

GIORGOS TSIOLIS, PhD

Professor of Sociology

Research Methodology in the Social Sciences | Qualitative Research Methods

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[University profile](#) | [Google Scholar](#)



SHORT ACADEMIC CURRICULUM VITAE | September 2026

ACADEMIC PROFILE

Professor of Sociology at the University of Crete, specialising in qualitative research methodology, biographical and narrative research, mixed-methods designs, secondary analysis of qualitative data, identity research, and the sociology of work. His work combines methodological and epistemological inquiry with empirical research on biographies, labour-market transformations, precarious employment, and qualitative research infrastructures.

EDUCATION

2002	PhD in Social Sciences, Department of Sociology, University of Crete (unanimous distinction). Dissertation: Deindustrialisation and Biographical Transformations: Life Stories of Industrial Workers in Lavrion.
1997-2002	Doctoral studies, Department of Sociology, University of Crete; three-year research scholarship from the University of Crete Research Committee.
1999-2000	Visiting doctoral researcher, Graduate School in Lifelong Learning, Roskilde University Centre, Denmark.
1993-1997	Doctoral studies, University of Bremen, Institute for Applied Biographical and Lifeworld Research, under Prof. Peter Alheit.
1989	Degree in Philosophical and Social Studies, University of Crete.

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

2021-present	Professor, Department of Sociology, University of Crete - Research Methodology in the Social Sciences / Qualitative Research Methods.
2014-2021	Associate Professor, Department of Sociology, University of Crete - Qualitative Methods in Sociological Research.
2011-2014	Tenured Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology, University of Crete.
2007-2011	Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology, University of Crete.
2006-2007	Lecturer in Microsociology, Department of Sociology, University of the Aegean.
2002-2006	Adjunct Lecturer, Department of Sociology, University of the Aegean.

Visiting and parallel appointments

- 2018: Professional Research Fellow, Institut für Bildungswissenschaft, Universität Wien.
- 2011: Gastprofessor, Fachbereich 03 Gesellschaftswissenschaften, Goethe-Universität Frankfurt (Prof. Ursula Apitzsch).
- 2014-2020 and 2024-present: Tutor-Counsellor, Hellenic Open University, postgraduate programmes in Education / Adult Education.

RESEARCH INTERESTS

- Qualitative research methods and methodology of social and educational research
- Biographical and narrative research
- Mixed and integrative research designs
- Secondary analysis and documentation of qualitative data
- Identity, subjectification, and biographies
- Sociology of work, precarious employment, and changing occupational trajectories

SCIENTIFIC LEADERSHIP AND PROFESSIONAL ROLES

2023-present	Vice-President, Executive Committee, Research Committee 38 (Biography and Society), International Sociological Association (ISA).
2023-2026	Member, Sectoral Scientific Council for Social Sciences, National Council for Research, Technology and Innovation (ESETEK), Greece.
2018-2021	Vice-President, Greek Oral History Association; elected Board member, 2013-2016.
Ongoing	University of Crete representative to SoDaNet (Social Data Network) and scientific coordinator of the University of Crete Social Data Repository.

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

Selected from the full publication record. Greek-language titles are given in English translation and marked [in Greek].

Books

- Tsiolis, G. (2026). *Qualitative Research in the Social Sciences: Epistemological Foundations, Research Design, and Research Practices* [in Greek]. Kritiki. <https://kritiki.gr/product/h-poiotikh-erevna-stis-koinwnikes-episthmes/>
- Tsiolis, G. (2023). *Precarious Biographies: Work Trajectories and Identities in the Transforming World of Work* [in Greek]. Gutenberg. <https://www.dardanosnet.gr/product/episfaleis-viografies/>
- Tsiolis, G., & Christodoulou, M. (2021). *Social Causation and Biographical Research: Philosophical, Theoretical, and Methodological Arguments*. Routledge. <https://www.routledge.com/Social-Causation-and-Biographical-Research-Philosophical-Theoretical-and/Tsiolis-Christodoulou/p/book/9780367620363>
- Tsiolis, G. (2014). *Methods and Techniques of Analysis in Qualitative Social Research* [in Greek]. Kritiki. <https://kritiki.gr/product/methodike-technikes-analisis-stin-po/>
- Tsiolis, G. (2006). *Life Stories and Biographical Narratives: The Biographical Approach in Sociological Research* [in Greek]. Kritiki.

Edited volumes

- Dalkavoukis, V., Van Boeschoten, R., Tsiolis, G., & Antoniou, A. (Eds.). (2023). *Life Narratives in Times of Crisis: Memory Representations, Identity Searches and Methodological Reflections* [in Greek]. Greek Oral History Association.
- Kallas, G., Kondyli, D., Linardis, A., Nagopoulos, N., & Tsiolis, G. (Eds.). (2022). *Developing Infrastructures for the Production and Management of Data in the Social Sciences* [in Greek]. Alexandria / Social Data Network. <https://sodanet.gr/publications/collective-volumes#book1>
- Tsiolis, G., & Siouti, I. (Eds.). (2013). *Biographical (Re)Constructions in Late Modernity: Theoretical and Methodological Issues in Biographical Research in the Social Sciences* [in Greek]. Nisos.

Selected journal articles

- Anastasiadou, K., Theodorakis, N. D., Tsiolis, G., Alexandris, K., Lianopoulos, Y., & Costa, G. (2026). Enhancing customer experience in running events: A service design approach using the Customer Experience Modeling method. *Journal of Global Sport Management*, 1-28. <https://doi.org/10.1080/24704067.2026.2643192>
- Kasseri, Z., & Tsiolis, G. (2025). "I feel like I'm swallowing stones": Qualitative research in the field of addiction as emotionally challenging work. *Forum Qualitative Sozialforschung / Forum: Qualitative Social Research*, 26(1), Art. 1. <https://doi.org/10.17169/fqs-26.1.4289>
- Tsiolis, G., & Siouti, I. (2023). Exploring biographies in a rapidly changing labor world. *Current Sociology*, 71(4), 587-606. <https://doi.org/10.1177/00113921221132520>
- Tsiolis, G. (2018). O campo da pesquisa biográfica na Grécia: desenvolvimento histórico e perspectiva atual. *Revista Brasileira de Pesquisa (Auto)Biográfica*, 3(9), 846-859. <https://doi.org/10.31892/rbpab2525-426X.2018.v3.n9.p846-859>
- Tsiolis, G. (2012). Biographical constructions and transformations: Using biographical methods for studying transcultural identities. *Papers: Revista de Sociologia*, 97(1), 113-127.
- Serdedakis, N., Tsiolis, G., Tzanakis, M., & Papaioannou, S. (2003). Strategies of social integration in the biographies of Greek female immigrants coming from the former Soviet Union: Self-employment as an alternative. *International Review of Sociology*, 13(1), 145-162. <https://doi.org/10.1080/0390670032000087032>
- Serdedakis, N., & Tsiolis, G. (2000). Biographical trajectories and identity: Traditional overdetermination and individualisation. *YOUNG*, 8(2), 2-23. <https://doi.org/10.1177/110330880000800201>

Selected book chapters

- Kofti, D., & Tsiolis, G. (2026). Biographical and ethnographic approaches in dialogue: Investigating life (hi)stories and relations of work. In G. Rosenthal, J. Becker, M. Pohn-Lauggas, & A. Worm (Eds.), *Handbook of Biographical Research in the Social Sciences*. Edward Elgar. Forthcoming.
- Tsiolis, G. (2026). Grounded theory. In Th. Iosifides (Ed.), *Elgar Concise Encyclopedia of Research Methods in the Social Sciences* (pp. 105-112). Edward Elgar.
- Tsiolis, G., & Kasseri, Z. (2021). Drug addiction treatment as biographical work: Life-stories of young women in recovery from addiction. In C. Chatwin, G. R. Potter, & B. Werse (Eds.), *Who? Variation and Distinction in the European Drugs Landscape* (pp. 41-56). Pabst.
- Tsiolis, G. (2018). Biographieforschung in Griechenland. In H. Lutz, M. Schiebel, & E. Tuider (Eds.), *Handbuch Biographieforschung* (pp. 753-764). Springer VS.

SELECTED RESEARCH PROJECTS

2026-present	Scientific coordinator / PI for the University of Crete and researcher, LandPrint - Mapping the Human Imprint: Drivers, Costs, and Solutions for Soil Health Across Europe (Horizon Europe, EU Mission "A Soil Deal for Europe"). University of Crete leads the qualitative mapping of behavioural decision drivers in WP2.
2020-2022	Scientific lead of Work Package/Axis 2, expert research supporting the Regional Observatory for Social Inclusion, University of Crete / Region of Crete.
2019-2022	Scientific lead and coordinator, "Professional Identities and Resilience under Flexible and Precarious Employment: A Qualitative Study," Labour Institute of the Greek General Confederation of Labour (INE-GSEE).
2018-2022	PI and researcher, University of Crete subproject, SoDaNet in Action - upgrading the Greek research infrastructure for social data.
2018-2022	Research team member, MOBEL - From Grexit to Brexit: Exploring Belonging and Identity in Greece and the UK (HFRI/GSRT).
2014-2015	PI and researcher, University of Crete subproject, CESSDA-EPAE; responsible for data processing and documentation for the institutional repository.
2010	PI, University of Crete subproject, feasibility study for the Greek national social-data research network and participation in CESSDA_RI.
2002-2005	Research team member, E-QUALITY / EQUAL; designed and led a nationwide qualitative study of 25 employment-counselling organisations.

TEACHING

University of Crete - Undergraduate (2007-present)

Regular courses include: Qualitative Methods in Sociological Research; Introduction to Sociological Research Methodology; Social Identities and Biographies in Post-industrial Society; Biographical and Narrative Approaches in Sociology; Qualitative Methods Seminar; Collection and Analysis of Qualitative Data; Mixed-Methods Research Design.

Postgraduate teaching

- University of Crete: Qualitative Research Design and Data Analysis; Principles of Social Research; Research Methods in Sociology II: Qualitative Methods; Qualitative Data Analysis; MA Thesis Research Seminar; Research Methodology in the Social Sciences II (programme coordinator and instructor, 2025-26).
- Hellenic Open University (2014-2020; 2024-present): Educational Research in Practice, postgraduate programmes in Education / Adult Education.
- Guest postgraduate teaching at Democritus University of Thrace, University of Thessaly, Panteion University, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, University of Cyprus, University of the Aegean, and Hellenic Mediterranean University.
- International Erasmus teaching: Eötvös Loránd University (Budapest, 2024), European University Cyprus (2017, 2021), and Universidad de Sevilla (2013).
- Teaching at postgraduate summer schools and advanced training programmes on qualitative research, biographical methods, Grounded Theory, thematic analysis, interviewing, focus groups, and NVivo (2012-2024).

SUPERVISION AND DOCTORAL EXAMINATION

Postdoctoral	Supervisor of 3 postdoctoral research projects: 1 completed (2025) and 2 ongoing.
PhD supervision	Primary supervisor of 1 completed PhD (2023) and 1 ongoing PhD dissertation at the University of Crete.
PhD committees	Member of 15 doctoral advisory committees (9 completed, 6 ongoing) and 18 doctoral examination committees across Greek universities.
International	External reviewer (Gutachter), PhD dissertation of Kyriakos Melidis, Friedrich Schiller University Jena, 2026.
MA theses	Supervisor of 29 Master's theses; member of advisory committees for 39 additional Master's theses.
BA theses	Supervisor of 8 undergraduate theses; committee member for 9 additional undergraduate theses.

Selected supervised doctoral and postdoctoral research

- Konstantinos Fagogennis, The Workers of Tourism: Trade-Union Struggles and Biographical Trajectories, PhD, University of Crete (completed 2023).
- Eleni Theodori, Employment Counselling within Active Labour-Market Policies as Biographical Work, PhD, University of Crete (ongoing).

- Maria Botsiou, Building Identities: A Biographical Approach to Beekeepers' Identity Construction and the Mediating Role of Social Media, postdoctoral research (ongoing).
- Konstantinos Panagos, Criminological Theory and Mixed Empirical Research: Theoretical Foundations and the Contribution of Combining Research Approaches in Criminology, postdoctoral research (ongoing).

SELECTED CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

26 Jun 2026	"Artificial Intelligence in Qualitative Analysis: The Need for Technological Reflexivity," 10th Conference of the Hellenic Sociological Society, Mytilene.
9 May 2026	"Processes of Worker Subjectification in the Creative Economy: From the Entrepreneurial Self to the Singular Worker," conference on Sociological and Anthropological Approaches to Work, Athens.
8 Jul 2025	"Secondary Analysis of Biographical Narratives: Challenges and Prospects Based on an Ongoing Project in Greece," 5th ISA Forum of Sociology, Rabat, Morocco.
4 Sep 2024	"Processes of Worker Subjectification in the Creative Economy: The Construction of a Constantly Renewed Singular Professional Profile," RC38 Conference, Budapest.
28 Jun 2023	"Constructing a Singular Profile as a Freelancer: The Tension between Independence and Self-Exploitation," XX ISA World Congress of Sociology, Melbourne.
19 Jul 2018	"Body Modification as Biographical Work: Constructing Different Types of Identity through Tattooing," XIX ISA World Congress of Sociology, Toronto.
12 Jul 2016	"The Drug Addiction Treatment as Biographical Work: The Narrative Construction of a Reconstructed Self," 3rd ISA Forum of Sociology, Vienna.
11 Sep 2015	Co-author, "Families' Preparation Process to Migrate from Greece to (Non-)European Countries," European Conference on Educational Research (ECER), Budapest.

CONFERENCE ORGANISATION AND INTERNATIONAL SERVICE

- 2026-present: Programme Coordinator (with Martin Hernán Di Marco), RC38 Biography and Society sessions for the XXI ISA World Congress of Sociology, Gwangju, Republic of Korea (4-10 July 2027).
- 2024-2025: Programme Coordinator (with Maria Pohn-Lauggas), RC38 sessions at the 5th ISA Forum of Sociology, Rabat, Morocco (6-11 July 2025).
- 2024: Member, Organising and Scientific Committee, RC38 international conference "Biographical Research Quo Vadis?", Budapest.
- 2023: Co-organiser and chair, session "Biographical Perspectives in the Research Field of Political Participation," XX ISA World Congress, Melbourne.
- 2022: Member, Organising and Scientific Committee, 5th International Oral History Conference, Rethymno.
- 2002-present: Member of the Organising and Scientific Committee of the annual postgraduate intensive seminar-conference "Issues of Research Methodology in the Social Sciences," University of Crete.

ADMINISTRATIVE AND ACADEMIC SERVICE

2025-present	Member, Strategic Planning Committee, Department of Sociology, University of Crete.
2020-2024	Chair, Department of Sociology, University of Crete; member of the University Senate and Dean's Council, School of Social Sciences.
2015-2017	Director, MA Programme in Sociology, Department of Sociology, University of Crete.
2015-2016	Deputy Chair, Department of Sociology, University of Crete.
2013-2014	Board member, Centre for Research and Studies (KEME), University of Crete.

Evaluation and peer review

- Evaluator of candidates' scholarly work in academic appointment and promotion procedures.
- Evaluator of proposals for the "Kallipos - Greek Academic Electronic Textbooks" programme.
- Evaluator-certifier for the ARISTEIA I research programme of the General Secretariat for Research and Technology.
- Peer reviewer for Greek and international academic journals.

INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION

Erasmus institutional coordinator for Department of Sociology partnerships with: Universidad de Sevilla; Universität Wien; Freie Universität Berlin; Universität Hamburg; Universität Hildesheim; Friedrich Schiller University Jena; Universität Erfurt; Universität Kassel; Károli Gáspár University of the Reformed Church in Hungary; and European University Cyprus.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

- Research Committee 38 “Biography and Society”, International Sociological Association (ISA)
- Greek Oral History Association
- Hellenic Sociological Society
- Sektion Biographieforschung, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Soziologie (DGS)