

Coming Together, Staying Together for Greek

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Greek-Australian Language Variants: Teacher Perceptions and Implications for Classroom Practice

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One largely unexplored issue in heritage education concerns the divergence between the local varieties developed in the diaspora communities and standard varieties used in formal education in the source country. This paper addresses this gap through an investigation of what teachers working in community language schools think and believe about the different varieties of the Greek language used in the Australian setting. The paper has a particular focus on pragmatics and explores examples of such Greek-Australian language use as well as Greek teachers' reactions to and perceptions of it. The aim of the paper is to open up a discussion around possible implications for classroom practice of students' use of Greek-Australian variants, and to increase awareness of the importance of pragmatics in heritage teaching.

Dr Jill Murray is a lecturer and researcher in the Department of Linguistics at Macquarie University. Prior to this, she was Head of Language Teacher Education at the UNSW Institute of Languages, where, for 11 years, she oversaw the professional development program for NSW Community Languages teachers. She currently teaches and supervises research in pragmatics and intercultural communication. She is the author of several articles on pragmatics and language identity in the experience of second and third generation Greek Australians.

Dr Efrosini Deligianni obtained her PhD from Lancaster University. She lectures in Greek Studies and Linguistics at UNSW, where her research interests include sociolinguistic variation and language change. Prior to this, she held a research position at the Cyprus Neuroscience and Technology Institute. Since her arrival in Sydney, she has been a tireless advocate for Greek language education.

Dr Maria Harissi has been working as a Language Teacher in Public Primary Education in Greece since 2001. In 2018, she was seconded from the Ministry of Education, Greece, to the Greek Education Office of Australia. She currently teaches Greek in public and community schools in Sydney and has been appointed as the Greek Language Advisor with the Primary Languages Team at the Learning and Teaching Directorate of the NSW Department of Education. She holds a PhD in Education from the University of Technology, Sydney, Australia, an MSc in Applied Linguistics from the University of Edinburgh, United Kingdom and a Bachelor Degree in English Language and Literature from the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece. In her research she explores language as linguistic praxis and examines the emergence of translingual identity experiences through performative language use.