From Grexit to Brexit:
interrogating notions of mobility, belonging and identity in Greece and the UK
(MOBEL)

Maria Xenitidou
University of Crete

Aim

- to interrogate understandings of human **mobility** and **belonging** in the UK and Greece and the categories that are made relevant and implicated in this process

- Who belongs where within the national and EU contexts;

- Who benefits and who is left out from the EU integration regime

Greece & the UK

- "Awkward partners" for different reasons

- Associated with an "exit" from the EU

- Referenda (symbolic and institutional relationship with EU)

- Mobility, migration, citizenship and belonging in public and political discourse – politicisation

- Different trajectories, histories and policies
  - an entry point for immigrants and refugees; revision in citizenship law (2015)
  - a destination place for immigrants; recent management & securitization rhetoric and policy with regards to migration

Grexit & Brexit

- Grexit and Brexit are treated as:
  - Contexts of contestation and mistrust
  - Critical junctures in the sense making of mobility and belonging

Everyday, public and political discourse

 How inclusion & exclusion play out in different discursive realms

- Formal politics
- Everyday politics
- Public discourse (media)

Questions the research aims to address

- How is mobility constructed in everyday, public and political discourse in Greece and the UK? **Mobility as construct**
  - *Does mobility mobilise belonging?*
  - *How is belonging constructed?*

- Relationship between mobility and belonging – **who belongs where?**

- Relationships in the ways in which different actors (migrants, citizens, NGOs, politicians, the media) construct mobility and belonging – **resourcing arguments**

- The processes of politicisation of mobility and belonging in everyday, public and political discourse in Greece and the UK – **who (must/should/is expected to) belong where?**

- Who benefits and who is left out from the EU integration project in these constructions? Mobilisation of social categories and lines of argument in the contexts of Grexit and Brexit

'State of the art'

- 'Mobility turn' Urry (2000)

- Mobility as a political issue

- Mobility in the EU

- Politicisation of mobility
  - **crucial turning point** concerning the future of unrestricted mobility in Europe and the EU integration project?

Indicative conceptual framework

- Movement

- Place

- Identities

- Politicisation

Designing the research – assumptions and rationale

◆ Discourse and social reality

◆ Social and Political Psychology

◆ Discourse and Rhetorical Analysis

◆ Critical Social Psychology

Fieldwork

- Everyday discourse:
  - individual interviews with newcomers and refugees (N=8-10)
  - individual (N=40) and group interviews (approximately N=6) with established immigrants (from different backgrounds) and locals
    - Purposive sample (theoretical) and snowball
    - Thessaloniki & Attica
    - the Midlands & Greater London
  - Social media (Twitter)
    - Quantitative data (number of tweets)
    - Thematic sampling (specific events / time stamps)
    - Handpicking and thematic analysis

- Political discourse

  - Parliamentary minutes (purposive sampling – theoretical and grounded & intertextuality)
    - UK Parliament https://hansard.parliament.uk/
    - Hellenic Parliament https://www.hellenicparliament.gr/

  - 5 interviews with NGO members in each country

- Media
  - Print and electronic (N=16)
  - Political affiliation and readership
  - Two-stage data mining
    - Key words & phrases (purposive sampling – theoretical and grounded)
    - Selection of recurrent themes (regularities) or conspicuous cases

Analysis

- Everyday & political discourse
  - Discourse & Rhetorical Analysis
  - Critical Discursive Social Psychology

- Media discourse & social media (Twitter):
  - Quantitative data
  - Automated text analysis & sentiment analysis
  - Selection of tweets for thematic analysis
  - Selection of extracts from media discourse for discourse analysis

People & Public Access

TEAM

Dr Lia Figgou, Assistant Professor, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, GR

Dr Giorgos Tsiolis, Associate Professor, University of Crete, GR

Dr. Eleni Andreouli , Senior Lecturer, Open University, UK

Dr. Ozge Dilaver , Senior Research Fellow, Northumbria University, UK

Ms Martina Sourvinou, PhD candidate, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, GR

Mr Ioannis Michos, PhD candidate, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, GR

♦ **Website** (temporary): http://88.99.3.145/~artserver/clients/mobel/

Thank you

m.xenitidou@uoc.gr