



CR&DALL SEMINAR SERIES 2013

Dr. Maria N.Gravani

Open University of Cyprus

TUESDAY, JUNE 18TH, 2013 – 1.30PM TILL 3.30PM IN ROOM 432, ST. ANDREW'S
BUILDING, UNIVERSITY OF GLASGOW (tea/coffee available)

***“Adult learning in a distance education
context: theoretical and methodological
challenges”***

Presentation

The seminar reports the findings of a recent research study aspiring, by giving voice to the experiences and perceptions of adult learners and their educators, as they embark on distance learning courses in the Open University of Cyprus (OUC) and the Hellenic Open University (HOU), to unveil and illuminate some of the adult learning processes as well as the ‘fine-grained’ processes that are at work during the organization and delivery of the courses at the Open University, with the aim to underline the factors influencing these processes. The project complements and builds on previous research conducted by Gravani and attempts to extract from the findings those ideas and practices that, suitable adapted, could contribute to the re-organisation of distance courses for adults that facilitate adult learning. It has as its main units of analysis adult learners’ and their educators’ experiences and perceptions of adult learning in a distance education context and rests profoundly on a research framework that views certain programme elements as being vital in unveiling the processes of adult learning. It harnesses a phenomenological approach and qualitative research techniques. From the study a number of important dimensions emerged and factors that proved to have influenced adult learning processes.

Biography

Dr. Gravani is Lecturer in Continuing/Adult Education at the School of Humanities and Social Sciences of the Open University of Cyprus, and Coordinator of the Continuing Education strand of the Master's programme in Education Studies. She previously worked in the UK (Bristol University, University College London), in the Republic of Ireland (Trinity College Dublin), and Greece (University of Peloponnese, Hellenic Open University, General Secretariat for Adult Education). Her publication and research interests engage such areas as: Continuing Education; Lifelong Learning; Adult Education; Adult Distance Teaching and Learning in University; Professional Learning.

Her most recent book: Zarifis, G. K., & Gravani, M. N. (Eds.) (in press 2013)
"Challenging the 'European area of lifelong learning' - A critical response"
Springer: Dordrecht, The Netherlands [Lifelong Learning Book Series]

Questions and discussion are encouraged as part of the Seminar..



While the CR&DALL Seminar Series is free and open to all, we do ask that you register in order to allow us to plan accommodation and refreshments. Places are available on a first-come-first-served basis. If you intend to come along to the Seminar please e-mail us at cradall@educ.gla.ac.uk and provide your name, institution/department (if appropriate) and a daytime contact telephone number (in case of cancellation).

Thank you.

CR&DALL,
Room 641,
School of Education,
University of Glasgow,
St. Andrew's Building,
Eldon St.,
GLASGOW G3 6NH
0141 330 1833
www.gla.ac.uk/departments/cradall/