



## **International Workshop Biography and Body**

**14-16. September 2017  
University of Crete, Rethymnon**

**Department of Sociology, University of Crete  
Greek Association of Oral History  
RC 38 Biography and Society, International Sociological Association (ISA)**

The international workshop 'Biography and Body' focuses on interdisciplinary perspectives in the research field of embodied biographies. Even though there is in the last years a „body turn“ in the Social Sciences, biographical research has not paid much attention theoretically in conceptualizing the connections between the body and biographical practices. In Oral History researchers have acknowledged for some time the value of non-verbal communication and embodied performativity in the interview situation. Yet a specific focus on embodied experiences in life stories is a quite recent trend. In the workshop we will bring into dialogue different theoretical and disciplinary perspectives from Sociology, Oral History, Anthropology and Gender Studies. Furthermore, we will discuss the methodological challenges that arise from the interview seen as an embodied encounter between two subjectivities and from investigating embodied experiences by using biographical methods. A focus on the body seems particularly promising in life history research concerning migration, work, sexuality, disease, political violence, disabilities, as well as in psychosocial research.

For the workshop we invite PhD students and other scholars who are working in the research field of embodied biographies to participate.

Organizers:

Prof. Dr. Giorgios Tsiolis, University of Crete

Dr. Irimi Siouti, University of Vienna

Prof. Dr. Riki van Boeschoten, University of Thessaly

## Programme

### Thursday, 14. September 2017 (Auditorium "Alexandropoulos" - D6)

**18:00:** Welcome

**18:30:** Keynote: Kathy Davis (VU University Amsterdam): "The story of my life is written on my skin": Bringing the body into biographical research

Moderation: Irini Siouti (University of Vienna)

**21.00:** Dinner

### Friday, 15. September 2017 (Room A3-1)

**09:30-14:00:** Working Group: Biography and Body - Methodological and theoretical Challenges.

Moderation: Lena Inowlocki (Frankfurt University) & Giorgos Tsiolis (University of Crete)

*09.30 – 10.10: Samy Alexandridis: Bodies in Movement: The immigrant protest in western Crete*

*10.10-10.50: Elena Mamoulaki: Embodied memories of war: Biographical and ethnographic notes from the field*

*10.50 – 11.30: Dora Aligizaki: The exploration of experiences and identity structuring of deaf people who define themselves as drugs users*

*11.30 – 11.50: Coffee Break*

*11.50 – 12.30: Sofia Thanasoula: Mutually shared biographical knowledge: when ex-addicted bodies "talk" about addiction in a qualitative research.*

*12.30 – 13.10: Vasiliki Petousi & Eirini Sifaki: 'In the forum': Biographies of the reproductive body in discussion fora.*

*13.10 - 14.00: Vassileios Kantas: Lens based media, observers, portraitees: Notes on the perceptive eye.*

**14:00:** Lunch

**17:30** Experimental workshop: (Mis)reading body language in the oral history interview

Moderation: Riki van Boeschoten (University of Thessaly)

**21.00:** Dinner

### Saturday, 16. September 2017 (Room A3-1)

**10:00-14:00:** Research Working Group: Images of Bodies in Depictions of Refuge

Moderation: Roswitha Breckner (University of Vienna)

Registration is without fees.

Location:  
Department of Sociology,  
University of Crete,  
University Campus Rethymnon