

# SPEAKERS BIOS

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## Turning Points to Breakthroughs

7th WIB Forum | June 7, 2023

Stavros Niarchos Foundation Cultural Center at The Lighthouse



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### Nikolaos Bakatselos, President, American-Hellenic Chamber of Commerce

Nikolaos Bakatselos is the Managing Director of Pyramis Metallourgia A.E. and Pyramis Deutschland GmbH. He was a 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 AEEEX, 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 the American-Hellenic Chamber of Commerce and President of the Northern Greece Committee, and since June 2019 he was elected President of the American-Hellenic Chamber of Commerce. He is a founding member and member of the Board of the Council of Competitiveness of Greece. From October 2019 until February 2022, 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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### Yannis Dimarakis, Managing Partner, Scotwork

Born in Athens in 1967, Yannis Dimarakis holds a B.A. (Hons) in Economics from the University of Essex, UK and a M.Sc. in Operational Research from the University of Warwick, UK and a Graduate Certificate in Psychology from the American College of Greece (Deree). Prior to taking up his post with Scotwork, he completed 17 years in managerial positions with multinational companies in shipping and fast-moving consumer goods. Of these, he spent 7 years in CEO positions. Yannis brings a wealth of cross industry and cross culture experiences and knowledge that provoke his audiences to rethink and question their current negotiating practices and perceived strengths and weaknesses. In 2006 he took up the Scotwork license for Greece and started offering negotiations related training and consulting services. The successful launch was followed by the expansion of the license in Turkey (2008) and the UAE (2019), where he is now a shareholder and partner. Since 2010 he is a non-executive board member of Scotwork Inc. in the USA. In 2021 he further expanded his Scotwork license area, by opening an office in Sofia, Bulgaria. Yannis is an acknowledged negotiations expert with extensive experience in diverse types of negotiations ranging from trade union - management conflicts, to company buyouts, pharmaceutical industry issues and government affairs. His Scotwork clientele boasts leading companies from banking, energy, pharmaceuticals, consumer goods, telecommunications, and the services sectors. He often publishes articles and speaks in conferences on topics which have a negotiation angle. During the peak of the Greek debt crisis in 2015, he offered commentary to the BBC, France 24, and various Greek media networks. He also published his first book "The Greek Negotiation Debacle" which provided an analysis of the failed negotiation strategy of the Greek government with its creditors in the first half of 2015.





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### Ani Filipova, Founder, Change Advisory

I have been an international banking executive for over 20 years. I was involved in the original setup and ongoing management of three banks, including Citibank in Bulgaria. My career took me to Bucharest, London, Singapore, and Hong Kong. Between 2015 and 2021, I was the Regional Chief Operating Officer for Citibank Treasury and Trade Solutions in Asia, covering 16 countries, including India and China. My focus was on transformation, digitization, and culture change. We won Euromoney Best Bank for transaction services three times during this period; We won various categories of the Global Finance Best Digital Bank awards each year since 2017. Then, in April 2021, I decided to quit my high-flying job and try something different. The family and I left Hong Kong and moved all the way back to Europe. We live in Athens and created a completely different life. Now I am building a portfolio career, which means running a portfolio of activities: Founder of Change Advisory to help financial institutions formulate and implement strategies for digitalization, ESG, and transformation of the corporate culture; Representing the University of Northern Illinois (NIU) in Eastern Europe; in process of opening Executive MBAs in Bulgaria and Greece; member of the NIU MBA Board of Executive Advisors; Investor and Board member in a Swiss start-up working on a turn-key AI solution for forklift teleoperation; Founder and host of "Change is possible" podcast devoted to career pivots; Keynote and TEDx speaker; Career Coach for career success and career pivots; Board member of the Alumni Organization of the University of National and World Economy, Sofia, Bulgaria; Forbes, efinancial careers, Treasury today contributor on the topics of careers and payment trends.





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### Thodoris Georgakopoulos, Editorial Director, diaNEOsis

Thodoris Georgakopoulos is a writer and journalist. He is the editorial director of diaNEOsis, an independent non-profit think tank in Athens. He is also a columnist at Greek daily Kathimerini, and has written for major Greek and European magazines, newspapers, and websites. He primarily writes about politics, culture, science, technology, and the internet. He is the author of five books.





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### Roman Gerodimos, Professor of Global Current Affairs, Bournemouth University

Roman Gerodimos is Professor of Global Current Affairs at Bournemouth University, and a senior faculty member at the Salzburg Academy on Media & Global Change. Roman holds an M.Sc. in European Politics and Policy (LSE) and a Ph.D. in Political Communication from Bournemouth University. He is the winner of the Arthur McDougall prize awarded by the UK's Political Studies Association for his research on online youth civic engagement. He has led or worked on research projects funded by NATO's Public Diplomacy Division, the UK Department for International Development, the Independent Social Research Foundation (ISRF), the US Embassy in London, the Greek Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Greek think-tank DiaNEOsis. His recently edited book on *Interdisciplinary Applications of Shame/Violence Theory: Breaking the Cycle* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2022) was named one of the best 10 books of 2022 by Confer, while his first book in Greece, *Dispatches from the 21st Century* (Papadopoulos) was named Best Non-Fiction Book of 2020 (Athens Voice), one of the Books of 2020 (To Vima), one of the books of the 21st century (Ta Nea) and shortlisted for the Public Book Awards. Roman is also the writer, director and producer of award-winning short and documentary feature films, including *Deterrence* (2020). He is the founder and convenor (2004-2017) of the Greek Politics Specialist Group, which is the largest academic network of Greek politics experts in the world and was named Specialist Group of the Year by the Political Studies Association. His work has appeared in many news outlets around the world, including CNN, AP, BBC News, Sky News, Euronews, USA Today, etc. He has a regular column in Greece's *Athens Voice*.



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### Sally Helgesen, Premier Expert on Women's Leadership and Best-Selling Author

Sally Helgesen, cited in Forbes as the world's premier expert on women's leadership, is an internationally best-selling author, speaker, and leadership coach. She has been inducted into the Thinkers 50 Hall of Fame, which honors those whose ideas have shaped the field of leadership worldwide. She is also ranked number 3 among the world's thought leaders by Global Gurus. Sally's latest book, *Rising Together: How We Can Bridge Divides and Create a More Inclusive Workplace*, offers practical ways to build more inclusive relationships, teams, and workplaces. It is used by companies around the world seeking to build stronger, more inclusive cultures. Her previous book, *How Women Rise*, co-authored with legendary executive coach Marshall Goldsmith, examines the behaviors most likely to get in the way of successful women as they move forward in their careers. It became the top-seller in its field within a week of publication and rights have been sold in 23 languages. She is also the author numerous other books, including *The Female Advantage: Women's Ways of Leadership*, hailed as the classic in its field and continuously in print since 1990, and *The Web of Inclusion: A New Architecture for Building Great Organizations*, cited in The Wall Street Journal as one of the best books on leadership of all time and credited with bringing the language of inclusion into business. For over 30 years, Sally has delivered leadership workshops and keynotes for companies, partnership firms and associations around the world. She can be reached at [sally@sallyhelgesen.com](mailto:sally@sallyhelgesen.com)



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### Dr. Dimitris Karagiannis, Psychiatrist

Dr. Dimitris Karagiannis MD, PhD, is a Child Psychiatrist, Existential Systemic Couple, Group and Family Psychotherapist. Trainer and Supervisor of Psychotherapists. Assistant Professor of Family Therapy at Frederick University, Nicosia, Cyprus. Doctor of the Democritus University of Alexandroupolis, he has taught and teaches in Postgraduate University programs in Mental Health of the National Kapodistrian University of Athens, the University of Western Attica, and the University of Thessaly. He is the Founder and Scientific Director of the Psychotherapeutic and Educational Institute Antistixi, which trains mental health specialists in Psychotherapy. Founding member and first Vice President of the Hellenic Society for Child and Adolescent Psychiatry (HSCAP). President of the Hellenic Federation of Systemic Therapy and Family Therapy (ETHOS). Founding member and former General Secretary of the Hellenic Society of Systemic Therapy ELESYTH. Founding member of the Hellenic Society of Systemic Thinking and Family Psychotherapy EESKEPSO. Member of the European Family Therapy Association (EFTA). Director of the Center for Child Mental Health (1986-present), which is a modern child psychiatric unit with a complete interdisciplinary team organized based on the systemic view. Author of the books: *Does man change?* (20th edition), *Love or nothing* (27th edition), *The injustice that hurts* (30th edition), *Cracks and Touches* (11th edition).





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### Tatiana Kolovou, Teaching Professor, Kelley School of Business, Indiana University

Born and raised in Athens, Greece, Tatiana Kolovou moved to the United States to attend college. She was quick to lean into the new culture and adapt but had more than her fair share of “*oops what did I just say*” moments. Instead of shying away from her mistakes she leaned into this cultural adjustment and now teaches Cross Cultural and Business Communication to MBA and undergraduate students for the highly ranked Kelley School of Business at Indiana University. Tatiana is a long time LinkedIn Learning instructor with over 9 million learners in multiple courses on the platform. Her emphasis on communication, resilience and workplace effectiveness has a unique perspective on how to lean into the uncomfortable to become a stronger workplace and a stronger professional. She produces content on LinkedIn weekly to include a newsletter with over 36,000 subscribers and a live show averaging an audience of 3,000+ attendees from 33 countries worldwide. Tatiana has designed and conducted seminars, facilitated retreats, and helped professionals accomplish optimal work performance. As a professional speaker and trainer some of her top clients include: Cognizant, Ralph Lauren, Procter & Gamble, Red Bull & many more. As owner and founder of Ethos Fitness, a gym in the Bloomington Indiana area, you can find her teaching fitness classes in her spare time.



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### Sotiris Lympelopoulos, Owner, Radiki

Sotiris Lympelopoulos was born in Athens in 1980. After finishing his studies at economics in Greece, he went to Great Britain to continue with post-graduate studies and work as an economist handling econometrics models for a multinational corporation. It was at that time of his life that dreamed to set up huge businesses, when suddenly he made a complete turn over in his life. 2009 was the milestone that Sotiris realized that working within four walls and trying to make money was not the life he really anticipated ever since his teens. He gave up everything and started a journey at the infinite possibilities life has to offer. After walking hundreds of kilometers exploring mountains and seas, attending various seminars, and grabbing at any opportunity for personal growth, he reached his father's village in Messinia with no plan at first. He lived the first months by eating only what the nature could offer him spending no money at all. That's how he had the idea to collect wild food and grow pure products for chefs and people who share with him the same philosophy. Two years later, he has set up the one of the most delicate food service in Greece (radiki.com), receiving recognition and support by leading businesses in the field like restaurants and hotels supplying them with rare wild greens and fine vegetables. The company grew up and by 2017 has become one of the biggest exporters of Organic Citrus in Greece. Sotiris is now involved in various project related with food and always seeks for new ideas to develop.





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### Dr. Ioannis Salmon, Associate Professor, University of West Attica

Dr. Ioannis Salmon is Associate Professor of the Department of Business Administration at the University of Western Attica. He received his doctorate from the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens in Change Management and Human Resource Development. His Research activities focus on Change Management, Human Resource Development, Knowledge Management, Strategic Management Models of Businesses and Organizations and Business Ethics. He has worked for many years in the private and public sectors in Human Resource Management and Finance. He is the author and co-author of articles in prestigious international journals and conference proceedings. He has participated in several European and national research programs. He teaches courses in Leadership and Change Management, Human Resource Management and Development, Business Ethics, and Knowledge Management and Learning Organizations. At the same time, he has been teaching postgraduate programs at the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens and the University of West Attica.





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### **Myladie Stoubou, Regional Director for Partner Business Development, Microsoft**

Myladie Stoubou is an experienced digital executive, leader and strategist. She specializes in building and transforming global and diverse high-performance teams, as well as in assisting businesses to leverage opportunities from 4th industrial revolution and current exponential technologies. She has worn many hats in her professional career – started as systems engineer and a programmer, developing into a digital technology and innovation evangelist and later into a regional executive. She has been working in multinational environments for many years and has a unique ability to manage multi-disciplinary projects, to navigate non-standard challenges and to solve complex problems. She is currently working as a senior regional director for Microsoft, and she goes beyond that. She is a women leadership advocate, Chair of the Women in Business Committee for the American-Hellenic Chamber of Commerce, and a mentor for Women Leadership Program in European Innovation Center. She supports digital entrepreneurship as a mentor for MIT Enterprise Forum in Greece and a judge for Envolve Entrepreneurship Award. She is an international keynote speaker addressing topics like leadership, future of work, diversity and inclusion, artificial intelligence and digital entrepreneurship. She has 3 TEDx talks, and she is the author of many articles in LinkedIn as well as many prestigious sites in Greece and abroad, including Huffpost.



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### Marianna Skylakaki, CEO, αΘηNEA

CEO and editor-in-chief of award-winning media company αΘηNEA. She began her career in London, where she worked in investment banking at Goldman Sachs. She holds a BSc in Economics & Politics from the University of Bristol and an MPA in Public Policy & Management from the London School of Economics.





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### Elias Spirtoonias, Executive Director, American-Hellenic Chamber of Commerce

After graduating from the School of Mathematics of the University of Athens, Elias Spirtoonias 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 the 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 until 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 cultural theme park 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, during the economic crisis, to increase significantly the number of activities, undertake important initiatives, retain in high level the memberships, foster the advocacy level, expand further the presence of the Chamber in US and contribute to the evolution of the Chamber into one of the leading dynamic and reliable business organization in Greece. He serves as Treasurer of the American Chambers in Europe (ACE) Executive Committee.





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### Maya Tsoclis, Co-Founder, Nissos Beer & Travel Journalist

Maya Tsoclis is an acclaimed Greek travel journalist and former Member of Parliament. Maya Tsoclis was born in Paris, and followed father acclaimed artist Costas Tsoclis where she spent her childhood in France, Germany, Greece. She studied sociology in France and worked in the fashion business as a designer for a decade before becoming interested in travel journalism and documentaries. In 1997 she started a collaboration with the cultural program of the ET2 channel, *Plus and Minus*, and then took over, together with the director Chronis Pechlivanidis, the creation of the show *Travelling in Greece* on NET (1999-2003), which, over the years, developed into the documentary series, *Travelling with Maya Tsoclis*, (2004-2013). With more than 180 hours of programming in public television, Maya became a household name in Greece with travel journalism and regarded as a key authoritative in the field of travelling. Her shows, filmed in more than 70 countries, received multiple awards. From 2005 to 2010 Maya was the editor in chief of Passport magazine, a monthly travel magazine published by Kathimerini publications. Furthermore, she collaborated with SKAI radio for two years as well. She was elected member of parliament in the elections of 2009 as a candidate with PASOK and resigned in 2012. Maya is the creator of various travel magazines, podcasts, websites, runs an open-air theater and is the Co-Founder of NISSOS Beer, an internationally awarded craft beer made in the island of Tinos. She is currently working on her latest tv documentary series entitled, *On the Greek Roads*, about the Greek Diaspora (commissioned by ERT).



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### Dr. Ted Papakostas, Archaeologist

Ted Papakostas is an archeologist. He has a MA in prehistoric archeology and a PhD in Classical Archaeology. Through his project, Archaeostoryteller, which uses social media, podcasts, and public speeches, he attempts to reach a wider audience and bring the past to its rightful recipients: all of us. Comprehension and love of the past is a way of getting to know ourselves better and understand where we are heading. He is the author of two best-selling books, the first of which has been translated into 12 languages.

