
Professor Emerita, EAI
Dipl.Arch (EMP)
M.Sc London School of Economics & Political Science (1973)
PhD University of London (1981)

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Lila Leontidou, Architect, Planner and Geographer, is Professor Emerita of Geography and European Culture since 2020 at the Hellenic Open University (EAI), where she was a Professor since 2002. She has been elected twice the Dean of the School of Humanities, she has been awarded the prize of academic excellence at EAI in 2017 and has been honoured by the Festschrift *Geographies in a Liquid Epoch: Critical essays for Space, Society and Culture in Honour of Lila Leontidou* (Athens: Propobos 2019), authored in Greek and English by 35 international academics.

She was born in Athens as Triantafyllia and attended elementary school at Marasleion Academy and high school at the Hellenic-American College (OPC). She then studied Architecture in Athens (diploma from National Technical University, NTU - EMI), and her postgraduate studies at the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE) included Geography and Spatial Governance in London (MSc, LSE) and the award of a Ph.D from the University of London in 1981. Besides Greek and English, she can speak French and read German, Italian, Spanish.

During the 1980s she has worked on a freelance basis as an Urban and Regional Planner qualified by the Ministry of Public Works (top grade Certificate). She was member of a cooperative office and was awarded contracts as a consultant in Greek public organisations (EKKE, ΔΕΠΙΟΣ, ΠΕΠΙΑ/ ΥΠΕΧΩΔΕ). She also worked in Geneva as an Expert on Mission in the Economic Commission for Europe (UN ECE), Population Activities Unit, General Economic Analysis Division, and as a development consultant at the Centre of Planning and Economic Research (CPER – ΚΕΠΕ). She also collaborated with OECD, with EU DG XI (with the Greek environmental agency ΠΕΠΙΑ), with DG V (with the National Centre of Social Research, EKKE). In 2002-04 she was Member of the Board of the National Council of Regional Planning and Sustainable Development (ΕΣΧΑΑ) at the Ministry of the Environment, Regional Planning and Public Works (ΥΠΕΧΩΔΕ).

During the 1990s, as an academic, she represented Greece at the Standing Committee for the Social Sciences (SCSS), European Science Foundation (ESF); at the international five-member Task Force for the Fifth Framework Programme of the EU; and at the Consulting Committee for Regional Planning and Environmental Impact of Tourism at the European

Parliament. She was a Consultant to Commissioner Ruberti in the ESF Standing Committee for the Social Sciences for Research Policy in the Social Sciences, and a member of the Committee of European Professors awarding the Amalfi Prize of European Social Science. She has also been member of the Forum Civil EUROMED, participating in the establishment of the International Academy of the Mediterranean in Naples.

But Professor Leontidou's main and prolonged career has been as an academic. She has been elected at different times as a member of the academic staff in four Greek Universities and a British one (Kings College London), the last and longest post being at the Hellenic Open University (HOU - EAI), as a Professor of Geography and European Culture (EPIO12). She held permanent University posts first in Thessaloniki (AIIΘ, Urban and Regional Planning at the School of Architecture, late 1970s) and in Athens (EMII - NTU, late 1980s, Assistant and then Associate Professor). From that post at the newly created Division of Geography in the Department of surveying, she coordinated for several years the network ERASMUS/DEPIEC (Development, Political Integration and Environmental Management in the EC) with 14 Universities, first on behalf of Greece (EMII) and then on behalf of the UK (KCL - King's College London), where she moved next. She was invited to London to take the post of Senior Lecturer in Human Geography and Mediterranean Studies at KCL in the 1990s, at a time when there was a Joint School of Geography there with the LSE. She taught Social, Cultural and Urban Geography and European Studies, and she cooperated in the establishment of an inter-departmental programme where she also taught: the M.A. in Mediterranean Studies.

She then returned to Greece before the turn of the millennium in order to contribute in the establishment of the very first degree course of Geography in the country, at the University of the Aegean, as Senate Member and the first Chair of the Department of Geography. Then in 2002 she moved to the Hellenic Open University (EAI) as a Professor, and was twice elected Dean of the School of Humanities (2003-07), twice a Vice Dean (2007-11), and President of the Board of the United Corporation of University Staff (2007-8). She has been Director of GEM (Geographic Euro-Mediterranean) Research Unit at EAI since 2002 and was repeatedly appointed Director of Studies in European Culture (EPIO) of the School of Humanities of EAI. She has coordinated several modules: EPIO12 (Geography) constantly, EPIO33 (EU integration) for a few years, as well as EPIO 20 (Art History) and EPIO40 (Ideological trends in Europe) for short periods.

Professor Leontidou has held visiting University posts during sabbaticals, after competitive selection procedures. She has been awarded competitive Senior Fellowships at the Hellenic Observatory of the European Institute of the LSE since 2012 and at the Johns Hopkins University since 1986. She was invited as a visiting professor twice in France at the Université de Caen (1999-2000) and at Université Paris 1- Panthéon- Sorbonne (2008-9). She

was also a visiting professor at the University of the Peloponnese, Department of Political Science and International Relations for the English-speaking MA Mediterranean Studies (2014-8).

She has been a visiting scholar (for shorter terms) teaching seminars and/ or intensive courses in London (Architectural Association (AA) School of Architecture, Department of Planning), in the University of Rome “La Sapienza”, in the Universidad Autonoma de Barcelona (Girona), in Trinity College Dublin, in the Universities of Exeter, of Lille, of Pais Vasco (Bilbao), of Stockholm, of Trondheim, as well as in the British Open University for the seminar series of the programme *Personal Lives and Social Policy*. She has been recently invited to the University of Bologna for postgraduate courses in Ravenna forthcoming in late 2022. She also presented lectures and seminars in several Greek Universities. She taught at the Summer Ecological University and in summer field trips of the Universities of Southampton, Loughborough, Sheffield, and the Summer School of New York University. She taught at the EAPI summer School for distance learning in Andros during the summer of 2022 and every year in 2004-20 in the Summer School of the University of the Aegean, first in Paros and later in Naxos. She has supervised 14 Greek doctorates (many universities) and 3 English or French doctorates which were then completed, and she is still supervising at the University of Athens.

Professor Leontidou has been an academic leader in 24 international competitive research projects, among which the most important was *Border cities and towns: causes of social exclusion in peripheral Europe*, where she coordinated 8 European universities funded by the EU, EC, DG XII-Research, Targeted Socio-Economic Research (TSER), at the University of the Aegean for 42 months (1997-2001). She has coordinated, as the Greek partner, several other European research projects and networks, among which are CIVGOV – *Organised Civil Society and European Governance*, FP5, DG Research, European Commission (2003-6), coordinated by Universita di Trento; URBS PANDENS - *Urban Sprawl: European patterns, environmental degradation and sustainable development*, EU, EC DG XIII (City of the Future, Shared Cost RTD, 2002-6), coordinated by the Potsdam Institute fuer Klimafolgenforschung; ESPON-SIESTA - *Spatial Indicators for a ‘Europe 2020 Strategy’ Territorial Analysis* (2011-13), funded under ESPON - European Regions: Potential Contribution to the EU 2020 Strategy, coordinated by the University of Santiago de Compostela; the research network *EastBordNet - Remaking Eastern Borders in Europe*, funded by the EU (COST, Action IS0803), where she has been Member of the International Management Committee (2008-12); and others.

She has (co)organized 29 international conferences and sessions in them and in addition has presented research papers in 120 international conferences (most recently in AAG 2013 and 2018, RGS 2018 and 2022, St Petersburg, keynote speaker in Corfu 2022, etc) and in several Greek ones. She is a member of learned societies and the international editorial advisory

boards of the academic journals *City: Analysis of Urban trends, Culture, Theory, Policy* (since 2001); *Geografiska Annaler* (since 2001); *The Open Urban Studies Journal* (since 2006); *Urban Studies* (2004-12); *Urban History* (1992-2011); *Geoforum* (1997-2006); *Semestrare di Studi e Ricerche di Geografia* (Universita La Sapienza, Roma, since 2013); *The Greek Review of Social Research* (since 2018), *Aeihoros*, and other Greek ones. She has acted as a peer reviewer of book proposals for Johns Hopkins University Press, Routledge, Ashgate, Palgrave Macmillan, and of papers submitted to 40 different international journals. She has also acted as a peer reviewer in several committees and research proposals to the EU, European Science Foundation, COST, ESRC in UK, Aix-Marseille University, Netherlands Organization for Social Research, the Greek CPER, IKY, the most recent of which was at the ERC (European Research Council) Frontier Research Advanced Grants 2017-18, Panel of Culture & Cultural Production (SH5).

Professor Leontidou has published 250 articles and books in Greek, English, French, and her work has been translated into Spanish, Italian, German and Japanese and has been extensively cited. Her best-known academic books include *The Mediterranean City in Transition*, (Cambridge U.P. 1990/2006), nominated in 1991 for the Amalfi Prize of European Social Science; *Cities of Silence* (in Greek, 1989/ 2013); *Geographically Illiterate Land* (in Greek, 2005/ 2011); the co-edited volumes *Mediterranean Tourism* (Routledge 2001) and *Urban Sprawl in Europe* (Blackwell 2007); and several books in Greek which she (co)authored. She has also published 18 textbooks, 40 research monographs and development reports, and 180 research papers as chapters in edited volumes, proceedings, monographs, and articles in Mediterranean and international academic journals, among which: *International Journal of Urban & Regional Research*; *Environment and Planning*; *Identities: Studies in Culture & Power*; *Urban Studies*; *European Planning Studies*; *European Urban & Regional Studies*; *City: Analysis of urban trends, culture, theory, policy, action*; *Espaces et Sociétés*; *New Geographies* (Harvard); *The Greek Review of Social Research*; and others.

Research interests: European and Mediterranean cities, urbanization, urban restructuring, sprawl, governance, policy. Borders, territoriality, European integration. Urban social movements, grassroots creativity, civil society. Social networks, digital societies. Informal economies, social exclusion, crisis. Uneven regional development, crypto-colonialism. Spatial justice, planning, policy. Modernity, postmodernism, spatialities in European and Mediterranean cultures. Tourism development and landscapes, residential tourism. Epistemology and education in Geography in the context of the history of science.