



## **International Workshop Biography and Body**

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

**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. While we can observe a "body turn" in the Social Sciences over the last few years, we find that biographical research has not paid much attention to conceptualizing the connections between the body and biographical practices. Oral History researchers have acknowledged for some time now the importance 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 also in Oral History. In our workshop, we would like to enable a dialogue among the different theoretical and disciplinary perspectives from Sociology, Oral History, Anthropology and Gender Studies. Furthermore, we would like to discuss the methodological challenges that arise from the interview 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 the fields of migration, work, sexuality, disease, political violence, disabilities, as well as in psychosocial research.

We would like to invite PhD students and other scholars who are working in the research field of embodied biographies to participate in our workshop.

Organizers:

Prof. Dr. Giorgios Tsiolis, University of Crete

Dr. Irini Siouti, University of Vienna

Prof. Dr. Riki van Boeschoten, University of Thessaly

## Program

### Thursday, September 14, 2017

**18:00:** Welcome

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

Chair: Irini Siouti (University of Vienna)

**21.00:** Dinner

### Friday, September 15, 2017

**10:30-13:00:** Working group I: Theoretical perspectives on embodied biographies

Chair: Lena Inowlocki (Frankfurt University)

**13:00-14:30:** Lunch break

**14:30-17:00:** Working group II: Biography and body: methodological challenges

Chair: Giorgos Tsiolis (University of Crete)

**18:00:** Experimental workshop: (Mis)reading body language in the oral history interview

Chair: Riki van Boeschoten (University of Thessaly)

21.00: Dinner

### Saturday, September 16, 2017

**10:30-16:00:** Research working group: Images of bodies in depictions of refugees

Chair: Roswitha Breckner (University of Vienna)

Registration:

Please register until 25 August 2017 with the organizers ([tsiolisg@uoc.gr](mailto:tsiolisg@uoc.gr), [irini.siouti@univie.ac.at](mailto:irini.siouti@univie.ac.at)).

Registration is without fees.

Location:  
Department of Sociology  
University of Crete  
University Campus Rethymnon