

	Name: Garyfallia (Fyllio) Katsavounidou
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	Subject: Urban Planning & Urban Design
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Studies

2009-2012: **PhD degree**, Department of Architecture, University of Thessaly (UTH). Dissertation title: “Child, city, play: A polyphonic biography”. Advisor: Prof. Zissis Kotionis. Research sponsored by “Heraclitus II” Doctoral Scholarships Program (EU & Greek Ministry of Education).

1998-2000: **SMArchS in Architecture and Urbanism**, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). Thesis title: “Invisible Parentheses: Mapping out the city and its histories”. Advisor: Prof. Mark Jarzombek. Thesis Readers: Julian Beinart, Ellen Dunham-Jones. Recipient of the **Ralph Adams Cram Award for best interdisciplinary thesis** in the School of Architecture and Planning.

1990-1996: **Diploma of Architect Engineer**, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (AUTH). Highest score in the Panhellenic Exams for entering the School of Architecture (1990) and highest GPA (9.06) among Faculty of Engineering graduates (1996).

Research Interests

Key words: urban design, urban planning, urban history, sustainable urban mobility, urban geography, sustainable urban mobility, sociological & psychological approaches of space, observation study in open public space, participatory design processes.

Description: The core of her philosophy is the interdisciplinary approach to urban issues. Her research and teaching include the following topics: human-centered urban design; bioclimatic design of buildings and outdoor spaces; design for the child in the city; architectural and planning education; city and history; immigration, multiculturalism and urban space; strategic planning and local action plans; sustainable and resilient urban development.

Teaching (current courses)

Undergraduate courses

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|---|---|
| School of Spatial Planning and Development (SSPD) | • TH1-1 City and Urban Planning |
| SSPD | • SE2-1 Introduction to Urban Design and Urban Planning |
| SSPD | • SE4-1 From Urban Planning to Urban Design |
| SSPD | • TH7-E7 The City at Human Scale |
| School of Architecture | • Social and psychological approaches of space and of Architecture |
| School of Political Sciences | • ER000 Greece Today (Unit: Greek Urban Planning) – course offered to Erasmus+ Incoming students |

Postgraduate courses

- MSc Spatial Planning for sustainable and resilient development, SSPD
- Interdepartmental MA in Pedagogy and Interdisciplinary Anthropology
- MSc Construction Project Management, School of Civil Engineering
- **E-B-1 Spatial Planning for Resilient Metropolitan Areas**
- **Anthropology of Space**
- **Spatial and Urban Planning – Project Licensing**

Instructor Q-index in AUTH Course Evaluations

- 2025-2026 • Q: 92.5 out of 116 evaluations (SSPD instructors' average: 72.3)
- 2024-2025 • Q: 89.3 out of 153 evaluations (SSPD instructors' average: 75.1)
- 2023-2024 • Q: 88.3 out of 116 evaluations (SSPD instructors' average: 76.9)
- 2022-2023 • Q: 88.5 out of 254 evaluations (SSPD instructors' average: 71.1)
- 2021-2022 • Q: 91.1 out of 215 evaluations (SSPD instructors' average: 74.1)
- 2020-2021 • Q: 88.5 out of 321 evaluations (SSPD instructors' average: 75.5)
- 2019-2020 • Q: 88.3 out of 231 evaluations (SSPD instructors' average: 73.2)

2024: **Nominee for the Excellence in Teaching** award of AUTH, having the highest scores in course evaluations among SSPD academic staff for three consecutive years.

Professional Experience

- 2019-today: Faculty member at the School of Spatial Planning and Development AUTH
- 2015-2018: Head of the Department of Planning and Development of the Municipality of Veria, Greece
- 2007-2015: Architect Engineer at the Municipality of Veria (Department of Technical Works and Department of Environment)
- 2001-2007: Architect Engineer at the Department of Architecture Works, Municipality of Thessaloniki, Greece
- 1996-2001: Architect Engineer at the Department of Technical Consultants of the Commercial Bank of Greece, Thessaloniki.

Works (selection)

Design Competition Awards

- 2022: **C40-Students Reinventing Cities**: Special Mention for the redesign of Fokionos Negri area in Kypseli, Athens. Coordinator: G. Katsavounidou
- 1998: Mention in the Panhellenic Architectural Competition for the “Design of the St. Nicholas Pier at the port of Patras”. Design team: G. Katsavounidou, P. Kourti, V. Tentokali (consultant).
- 1997: First Commendation in the Panhellenic Urban Design Competition for the “Redesign of the surrounding area of 12 Apostles Church in Thessaloniki”. Design team: G. Katsavounidou, P. Kourti.

Strategic Planning / Action Plans of Urban Development

- 2018: Design and Preparation for the Strategic Plan for Place Marketing and Branding of the Municipality of Veria.
- 2018: Design and Preparation for Placemaking / Participatory Design workshops for the “greening” of schoolyards in the Municipality of Veria.
- 2017: Strategic Plan for Sustainable Urban Development, implementing the Integrated Territorial Investment (ITI) tool, EUSF 2013-2020.

- 2017: Design and Preparation for the Strategic Plan for Sustainable Urban Mobility of the Municipality of Veria.
- 2017: Design and Preparation for the Strategic Plan for Sustainable Energy and Climate of the Municipality of Veria, in the context of its participation in the Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy.
- 2016-2017: Design and Preparation for the Strategic Plan for the Spatial and Social Integration of Roma citizens of the Municipality of Veria.

Urban Design Projects

- 2014: Bioclimatic redesign of the surrounding area of the 4th Primary School of Veria
- 2009: Design of a new playground at Orologiou Square, Veria
- 2007: Redesign of Peristerion Square, Thessaloniki
- 2006: Redesign of 7 playgrounds in the Municipality of Thessaloniki
- 2003: Redesign of Olympiados Street in Thessaloniki

Publications

Books

- Katsavounidou, G. (2023). **Child, City and Design: The Spielraum** [in Greek]. Foreword by Kyriaki Tsoukala. Athens: Kritiki.
- Katsavounidou, G. (2023). **The City at Human Scale. History – Theory – Implementations.** Foreword by Athena Yiannakou. Kallipos Hellenic Academic Open Textbooks.
- Katsavounidou, G. (2004). **Invisible Parentheses; 27 cities in Thessaloniki** [in Greek]. Foreword by Julian Beinart. Athens: Patakis Editions. Publication sponsored by the Alexander S. Onassis Foundation.

Book Translation

- Gehl, J. (2013). **Life Between Buildings: Using Public Space** [in Greek], with an introduction by Panayiotis Tournikiotis, translated and edited by G. Katsavounidou & P. Tarani, Volos: University Press of Thessaly. Translation sponsored by Danish Culture Fund, Statens Kunstrad, Denmark.

Papers in peer-reviewed journals

1. Tafidou, K., Katsavounidou, G. (2026). Listening to children: Participatory practices in the design of open spaces for play. **Sustainable Development, Culture, Traditions Journal**. Volume 1a, 91-106. [doi:10.26341/issn.2241-4010-2026-1a-5-L02145](https://doi.org/10.26341/issn.2241-4010-2026-1a-5-L02145)
2. Katsavounidou, G. (2025). What do young adolescents' views of their neighbourhoods reveal about gender-inclusiveness and sustainability of urban space? **Euro-Mediterranean Journal for Environmental Integration**. [doi:10.1007/s41207-025-00859-2](https://doi.org/10.1007/s41207-025-00859-2)
3. Ingmann, K., Katsavounidou, G., & Mehnen, N. (2025). Different, different but same? Recreational opportunities and user preferences of inner-city Urban Green Spaces in Hanover and Thessaloniki. **Frontiers in Sustainable Cities**, 7. [doi:10.3389/frsc.2025.1538171](https://doi.org/10.3389/frsc.2025.1538171)
4. Apostolou, A., Birou – Athanasiou, V., Chatzigiannidou, A., Katsavounidou, G., Kourti, P. (2025). Co-creating Place Identity: participatory workshops for place branding aligned with local values. **Sustainable Development, Culture, Traditions Journal**. Volume 10a, 98-115. [doi:10.26341/issn.2241-4010-2025-10a-7-K02135](https://doi.org/10.26341/issn.2241-4010-2025-10a-7-K02135)
5. Katsavounidou, G., Sousa, S. (2024). Editorial: Reimagining Urban Spaces for Children: Insights and Future Directions. **Urban Planning**, Vol 9: Children's Wellbeing in the Post-Pandemic City: Design, Planning, and Policy Challenges, [doi: 10.17645/up.9434](https://doi.org/10.17645/up.9434)
6. Katsavounidou, G., Voutsas, E., Sepetzi, S. (2024). Active but not Independent: Children's School Travel Patterns in a Compact-City Environment in Greece. **Urban Planning**, Vol 9: Children's Wellbeing in the Post-Pandemic City: Design, Planning, and Policy Challenges. [doi:10.17645/up.8682](https://doi.org/10.17645/up.8682)
7. Katsavounidou, G. (2024). Where and how girls play when they are too old for playgrounds? Young girls and the space of the Greek neighborhood in urban, suburban, and rural childhood

- memories. **Gender and Development**, Volume 32, Issue 1: Gender and public space. [doi:10.1080/13552074.2024.2348398](https://doi.org/10.1080/13552074.2024.2348398)
8. Kaplanidou, M., Valoshyna, A., Katsavounidou, G. (2024). Soundscape as a design toll for open public spaces: An analysis of the waterfront area surrounding Thessaloniki Concert Hall. **Sustainable Development, Culture, Traditions Journal**. Volume 3a, 63-79. [doi:10.26341/issn.2241-4002-2024-3a-4-T02150](https://doi.org/10.26341/issn.2241-4002-2024-3a-4-T02150)
 9. Katsavounidou, G. (2022). Distance Teaching Urban Design and Planning Studio Courses during the Pandemic: Challenges and Lessons learnt. **Journal of Planning Education and Research**. April. [doi:10.1177/0739456X221084992](https://doi.org/10.1177/0739456X221084992)
 10. Katsavounidou, G. (2021). Child, play, and urban space: A historical overview and a holistic paradigm for child-centered urbanism, **Journal of Urbanism: International Research on Placemaking and Urban Sustainability**. [doi: 10.1080/17549175.2021.2005120](https://doi.org/10.1080/17549175.2021.2005120)
 11. Katsavounidou, G. (2017). Implementing ITI for urban development locally. **TEMA Journal of Land Use, Mobility and Environment**, vol. 10, no. 3, 279-298, [doi:10.6092/1970-9870/5245](https://doi.org/10.6092/1970-9870/5245)
 12. Katsavounidou, G., Kourti, P. (2008). Homogeneis migrants from the former Soviet Union in Thessaloniki and the transformation of the western quarters of the city, **Migrance 31, Ethnicity and migration: A Greek story**, M. Baldwin-Edwards (ed.), Paris, 61-70.
 13. Katsavounidou, G. (2006). Unfamiliar (hi)stories: The ‘Egnatia’ project in Thessaloniki, **Thresholds 32**, “Access”, Pamela Karimi (ed.), Department of Architecture, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, MA, September 2006, 78-80.

Journal Editor

- Katsavounidou, G., Sousa, S. (2024). **Urban Planning**, Vol 9: Children’s Wellbeing in the Post-Pandemic City: Design, Planning, and Policy Challenges
- Katsavounidou, G. (senior editor), Mack J. (assistant editor) (1999). **Thresholds 19: “The invisible”**, Department of Architecture, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Fall. With an introduction by Stanford Anderson, essays by Alex Tzonis, Liane Lefaivre, Diane Ghirardo, Mark Jarzombek and others, and an interview with Edith Ackermann & Krsysztof Wodiczko.
- Miller, A. (senior editor), Katsavounidou, G. (assistant editor) (1999). **Thresholds 18: “Design and money”**, Department of Architecture, MIT, Spring.

Papers in Collected Volumes and in Conference Proceedings (recent)

1. Katsavounidou, G., Korbel, S. (in press). Mapping Jewish History and Present in Graz and Thessaloniki: Research-based Teaching through Erasmus+ Virtual Exchange. In: Rossetto, P. & Tartakowsky, E. (eds.), **In other words: Opening research to creative practices**, Paris: Presses Universitaires de Paris Nanterre
2. Katsavounidou, G. (2025). The need for heat-resilient, natural play spaces: Thermal mapping of playgrounds in a compact Mediterranean city. **E3S Web Conf.** 669:02006. [doi:10.1051/e3sconf/202566902006](https://doi.org/10.1051/e3sconf/202566902006)
3. Katsavounidou, G. (2025). Urban Design in the epoch of the Anthropocene: Learning about circular practices from Curitiba, Brazil. In: Greinke, L. Lange, L., & Triantis, L. (eds.) **The Future of Circular Cities?! Planning for sustainable and inclusive communities**, Hannover: Institutionelles Repositorium der Leibniz Universität Hannover, 19-33, [doi:10.15488/18214](https://doi.org/10.15488/18214)
4. Katsavounidou, G., Kourti, P. (2024). Settlements of “returning migrants” of Greek origin (“homogeneis”) from the former Soviet Union in Nikopoli and Efxeinoupoli, in 2006 and 2023. **Thessaloniki Social Atlas**. [doi:10.26262/e40v-4105](https://doi.org/10.26262/e40v-4105)
5. Katsavounidou, G. (2023). Life between buildings: Using public space; The history of Jan Gehl’s book and the legacy of its philosophy for designing cities at human scale. In: Greinke, L., Mehnen, N., Lamberg, J., Triantis, L. (eds.) **The Future of Central Areas; Sustainable Planning and design Perspectives from Thessaloniki, Greece**, Hannover: Institutionelles Repositorium der Leibniz Universität Hannover, 21-38, [doi:10.15488/15155](https://doi.org/10.15488/15155)
6. Kastanidou, M., Katsavounidou, G. (2024). Urban streams as focal points of urban regeneration: The area of Konstantinidis stream in Toumba, Thessaloniki. **E3S Web Conf.** 585, 09001, [doi:10.1051/e3sconf/202458509001](https://doi.org/10.1051/e3sconf/202458509001)

7. Totsikas, I., Katsavounidou, G. (2023). Experienced affordances of urban green spaces in comparison with planning standards: The case study of Xirokrini – Ampelokipi – Menemeni area in western Thessaloniki. **E3S Web Conf.** 436, 12008. [doi:10.1051/e3sconf/202343612008](https://doi.org/10.1051/e3sconf/202343612008)
8. Katmada, A., Katsavounidou, G., Kakderi, C. (2023). Platform urbanism for Sustainability. In: Streitz, N.A., Konomi, S. (eds.) **Distributed, Ambient and Pervasive Interactions. HCII 2023. Lecture Notes in Computer Science**, Springer, Cham. 35-52. [doi:10.1007/978-3-031-34609-5_3](https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-34609-5_3)
9. Katsavounidou, G., Papagiannakis, A., Christakidis, I., Mavros, O. (2022). Emergent Bicycle Infrastructure during the COVID-19 pandemic: The Karamanli Avenue pop-up cycle lane in Thessaloniki, Greece. In: Nathanail, E.G., Gavanas, N., Adamos, G. (eds.) **Smart Energy for Smart Transport**, [doi:10.1007/978-3-031-23721-8_60](https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-23721-8_60)
10. Katsavounidou, G. (2021). Urban playgrounds as potential green infrastructure: The case of Thessaloniki. **IOP Conf. Ser.: Earth Environ. Sci.** 899, 012016 [doi:10.1088/1755-1315/899/1/012016](https://doi.org/10.1088/1755-1315/899/1/012016)
11. Katsavounidou, G. (2021). Children's Safe and Sustainable Independent Mobility. In: Nathanail E.G., Adamos G., Karakikes I. (eds.) **Advances in Mobility-as-a-Service Systems. CSUM 2020. Advances in Intelligent Systems and Computing**, vol 1278. Springer, Cham, 2021. [doi:10.1007/978-3-030-61075-3_53](https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-61075-3_53)
12. Katsavounidou, G., Voutsas, E. (2021). "Human Scale Cities and Children's Wellbeing: Parents' attitudes on Children's Independent Mobility" in **Proceedings of the CITTA 13th Annual Conference on Planning Research: Planning for Human Scale Cities**, University of Porto, <https://citta-conference.fe.up.pt/publications>
13. Katsavounidou, G. (2021). Just learning environments during the pandemic: Impacts of remote teaching on design pedagogy. In: **Proceedings of the 52nd Annual Conference of the Environmental Design Research Association: Just Environments**, EDRA, https://www.edra.org/page/Proceedings_TOC
14. Katsavounidou G. (2021). What do we need poetry for?' Making space for humanities in architectural education [in Greek]. In: Tsoukala K., Panteliadou P., Papaioannou K. (eds.) **Proceedings of the Conference "Space interweavings: Ethos – Social Practices – Architecture"**, Thessaloniki: Epikentro, 1221-1238.
15. Katsavounidou, G. (2019). Child, City, Play: The Spielraum. In: Doumpa V., Danenberg R., Karssen H. (eds.) **The City at Eye Level for Kids**, Rotterdam/Amsterdam, 47-52.

Research

Founding Member of **COSPACE** LAB (Laboratory of Collective Practices for Space and Development), SSPD, AUTH

- Cultural Strategy of the Municipality of Veria. Municipality of Veria and School of Spatial Planning and Development AUTH. Scientific coordinator: G. Katsavounidou
- **DIPS Master's Degree in the Design of Inclusive Public Space**. Erasmus+ Capacity Building in Higher Education. Scientific coordinator: G. Katsavounidou
- Research on the transition to a New Classroom. Ministry of Education, Religion and Sports and Technical University of Crete (TUC). Scientific Coordinator: M. Liapi
- **Design of Cultural Masterplans, Cultural Development Policy and Cultural Identity (Brand) for selected regions of Greece**. Ministry of Culture and School of Spatial Planning and Development AUTH. Scientific Coordinator: A. Kalogeresis
- **Social housing baseline studies - Research on affordable housing in Thessaloniki**. Metropolitan Development Agency of Thessaloniki and Aristotle University of Thessaloniki. Scientific Coordinator: P. Hatziprokopiou
- **Revolutionary Palimpsests: The visualization of the network of distinct urban places in the space-time spectrum of the Greek revolution**. Hellenic Foundation for Research & Innovation and National Technical University of Athens. Project Coordinator: E. Tsakiri. Scientific Coordinator: E. Haniotou
- **Architectural and urban transformations in Thessaloniki due to the immigration phenomenon**. Technical Chamber of Greece / Department of Central Macedonia. Scientific coordinator: G. Katsavounidou.