

6th Export **USA** Forum

The Changing Trade Landscape

SPEAKERS' BIOS *(agenda flow)*

Organiser



AMERICAN-HELLENIC
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



TRADE USA
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Elias Spirtounias
Executive Director
American-Hellenic Chamber
Of Commerce

After graduating from the School of Mathematics, University of Athens, Elias Spirtounias completed his graduate studies at the School of Electrical Engineering (M.Sc. degree and pre-Ph.D. studies) at Boston University. During his residence in the United States, he participated as a Research Engineer in several research programs in cooperation with other organizations and companies such as NASA, MIT, UNH in fields of analog and digital electronics, circuits design and applications.

He returned to Greece in 1992 and after completing his military service in 1994, he held the position of Technical Director for the subsidiary of the Italian company Citec SpA, a company specialized in the design, production and application of voice and image processing systems. From 1997-February 2009, he worked for the Foundation of the Hellenic World, a major Greek private non-profit cultural organization, starting as a Construction Supervisor and continuing as a Managing Director of the brand new then Cultural Center, Hellenic Cosmos, an innovative, based on new technologies, theme park. During his tenure, he contributed significantly to the expansion, development, and operation of the Center and its establishment as one of the most known technology-driven theme parks in Greece and abroad.

From March 2009, he holds the position of Executive Director of the American-Hellenic Chamber of Commerce. Along with his colleagues and in cooperation with the Board have managed, in the midst of the economic crisis, to increase significantly the number of activities, undertake important initiatives, retain in high level memberships, foster advocacy, expand further the presence of the Chamber in the US and contribute to the evolution of the Chamber into one of the leading dynamic and reliable business organization in Greece.

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Nikolaos Bakatselos

President
American-Hellenic Chamber
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Mr. Nikolaos Bakatselos is the President & CEO of "Pyramis Metallourgia A.E." and "Pyramis Deutschland GmbH". He was Member of the Board of Directors, and Deputy Managing Director, of "Northern Greece Publishing S.A.". He has held the position of Managing Director of "Imperium AEX", and Member of the Board of Directors of "Egnatia Bank Securities S.A.". He was a Member of the Board of Directors of Attica Bank from February 2014 until June 2016. He was a Member of the Steering Committee of the "International Hellenic University" from 2006 until January 2014 and Member of the Board and President of the Northern Greece Committee of EEDE. He is Member of the Committee Support CERTH, Trustee of Anatolia College, Member of the Board and Member of the Steering Committee of SVE and Honorary Consul of Belgium for Northern Greece.

After being a Member of the Board of Directors of the American – Hellenic Chamber of Commerce for several years, in June 2010 he was elected Vice President of AMCHAM and President of the Northern Greece Committee and since June 2019 he is the President of AMCHAM. In October 2019 he was elected as President of HEDNO by the General Assembly of HEDNO. Nikolaos Bakatselos holds a B.A. in Sociology from University of Reading and a MSc in Shipping, Trade and Finance from City University Business School.

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Dina Athanasiou

Head of the International
Trade Dept. "TradeUSA"
American-Hellenic Chamber
Of Commerce

Dina Athanasiou is Head of the International Trade Department "TradeUSA" of the American-Hellenic Chamber of Commerce, as of November 2018. Within her role, she assists and provides guidance to Greek companies interested in exporting to the U.S. market. Prior to entering the international trade sector by joining AmCham in May 2017, she was engaged in projects focused on marketing, communications and sales, having worked with agencies including V+O and Hill+Knowlton Strategies.

She is a business development professional holding a Bachelor's Degree in Marketing, a Diploma in Graphic Design and a Master's Degree in Design Management with the specialization in Marketing and Branding from the University of Southampton (UK).

She speaks Greek, English and Spanish.

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Dimitris Karavasilis

International Trade Advisor

American-Hellenic Chamber of Commerce &
Founder and CEO, DK Marketing and
Idea Monkeys LLC

Dimitris Karavasilis is a highly motivated, visionary and performance driven international marketing professional, with an advanced know-how and significant expertise in a wide range of economic and industrial sectors; since 1999 he has been providing significant Greek and foreign firms with marketing services. He is founder and CEO of "The DK Marketing Agency" with offices in Athens and Thessaloniki and "The IDEA MONKEYS Marketing Agency" with offices in New York and London. In 2018, he started a new collaboration with "All pack Hellas", a two-month printed packaging issue. In the beginning of 2019, he launched a new project, the "exportnews.gr" magazine. He has studied Business Administration and International Marketing at "The University of Sheffield". Prior to the foundation of DK Marketing, he had been working as a senior executive in industrial and commercial enterprises in Greece and abroad, such as SATO, Toshiba, Sunair, Premierotel, Pointgroup, Axon Inc., and D&B group. During his career, he has been undertaking major projects on behalf of big multinational consulting firms in the UK, the Netherlands, Luxembourg, Germany, Hungary, Romania, Turkey and China; he has also participated as an invited speaker in many local and international conferences.

He is a member of the Administrative Committee and of the Board of Directors of the Greek International Business Association (SEVE) and an Executive Consultant on international trade issues at the American-Hellenic Chamber of Commerce in Athens. He also participated in the core team of the Dutch experts of Task Force, contributing in establishing the Trade and Promotion Roadmap as the key source for reforming the Greek Export Strategy; he is also member of the Hellenic Institute of Marketing and an active member of various International Organizations.

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Tassos C. Kyriakides, Ph.D
Center for Analytical Sciences,
School of Public Health,
Yale University &
Director, VACSP Clinical Trials
Coordinating Center

Tassos C. Kyriakides, completed his B.Sc. as a Fulbright Scholar at UCLA (Biochemistry; 1993) and received his Ph.D. at the Yale School of Public Health (Epidemiology of Infectious Diseases; 1999).

As a faculty member at the Yale Center for Analytical Sciences (Yale School of Public Health), he helps design and collaborates on numerous clinical research projects. He consults on methodology, data processes and management, and statistical analysis for numerous research protocols; has been an abstract mentor for researchers at the International AIDS Conferences since 2012, mentors graduate students, and is a statistical reviewer for high-impact journals (Lancet Infectious Diseases; Lancet Gastroenterology & Hepatology).

He is the Director at the Department of Veterans' Affairs Cooperative Studies Program (VACSPCC-West Haven, CT), a clinical trials data coordinating center, where he has worked the last 20+ years on pivotal trials in: HIV/AIDS treatment (The OPTIMA Trial); surgery (The OVER Trial); PTSD (The VIP-STAR Trial). Even though his career is focused on the design, methodology and analysis of clinical trials, he has training and expertise in infectious diseases, with an emphasis on HIV/AIDS.

He is the proponent for the establishment of a Yale institute that will focus on the olive tree and its products, and their effects on human and planetary health. He is a certified Olive Oil Sommelier (International Culinary Center/Olive Oil Education Lab; NY 2017) and gives frequent talks on the benefits of olive oil. He is a Legacy Circle member of the Massaro Community Farm, in Woodbridge, CT. He is the Immediate Past President of the Association of Yale Alumni in Public Health (AYAPH) Board and a faculty fellow at Yale's Saybrook College.

He enjoys sprint triathlons, long bike rides and is inspired by and experiments with the fine art of cooking.

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Eleftheria Davatzi

Journalist
Mega Tv

Eleftheria has studied Sociology and Mass Media Sociology at Panteion University. She started practicing journalism from a quiet early age as her apprenticeship began during the last year of University.

She has been working as a journalist for the past 13 years. She started as a journalist in politics and for the past two years, she is working as a journalist for the world news and international affairs for Mega Tv.

During the past years, she has gained great experience as a TV presenter by being the Tv hostess of talk shows, news, breaking news, and even entertainment shows.

She has also been the hostess of several conferences in Greek and English language, the latest of which were the "16th Common Security and Defense Policy (CSDP) High-Level Course (HLC) 2020 – 2021, Jean Rey" organized by the Greek Defense Ministry and the "1st Olympic Yacht show".

During these years she has also worked at many news portals, magazines, and newspapers.

Concerning this field of journalism, she is currently cooperating as a freelance journalist with ONDECKmedia and you can find several interviews of remarkable people and interesting articles of her in magazines such as "Φ Flisvos Magazine", "ZEA MARINA MAGAZINE", "ONDECKmagazine" and others.

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Gerasimos Tzeis
Managing Director
Atradius Greece

Gerasimos Tzeis was born in 1970 in Athens. He studied Mathematics at the University of Ioannina (B.Sc. In Mathematics) and he then completed his post-graduate studies in Actuarial Science at the Cass Business School of London/former City university (Diploma & M.Sc. In actuarial Science).

From 1998 to 2003 he worked in various positions at the Hellenic branch of Gerling Konzern Speziale. In 2004 he took over the position of the Managing Director at the Hellenic Branch of Atradius **Atradius Crédito y Caución S.A.**, which he holds until now.

He is member of the CEO Clubs, Member of the Association of Chief Executive Officers of Greece, Member of the Association of Representatives and Executives of Hellenic Insurance Companies and in other professional fora.

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Nicolas Trentesaux
CEO
Global SIAL Network

After starting his career as export manager for Danone Group, Nicolas Trentesaux had various Marketing positions at United Biscuits Group. His professional background is based on international developments strategies and research & development.

Since 2013, Nicolas Trentesaux has been managing SIAL brand, its network and international developments. Inspire Food business is an on-going leitmotiv : innovations and trends are at the heart of our events!

SIAL Network is part of Comexposium Group and since its creation in 1964 has become the world's number one food innovation network: France, Canada, China, Indonesia, India, UAE,...

SIAL America is the latest launch: it will take place in las Vegas in March 22.

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Daria Taglioni
Manager of Trade and International
Integration Research
World Bank

Daria Taglioni is the Research Manager of Trade and International Integration, Development Research Group at the World Bank.

She joined the World Bank Group in 2011 as Senior Trade Economist in the International Trade Department of the Poverty Reduction and Economic Management Network (PREM). Since then, she has held various positions and roles, including Team-Task Lead for the World Development Report 2020, Principal Economist in the International Finance Corporation, and World Bank's Global Lead on Global Value Chains.

Previously, she worked as Senior Economist at the European Central Bank (ECB) and as Economist at the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). She has published in the American Economic Review, Journal of International Economics, and other scholarly journals. Her work has been featured in international media outlet such as the New York Times and Forbes. She authored various books on international trade.

She is Italian and holds a PhD in International Economics from the Graduate Institute, Geneva.

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James Scheider
NYC Actor-Musician AEA,
Composer/Arranger,
Creative Director, Studio Bogardus

James Scheider is an actor-musician, music director, and composer/arranger based in Manhattan. He originated the role of Jerry Lee Lewis in the 2006 premiere reading of Million Dollar Quartet at Village Theatre, in addition to playing the role in the Chicago cast, pre-Broadway, he also played the role on the 1st National Tour. James made his Broadway debut understudying Tony award winner Levi Kreis in the original Broadway cast of Million Dollar Quartet.

He recently took another turn as the Killer, originating the role of Jerry Lee Lewis in the World Premiere of Rock and Roll Man: The Alan Freed Story at Bucks County Playhouse and reprising his role in a production of the same name at Berkshire Theatre Festival. Off-Broadway and subsequent Broadway runs are planned pending pandemic safety.

Off-Broadway, he originated and helped develop the role of George Spencer in Evening-1910 at Axis Theatre, working alongside composer/music director Paul Carbonara, well known as the lead guitarist for the band Blondie. James recently co-music directed and starred in Chasin' Dem Blues: The Untold Story of Paramount Records (Professor) at the nationally acclaimed Milwaukee Repertory Theatre Company. He received praise for his music direction of Million Dollar Quartet at Greater Boston Stage Company- Kate House of Wicked Local, writes: "James Scheider's portrayal of Jerry Lee Lewis alone is worth the price of the show's ticket. The fact that such a talented actor and pianist is also the Musical Director for the show is icing on an already pretty tasty cake. The audience absorbs every moment of his performance, searching him out in every scene..."

James' work as an audio engineer through his studio, Studio Bogardus, is featured in the recent release on Broadway Records, Night of the Living Dead! The Musical! James toured world-wide with the USO Show and is a founding member and frontman of the folk rock band, The Ol' So & So's. Proud AEA member since 2008. JamesScheider.com

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Coni Koepfinger

Resident Playwright, Manhattan Rep,
New York & Creative Director, AirPlay, Global

Artist and Educator, Coni Koepfinger was a 2021 recipient of the OLWEN WYMARK AWARD from the Writer's Guild of Great Britain. She is the host of AIRPLAY, a weekly virtual theatre program now in its 14th season that brings the voices of artists, actors, playwrights from all over the world together. Also via new media, Koepfinger has created DETERMINED WOMEN, a monthly feature that interviews women who share stories to encourage and inspire. In addition to teaching theatre and composition, Koepfinger is an internationally published and produced playwright and theorist. As a Media Advisor for the Lifeboat Foundation, her play Get the Message was in their Visions of the Future anthology 2016.

Coni is a former board member of the International Center for Women Playwrights/ ICWP and committee chair for the League of Professional Theatre Women /LPTW. Recent work includes three new powerful pieces with her writing partner Joe Izen: including Eve of Beltane, Broadway Bound Festival (2019),; Schoolhouse (2015) and the first musical to usher in the singularity, Kingdom Come (2020). She has written well over 40 plays, short stories, books and commissions such as Takin' It Back a ten-minute play for THE ME TOO PROJECT in Harlem, and Playing House a commissioned one-act about Bella Abzug for the UNTOLD STORIES OF JEWISH WOMEN and Playing Fate which was accepted for New Blood Series at Theatre for the New City. Now in 2020, Koepfinger's work is virtually shown all over globe, My Dinner with Terra, which was read online for The Producer's Circle and was then streamed live from The Player's Club in NYC in TNC's ON AIR podcast. It will be produced in the Dream Up Festival in 2021 at TNC.

Her play Simon Says, was one of 12 selected in the world's first Virtual Theatre Festival by PLAYBILL 2020 and is slated for Manhattan Rep's STORIES film competition in 2021.

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Byron C. Saunders

Arts Management Consultant/ Actor/
Director/ Producer/ Dramaturge/ Historian/
Radio Talk-Show Personality/
Civil Rights Activist

Byron's highlight's and many credits currently include working as an independent Arts Management Consultant helping artists and arts organizations with grants administration, fund development, marketing, public relations, event planning, capacity growth and development.

Based in Washington, DC...most recently, he produced a theatrical/film short...SIMON SAYS...as a finalist for the 1st Annual Playbill Virtual Theater Festival 2020; directed The Fannie Lou Hamer Story, and served as the Acting Assistant Director at the Louis Armstrong House Museum in Corona, NYC.

Byron returned to NYC in 2009 as the Executive Director for the Wyckoff Association/Wyckoff Farmhouse Museum. The Wyckoff Farmhouse Museum is New York City's and the state's oldest historic landmark that was built in 1652 and is also one of the ten oldest wooden structures in the United States and on the national register of historic landmarks.

Other recent credits include...Director of the Best Play of the 2016 One Festival – Marlene Goes to Hollywood, Mohandas K. Gandhi in the production of Peace Speaks; Dr. A.C. Jackson in the production of Black Wall Street: The Story of the 1921 Tulsa, OK Race Riots.

In NYC, he was the Executive Director of the Frank Silvera Writer's Workshop and won an Obie Award for Playwriting Development. Byron was the first General Manager for Black Spectrum Theater in Jamaica, Queens for three years.

In Atlanta (2001), he was Production Manager for Theater of the Stars Broadway Summer Series at the Fox Theater; Development Director for 7 Stages Theater, Executive Director/Artistic Director for Jomandi Productions, the Executive Director for the DeKalb Council for the Arts, Inc., Executive/Artistic Just Us Theater Company for ten years, and on the Georgia Film Commission for seven.

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Glen C. Kinnaird

Theatre Producer/Director/Playwright &
Children's Book Author

Glen C. Kinnaird made his award-winning directorial debut in 2012 with Mah Jongg, The Musical by Mimi Scott as part of the West Village Musical Theater Festival. Kinnaird wrote his first play, Regrets while attending Perimeter College in Atlanta where he received his AA in Journalism in 1997. The second play of his career, Dirty Laundry, was produced in 2004 as part of the Ten Minute Play Festival at UAB Theater. Kinnaird has also worked as an actor and starred in a one man play called I'm Here in the 2005 UAB play festival. Kinnaird was encouraged by family and friends to follow Big Dreams after finishing his formal education and he moved to New York City in 2006. After a few months in NYC he landed the role of Michael in Robots vs Dinosaurs' off Broadway production of Family Car in a Sextet of Dysfunction at the Richmond Shepard Theater.

In 2008, Kinnaird produced, directed and hosted an online show called NYC Design TV. Kinnaird went on to become a Technical Director, Stage Manager, Company Manager and Theatre Director as well as associate producer on his first Off Broadway show working with Tony award winning producer, John Wulp on Red Eye of Love in 2014 to rave reviews by the New York Times (who never reviews Off Broadway shows). As creator and book writer, Kinnaird took a new fantasy musical, Chasing Innocence, the musical to win awards at the West Village Musical Theatre Festival in 2016 and the new sci-fi musical is still in development. An Off Broadway staged reading of 13 Alabama Ghosts, Kinnaird produced the musical in 2017 to rave reviews and creative are still working with Kinnaird to move the production forward.

In 2019, Kinnaird became a children's book author when his new children's book series Tony the Theatre Dog was ranked among the top 20k books on Amazon out of 8 million titles. His children's book has received multiple 5-star reviews by children's book critiques. Kinnaird is also currently writing a new sci-fi fantasy book series called Legend of the Crystal Lotus that has been in development since 2012, Kinnaird plans to release the first book in the series for publishing in 2022. Glen C. Kinnaird is from Birmingham, Alabama and currently lives in New York City.

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Yuri Arthur
Commercial Counselor
US Embassy Athens

Yuri Ann Arthur is the incoming Senior Commercial Officer for the U.S. Embassy in Athens. She will lead the Commercial Section of the Embassy, working on issues such as commercial diplomacy and trade advocacy, while also focusing on promoting U.S. commercial interests in Greece.

Prior to being assigned to Greece, Yuri served in Manila as the Commercial Section Deputy, covering sectors including infrastructure, defense, ICT, and medical devices and pharmaceuticals. She served on the Embassy Deal team, working with interagency colleagues to identify project leads for possible private sector involvement and U.S. Government funding. Yuri also supported firms through advocacy in an attempt to secure transparent and fair evaluation of proposals. Utilizing her Japan experience, she also secured pathways for U.S. firms to partner with Japanese firms on Japanese Government funded big ticket projects in the Philippines. While in Manila, Yuri also led partnerships with like-minded foreign Embassy colleagues for a multilateral approach to policy issues, coordinating conferences to discuss policy issues of concern for the private sector with relevant government agencies in the Philippines. Prior to being assigned to the Philippines, Yuri was based in Tokyo, Japan where she handled the services and investment portfolio. She led delegations to key trade shows, worked with the State of Hawaii for an education trade mission led by the First Lady, accompanied Ambassador Kennedy to the SelectUSA Summit, was chosen to serve as Control Officer for the first international trip by Commerce Secretary Ross. In 2016, she was chosen to be Control Officer for the Iseshima G7 Summit.

Before her Japan assignment, Yuri was a Mansfield Fellow, and also served in the West Los Angeles U.S. Export Assistance Center where she enjoyed counseling local firms on international market expansion and supporting the Asia Pacific Business Outlook Conference. Her first position with the Department of Commerce was in the Office of East Asia where she started as a trade specialist and participated in trade dialogues with the Governments of Japan and Korea. Yuri started her career as an Information Officer at the Japanese Embassy. She also worked as an Account Manager for Japanese airline All Nippon Airways.

Yuri has a B.A. in International Relations from the University of California San Diego, and graduate level certificates in International Business and Program Management from Georgetown University. She has completed study abroad programs at both Keio University in Japan and the Chinese University of Hong Kong. She is married and has two children (one dog and one daughter).

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Georgios Filiopoulos
CEO
Enterprise Greece

Georgios Filiopoulos is the CEO of Enterprise Greece, Greece's national investment and trade promotion agency.

Before serving in the public sector, Mr. Filiopoulos worked as a business executive for various companies and organizations in the U.S. and Greece.

He received his MBA from HEC Paris, holds an MA in International Relations from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, an MA in Journalism from the University of Memphis, and a BA in Advertising from Kansas State University.

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/georgiosfiliopoulos/>