

Urban Resilience and Climate Expert

Deputy Mayor | Chief Resilience Officer | Loeb Fellow

An international expert on urban and climate resilience, leading systemic and sustainable change in the public sector. An academic with executive level experience, who collaborates globally with private, public and nonprofit organizations and institutions. Successfully combines strategic thinking with management and implementation skills. Designs and leads multi-million euro programs around sustainable blue and green infrastructure development. Builds coalitions and motivates teams to reach their full potential. Designs and produces resilient policies and bottom up urban resilient strategies. Establishes new agile governance structures and leads discourse on Climate Change and Heat Mitigation.

AREAS OF EXPERTISE

- | | |
|-------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| • Urban Resilience | • Strategic Planning and Policy Making |
| • Climate Adaptation | • High Impact Communicator |
| • Sustainable Design and Development | • Team Leadership |
| • Community Engagement and Empowerment | • Drives High Stake Negotiations |
| • Democracy, Governance and Public Institutions | • Creates High Performance Culture |
| • Nationalism and Border Studies | • Forges Strategic Alliances and Partnerships |
-

Harvard University Graduate School of Design, MA, USA, 2019-present

Loeb Fellow in Advanced Environmental Studies: One out of nine accomplished practitioners selected yearly for being influential in shaping the built and natural environment and advancing sustainable and equitable change in cities around the world. The Fellows offer their expertise to the GSD faculty and students while receiving housing, a monthly stipend and unlimited access to Harvard and MIT resources. Loeb Fellows comprise a powerful network of leaders revitalizing sustainable urban communities. During the fellowship, invited to speak at the following events:

- CityLab Washington DC 2019 "Scorched: Cities Plan for Extreme Heat," 10/2019
- Rockefeller Foundation, NYC, "Co-Designing a Global City Network," 11/2019
- City of Penrith, Sydney, Australia "Cooling the City Masterclass," 02/2020
- Harvard University Center for European Studies "Climate-Neutral Cities," 02/2020

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

City of Athens Deputy Mayor for Urban Nature, Resilience & Climate Change Adaptation, 2017-2019

Led the **Urban Nature Directorate** with 400+ staff and a multi-million euro annual budget. Introduced a clear vision linking urban nature to Climate Adaptation and created a motivated, efficient and effective 9-member leadership team. Spearheaded collaborative processes with citizens, experts and municipal staff in planning, designing and implementing neighborhood parks, urban agriculture and an urban forest. Introduced the first digital data monitoring for green and grey infrastructure regarding temperature, humidity and pollution.

Key Achievements:

- **Athens received the European Innovation Capital 2018** award (€1M prize) which was partially based on work by the Office of Resilience and Sustainability.
- **Athens was the first city to receive the Natural Capital Finance Facility (€5M) and free technical assistance (€500.000) through a European Investment Bank loan**, in order to design and implement 4 blue/green infrastructure projects and build capacity within the public and private sectors.
- **Athens pioneered in introducing the Extrema App**, a phone application which gives real-time personalized information regarding Athenians' level of risk during extreme weather conditions and

proposes the nearest available shelters for the most vulnerable. The Extrema App was adopted by Paris, Rotterdam and Milan.

- **Athens: Leading the Cool Cities Network:** in Dec. 2018 Athens was selected by the C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group to lead the Cool Cities Network.
- **Initiated and designed blue and green infrastructure policy:** Designed and implemented the strategy for water sustainability and resilience. Introduced nature-based solutions for urban challenges.

City of Athens Chief Resilience Officer, (100 Resilient Cities, Pioneered by the Rockefeller Foundation) 2016-present

Designed and began implementing the **Athens Resilience Strategy for 2030** which anchors a €55M loan by the European Investment Bank to the City of Athens and 1€M of free technical assistance. Established and managed international partnerships, city networks (100RC, C40, Bloomberg Associates, MUFPP, ICLEI) and the alignment with global frameworks (Global Covenant of Mayors, SDGs, Habitat III New Urban Agenda, the Paris Agreement, the Sendai Framework). Managed EU funding streams re resilient, sustainable and innovative cities, circular economy and nature based solutions. Supervised 4 European research programs of ≈ 500.000. Coordinated and led multidisciplinary teams across city departments and external stakeholders (government, academia, private and nonprofit sector). Developed and led the **Office of Resilience and Sustainability** (co-funded by 100 Resilient Cities, pioneered by the Rockefeller Foundation co-funded through EU funds as well as C40) which grew into a Department of the Municipal Organization with an 8-member staff (currently led by DCRO).

University of the Aegean, 2006-present

Tenured Assistant Professor, Department of Cultural Technology & Communications

Professor, Academic Advisor, Researcher, Designer and Developer of Multimedia Museum Exhibitions. She edited two volumes of articles and published articles and chapters in international peer reviewed academic journals and several books (indicatively):

- E. Myrivilis, "The Border as Ghost", στο O. Demetriou and R. Dimova (eds), *The Political Materialities of Borders: New Theoretical Directions (Rethinking Borders)*. Manchester: Manchester University Press, 2019, chap 7, p.p. 142-158.
- E. Myrivilis, I. Keramitsoglou, P. Sismanidis, A. Analitis, T. Butler, D. Founda, C. Giannakopoulos, E. Giannatou, A. Karali, K. Katsouyanni, V. Kendrovski, G. Lemesios, D. Ordonez, K. V. Varotsos, G. Vlastou, C. T. Kiranoudis, "Urban Thermal Risk Reduction: Developing and Implementing Spatially Explicit Services for Resilient Cities", στο *Sustainable Cities and Society* #34, 2017, σελ. 56-68.
- E. Myrivilis and A. Bounia, "Beyond the 'Virtual': Intangible Museographies and Collaborative Museum Experiences" στο H. Barranha and S. S. Martins (eds.), *Uncertain Spaces: Virtual Configurations in Contemporary Art and Museums*, Instituto de História da Arte FCSH /NOVA, Lisbon 2015, p.p. 15-32.
- E. Myrivilis, "Transformations of Political Divides: Commerce, Culture and Sympathy Crossing the Greek-Turkish Border" στο K. Oktem, K. Nikolaidis, O. Anastasakis (eds), *In the Long Shadow of Europe – Greeks and Turks in the era of Postnationalism*. Leiden: Brill, 2009, p.p. 331-357

Led and coordinated multiple diverse teams working on European Programmes (indicatively):

- EUNAMUS 2010-2013: "European National Museums: Identity Politics, the Uses of Past and the European Citizen" (EC FP7 Program for Socio-Economic Sciences and Humanities) as Deputy Scientific Coordinator for Greece, Turkey, Cyprus and Malta.
- BIOBUS 2006-2008: "Biodiversity Resources for Innovative Business Development" (EC FP6 Program for Regional and Urban Development and National Funds) leading multiple teams: a) documenting indigenous plants, their traditional uses and existing and/or possible entrepreneurial opportunities, and b) designing a book and a museum exhibition.
- HISTORY LOST 2006-2010: (CULTURE Programme/Creative Europe) a museum exhibition created by Anemon Productions in association with the Illicit Antiquities Research Centre - University of Cambridge UK, the Greek Ministry of Culture, the Cyprus Dpt. of Antiquities, and the University of the Aegean. Coordinator and Art Director of the entire interactive multimedia presentations/installations.

National Public Television (ERT1), 2010-2011

Host & Co-Author for Public Television Documentary Series, 13-hourly episodes entitled "Talk to Me Green" presenting different typologies of successful sustainable living, prominent scientists and ecological challenges and solutions.

Audiovisual and Interactive Multimedia Design and Production, 2006-2017

- **International Documentary Film Festival Aegean Docs**, 2013-2017: **Producer & Host**. Co-produced a yearly weeklong event of (often premiering) political, social and historical documentaries showcased at 15 theaters throughout 9 islands in the Northern Aegean.
- **Athens Numismatic Museum Children's Website**, 2009: **Designer & Project Coordinator** interactive games and animation.
- **Green Party Audiovisual Media Campaign**, 2009: **Producer & Artistic Director** European and Greek Parliamentary elections.
- **Ministry of Mercantile Marine and Island Policy**, 2008: **Curator**, Multimedia Museum Exhibit: Terra4: Aegean Aroma.
- **Documentary and Disability Film Festival**, 2007-2008: **Artistic Director** inaugural and closing ceremonies.

Greek Green Party – elected to its leadership, 2007-2012

Executive Committee (5 elected members) 2008-2009 and **National Council** (40 elected members) 2007-2012
Executive Committee: oversaw all negotiations, communications, coalition building, staffing, budgets and everyday decisions of the party. During the European Parliament election campaign (2009), served as one of the two spokespersons and managed the audio-visual material. National Council: a larger representational body that met quarterly, voted for and provided the political mandate and direction to the executive committee and decided on the party's political agenda.

Key Achievement:

In the 2009 European parliamentary elections, elected first and only Greek Green European Member of Parliament.

EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Anthropology: Columbia University, New York, USA

Advisor: Prof. Michael Taussig

Dissertation (2004): "The Liquid Border: Subjectivity at the Limits of the Nation State in Southeast Europe"

MA in Performance Studies, New York University, New York, USA

BA in Theater & Social Studies, Wesleyan University, Connecticut, USA

Scholarships

- Social Science Research Council, Dissertation Research Fellowship
- Institute for the Study of World Politics, Dissertation Research Fellowship
- Sheldon Scheps Outstanding Scholarship Columbia University Fellowship, Preliminary Dissertation Research
- Columbia University President's Fellowship, Ph.D. Studies Anthropology Department

MEMBERSHIPS

- **City of Athens: Elected Council Member-Sustainability Portfolio**, Greece, 2014-2019
- **Board of Directors Athens Development & Destination Management Agency**, 2014-2019
- **Urbanization and Social Cohesion Committee Chair**, Athens Coordination Centre for Migrants and Refugees, 2017-2019
- **Milano Urban Food Policy Pact Steering Committee** (elected by signatory cities), 2017-2019
- **City of Athens Public Space, Natural and Built Environment Advisory Board Chair**, and **Quality of Life Committee** elected member, 2014-2019
- **Scientific Advisor to the General Secretariat for Research and Technology, Ministry of Education**, for actions on "Science and Society" 2010-2011
- **Academic Professional Organizations**: American Anthropological Association (AAA), Association of Social Anthropologists (EASA) and Société Internationale d' Ethnologie et de Folklore (SIEF), 1993-2003

- **European Cooperation in Science and Technology COST ESF Action IS0803 Network:** "Remaking Eastern Borders in Europe: A Network Exploring Social, Moral and Material Relocations of Europe's Eastern Peripheries," 2009
- **CISD Board of Directors** (Citizens' Inspectorate for Sustainable Development) and member of its Scientific Advisory Committee, 2013 -2015
- **Second Track Diplomacy NGOs:** Helsinki Citizens Assembly (reporting on democratic institutions in the Balkans, 1994-2004), and Vice-President of Dafne/Defne NGO (promoting Greek-Turkish relations, 2004-2007)
- **Environmental NGO/CSOs:** Friends of the Earth, WWF, IFAW, The Trust for Public Land, 350.org and Greenpeace, 1991-2020