STELLA VOSNIADOU



Stella (Styliani) Vosniadou **is a Greek psychologist and Professor Emerita at the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens. An internationally recognised scholar in cognitive psychology and learning sciences, she studies children's conceptual development, conceptual change, and the acquisition of scientific and mathematical knowledge.**

ACADEMIC AND PROFESSIONAL CAREER

Stella Vosniadou is a leading scholar in cognitive psychology and learning sciences whose research has focused on children's cognitive development and the processes through which knowledge is acquired. She conducted research at the University of Illinois at Urbana–Champaign before holding academic and professorial positions at Greek universities. She subsequently held visiting professorships and academic appointments at several internationally renowned institutions, including Stanford University and Harvard University.

A central theme of her research is conceptual change — the process through which learners revise their existing ideas in response to new knowledge. She has made important contributions to the study of children's scientific reasoning, their mental models of the Earth, and the development of scientific understanding. Her work demonstrates that learning involves more than acquiring new information; it often requires the gradual transformation of existing knowledge structures.

Her broader research interests include science and mathematics education, effective teaching practices, and the development of self-regulated learning. Alongside her research, Vosniadou has played an important role in the international scientific community. She led the Cognitive Science Laboratory at the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, served as President of the European Association for Research on Learning and Instruction (EARLI), and held a leadership position in the Cognitive Science Society.

AWARDS AND HONORS

2011 International Distinguished Contributions to Child Development Research Award: presented by the Society for Research in Child Development (SRCD) in recognition of her outstanding international contributions to child development research.

2021 EARLI Oeuvre Award: the lifetime achievement award of the European Association for Research on Learning and Instruction, recognising outstanding scholarly contributions to research on learning and instruction.

2023 Humboldt Research Award: presented by the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation in recognition of her distinguished academic achievements.

Lambros Xousiadas Distinguished Career Award: presented by the Hellenic Association for Research in Psychology in recognition of her distinguished professional career.

Academic memberships and leadership positions

- Academia Europaea (Academy of Europe): elected member in 2016.
- American Educational Research Association (AERA): elected Fellow in 2012.
- International Academy of Education (IAE): Fellow since 1997.
- Cognitive Science Society: former member of the Governing Board and Chair.
- European Association for Research on Learning and Instruction (EARLI): former President.
- Cyprus Academy of Sciences, Letters and Arts: corresponding member