CURRICULUM VITAE

Maria Christoforou
Special Teaching Staff
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o **PROFILE**

I have been involved in English Language Teaching (ELT) since 2002. I have worked as an **English Language Lecturer** in Tertiary Education Institutions in the private sector in Cyprus. I have also worked in Secondary Education as a teacher of **English as a First Language (L1) and as aTeacher of English as a Second Language (L2)** in private institutions, and as a **Speaking Assessor** for English exams. My postgraduate qualifications include a **Master's Degree in Professional Development in Education** from the **Open University, UK**. I have been involved in **Curriculum Development and Design** at the **Cyprus University of Technology** since 2012. I have been testing the pedagogical application of **Virtual Reality** as an educational tool, implementing it in my **ESP** courses and research and presenting the results in conferences abroad. I have also been engaged in a **Virtual Exchange (VE) / telecollaboration** project with **TMU** (Taipei Medical University) in Taiwan. I have recently commenced my **PhD** studies on the promotion of digital literacy through **Virtual Reality**.

o **WORK EXPERIENCE**

TERTIARY EDUCATION EXPERIENCE

- Sep 2020-present   **Special Teaching Staff,**
                     Cyprus University of Technology (CUT), Limassol

- Jan 2012-May 2020   **Special Scientist (English Language)**
                     Cyprus University of Technology (CUT), Limassol

Designed the curriculum (13 weeks – 26 lessons), based on needs analysis and on the students' 4-year programme of study:
-English for Fine Arts I and II (1st-year students)
-English for Management Studies I and II (1st-year students)
-English for Chemical Engineering I and II (1st-year students)
-English for Multimedia & Graphic Design I and II (1st-year students)

Responsible for teaching:
-English for Academic Purposes (1st-year students)

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-English for Mechanical Engineering II (1st-year students)
-English for Communication Studies II (1st-year students)
-English for Nursing II and II (1st-year students)
-English for Commerce, Finance & Shipping I and II (1st-year students)
-English for Hotel & Tourism Management I and II (1st-year students)
-English for Business Communication (2nd-year students)
-English for Finance (4th-year students)

All courses have followed modern teaching approaches supported by **CALL** (Computer-Assisted Language Learning).

TECHNOLOGIES USED IN MY COURSES:

- **Virtual Reality systems** (Oculus Rift, Samsung Gear VR, Oculus Go),
- **Virtual Reality applications** (Sharecare VR, The Body VR, Dreams of Dali, Tilt Brush, Micro Cosmic Worlds, Mondly, Google Earth),
- **Personalised pages** (Weebly, Wix, Wordpress), **LinkedIn**
- **YouTube, websites, blogs, vlogs, SlideShare, TedTalks, Deviant Art** (art community online platform), **Mentimeter, Padlet, G Suite** (Google Drive, Gmail, Google sites, Google forms), **Kahoot**, **Moodle, Zoom, Skype, Facebook**, **iPad, smart phones, tablets**

- Jan 2020   **Cyprus University of Technology (CUT) Student Escort**

- Jun-Aug 2019   **Research Associate - CUT Language Centre**

- May 2018- Mar 2020   **English Instructor for Adult learners – appointed by the CUT LC**

- Jun-July 2018   **Instructor of IELTS for the public – appointed by the CUT LC**
  Apr – May 2019

- Sep 2019-Sep 2020   **Secretary of the EuroCALL Teacher Education Special Interest Group (SIG)**

- Feb 09-Sep 2014   **English Language Lecturer**
  Sep 17-Jun 2020   **The CTL Eurocollege**, Limassol

- Oct 09-Jan 2009   **English Language Lecturer**
  Intercollege, Limassol

SECONDARY EDUCATION EXPERIENCE

Sep 14-Jun 2018   **English Language Teacher**
                            IMS Private School, Limassol

PRIVATE INSTITUTIONS (PRIMARY & SECONDARY EDUCATION)

- Sep 03-Jun 2012 **English Language Teacher**
  ACT Private Institute, Limassol

- Jan 11-May 2011 **Speaking Assessor for the Anglia Examinations Speaking test in Cyprus appointed by Chichester College, UK**
  Chichester College, UK

- Sep 02-Jun 2003 **English Language Teacher**
  Apostolos Andreas Institute, Limassol

ACADEMIC REVIEWER:

- **Peer reviewer for the EuroCALL 2020 Gathering proposal selection:** Member of the "Peer-reviewing committee" for the EuroCALL 2020 selection of abstracts for the online gathering (August 2020)

- **Peer reviewer for the EuroCALL 2019 proceedings:** Member of the "Peer-reviewing committee" for the EuroCALL 2019 proceedings (September 2019)

EDUCATION

2002-2005 **Master's Degree on Professional Development in Education**
The Open University, UK

1998-2002 **Bachelor's Degree on English, Language & Literature**
University of Cyprus, Nicosia

PARTICIPATION IN RESEARCH PROJECTS

- **KA2 Erasmus+ proposal VEKCOME (Virtual Exchange for the Development of Key Competences)** – administered by Margarita Vinagre, Universitad Autonoma de Madrid (March 2020)

- **Erasmus+ research proposal KA201**- Strategic Partnerships for school education- **VRYou Training Secondary Education Teachers in creating subject-related lesson content through Virtual Reality** – written by Eftychia Xerou, Maria Christoforou, Dimitrios Boglou. Administered by Dr.Salomi Papadima-Sophocleous (March 2019)

INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATIONS

Name of project: Reflecting Intercultural Communicative Competence in Foreign Language Class, funded by **EVOLVE** (Evidence Validated Online Learning Through Virtual Exchange)

(Spring Semester 2020)
Partner university: Taipei Medical University (TMU)
Aim of the project: a) to examine the impact of VE on students and whether this form of learning helps develop specific learning outcomes, b) to promote intercultural awareness within interdisciplinary contexts

PUBLICATIONS

1. Christoforou, Maria; Xerou, Eftychia; Papadima-Sophocleous, Salomi. (2019). **Integrating a virtual reality application to simulate situated learning experiences in a foreign language course.** In Meunier, Fanny; Van de Vyver, Julie; Bradley, Linda; Thouësny, Sylvie (Eds), *CALL and complexity – short papers from EUROCALL 2019* (pp. 82-87). Research-publishing.net. https://doi.org/10.14705/rpnet.2019.38.990

2. 6th Panhellinic Scientific Conference 2019 - **Integration and Use of ICT in the Educational Process** - **Using the TESOL Technology Standards Framework to evaluate students' technological knowledge in an undergraduate Italian course**, Eftychia Xerou & Maria Christoforou, Cyprus University of Technology. https://www.etpe.gr/conf/?cid=36

3. (forthcoming) **Perceptions of tertiary ESP Fine Arts students towards Virtual Reality in Education**, Maria Christoforou and Dimitrios Boglou, Cyprus University of Technology.

Educational blogs:

1. **The practical challenge of integrating innovative technological tools into a theoretical ESP course** - Published by IATEFL Learning Technologies SIG - January, 2019 https://ltsig.iatefl.org/the-practical-challenge-of-integrating-innovative-technological-tools-into-a-theoretical-esp-course/

LinkedIn articles:

1. **English for Specific Purposes through the Lens of VR** – July 2020 https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/english-specific-purposes-through-lens-vr-maria-christoforou/?trackingId=SR6i8mFJTJigu4ZY20k5ww%3D%3D

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

1. (accepted to present) **International Virtual Conference on Innovation in Language Learning 2020** – 12-13 November 2020 – Presenting: **Evaluating Deviant Art as an Educational Tool for Language Learning**
2. **CyTEA 2019 Annual Conference** – Theme: **Foreign Language Learning: Inspiring teachers, transforming learners** – 23-24 November 2019, Nicosia, Cyprus – Presenting **First-year undergraduate ESP students Virtual Reality User Experience**, with Dimitrios Boglou and Eftychia Xerou
3. **EuroCALL 2019** - Theme: **CALL and Complexity** - 28th - 31st August 2019, Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium – Presenting **Integrating a Virtual Reality application to simulate Situated Learning experiences in a Foreign Language course,** with Salomi Papadima-Sophocleous
4. **IESPTA Conference 2019** - Theme: **Embracing ESP as "World Citizens" across Disciplines and Cultures** - 26th & 27th April 2019, Liverpool, UK - Presenting **Perceptions of**

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tertiary ESP Fine Arts students towards Virtual Reality in Education, with Dimitrios Boglou and Eftychia Xerou

WORKSHOP PARTICIPATION

1. EuroCALL Teacher Education SIG Workshop: **Practical Implementation of digital technologies: a day of professional development –** 7th March 2020, Limassol – Presenting **Exploring different Virtual Reality (VR) systems as innovative educational tools: A reflection of practice**, with Dimitrios Boglou.
2. **Erasmus+ Workshop – How to write a KA201 research proposal** - part of the CUT Language Centre In-Service Training Programme) – June 2019 – Dimitrios Boglou, Eftychia Xerou, Maria Christoforou
3. **Opening new learning opportunities with Virtual Reality** (part of the CUT Language Centre In-Service Training Programme) – June 2019 – Dimitrios Boglou, Eftychia Xerou, Maria Christoforou

CONFERENCES ATTENDED

1. **EuroCALL 2020 Gathering** (online) – 20th-21st August 2020
2. **ReDesign Conference – The Implementation of Technology in Second/Foreign Language Learning: Past, Current and Future Ventures** – organised by KIOS Research and Innovation Centre of Excellence and the Language Centre, University of Cyprus, 5th June 2019, Nicosia, Cyprus
3. **ICAT-EGVE 2018 Artificial Reality and Virtual Environments** organized by RISE Research Centre, 7th-9th November 2018, Limassol, Cyprus
4. **EuroCALL 2016**, 24th-27th August, 2016, Limassol, Cyprus
5. **Educational Management**, October 2002, Limassol - organised by the University of Luton, Apostolos Andreas Private Institute and the Human Resources Development Authority of Cyprus
6. **18th International Conference in Literature and Psychology**, May 2001, University of Cyprus, Nicosia.

TRAINING

1. **EVOLVE Advanced Training** (Erasmus+ Virtual Exchange): Online advanced training for HE educators who wish to set up an online telecollaboration project with a partner university of institution.
2. **TEP Basic Training** (Erasmus+ Virtual Exchange): Online basic training for HE educators who wish to set up an online telecollaboration project with a partner university of institution.
3. **Preparation of Proposals and Management of European Education Projects under ERASMUS+ (PPMEEP)**, 16th-19th November 2018, Larnaca, Cyprus
4. **Google+ as a means of integrating technology in language learning** – CUT Language Centre, December 2014, Limassol, Cyprus
5. **IGCSE** (as a Second Language) **Workshop**, organised by Peter Lucantoni (Cambridge University Press), March 2004, Limassol.

HONOURS

Honored with the title **Student representative** to represent Ayios Ioannis Lyceum in the **Synaxis International Conference,** 1998, Limassol, Cyprus.
The title was given as the student with the highest marks in English and French in the whole school.

PROFESSIONAL ORGANISATIONS

Member of:
EuroCALL (European Association of Computer-Assisted Language Learning)
IATEFL (International Association of Teaching English as a Foreign Language)
IATEFL Learning Technologies SIG
IESPTA (International English for Specific Purposes Teacher Association)
CyTEA (Cyprus Teachers of English Association)
IALLT (International Association for Language Learning Technology)