, Costas Vouyoukas. My close collaborator Tina Tsapoutzoglou as well as Alexandra Dedikousi have also supported the organization of the conference in several ways.

SYMVOLI, Conference and Cultural management agency, in close collaboration with the LOC, worked hard for this conference. I would like to thank all the SYMVOLI agency team but special thanks are due to Mrs. Vicky Papadimitriou and Mrs. Ariadni Hatzitatsi for their hard work and dedication to this event.

We also need to note the contributions of Christos Voulgarakis for the ICM2016 videos that we have been enjoying from time to time, Sakis Papademetriou and Georgia Syllaiou for the upcoming music event in the Welcome Ceremony, which should not be missed.

Special thanks are also due to our sponsors for their invaluable support. The Research Committee of the Aristotle University, the IT Center of our University, the Department of European Educational Programmes for supporting the summer school, Gutenberg, Papazisis and Tziolas Publishers for

covering a great part of our expenses, the winery and wine museum Ktima Gerovasiiliou, and the Fulbright Foundation in Greece.

But what would be a conference without its volunteers? Thanks to all our students for their enthusiasm to join our attempts for a successful conference. They will be all around available to help you and can be easily identified wearing their conference t-shirts. Just ask them!

Last but not least, I would like to thank from the bottom of my heart my wonderful family, my husband Yiorgos, my two sons Yiannis and Harris, my father and my brother for their generous support, their enormous patience and for always sharing in common goals.

Thank you for participating to this 'journey' to the Ithaca of learning and for joining us here today! Welcome to the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, welcome to Thessaloniki and enjoy ICM 2016!

Thank you very much!
