

Esther Solomon

CV

Esther Solomon is Assistant Professor in Museum Studies at the University of Ioannina. She studied archaeology, museology and social anthropology at the University of Ioannina, the Università Internazionale dell'Arte in Florence, the University of Sheffield and the University College London. She worked as museologist for the Hellenic Ministry of Culture and as museum educator and exhibition curator for museums and other cultural organizations in Greece and abroad.

Solomons' combination of academic and practical work extends into regular talks and training of professionals and volunteers in public organisations and museums, spanning from state museums in urban centres to tiny collections in remote villages. Such training is related to outreach, collections interpretation, exhibition curating, community engagement and the role of museums in social change.

Specialized in ethnographic approaches to material culture, she has published widely on museum and exhibition theory, public archaeology and “difficult” heritage.

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ACADEMIC STUDIES

2007 **PhD in Museum Anthropology**

Thesis Title: *“Multiple Historicities” on the Island of Crete: The Significance of Minoan Archaeological Heritage in Everyday Life.*

Department of Anthropology

University: UCL

Supervisor: Prof. Christopher Tilley

1999 **MA in Museum Studies**

Thesis Title: *Archaeological Museums and the Production of Knowledge in Modern Greece*

Department: Institute of Archaeology

University: UCL

Supervisor: Dr. Nick Merriman

1997 **Diploma di Specializzazione in Museologia per Tecnico-Gestore Musei e Pinacoteche.**

Università Internazionale dell' Arte, Florence.

1994 **MA in Archaeology and Prehistory**

Department of Archaeology
University of Sheffield
Supervisor: Dr. Paul Halstead

1992 **First Degree (BA) in Archaeology**

Department of History and Archaeology
University: Ioannina
Year: 1992

Scholarships

1997 Fellow of the Italian Republic during my Diploma di Specializzazione in Museologia per Tecnico-Gestore Musei e Pinacoteche. Università Internazionale dell' Arte, Florence.

1999 Scholarship from the Greek State Scholarships Foundation (IKY) during my Master of Arts in Museum Studies. Institute of Archaeology, University College London.

2000-2003 Scholarship from the Greek State Scholarships Foundation (IKY) during my PhD in Museum Anthropology. Department of Social Anthropology, University College London.

2015 International Training Programme for museum professionals, British Museum (July-September 2015)

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2011 – 2020 **Lecturer (2011-2015) and Assistant Professor (2015-2020) in Museum Studies, Department of Fine Arts and Art Sciences Faculty of Fine Arts, University of Ioannina, Greece.**

Teaching of courses at the undergraduate and postgraduate levels (*Museum Studies, Cultural Policy and Management, Exhibition Curating, Museum Education*). Supervision of undergraduate and postgraduate theses on Museum Studies Research. Participation in conferences in Greece and abroad. Research conducted individually and in groups. Publications on Greek and International Journals and edited volumes. Reviewer for museological journals (*Museology, Studies in Material Culture*

and others). Supervision of student internships in museums and at historic sites. Organization of visits to museums, monuments, and exhibitions in Greece and abroad. Member of scientific societies and editorial boards of scholarly journals. Organization of lectures, conferences, workshops, and seminars for the wider public in collaboration with the University of Ioannina, the postgraduate programs in Museology and Cultural Management of other universities (Panteion University, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, University of the Peloponnese, Harokopeio University, and others), with museums, municipalities, Ephorates of Prehistoric, Classical, and Byzantine Antiquities, Ephorates of Modern Heritage, the International Council of Museums (ICOM), the Association of Greek Archaeologists, the Hellenic National Research Foundation, the National Centre for Social Research, and others. Participation in electoral bodies and department administrative committees. Organization of the international conferences “Dialogues in Archaeology” (Ioannina 2017) and “The Works of Magic Art: History, Meanings and Uses of the Incantadas Monument of Thessaloniki” (with St. Galiniki,, Thessaloniki 2018). Curating of exhibitions and museological design for permanent and periodic exhibitions. Organization of artistic, educational and activist events in collaboration with artists, curators, students, heritage professionals and social collectivities.

Since her appointment at the University of Ioannina, Solomon has organized together with her undergraduate and postgraduate students a series of outreach public programmes in the city of Ioannina and beyond, in collaboration with local collectivities and NGOs working with migrants and refugees. These programmes are related to issues of traumatic memory, difficult and contested heritage and minority heritage. In 2019, Solomon supervised her postgraduate team in the curatorial experiment “Textured Histories: (Re)Membering” in collaboration with the interdisciplinary artist Adi Liraz. The project explored the role of memory and its relation to textile production labour that is usually done by, and associated with women. The project, inspired by the abandoned sewing machines of the Jewish women of Ioannina who were deported to concentration camps during WWII, had a considerable impact on community life in Ioannina as it involved different social groups and sites that marked the city’s identity and cultural memory during and soon after WWII.

To summarize, Solomons' combination of academic and practical work extends into regular talks and training of professionals and volunteers in public organisations and museums, spanning from state museums in urban centres to tiny collections in remote villages. Such training is related to outreach, collections

interpretation, exhibition curating, community engagement and the role of museums in social change.

2019 – 2020 **Adjunct Academic Staff, Greek Open University, MA in Public History**
(Subject : Applied Public History/
Digital Public History in Museums and the Web)

2013 – 2014 **Visiting Lecturer in Museology, Department of History and Theory of Arts, Athens University, School of Fine Arts**

2005 – 2011 **Archaeologist – Museologist at the Archaeological Museum of Thessaloniki** (pursuant to nationally conducted written examinations)

Museological work in the following areas of the Museum's activities: Curating of periodic exhibitions, creation of educational support materials, design of cultural and museum educational activities for adults, interpretation of collections, organization of seminars, conferences, and thematic tours of the Museum's permanent collections, promotion of the Museum's work, design and conducting of research of the museum's public, preparation of proposals for cooperation with organizations in Greece and abroad (programs by the Ministry of Culture's Directorate of Museums), implementation of partnerships between the Museum and other scientific and cultural bodies, organization of yearly cycles of cultural events (Museums Day, Museums Night, European Cultural Heritage Days, and others), responsible for liaison with the Association of Friends of the Museum, supervisor for trainee students in Museology from Greek and foreign universities.

1996 – 1998 **Museologist for V.A.M.I. (Volontari Associati Musei Italiani), in the section devoted to the organization of exhibitions for blind visitors.**

Design of tactile activities at the Marino Marini Museum of Contemporary Sculpture, the Museo dell' Opera del Duomo, and the chapel of Alberti (Tempietto del Santo Sepolcro) in the Palazzo Rucellai, Florence.

1997 – 1998 **Contract Museologist at the Museum of the Casa Buonarroti, Florence- Residence of Michelangelo** (Museo Ente Casa Buonarroti, in collaboration with the National Sculpture Museum -'Bargello', the Galleria dell' Accademia, and the Medici

Chapels [Capelle Medicee-Sagrestia Nuova]).

1994 – 1996 **Archaeologist at the Department of Educational Programs, Ministry of Culture** (Directorate of Prehistoric and Classical Antiquities).

Design of intercultural museum education activities for Muslim children at archaeological sites and museums in the historic center of Athens (Museum of the Ancient Agora, Kerameikos Museum, Museum of Greek Folk Musical Instruments, Museum of History at the University of Athens, Museum of Greek Folk Art, Centre for the Study of Modern Pottery, and others).

PUBLICATIONS (selection)

1. E. Solomon (Ed.) *Contested Antiquity: Archaeological Heritage and Social Conflict in Greece and Cyprus*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press (due out Feb. 2021).
[<https://iupress.org/9780253055972/contested-antiquity/>]
2. E. Solomon & E. Apostolidou (Eds), *Museums, Museum Education and 'Difficult Heritage'*. *MuseumEdu 5*, University of Thessaly, 2018 (Special Issue)
[<http://museumedulab.ece.uth.gr/main/el/node/431>]
3. “Museums and oral testimonies: Empowering Memories and Relationships”. In R. van Buschoten, T. Vervenioti, K. Bada, E. Nakou, P. Pantazis, P. Hantzaroula (eds.), *Proceedings of the International Conference Bridging the generations: Interdisciplinarity and life stories in the 21st century. Oral history and life history approaches in the social sciences* (University of Thessaly, Volos, 25-27 May

- 2012). Association for Oral History, University of Thessaly, Volos 2013, 59-79.
4. “Museums as ‘objects’. In search of means of approach”. In E. Yalouri (ed.), *Material culture: Anthropology in the land of things*. Alexandria Editions, Athens 2012, 75-124.
 5. «Las Incantadas of Salonica: Searching for "enchantment" in a city's exiled heritage» (με τη Σ. Γκαλινίκη). Στο Κ. Harloe, N. Momigliano & A. Farnoux (επιμ.), *Hellenomania*. Routledge, 2018, σσ. 271-310.
 6. “Getting lost in the Labyrinth: Tourists at the site of Knossos”. Στο O. Menozzi, M. L. Di Marzio and D. Fossataro (επιμ). *Proceedings of the 9th Symposium on Mediterranean Archaeology* (Chieti Ιταλία, 24-26 February 2005). *British Archaeological Reports. International Series 1739*. Archaeopress, Οξφόρδη 2008, σελ. 455-461.
 7. “Knossos: Social Uses of a Monumental Landscape”. Στο Y. Hamilakis & N. Momigliano (επιμ.) *ARCHAEOLOGY AND EUROPEAN MODERNITY: PRODUCING AND CONSUMING THE ‘MINOANS’*. *Creta Antica 2006*, Bottega d’Erasmus. Aldo Ausilio Editore in Padova, σελ. 163-182.
 8. “Museums and the subversion of the exhibitionary order: Playing with Enlightenment values”. In *Reference/Representation*. Futura Editions, Athens, pp.105-110.
 9. “Narrating personal (hi)stories... An exhibition on the inhabitants of Roman Thessaloniki in the garden of the Archaeological Museum”. In P. Adam-Veleni and D. Terzopoulou (eds) *Field - House - Garden - Grave*. Archaeological Museum of Thessaloniki- Zitis Publications, Thessaloniki 2012, pp. 184-211.
 10. “Constructing local identity through archaeological finds: the case of Knossos (Crete, Greece)”. *Museological Review 2003, (Special Issue 10)*, Εκδόσεις Πανεπιστημίου Leicester, σελ. 31-47.
 11. “Artists-as-curators in museums: Observations on contemporary wunderkammern” (με την Α. Αδαμοπούλου). Διεθνές περιοδικό *THEMA, La revue des Musées de la civilization* no 4 (“*Museums Without Curators*”), 2016, σσ. 36-49.

12. History, memory, representation: Presenting the Holocaust at Jewish museums in Greece', in N. Marantzidis *et al.* (eds.), *The Holocaust in the Balkans*. Epikentro Editions, 2011, pp. 477-516 .
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