

G. M. Sifakis
Curriculum Vitae

G. M. Sifakis is Emeritus Professor of Classical Greek in the Universities of Thessaloniki and New York (NYU).

Born at Herakleion, Crete, in 1935, he *studied* in Athens (1953-58) and London (1961-64), where he specialized in ancient drama under the guidance of T.B.L. Webster, and wrote his doctoral dissertation on theatre history in the Hellenistic period, focusing on the two centers of Apollo's worship, Delphi and Delos.

He has taught at the University of California, Los Angeles (1968-70), the universities of Thessaloniki (1970-91) and Crete (1978-79), and at New York University (1992-2003). He was Interim President of the University of Crete from 1981 to 1986, and Director of the Institute for Mediterranean Studies (Foundation of Research and Technology – Hellas) from 1985 to 1992. He is currently an honorary director of research at the Institute for Mediterranean Studies (FORTH), in charge of the Ancient Theatre Electronic Documentation Project.

Professional Distinctions: In 1984 he was named 'honorary member' of the Society for the Promotion of Hellenic Studies (London), and in 1986 he was elected Fellow of University College London. He was 'Webster Visiting Professor' at Stanford University in April 1988, and 'T.B.L. Webster Fellow' at the Institute of Classical Studies of London University in March 2000. In 2003 he was named 'distinguished member' of the Foundation for Research & Technology – Hellas. He was awarded the degree of 'honorary doctor' by the Department of Theatre Studies, University of Patras (2005), the Faculty of Philosophy, University of Cyprus (2006), and the Department of Philology, University of Crete (2009).

Publications A: Much of G.M. Sifakis' work deals with ancient drama and, more specifically, with the origins, history and theatre production of drama, in his earlier publications; with the theory and poetics of tragedy and comedy, in his more recent ones. The most important of his publications relevant to ancient drama and theatre are listed below:

- "Comedia: An actress of comedy", *Hesperia* 35 (1966) 268-73.
- *Studies in the History of Hellenistic Drama* (London, 1967).
- *Parabasis and Animal Choruses: A Contribution to the History of Attic Old Comedy* (London, 1971).
- "Aristotle, *EN* IV.2, 1123a 1924, and the comic chorus in the fourth century", *American Journal of Philology* 92 (1971) 410-32.
- "Children in Greek Tragedy", *Bulletin of the Inst. of Class. Stud.* 26 (1979) 67-80.
- "Boy actors in New Comedy" in G. W. Bowersock, W. Burkert, M.C.J. Putnam (eds.), *Arktouros: Hellenic Studies Presented to B.M.W. Knox on the Occasion of His 65th Birthday* (Berlin – New York, 1980), pp. 199-208.
- "The social function of theatre in ancient Athens", *Archaologia* 12 (1984) 8-10.
- "The structure of Aristophanic comedy", *Journal of Hellen. Stud.* 112 (1992) 123-42.
- "The One-Actor Rule in Greek Tragedy", in A. Griffiths (ed.), *Stage Directions. Essays in Ancient Drama in Honour of E.W. Handley* (BICS Suppl. 66, London, 1995), pp. 13-24.
- "Function and significance of music in Greek tragedy", *Bulletin of the Institute of*

Classical Studies 45 (2001) 21-35.

- “Looking for the actor’s art in Aristotle”, in Pat Easterling & Edith Hall (eds.), *Greek and Roman Actors. Aspects of an Ancient Profession* (Cambridge, 2002), pp. 148-64
- *Aristotle on the Function of Tragic Poetry* (Herakleion, 2002).
- “Ποίηση, ιστορία και φιλοσοφία: Μυθοπλασία και αλήθεια”, *Σήμα Μενελάου Παρλαμά* (Ηράκλειο, 2002), σσ. 17-33.
- “From mythological parody to political satire: Some stages in the evolution of Old Comedy”, *Classica et Mediaevalia* 57 (2006) 19-46.
- *Μελέτες για το αρχαίο θέατρο* (Ηράκλειο, 2007)
- “Aristotle, *Poetics* 17, 1455a 29-34: People in real life, poets or spectators in the grip of passion?”, *Classical Quarterly* 52 (2009) 486-93.
- “Ερμηνεία και παρερμηνείες της *Ποιητικής* του Αριστοτέλη” *Αριάδνη* 15 (2009) 59-72.
- “The misunderstanding of *opsis* in Aristotle’s *Poetics*” in G.W.M. Harrison & V. Liapis (eds.), *Studies on the Performative Aspects of Greek and Roman Drama* (forthcoming at Brill’s, Amsterdam)

Publications B: Although most of G.M.S.’ work is devoted to ancient drama and theatre, he has a parallel interest in traditional arts and culture (ancient and modern), especially in oral and traditional poetry and music. Some of his publications are listed below:

- “The traditional character of ancient Greek poetry and art”, *Scientific Yearbook of the Faculty of Philosophy*, University of Thessaloniki, 12 (1971), 453-70 (in Greek).
- *Towards a Poetics of Modern Greek Folksong* (Herakleion, 1988) (in Greek).
- “Homeric survivals in the medieval and modern Greek folksong tradition?”, *Greece & Rome* 39 (1992) 139-54.
- “The problem of orality in medieval vernacular poetry”, in N. M. Panayotakis (ed.), *Origini della letteratura neogreca. Atti del secondo congresso internazionale ‘Neogreca Medii Aevi’* (Venice & Athens, 1993), pp. 267-84 (in Greek).
- “Formulas and their relatives: A semiotic approach to verse making in Homer and modern Greek folksongs”, *Journal of Hellenic Studies* 117 (1997), 136-53.
- *Béla Bartók and the Folksong* (Herakleion, 1997) (with the co-operation of Vera Lampert; in Greek).
- “Editorial problems of folksongs”, in *Mnêmê Elenês Tsantsanoglou. Ekdotika kai ermêneutika zêtêmata neoellênikês logotechnias* (Thessaloniki, 1998), pp. 99-114 (in Greek).
- “Looking for the tracks of oral tradition in medieval and early modern Greek poetic works”, *Journal of the Hellenic Diaspora* 27 (2001) 61-86.
- “*Erôtokritos* and the verse patterns of the folksong fifteen-syllable verse”, *Proceedings of the International Conference on Erôtokritos* (Herakleion, 2006) (in Greek).