



INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON MOTIVATION 2016  
THE ODYSSEY TO THE ITHACA OF LEARNING  
24-27.08.2016 • THESSALONIKI, GREECE

## Welcome Speech

### **Marina S. Lemos, SIG Motivation and Emotion Coordinator**

I'd like to welcome you to the International Conference on Motivation 2016. It's an exciting time for the EARLI Special Interest Group on Motivation and Emotion.

This is the SIG 8 Conference, devoted to current research and theory as well as future perspectives on motivation and emotion related to learning and instruction in education, and it will give participants a platform to exchange ideas, discover novel opportunities, reacquaint with colleagues, meet new friends, and broaden their knowledge.

The theme of the ICM 2016 Conference is "The odyssey to the Ithaca of learning: Motivated persons, challenging contexts"; along this journey we will learn from the various sessions, that broadly cover a wide range of topics related to motivation from fundamental research to educational applications, highlight the interaction between the person and the context in explaining motivation, and stimulate scientific interactions and collaborations.

The Organizing Committee in collaboration with the International Scientific board built up a stimulating scientific program. To give you an idea of what you can expect and what we hope to achieve over the next few days, the program offers over 200 presentations, including key-note speakers, symposia, paper and poster sessions, workshops, panel discussions, panel discussions, etc. The presentations to this conference cover current research in motivation and emotion conducted in 29 countries from all over the world.

We are pleased to have Ruth Butler (from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel), Anastasia Efklides (from Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece), Stuart Karabenick (from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, USA), Markku Niemivirta (from the University of Helsinki, Finland), Deborah Stipek (from Stanford University, USA), and Allan Wigfield (from the University of Maryland, USA) as the plenary speakers, addressing The interactions between affect and metacognition, Motivation in young children, Motivation, self-regulation, and help seeking, Children's declining perception of competence, The development of children motivation, and Success as well-doing and well-being.

Symposia resound some of the more relevant theoretical research and practical questions in the domain of motivation, such as Motivation in context, The interplay between social, emotional, and motivational factors in students learning, specific motivational processes such as Interest and Engagement, Self-regulation, Approaches and models of motivation, such as Achievement Goal approach, Self-Determination Theory, Future Time Perspective; research on the Value side of motivation; Applications of motivation to tertiary education and sports contexts; and Theoretical and methodological issues in motivation research.

I am sure this program will trigger lively discussion and will project researchers to new developments.

I'd like to thank you, experienced and young researchers, for attending and bringing your expertise and innovative ideas to our conference.

I want to thank the International Scientific Board Members and all reviewers for their significant contribution in the high level of the conference.

It was fortunate to organize the ICM 2016 in Greece, for several reasons, which are impossible to enumerate, but which extend from Greek Antiquity to contemporary times.

I thank the entire Aristotle University of Thessaloniki and the School of Psychology for hosting the Conference, adding to it also by its location in the center of the beautiful and dynamic city of Thessaloniki.

Special thanks are due to the local organizing committee and in particular to the Conference Chair Sofia Eleftheria Gonida who led the organization of this conference with expertise, skill, creativity, and a touching enthusiasm, bringing it from its beginning, when she offered us a preview of the Conference at Helsinki, to the present scientific and social program which I'm sure you will enjoy. Thank you for making this a truly great International Conference on Motivation.

I want also to stress the importance of the Summer School for the growing of the SIG, through creating the opportunity for young researchers to contact with experienced researchers from different countries, stimulating innovation, building cooperation and developing socially rewarding experiences and to specially acknowledge the Epanomi Summer School teachers, Therése Bouffard, Angeliki Leontari, Susanne Narciss, Stuart Karabenick, Francisco Peixoto, and Marja Vauras.

This year the SIG Motivation and Emotion Lifetime Achievement Awards will honor the lifetime achievement of Anastasia Efklides and Stuart Karabenick, recognizing and celebrating their significant and sustained contributions.

A promising social program including the opening ceremony and the conference dinner, will provide opportunities for networking, history, relaxation and fun, complements well the programme.

While at the conference, share your thoughts, contribute to discussions and advance knowledge and, when you return home, continue your involvement, namely using our new SIG website, as we wish to continue to grow and integrate new ideas, remaining motivated and responsive.

Thank you!

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