



H.A.G.T

Ελληνική Εταιρία Ψυχοθεραπείας Gestalt

Hellenic Association for Gestalt Therapy

PROGRAM
#Gestalt 2026



*1st International Conference
for Gestalt Therapy*

Gender and Sexuality Today
Gestalt Therapy Interdisciplinary Dialogue

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WELCOME MESSAGE

It is with great pleasure that we welcome you to Thessaloniki and to our conference on “Gender and Sexuality Today. Gestalt Therapy in Interdisciplinary Dialogue”, an important field that invites us to engage in discussion, reflection, and the enrichment of our knowledge.

We look forward to sharing experiences, ideas, and perspectives with all of you, in order to promote scientific knowledge and social responsibility, especially at a time when established human rights are being challenged worldwide.

The joy and the sense of responsibility are even greater, as this conference is held under the auspices of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, and more specifically of the Gender Equality and Prevention of Discrimination committee, the Departments of Psychology and Biology, and the Laboratory of Physical Medicine, as well as the European Association for Gestalt Therapy (EAGT), the Hellenic Association for Psychotherapy (HAP), the International Association for the Advancement of Gestalt Therapy (IAAGT), and the Municipality of Thessaloniki.

We await you with enthusiasm so that we may work together!

Sincerely,

Christos Karapiperis

President of the Hellenic Association for Gestalt Therapy

ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

Alexia Ioanna

Chatzilakou Katia

Daktyla Styliani

Fragathanasi Gogo

Giakoumakou Maria

Gioni Konstantina

Karapiperis Christos

Kiletsi Iriini

Partsia Despina

Raptis Nikolas

SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

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Athanasouli Paraskeui

Antonopoulou Efi

Karamanoli Vasia

Koutela Iriini

Kyriakou Evaggelia

Mavromihalis Anastasis

Mertika Antigoni

Mpamidis Panagiotis

Triantafylidis Alexandros

Tsireka Katerina

Gender and Sexuality Today

Gestalt Therapy Interdisciplinary Dialogue

Thematic Axes

Multiple Identities and Roles (Intersectionality):

How they are experienced by the individual and how we encounter them in therapy

Therapeutic Approaches and Ethics:

From trauma to affirmative therapy

Developmental Pathways:

Understanding Gender and Sexuality Across the Lifespan

Let's Talk About Sex:

Sexual Diversity and Relationships in Adults and Adolescents

Foundations of Understanding:

The Spectrum of Gender and Sexuality

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FRIDAY

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13:30 - 14:30	Registration & Delegate Welcome
14:30 - 16:00	<p>Welcome Addresses</p> <p>Christos Karapiperis President of the Board of Directors of the Hellenic Association for Gestalt Therapy (HAGT)</p> <p>Despoina Balliou 1st Vice President of the Board of Directors of the National Organization for Psychotherapy of Greece (NOPG)</p> <p>Panagiotis Bamidis Director of the Laboratory of Medical Physics and Digital Innovation, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (AUTH)</p> <p>Dimitrios Skoutas Deputy Mayor for Social Policy, Solidarity & Public Health</p> <p>Sofia Verulashvili General Secretary of the Board of Directors of the European Association for Gestalt Therapy (EAGT)</p> <p>Parvy Palmou Continuing Professional Development (CPD) Coordinator for the International Association for the Advancement of Gestalt Therapy (IAAGT)</p> <p>Alexandros Triantafyllidis Vice Head of the School of Biology, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (AUTH)</p>
16:00 - 16:30	<p>Opening speech Margherita Spagnuolo Lobb The speech will take place online.</p>
16:30 - 18:30	<p>1st Interactive Thematic Panel <i>Gender and Sexuality Within the Social Field</i> Dimitra Kokgidou, Panagiotis Kordoutis, Ioannis Mihos Chair: Vasia Karamanoli</p>
18:30 - 19:00 Coffee Break	
19:00 - 20:00	<p>Keynote Opening Speech Billy Desmond</p>
20:00 - 21:00	Reception

The lectures will take place in **Auditorium II**, with parallel live streaming to Auditoriums I and III, so that all delegates may be seated.

For the opening day, simultaneous interpretation for in-person participants will be available only in **Auditorium II**. Auditoriums I and III will display the live feed from Auditorium II.

The reception will take place in the **KEDEA Foyer**.

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SATURDAY

3

10:00 - 12:00

PANEL

Auditorium I
(Without simultaneous interpretation)
&
Auditorium II (main hall)
(With simultaneous interpretation)

2o Interactive Thematic Panel
“Gender and Sexuality in the
Therapeutic Encounter”

Alexandra Vasiliou, Irini Koutela,
Sonia Lazaridi, Antonis Poulivos
Chair: Katia Chatzilakou

EXPERIENTAL WORKSHOPS

Room I

10:00 - 11:30
The Odyssey of Gender in a World of
Endless Change and Infinite
Possibilities (An attempt at creative
adaptation in a fluid field)
Evropi Papadopoulou

Room II

10:00 - 11:30 The flesh fortifies the
soul; the soul
gives form to the flesh
Anna Mertzani

Auditorium III

10:00 - 11:30 GESTALT
Sexology
Barbara Bellini,
Mariano Pizzimenti

12:00 - 12:30

Coffee Break

12:30 - 14:00

PANEL

Auditorium I
(With simultaneous interpretation)

3o Interactive Thematic Panel
“Collective Pathways of
Self - Regulation”

Proud parents
Kleoniki Gianakopoulou

Colourful School
Charis Dimitrakopoulos,
Elena Skarpidou

Thessaloniki pride
Apostolis Karampairis

Chairs: Paraskevi Athanasouli,
Katerina Tsireka

THEORITICAL PRESENTATIONS

Auditorium II (main hall)
(With simultaneous interpretation)

12:30 - 13:00
Sexuality in Gestalt Psychotherapy:
A Review of the International Literature
Sotiria Kyriazidou

13:00 - 13:30
Intersectionality and Assemblage
theory in Gestalt therapy: Can Gestalt
therapy provide a ground for feminist
therapeutic practice?
Anesteia Tsagkalidou

13:30 - 14:00
The Myth of Tiresias, the
experience of gender and Human
Sexuality: A Theoretical Approach
through Gestalt Therapy
Eirini Kiletsi

12:30 - 14:00	EXPERIENTIAL WORKSHOPS	
	Room I	12:30 - 14:00 From Polarity to Spectrum: Gestalt explorations of gender identity and relational communication beyond the binary Marina Bikou, Maria Georgalli
	Room II	12:30 - 14:00 The Silent Flame: Sexuality & Shame of the Therapist as a Relational Field Phenomenon Kalliopi Koutousi, Giorgos Koutsogiannis
	Auditorium III	12:30 - 14:00 A Gestalt Approach to Working with Sexual Themes and Fantasies including BDSM & Kink John Gillespie
14:00 - 15:00	Lunch Break	
15:00 - 17:00	THEORITICAL PRESENTATIONS	
	Auditorium I (With simultaneous interpretation)	15:00 - 15:30 Self Landscapes: therapeutic pathways in gender experience Galini Gkartzonika
		15:30 - 16:00 Uncovering Layers: Intersectional Dynamics of Gender in the Gestalt Therapeutic Relationship Adamantia Kotsoglanidi
		16:00 - 16:30 Reorienting : Queer theorising as a way into practice Marc Mason
	16:30 - 17:00 Psychosis as a Radical Questioning of Gender: From Ego Collapse to Transcending Binary Identities Alexandros Karydakis	
	Auditorium II (main hall) (With simultaneous interpretation)	15:00 - 15:30 Great Expectations: When sexuality emerges in the therapy room Nikolas Raptis
		15:30 - 16:00 Sexuality and Eroticism in the Therapeutic Process Elena Antoniou, Konstantina Gkioni

15:00 - 17:00	THEORETICAL PRESENTATIONS	
	Auditorium II (main hall) (With simultaneous interpretation)	16:00 - 16:30 The broken toy... Yianna Yiamarelou
		16:30 - 17:00 Working with Gender, Sex and Relationship Diversity in Gestalt Integrative Couple Therapy Vibeke Visnes
	EXPERIENTAL WORKSHOPS	
	Room I	15:00 - 16:30 When Eros and Psyche meet the Lord of the Underworld: myth & symbols of sexuality through the lens of the Gestalt approach Vassia Karamanoli
	Room II	15:00 - 16:30 Inner Topography Christos Karapiperis, Katerina Tsireka
	Auditorium III	15:00 - 16:30 Polarised" therapists in a polarised field: Exploring positions and attitudes regarding gender and sexuality that influence the therapeutic encounter Antigoni Mertika, Argyro Vagia
17:00 - 17:30 Coffee Break		
17:30 - 18:30	<p>Keynote speech Lisa Diamond</p> <p>The lecture will be delivered online in Auditorium II (main hall), with parallel live streaming to Auditoriums I and III, so that all delegates may be seated.</p> <p>For this specific lecture, simultaneous interpretation for in-person participants will be available only in Auditoriums I and II (main hall). Auditorium III will display the live feed from Auditorium II (main hall).</p>	
18:30 - 20:30	THEORETICAL PRESENTATIONS	
	Auditorium I (With simultaneous interpretation)	18:30 - 19:00 Sex, gender and sexuality in dementia care: When biology is complex inclusion with kindness and respect doesn't have to be Katerina Siampani

THEORETICAL PRESENTATIONS

Auditorium I

(With simultaneous interpretation)

19:00 - 19:30

Autumn body

Konstantina Gkioni,

Christos Karapiperis

19:30 - 20:00

Pleasure heals: Sexual issues as a push for new commitment in life

Ingeborg Netzer

20:00 - 20:30

Reflections in the Gardens of Maturity A voyage into the questions of desire and romantic love of later life, based on an meta-analysis of case-study.

Vasiliki Chatzimpougia,

Elisavet Parthenioli

18:30 - 19:00

Behind the mask of neurodiversity: how gestalt therapy can support late-diagnosed autistic women

Anna Marea Binder - Kita

19:00 - 19:30

Body, Identity and the Therapeutic Relationship: The Experience of Femininity After Breast Cancer. An Interdisciplinary Gestalt and Neuropsychological Approach to Sexuality and Body Image

Gianna Kalota,

Glykeria Mitsiou - Daktyla

19:30 - 20:00

Menopause through the Cycle of Experience: From Awareness to Transformation

Asimina Erketziki, Ifigenia Karpeti,

Valentina Sioka

20:00 - 20:30

Pain and Visibility: Seeking Space for Women's Pain in Gestalt Psychotherapy

Nafsika Rentzou

Auditorium III

Chewing Group Process

EXPERIENTIAL WORKSHOPS

18:30 - 20:00

Room I

Room II

18:30 - 20:00

(Young) woman, alone, seeking.. The game of relationships in the digital era

Maria Mavridou

18:30 - 20:30

Auditorium II (main hall)

(With simultaneous interpretation)

20:30 - 21:00

Auditorium II (main hall) (With simultaneous interpretation)
Auditorium I & III (Without simultaneous interpretation, interconnected rooms)

Closing remarks

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SUNDAY

3

<p>9:30 - 11:30</p>	<p>PANEL</p> <p>Auditorium I (Without simultaneous interpretation, interconnected rooms) & Auditorium II (main hall) (With simultaneous interpretation)</p>	<p>4th Interactive Thematic Panel “Adolescence: When diversity becomes figural. An interdisciplinary approach of developmental experience.” Efi Antonopoulou, Stavros Boufidis, Giannis Voskopoulos, Maria Farmaki, Giorgos Floudas Chairs: Evaggelia Kyriakou, Antigoni Mertika</p>
	<p>EXPERIENTAL WORKSHOPS</p>	<p>9:30 - 11:00 From I-id to I-thou: gendered forms at the contact boundary in an inner experiment Rafail Bilidas, Marina Mpikou</p>
	<p>Room I</p>	<p>9:30 - 11:00 Whose Voices Lives in Us? Shame, Aggression, and the Dialogue with Cultural Introjects on Gender and Sexuality Naoum Liotas</p>
	<p>Room II</p>	<p>9:30 - 11:00 A safe group field for working on sexuality: interactive modes and embodied pathways from the PSP approach Petros Theodorou</p>
<p>Auditorium III</p>	<p>9:30 - 11:00 A safe group field for working on sexuality: interactive modes and embodied pathways from the PSP approach Petros Theodorou</p>	
<p>11:30 - 12:00 Coffee Break</p>		
<p>12:00 - 13:00</p>	<p>Keynote speech Vikram Kolmannskog</p> <p>The lecture will be delivered online in Auditorium II (main hall), with parallel live streaming to Auditoriums I and III, so that all delegates may be seated.</p> <p>For this specific lecture, simultaneous interpretation for in-person participants will be available only in Auditoriums I and II (main hall). Auditorium III will display the live feed from Auditorium II (main hall).</p>	

THEORETICAL PRESENTATIONS

Auditorium I

(With simultaneous interpretation)

13:00 - 13:30

Romantic relationships: the fairy-tale social representation as hidden guidance or as an outlet for secret sexual desires?

Vassia Karamanoli

13:30 - 14:00

Post-Gender, Artificial Intelligence and New Forms of Intimacy: Desire, Relationship and Challenges for Gestalt Therapy

Efrosini Kiatikidou

Eleftherios Siakis

14:00 - 14:30

Gender, Identity and Digital Culture: The Role of Social Media in Shaping Contemporary Gender Perceptions

Liana Daktyla

ROUND TABLE

Auditorium II (main hall)

(With simultaneous interpretation)

13:00 - 14:30

The politics of desire and decolonial queer epistemologies: How can we cultivate a new ethics of attention/care in affirmative psychotherapies?

Emmanouil Manakas,

Nancy Papathanasiou, Elena-Olga Christidi

Chair: Dimitra Chantziara

EXPERIENTIAL WORKSHOPS

Room I

13:00 - 14:30

Room II

13:00 - 14:30

Menopause! Fragile, please handle with care

Katerina Manolaki, Giovanna Silvestri

Auditorium III

13:00 - 14:30

Metamorphoses: the fluidity of "being" and the "I am"

Nikolas Raptis

13:00 - 14:30

14:30 - 15:30

Lunch Break

THEORETICAL PRESENTATIONS

Auditorium I

(With simultaneous interpretation)

15:30 - 16:00

Adolescence and Sexuality: The Issue of "Consent" in First Experiences

Lydia Kanellea

16:00 - 16:30

A dialogue on feeling safe in togetherness

Maria Farmaki, Kleopatra Karvouni

16:30 - 17:00

Gender Identity and Sexual Education: Challenges and Needs in the Contemporary School Community

Konstantinos Daktylas, Glykeria Mitsiou - Daktyla

17:00 - 17:30

Dissociation as a result of sexual traumatic experiences in client's history can be a challenge for the therapist

Katerina Manolaki

15:30 - 17:30

Auditorium II (main hall)

(With simultaneous interpretation)

15:30 - 16:00

Gestalt relational approach and ethics of care in building interdisciplinary support for LGBTQ

Ana Blazheva,
Ivana Marincek Mihajlovic,
Radmila Zivanovic

16:00 - 16:30

The Phenomenon of Shame in Same-Sex Couples - Where the longing for connection meets the fear of exposure

Dimosthenis Gallis

16:30 - 17:00

Neurodivergence and sexuality. Gestalt approach to diverse human experiences.

Tanya Anpilogova

Auditorium III

Chewing Group Process

EXPERIENTIAL WORKSHOPS

Room I

15:30 - 17:00

The Tree, the Forest, and Shame
Thalia Logotheti

Room II

15:30 - 17:00

17:30 - 18:00

Lunch Break

18:00 - 19:00

Auditorium I & II (main hall)
(With simultaneous interpretation)
&
Auditorium III
(Without simultaneous interpretation,
interconnected rooms)

Conclusions – End of Sessions

GENERAL INFORMATION

Date:

March 13 - 15, 2026

Venue:

Centre for the Dissemination of Research Results (KEDEA)
Aristotle University of Thessaloniki

Conference Organizers – Secretariat – Information

PRAXICON EVENTS

43 Ioanni Pasalidi St., P.C. 54453, K. Toumba, Thessaloniki

Tel.: +30 2310 674 295 | E-mail: gestalt2026@praxiconevents.com

Website:

<https://gestaltconferences.gr/gestalt2026/>

Badge and Barcode Card

To attend the sessions of the Conference on-site, participants must wear the registration badge provided by the Secretariat and are kindly requested to wear it throughout the entire event.

Furthermore, upon registration, you will receive an individual card with your personal barcode from the Secretariat, which is linked exclusively to your name. This card must be scanned at the designated device both upon entering and leaving the KEDEA conference venue.

For online participants, attendance will be recorded electronically through the virtual platform. Participants must remain logged in with their personal credentials, and their connection time will be automatically monitored to verify their participation in each session

Certificate of Attendance

The Certificate of Attendance will be sent electronically after the event.

Presentation Equipment

Speakers will be requested to submit their presentations electronically prior to the Conference.

The **PowerPoint file must be bilingual**, with each slide containing the English text and, immediately below each sentence, its Greek translation.

Speakers who are not familiar with the Greek language may submit their presentation in English only. The Organizing Committee will assist in providing the Greek translation.

The file must be submitted in an editable format to allow for the necessary processing.

Registration Fees – Participation Fee – Payment

Conference registration and payment of the participation fee must be completed exclusively through the official online platform of the event. Cash payments will not be accepted during the Conference.

Registration costs

	HAGT/ EAGT/IAAGT Members*	Non members	Discounted (Students, Gestalt trainees, Unemployed, Special needs) **	Only AUTH Students (Biology, Psychology, and Medicine)***
Early bird until 10/02/2026	€150.00	€200.00	€100.00	€60.00
Regular	€250.00	€300.00	€150.00	€80.00
Online only	€150.00	€200.00	€100.00	€60.00

*Applies to regular and associate members of the Hellenic Association for Gestalt Therapy (HAGT), the European Association for Gestalt Therapy (EAGT), and the International Association for the Advancement of Gestalt Therapy (IAAGT), with the indication of the member registration number during electronic registration.

** Applies to active students, pupils, and trainee psychotherapists (1st to 4th year) upon presentation of a student card or relevant certificate, as well as to the unemployed, upon presentation of an unemployment card.

*** The special AUTH student participation applies exclusively to all active students of the Schools of Biology, Psychology, and Medicine of AUTH, which are collaborating with the conference organization, upon presentation of a student ID or relevant certificate.

Group Registration Discount

After the Early Bird registration period ends, group registrations of ten (10) or more participants are eligible for a 10% discount **on the regular registration amount only.**

To register for the Conference, please complete the registration form:

<https://gestaltconferences.gr/gestalt2026/index.php/registrations/>

Conference Presentations & Sessions

The scientific program of the Conference will feature a wide range of presentations, including both oral and poster sessions, reflecting the strong interest and high level of participation from the community.

Presentations will take place at the KEDEA Center of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, with Amphitheater I serving as the main venue and additional parallel sessions held in Amphitheatres II and III, as well as in the Foyer (multi-venue area). KEDEA Center is fully accessible to individuals with disabilities and special needs, ensuring inclusive and barrier-free participation for all attendees.

The Conference is held under the auspices of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, specifically its Departments of Psychology, Biology, and Medical Physics, as well as the European Association for Gestalt Therapy (E.A.G.T.), the National Organisation for Psychotherapy of Greece (N.O.P.G.), and the International Association for the Advancement of Gestalt Therapy (I.A.A.G.T.), and the Municipality of Thessaloniki.

Further details regarding the final program will be announced upon completion of the evaluation process and the structuring of the sessions.

Accommodation & Air Travel Arrangements

Special rates have been secured for the conference delegates. To receive the necessary discount codes for the hotels listed below, please contact us at gestalt2026@praxiconevents.com.

Makedonia Palace Hotel 5*

Special rates for conference delegates are available. To receive the discount code, please contact us at gestalt2026@praxiconevents.com

Reservations should be made via email at reservations@makedoniapalace.gr, mentioning the preferred room type (city or sea view, single or double use).

Booking deadline: **05/02/2026**.

Vanoro Hotel 5*

Special rates for conference delegates are available. To receive the discount code, please contact us at gestalt2026@praxiconevents.com.

Capsis Hotel Thessaloniki 4*

Special rates for conference delegates are available. To receive the discount code, please contact us at gestalt2026@praxiconevents.com.

Single Room:

Business Room: €90

Executive Room: €100

Double Room:

Business Room: €105

Executive Room: €125

Imperial Palace | Classical Hotel 4* (Address: 13 Antigonidon)

Special rates for conference delegates are available. To receive the discount code, please contact us at gestalt2026@praxiconevents.com

Imperial Plus | Urban Smart Hotel 4* (Address: 8 Egnatias)

Special rates for conference delegates are available. To receive the discount code, please contact us at gestalt2026@praxiconevents.com

COLORS Hotels Greece 4*

Special rates for conference delegates are available. To receive the discount code, please contact us at gestalt2026@praxiconevents.com

Hotel Queen Olga 3*

Special rates for conference delegates are available. To receive the discount code, please contact us at gestalt2026@praxiconevents.com

Reservations should be made directly via email at reservations@queenolga.gr.

HOTEL ABC 3*

Special rates for conference delegates are available. To receive the discount code, please contact us at gestalt2026@praxiconevents.com

- Single Room: €75
- Double Room: €95

Buffet breakfast included

Reservations should be made directly via email at info@hotelabc.gr.

The Climate Crisis Resilience Fee is not included in the price and is payable by the guest upon arrival.

In addition, participants who require support with their air travel arrangements are kindly invited to contact **PRAXICON EVENTS** in order to receive guidance and assistance with flight bookings.

The program is subject to change according to the conference flow and requirements.

PRAXICON EVENTS

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E-mail: gestalt2026@praxiconevents.com