



Paraskeva-Hadjikosta, P. Persephone A. Papadopoulou: her pedagogical work and her contribution to Modern Greek Education and Pedagogy.

Persephone A. Papadopoulou (1889-1948) was a pioneering figure who left her mark on her era with her multifaceted and unusual course of action. A complex, restless and multifaceted personality: a poet, prose writer, critic and translator, a scientist philosopher and researcher in the field of Experimental Psychology, a fearless journalist and campaigner for women's rights, but above all, Persefoni Papadopoulou was an emblematic pedagogue, with an enormous contribution to education as a result of her dedication, diligence and the ways she served as an inspiration to many.

As a graduate of the Faculty of Philosophy of Sorbonne University and a graduate of the Pedagogical Institute of the same University, she had interned at the famous pedagogical and psychological laboratory, founded by Alfred Binet and supervised by Théodore Simon, through which she was introduced to the field of Experimental Psychology. After completing her studies, she carried out postgraduate research in the fields of Experimental Psychology and Psychopathology at the Universities of Berlin and Potsdam. Although she was offered academic positions in France, as well as an offer to teach at the newly founded University of Thessaloniki, she preferred to return to her "*mother island*", abiding to her "social visionary" ideology.

She was the first professor of Pedagogy, Philosophy and Modern Greek Literature at the Pancyprian Girls' Teacher-Training School of Nicosia, where she established a pedagogical and psychological laboratory. Persefoni Papadopoulou introduced the field of Experimental Psychology to the Cypriot educational curriculum, and she conducted original research, so that she is rightly considered as the first researcher of educational matters in Cyprus. Upon submitting memoranda to the educational authorities, and via her publications, various lectures and her well-respected pedagogical work, she tried to instill a new spirit in the island's educational system, linking it with the educational expectations of Greece and of Europe. Her educational contribution was equally important during the years 1936-1948 as director of the Pedagogical Academy of Patras, and as General Director of the Schools of the *Philekpaedeftiki Etaireia* in the Achaean capital, a position that was then considered as equivalent to election to an academic position. The current president of the *Philekpaedeftiki Etaireia*, Professor Georgios Babiniotis, notes about Persephone A. Papadopoulou that "*she was one of the rare, charismatic personalities who combined strength of spirit, broad education, a sense of duty to the homeland and to humanity, a sense of mission to education, social responsibility and passion for the rights of the Greek woman, of whom she was an unsurpassed role model. She honored Cyprus; she honored Education; she honored women; she honored Arsakeia Schools; she honored Hellenism worldwide.*"

The remarkable teaching, writing and research work of this eminent Cypriot pedagogue has not yet been adequately recorded and assessed and, therefore, the necessity for this research program. This research program aims to collect and assess her hard-to-find and largely unpublished and/or latent pedagogical texts, as well as her published pedagogical work and other relevant publications in newspapers and



journals. It will also examine the various stages in her educational career (her educational innovations and initiatives) and at the same time explore the development of her pedagogical thought and theory, attributing her entire contribution to the education of Cyprus and Greece. In this way, the significant contribution of Persephone A. Papadopoulou to the Modern Greek pedagogical scene will be revealed and she will be assigned the place that rightfully belongs to her in the History of Modern Greek Education and Pedagogy.