

Anastasia Zissi is Assistant Professor of Social Psychology at the Department of Sociology, University of the Aegean (2003-now). She conducts research on community care and service users, attitudes of public toward people with mental disorders and stigma, mental health promotion in preschool settings, rural communities and mental health. Her current research evolves around theorizing the notion of community and collective action for change and of inequalities in mental distress with an emphasis on the stress process and the role of adverse living conditions. She conducted her PhD thesis at the School of Psychology, Faculty of Science, University of Birmingham, UK as an Al. S. Onassis Public Benefit Foundation Scholar (1994-1997) investigating the effects of resettlement process from Leros psychiatric asylum to community hostels around the mainland of Greece. She is currently a principal lecturer at the postgraduate course on Applied & Clinical Sociology at the Department of Sociology, University of the Aegean with an emphasis on social interventions and mental health. She has been involved in a number of research projects concerning mental health and broader social issues. She has published in both Greek and international refereed journals with a good impact factor such as Psychological Medicine, Journal of Community & Applied Social Psychology. She is a member of the Research Unit of the University of Aegean. Both her research and publications are highly relevant to the present proposal as Anastasia Zissi is highly experienced in conducting community research involving community members, stakeholders, users and professionals. Her long experience in psychiatric hospitals allows her to develop action participatory research with service users. She has directed research projects and therefore she is capable in monitoring research protocols.