

Curriculum Vitae of Prof. Dr. Alexandra Balandina

Research Profile

Professor of Ethnomusicology at Ionian University, Greece. I hold an MA and a PhD in Ethnomusicology from Goldsmiths, University of London, and a BA in Social Anthropology from Panteion University, Athens. I was Course Director and Lecturer on the MA in Ethnomusicology at the Irish World Academy of Music and Dance, University of Limerick, Ireland (2006–2008).

My teaching, research, performance, and writing are informed by the music cultures of Iran, Greece, the Balkans, and Central Asia, with a particular focus on Uzbekistan. My research interests include ethnographic research, sensory and embodied research; performance as both a research method and an object of ethnomusicological inquiry; cultural organology; improvisation; Cold War radio; music and Islam and audiovisual ethnomusicology.

Performance has been central to both my academic work and my approach to ethnographic research. My engagement with modal musical traditions began in the mid-1990s as a student of Ross Daly, with whom I subsequently performed as a member of the Labyrinth ensemble in Greece, Cyprus, and the U.K. I later studied tombak and daf in Iran and have performed in a range of intercultural ensembles. From 2018 to 2025, I was a member of the Intercultural Orchestra of the Greek National Opera, directed by Harris Lambrakis.

I am the author of the open-access book *Ethnographic Research in Ethnomusicology* ([Kallipos Academic Publications, 2025](#)), currently under translation in English, Turkish and Georgian.

Director of the short ethnographic film *Sounds of Water* (2026), exploring the relationships between water, memory, landscape, everyday life, and environmental change in the mountain villages of Taygetos, Greece. <https://vimeo.com/1220020579?fl=ip&fe=ec>

Currently developing the music documentary film *Doyra: The Heartbeat of Uzbekistan*, using the doyra (frame drum) as a lens through which to explore and depict the rich musical culture of Uzbekistan. <https://youtu.be/UqGCIOELcKA>

Born in Central Asia, raised in the Balkans, educated in Greece and the U.K., and currently teaching at Ionian University on the island of Corfu, Greece, I speak Greek, Russian, English, Serbo-Croatian, Slavic Macedonian, and Farsi (Modern Persian).

Education

2001-2007	Ph.D. in Ethnomusicology, Music Department, Goldsmiths' College, University of London, UK.
1999-2001	MA in Ethnomusicology, Music Department, Goldsmiths' College, University of London, UK.
1994-1998	B.A., Social Anthropology and Social Policy, Department of Social Anthropology and Social Policy, Panteion University of Social and Political Sciences, Athens, Greece.

Teaching Experience

2026–present	Professor of Ethnomusicology, Dept. of Music Studies, Ionian University, Greece.
2020-2026	Associate Professor of Ethnomusicology, Dept. of Music Studies, Ionian University, Greece.
2013-2016	<i>Academic Associate</i> (equivalent to Assistant Professor), Department of Tourism and Culture Economics, Management and Communication, TEI Central Greece.
2009-2011	<i>Academic Associate</i> (equivalent to Assistant Professor), Dept. of Folk and Traditional Music, Technological Educational Institute of Epirus, Greece.
2006-2008	<i>Course Director (acting) and Lecturer in Ethnomusicology</i> , M. in Ethnomusicology, Irish World Academy of Music and Dance, University of Limerick, Ireland.
2008	<i>Lecturer</i> (Π.Δ. 407/80), Department of Social Anthropology, Panteion

Postgraduate teaching

2024–2025	MA Programme in Folk Culture and Modern Cultural Heritage, Hellenic Open University, Greece.
2021–2023	MA Programme in Music Education, Dept. of Music Studies, Ionian University, Greece.
2006–2008	MA in Ethnomusicology, Irish World Academy of Music and Dance, University of Limerick, Ireland.

Publications

Books

Monograph

- 2024 *Ethnographic Research in Ethnomusicology*. Foreword: John Baily. Open-access online book. Kallipos Scholarly Publications (forthcoming).

Edited books

- 2027 Balandina, Alexandra, Parang Farazmand, and Klaus Neumann, eds. *Music Practices in the Persian-Speaking World*. Berlin: Logos Verlag. Forthcoming.

- 2021 *Sangīta Kiran: Historical and musicological development of Hindustānī classical music* [Sangīta Kiran: Ιστορική, μουσικολογική εξέλιξη και πρακτικές όψεις της Hindustānī κλασικής μουσικής]. Written by Sakis Laios (in Greek). Foreword: Ross Daly. Introduction and scientific editing: Alexandra Baladina. Athens: Institute for Research on Music and Acoustics (IEMA). ISBN: 978-960-7313-32-4
- 2014 Kallimopoulou, Eleni and **Alexandra, Balandina** (eds). *Introduction to Ethnomusicology*. Athens: Asini. ISBN: 618-80872-1-X.

Edited Conference Proceedings and Collective Volumes

- 2027 Collective volume in memory of ethnomusicologist and anthropologist Theodoros Konkouris. Co-edited with Ioannis Plemmenos, Ioannis Manos, Fotini Tsibiridou, Eleni Sideri, and Ioannis Tsekouras. Forthcoming.
- 2026 *Proceedings of the 17th Interdepartmental Musicological Conference: “Operetta: Ruptures, Continuities and Transnational Approaches.”* Co-edited with Ioannis Foulis, Theodora Iordanidou, Marianna Sideri, and Maria Dourou. Hellenic Musicological Society. Forthcoming.

Refereed Journal Articles

- 2021a Balandina, Alexandra and Lambros Efthymiou
‘A time for action? A time for change? The music profession and musicians’ rights in urban and rural areas in Greece during the Covid-19 pandemic’. *Journal of Music, Health, and Wellbeing. Music in the Wake of COVID-19: Challenges, Adaptations, and New Practices*. Spring 2021. Available Online. Forthcoming.
- 2021b Balandina, Alexandra
‘The Field Keeps Breaking into My Home’, *Entanglements: Experiments in Multimodal Ethnography*, 4(1):214-22.
- 2021c Balandina, Alexandra
‘Doing ethnomusicological research during the Coronavirus lockdown in Greece: four themes and issues about music making and fieldwork at home’, *Tryptich* (forthcoming)
- 2020 Aggelidou, A., Balandina, A. and Kolovos K.
‘Practicing Anthropology in Greece: Rights, Knowledge and Skills in the Labour Market’, *Teaching Anthropology*, special issue *Teaching and learning anthropology and ethnography in Eastern and South-Eastern Europe*, edited by Ioannis Manos (forthcoming).
- 2020 Balandina, Alexandra
‘An Autoethnography of Contesting Expressions of Balkan Ethnic Identities: An Anthropological Approach to Understanding Ethnic Identity’, *EthnoAnthropoZoom*, special issue *Macedonian refugees inside and outside Europe. 70 years after the Greek Civil War*, edited by Anna Kurpiel (forthcoming).

- 2010 'Music and Conflict Transformation in the post-Yugoslav era: Empowering Youth to Develop Harmonic Inter-ethnic Relationships in Kumanovo, FYROM', *International Journal of Community Music*, 3:2:229-244.
- 2009 'Technical Proficiency and Virtuosity in Iranian Classical Music'. *Falsname-ye Musiqi—ye Mahur. Mahur Music Quarterly* 44 (11), Summer 2009, Tehran.
- 2008 'Tonbak,' *Dā'erat-ol-ma'āref-e bozorg-e eslāmi* [The Great Islamic Encyclopaedia], vol. 16, editor-in-chief: Kazem Musavi Bojnurdi. *Bonyād-e dā'erat-ol-ma'āref-e bozorg-e eslāmi, Markaz-e pazhuhesh-hāye irāni va eslāmi*, [The Center for the Great Islamic Encyclopaedia, Center for Islamic Iranian Studies], Teheran.
- 2008 'The Spread of Tombak Notation'. *Falsnāme-ye Musiqi-ye Māhur* 38 (10)(Māhur Music Quartely, Winter 2007-2008), Teheran.

Book Chapters

- 2017 'Rap Music as a Cultural Mediator in Post-Conflict Yugoslavia'. In *Hip hop at Europe's Edge: Music, Agency, and Social Change*, edited by Adriana Helbig and Milosz Miszczynski. Indiana University Press (will come out in spring 2016).
- 2012 'Inter-ethnic Connections at a Youth Music Festival'. In Lee Higgins (ed.) *Community Music: In Practice and in Theory*. Oxford: Oxford University.

Conference Proceedings

- 2027 Balandina, Alexandra. "The Ustad–Shagird Tradition as a Research Methodology in Ethnomusicology." In Proceedings of the 10th Symposium of the ICTMD Study Group on Global History of Music and Dance. Tashkent: State Conservatory of Uzbekistan. Forthcoming.
- 2026 Balandina, Alexandra. "The Work of Ethnomusicologist-Anthropologist Theodoros Konkouris (1966–2024): In Memoriam" [«Το έργο του εθνομουσικολόγου-ανθρωπολόγου Θεωδωρή Κονκουρή (1966–2024) – In Memoriam»]. In I. Plemmenos, Z. Dionysiou, and S. Delegkos, eds., *Proceedings of the 1st ICTMD Greece Conference: Music and Dance Traditions in Greece: Interdisciplinary, Historical and Contemporary Approaches*, dedicated to the memory of ethnomusicologist Theodoros Konkouris. Online Conference, 22 February 2025.
- 2025 Balandina, Alexandra, Konkouris, Theodoros, Sofia Giouldouri, Sotiria Diamantidou, and Katerina Lyngoura. "Reflections from the Workshop on Embodied and Sensory Ethnographic Writing in Ethnomusicology: Resonances of the Writing Experience" [«Αναστοχασμοί από το "Εργαστήριο ενσώματης και αισθητηριακής εθνογραφικής γραφής στην εθνομουσικολογία": Αντηχήσεις της συγγραφικής εμπειρίας»]. In *Proceedings of the 16th Interdepartmental Musicological Conference: Anniversary Musical Reflections, Analytical Perspectives and Critical Reflections*. Thessaloniki, 8–10 November 2024.
- 2024 Balandina, Alexandra. "Multimodal Ethnographic Writing and Representation and Its Applications in Ethnomusicology" [«Πολυτροπική εθνογραφική γραφή και αναπαράσταση και οι εφαρμογές της στην εθνομουσικολογία»]. In *Proceedings of the 15th Interdepartmental Musicological Conference: From the Contemporary to the Timeless: Maria Callas, 100 Years since Her Birth*, edited by Ioannis Foulis, Magdalini Kalopana, Theodoros Karathodoros, Tasos Kolydas, Katerina Levidou, and Nikos Poulakis, 613–626. Thessaloniki: Hellenic Musicological Society.

- 2023 Balandina, Alexandra. "The Journey of Ethnography in the Post-COVID Era: Trends and Transformations in Ethnomusicology Before and After the Pandemic" [«Το ταξίδι της εθνογραφίας στην μετά-COVID εποχή: Τάσεις και μετασχηματισμοί στην εθνομουσικολογία πριν και μετά την πανδημία»]. In *Music Creation and Practice in Modern Greece: Honouring Nikolaos Halikiopoulos Mantzaros (1872–2022)*. Proceedings of the conference organised by the Philharmonic Society of Corfu and the Laboratory of Hellenic Music, Department of Music Studies, Ionian University.
- 2021 'Creative Activism and Solidarity in the Greek Performing Arts Sector during COVID-19: Musicians and Artists as Activists and Solidarists in Times of Crisis'. Culture in the Shadow of the Covid-19 Pandemic Proceedings of the First International Conference on the Sociocultural Effects of COVID-19 on Cultural Heritage, Tourism, Creative Cultural Industries, and Traditional Arts and Handicrafts 17-18 February 2021. Editor: Alireza Hassanzadeh, pp. 201-217.
- 2012 'A Greek Ethnomusicologists Doing Fieldwork in the Middle East: Reflections on Encounters and Trajectories in the Greek Academia'. Conference Proceedings. Paper presented at the International Musicological Conference *Crossroads: Greece as an intercultural pole of musical thought and creativity*, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, pp. 31-50, (available at <http://crossroads.mus.auth.gr/proceedings/>).
- 2012 'Doing Embodied Research in Ethnomusicology: Reflections of Fieldwork in Iran'. In *Musical Traditions: Discovery, Inquiry, Interpretation, and Application*, XXVI European Seminar in Ethnomusicology (ESEM), edited by Pal Richter. Budapest: Institute of Musicology, HAS, Research Centre for the Humanities, pp. 281-310.
- 2009 'The Youth Open Festival in Kumanovo, Macedonia: A Proposal for Inter-ethnic Piece Cooperation'. In First Symposium of ICTM Study Group for Music and Dance in Southeastern Europe. Skopje: Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Macedonia, pp. 183-196.
- 2009 'Border Crossings: Learning and Performing World Music in Tertiary Education'. International Conference 'The Growth of the Art of Music in Greece of Europe', Department of Music Science and Art, University of Macedonia, 29-31 May, Thessaloniki, Greece. Published by Fagotto books.
- 2009 Balandina, Alexandra
'Technical Proficiency and Virtuosity in Iranian Classical Music'. *Falsnāme-ye Musiqi-ye Māhur* 44 (11) (Māhur Music Quartely, Autumn 2009), Tehran.
- 2008 'The Spread of Tombak Notation'. *Falsnāme-ye Musiqi-ye Māhur* 38 (10) (Māhur Music Quartely, Winter 2007-2008), Tehran.
- 2008 Balandina, Alexandra
'Tonbak', *Dā'erat-ol-ma'āref-e bozorg-e eslāmi* [The Great Islamic Encyclopaedia], vol. 16, editor-in-chief: Kazem Musavi Bojnurdi. *Bonyād-e dā'erat-ol-ma'āref-e bozorg-e eslāmi*, Markaz-e pazhuhesh-hāye irāni va eslāmi, [The Center for the Great Islamic Encyclopaedia, Center for Islamic Iranian Studies], Tehran.

Book and Film Reviews

- 2022 Review of Ioannis Tsioulakis, *Musicians in Crisis: Working and Playing in the Greek Popular Music Industry*. London and New York: Routledge, SOAS Music Series. *Ethnomusicology Forum*. DOI: 10.1080/17411912.2021.2018233.

- 2021 Review of Aspasia (Sissy) Theodosiou and Eleni Kallimopoulou, eds., *Music Communities in Twenty-First-Century Greece: Sonic Glances in the Field*. Athens: Pedio Publications, 2020. *Journal of World Popular Music* 8 (2).
- 2021 Review of Aspasia (Sissy) Theodosiou and Eleni Kallimopoulou, eds., *Μουσικές κοινότητες στην Ελλάδα του 21ου αιώνα: Εθνογραφικές ματιές και ακροάσεις* [*Music Communities in Twenty-First-Century Greece: Sonic Glances in the Field*]. Athens: Pedio Publications, 2020. *Επιθεώρηση Κοινωνικών Ερευνών* [The Greek Review of Social Research] 157: 193–199.
- 2014 Review of John Baily, *Songs from Kabul: The Spiritual Music of Ustad Amir Mohammad*. Farnham: Ashgate, 2011. *Ethnomusicology Forum* 23 (2).
- 2013 Review of Ana Hofman, *Staging Socialist Femininity: Gender, Politics and Folklore Performance in Serbia*. Brill, 2011. *Journal of American Folklore*, 500th issue on Women, Gender and Masculinity.
- 2010 Review of Eleni Kallimopoulou, *Paradosiaká: Music, Meaning and Identity in Modern Greece*. London: Ashgate, 2009. SOAS Musicology Series. *Ethnomusicology* 54 (3).
- 2009 Reviews of John Baily, *Tablas and Drum Machines: Afghan Music in California* (DVD, 58 min., 2005) and *Scenes of Afghan Music: London, Kabul, Hamburg, Dublin* (DVD, 97 min., 2007). *Ethnomusicology Forum* 18 (1): 165–168.

Ethnographic and Music Documentary Films

- 2026 ***Sounds of Water***. Ethnographic documentary film.
Director: Alexandra Balandina. 9 min. 46 sec.
Available: <https://vimeo.com/1220020579?fl=ip&fe=ec>
- In production ***Doyra: The Heartbeat of Uzbekistan***. Music documentary film.
Director: Alexandra Balandina.
Teaser: <https://youtu.be/UqGCIOELcKA>

PhD Thesis

- 2007 *Contemporary Tombak Playing in Iran: An Ethnographic Experience of Practice, Interaction and Music Making*. Goldsmiths' College. Unpublished PhD Thesis. Supervisor: Prof. John Baily.

Conference Contributions

- 2026 “Ustad–Shagerd as a Research Method in Ethnomusicology: Mapping the Literature, Ethnomusicologists’ Experiences, and the Advantages of Apprenticeship.” 10th Symposium of the ICTMD Study Group on Global History of Music and Dance, State Conservatory of Uzbekistan, Tashkent, Uzbekistan, 18–23 May 2026.

- 2026 “Reconfiguring Makam: History, Ideology, and Pedagogy in Greece.” 12th Symposium of the ICTMD Study Group on Maqām, International Symposium “Azerbaijani Mugham Across Borders,” Azerbaijan National Conservatory, Baku, Azerbaijan, 29–30 April 2026.
- 2026 “Qualities and Methodological Tools of Ethnographic Research in Ethnomusicology: Traces of Anthropological Thought in the Field and in Writing.” International Conference Anthropology and Ethnomusicology in Dialogue: Between Practice and Theory, University of Macedonia, Thessaloniki, Greece, 24–26 April 2026.
- 2025 “Made in USSR, Kaluga: The Journey of Soviet Pianos with Repatriated Greek Political Refugees – An Ethnomusicological Study of the Social Life of Musical Instruments.” 17th Interdepartmental Musicological Conference, Operetta: Ruptures, Continuities and Transnational Approaches, Department of Music Studies, Ionian University, Corfu, Greece, 7–9 November 2025.
- 2025 Panel organizer (with Alikí Aggelidou), “(Re)composing Balkan Radioscapes: Materiality, Mobility and Circulation of Radio Sounds and Radio Archives.” Paper presented with Alikí Aggelidou: “Radioscapes from Exile during the Greek Junta: Sound Production, Transmission, and Listening Practices of Greek-Speaking Radio Broadcasts in the Balkans and Eastern Europe.” Balkan Matters! Material Cultures in the Balkans, Association française d’études sur les Balkans, Marseille, France, 25–27 September 2025.
- 2025 Panel organizer, ‘Contemporary Music Practices in the Persian-Speaking World’. Paper presented with Sepide Shayanrad: ‘The Evolution of Tombak Playing in Iranian Classical Music’. European Society for Central Asian Studies (ESCAS) Regional Conference *Moving Central Asian Studies Ever Further: Orthodox vs Unorthodox Approaches*, Tashkent and Samarkand, Uzbekistan, 12–15 June 2025.
- 2025 ‘The Work of Ethnomusicologist Theodoros Konkouris’. 1st ICTMD Greece Conference *Music and Dance Traditions in Greece: Interdisciplinary, Historical and Contemporary Approaches*, dedicated to the memory of ethnomusicologist Theodoros Konkouris, online, 22 February 2025.
- 2024 ‘Embodied and Sensory Music Ethnography in Iran: Learning from the Masters, Investing in the Body, Interacting with a Musical Instrument’. *Embodied Methodologies: A Workshop for the Humanities and Social Sciences*, organized by the University of the West Indies, Mona Campus, in association with the University of Aberdeen and Goldsmiths, University of London, online, 6 December 2024.
- 2024 Panel organizer, ‘Radio and Podcast, Sounds and Silences: Archival and Field Research in Old and New Listening Media’. Paper presented with Alikí Angelidou: ‘Greek-Language Radio in Eastern Europe: Archival and Field Research on the Sonic Traces of the Greek Civil War’. Conference *Music and the Other Arts and Sciences*, organized by the Hellenic Centre for Art and Culture, Athens, Greece, 29 September 2024.
- 2024 ‘Reflections on the “Workshop on Embodied and Sensory Ethnographic Writing in Ethnomusicology”: Resonances of the Writing Experience’. 16th Interdepartmental Musicological Conference of the Greek Musicological Society, *Anniversary Musical Reflections, Analytical Perspectives and Critical Reflections*, University of Macedonia, Thessaloniki, Greece, 8–10 November 2024.
- 2023 ‘Performance Practice in Ethnomusicology: Experiences from Higher Education and Field Research – In Memoriam Yuri Arbatsky’. Invited Speaker, Third International Conference *The Traditional and the Contemporary in Art and Education*, Faculty of Arts, University of Prishtina, 23 December 2023.

- 2023 'Multimodal Ethnography in the Ethnomusicological Classroom' [Οι διαστάσεις και τα πλεονεκτήματα της πολυτροπικής εθνογραφίας και οι εφαρμογές της στην εθνομουσικολογική τάξη]. 15th Interdepartmental Musicological Conference of the Greek Musicological Society, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Athens, Greece, 11 November, 2023.
- 2023 'Tombak Playing in Iran'. International Interdisciplinary Conference *Music of Persian Speaking Countries and Regions: Similarities, Differences, and Musical Identities*, Martin Luther University, Halle, Germany, 1 November, 2023.
- 2023 'Investing in the Body: Tombak Playing in Contemporary Iranian Classical Music'. Interdisciplinary Conference *Body Knowledges: Praxis, Politics, Performance*, Department of Music Studies, School of Performing Arts, University of Malta, 29th March, 2023.
- 2022 'Performance Practice in Ethnomusicology. Experiences from Higher Education and Field Research - In Memoriam Yuri Arbatsky'. Invited Speaker at the Third International Scientific Conference *The Traditional And The Contemporary In Art And Education*, Faculty of Arts, University of Prishtina, 23 December, 2023.
- 2022 'Ethnographic Trajectories in post-COVID Era: Trends and Transformations in Ethnomusicology before and after the Pandemic' [Το ταξίδι της εθνογραφίας στην μετά-COVID εποχή: τάσεις και μετασχηματισμοί στην εθνομουσικολογία πριν και μετά την πανδημία]. Paper presented at the conference titled *Music Creation and Praxis in Contemporary Greece: Giving Tribute to Nikolaos Halikiopoulos Mantzaros (1872-2022)*, organized by the Music Dept. of Ionian University, Corfu, Greece, 8-10 April, 2022.
- 2021 'Made in the USSR Kaluga: The Journeys of the Soviet Pianos in the 1970s and 1980s with the Repatriation of Greek Refugees'. Paper presented at the *Transnational Approaches to Organology Panel*, Sponsored by the Special Interest Group for Organology, Chaired by Jayme Kurland, Virtual **Annual Meeting of the Society of Ethnomusicology (SEM)**, Georgia, USA. 28-31 October, 2021.
- 2021 'Doing Ethnomusicology at Home during Covid-19 Lockdown: Reconsidering What Home Is and Re-thinking my Relationship to the Field'. Paper presented at the **International Society for Ethnology and Folklore Congress (SIEF)** titled *Breaking the Rules? Power, Participation, Transgression*. Helsinki, Finland, 21-24 June.
- 2021 'Creative Activism and Solidarity in the Greek Performing Arts Sector During COVID-19: Musicians and Artists as Activists and Solidarists in Times of Crisis'. Paper presented at the International Conference *Effects of Coronavirus on Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Creative Cultural Industries*. Organized by the Research Institute of Cultural Heritage and Tourism, the Research Institute of Culture, Art and Communication and the Institute for Humanities and Cultural Studies, Tehran Iran. Online conference, 17-18 February 2021.
- 2020 'Performance Practice as Ethnographic Research in Ethnomusicology: Embodied Experience and Body Knowledge in Music Research'. Paper presented at a roundtable panel discussion organized by the Critical Music Research Laboratory, University of Macedonia. 12th Interdepartmental Musicological Conference, Hellenic Musicological Society and University of Macedonia, Thessaloniki, 27-29 November 2020.
- 2014 'Inside and Outside the Walls of Academic Career'. One day conference *Employment and professional development of women in social and political sciences*, The Greek Association of Women Scholars and Gender Studies Lab, Panteion University, 17th Oct. 2014

- 2013 'Sham va Parvane' ['Candle and Butterfly']. *The Fieldwork Playlist Conference*, Department of Social Anthropology, Goldsmiths' College, London. 25 October 2013.
- 2011 'A Greek Ethnomusicologist Doing Fieldwork in the Middle East: Reflections on Encounters and Trajectories in the Greek academia'. Panel Title: Contemporary Ethnomusicological Knowledge in Greece: Young Scholars Reflecting on Experience and Ethnography, the Academy and the Field. Panel Coordinator: Dr. Alexandra Balandina. International Musicological Conference 'Crossroads: Greece as an intercultural pole of musical thought and creativity'. Aristotle University of Thessaloniki. 6-10 June 2011.
- 2010 'The Body Behind the Researcher: Embodied Understanding of Musical Traditions'. **European Seminar in Ethnomusicology**. Conference 'Musical traditions: Discovery, Inquiry, Interpretation and Application'. Budapest, Hungary 22-26 September 2010.
- 2010 'Developing Strategies for Growing Roots: An Autobiography of Displacement, Migration and Repatriation', **11th European Association of Social Anthropologist**, Biennial Conference 'Crisis and Imagination', Maynooth 2010, Ireland, 24-27 August 2010.
- 2009 'The Thinking Musical Body: The Empowerment of the Upper Hand in Tombak Playing and Navid Afghah's Two-Hand Technique'. The Musical Body: Gesture, Representation and Ergonomics in Performance Conference. Institute of Musical Research, in association with the IMR Music & Science group. London: Senate House and the Royal College of Music, 22-24 April 2009.
- 2009 'Docile Bodies: Socio-Cultural Understandings of Body Management in Iranian Classical Music'. The Middle East and Central Asia Music Forum. University of London, Stewart House, 28 April 2009.
- 2008 'The Youth Open Festival in Kumanovo, f.Y.R. of Macedonia: A Proposal for Inter-Ethnic Piece Collaboration'. First Symposium of ICTM Study Group for Music and Dance in Southeastern Europe, Struga, f.Y.R. of Macedonia, 4-8 September 2008.
- 2001 'Learning to Perform as a Research Technique in Ethnomusicology: Studying the *tombak* in Tehran'. The Second Biennial Conference on Iranian Studies' University of Durham.

Teaching and Training under the Erasmus+ International Mobility Programme

- 2025 **Julius-Maximilians-Universität Würzburg, Germany, Department of Music Studies**, 23–27 June Seminar: "Embodied and Sensory Writing in Ethnomusicology."
Concert of Iranian classical music: Alexandra Balandina (tombak) and Farhang Baghayeri (Iranian santur), Neubaukirche.
- 2025 **State Conservatory of Uzbekistan, Tashkent, Uzbekistan**, (9–13 June 2025)
Seminar: "Fieldwork in Ethnomusicology: Theory and Practice."
- 2025 **Tbilisi State Conservatoire, Tbilisi, Georgia**, (12–19 May 2025)
Seminar: "Audiovisual Field Research in Ethnomusicology."
- 2024 'Doing Ethnomusicology: Experience from the Field and Academia'. Music and Dance Faculty. **Academy of Performing Arts in Bratislava**, 20 March, 2024, **Bratislava**.
- 2023 'Made in USSR, Bought in Uzbekistan, Sold In Greece: Symbolism and Exchange of Soviet Pianos by Greek Political Refugees'. Department of Folk Music Research and Ethnomusicology

- 2025 **University of Music and Performing Arts Vienna, Vienna, Austria, (2–8 April 2025)**
Department of Folk Music Research and Ethnomusicology
Lectures and seminars:
“Traditional Urban Music Genres in Greece: Café Aman, Rembetiko and Laiko.”
“Analysis and Transcription in Ethnomusicology: Iranian Stave Notation for the Tombak.”
- 2025 **Global Music Department, Sibelius Academy, Helsinki, Finland, (3–7 March 2025)**
Seminar: “Creative Ethnographic Writing in Music Studies.”
- 2024 **Academy of Performing Arts, Bratislava, Slovakia, (18–22 March 2024)**
Faculty of Music and Dance
Lecture and seminar: “Doing Ethnomusicology: Experience from the Field and Academia.”
- 2023 **University of Music and Performing Arts Vienna, Vienna, Austria, (1-5 May 2023)**
Department of Folk Music Research and Ethnomusicology
Lectures and seminars:
“Made in USSR, Bought in Uzbekistan, Sold in Greece: Symbolism and Exchange of Soviet Pianos by Greek Political Refugees.”
“Becoming an Ethnomusicologist through Performance in the Classroom and the Field.”

Teaching in International Academic Networks

- 2024 **The Balkans. Spaces, Societies, History – 3rd Summer School: Sensory Heritages & Sensitive Memories in the Balkans.** Organised by the École française d’Athènes, École française de Rome, CETOBAC, Aix-Marseille University, Università degli Studi di Trieste, Université Lumière Lyon 2, Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski,” and University of Plovdiv “Paisii Hilendarski.” Sofia and Plovdiv, Bulgaria, 1–5 July 2024.
Teaching: “Ethnographic and Sensory Writing Workshop.”
Supervisor of the podcast production groups.

Seminars and Guest Lectures

- 2026 **University of Macedonia, Thessaloniki, Greece, 27 April 2026.**
Seminar Series ETHNOGRAFEIN 2025–2026, Culture-Border-Gender Lab.
“Soundscapes and Memories of Exile: The Radio Programs of the Refugees of the Greek Civil War.” With Alikí Angelidou, Maria Kokkinou and Georgia Sarikoudi.
- 2025 **University of Ljubljana, Slovenia, (24 November 2025)**
Department of Musicology, Faculty of Arts
Lecture: “Greek-Language Radio Broadcasting in Eastern Europe: Archival and Field Research on the Sonic Trace of the Civil War.”

- 2025 **Justus Liebig University Giessen, Germany**, (11 November 2025)
Department of History and Cultural Studies
• Lecture: “Greek-Language Cold War Radio and the Politics of Listening in the Balkans and Eastern Europe: Radioscapes from Exile during the Greek Junta.”
- 2023 **Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece**, 10 March 2023.
Department of Music Studies.
“Dialogues with Anthropology and Ethnomusicology: Personal Trajectories of an Ethnomusicologist.”
- 2022 **University of Macedonia, Thessaloniki, Greece**, 25 November 2022.
Department of Music Science and Art.
“Paradhosiaka: Traditional Music in Athens and Thessaloniki since the End of the 20th Century.” With Alexandros Rizopoulos.
- 2022 **University of Macedonia, Thessaloniki, Greece**, 24 November 2022.
Department of Music Science and Art.
“Field Research in Ethnomusicology: Doing Ethnography in Iran.”
- 2020 **University of Macedonia, Thessaloniki, Greece**, 6 November 2020.
Department of Balkan, Slavic and Oriental Studies.
“Fieldwork in Ethnomusicology: Doing Music Ethnography in Iran.”
- 2018 **National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Greece**, 2 November 2018.
Department of Early Childhood Education.
“The Art of Fieldwork: My Research Experience in Iran.” Presentation accompanied by a performance with the Greek-Persian ensemble Andalib.
- 2015 **University of Macedonia, Thessaloniki, Greece**, 24 October 2015.
Department of Music Science and Art.
“Censorship in Music and Art: Case Study Iran.”
- 2010 **University of Ioannina, Greece**, 4 June 2010.
Department of History and Archaeology, Folklore Section.
“Field Research in Folklore Studies.”
- 2010 **University of Thessaly, Greece**, 27 March 2010.
Department of History, Archaeology and Social Anthropology.
“The Body as a Site of Action and Object of Power: Panopticism in Contemporary Iranian Classical Music.”
- 2008 **Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece**, November 2008.
Department of Music Studies.
“Traditional Music as World Music and as Folklore: A Paradigm from Irish Traditional Music.”

Current Research Activity

Principal Investigator of Research Projects

Five-year research project funded by the École française d'Athènes

2022–2026 “Soundscapes and Memories of Exile: The Radio Broadcasts of the Refugees of the Greek Civil War” [*Paysages sonores et mémoires de l'exil. Les émissions radiophoniques des réfugiés de la Guerre civile grecque*], École française d'Athènes. Co-Principal Investigator: Alik Angelidou, Associate Professor of Anthropology, Department of Social Anthropology, Panteion University.

Artistic Activity

My engagement with the musical traditions of the Middle East began in the mid-1990s, when, as a student of Ross Daly, I became an active member of his *Labyrinth Ensemble*. With *Labyrinth*, I performed in Greece, Cyprus and the United Kingdom, with a repertoire focusing primarily on the classical and folk music traditions of Turkey, Greece and the Arab world.

From 2006 to 2008, while serving as Course Director of the MA in Ethnomusicology at the Irish World Academy of Music and Dance, University of Limerick, I founded and directed the *World Music Ensemble*, whose repertoire focused on music from the Eastern Mediterranean and the Middle East. Since October 2025, together with Ioannis Arvanitis, Associate Professor at the Department of Music Studies, Ionian University, I have co-directed the university ensemble *Music of the Eastern Mediterranean*, dedicated to the study, performance and creative interpretation of musical traditions developed across the wider geographical and cultural region of the Eastern Mediterranean.

From 2018 until September 2025, I was an active member of the *Greek National Opera Intercultural Orchestra*, directed by Harris Lambrakis. With the orchestra, I performed with Haig Yazdjian and Ross Daly at the Greek National Opera (2020), and in the opera *Mesa Chora* (Greek National Opera, 2022), directed by Nikos Karathanos with music by Angelos Triantafyllou. My final concert with the orchestra took place at the Odeon of Herodes Atticus on 24 September 2025, with Jordi Savall and Hespèrion XXI.

Concerts and Performances

- 2025 **Odeon of Herodes Atticus, Athens, Greece**, 24 September 2025.
Mare Nostrum: A Concert of Mediterranean Music. Musical direction: **Jordi Savall**. Hespèrion XXI and the Greek National Opera Intercultural Orchestra, with Katerina Papadopoulou and Efrén López. Artistic direction: Jordi Savall and Harris Lambrakis. Alexandra Balandina: tombak, daf, bendir.
[Greek National Opera – Mare Nostrum YouTube video](#)
- 2025 **Neubaukirche, Julius-Maximilians-Universität Würzburg, Germany**, 25 June 2025.
Concert of Iranian classical music with Alexandra Balandina (tombak), Farhang Baghayeri (Iranian santur), and students of Ethnomusicology at the University of Würzburg.
[Concert programme](#)

- 2025 **Samarkand Institute of Economics and Service, Samarkand, Uzbekistan**, 15 June 2025.
Concert at the European Society for Central Asian Studies (ESCAS) Conference, with Sepideh Shayanrad (tombak), Jasurbek Suvanov (Uzbek tar, rubab), and Ahmad Musurmonov (Uzbek kamancheh). Alexandra Balandina: doyra.
- 2025 **Baumstrasse – O Dromos me ta Dentra, Athens, Greece**, 30 March 2025.
Group free improvisation with the Ljos Ensemble (Harris Lambrakis, Simos Papaspyrou, Lambrini Gioti, May Angelaki, Alba Lymtsoulis, Anastasia Papageorgiou, Maro Panagi, Sofia Zafeiriou, Stathis Koutouzos et al.). Alexandra Balandina: tombak, daf, bendir.
[Ljos Ensemble concert](#)
- 2024 **Acropolis Museum, Athens, Greece**, 29 April 2024.
Greek National Opera Sacred Music Festival. Performance of Misa Criolla, conducted by Irini Patsea, with the Greek National Opera Intercultural Orchestra, the CHÓRES female vocal ensemble and Yiannis Dionysiou. Alexandra Balandina: percussion.
[Acropolis Museum – performance information](#)
- 2023 **Parnassos Literary Society, Athens, Greece**, 19 December 2023.
Concert with the Greek National Opera Intercultural Orchestra, directed by Harris Lambrakis. Alexandra Balandina: percussion.
[Parnassos Literary Society – concert](#)
[Greek National Opera – concert archive](#)
- 2023 **Pano Spiti, Athens, Greece**, 12 March 2023.
Group free improvisation with Alli Orchestra. Alexandra Balandina: percussion.
[Event information](#)
- 2022 **Greek National Opera, Athens, Greece**, July 2022.
Mesa Chora, opera directed by Nikos Karathanos, with music by Angelos Triantafyllou, performed with the Greek National Opera Intercultural Orchestra under Harris Lambrakis and Ilias Voudouris. Alexandra Balandina: percussion.
[Greek National Opera – Mesa Chora](#)
- 2021 **Municipal Theatre of Piraeus, Greece**, November 2021.
Concert with the Greek National Opera Intercultural Orchestra, directed by Harris Lambrakis. Alexandra Balandina: tombak, daf, bendir.
[Concert information](#)
- 2020 **Greek National Opera Alternative Stage, Athens, Greece**, February 2020.
Concert with the Greek National Opera Intercultural Orchestra in collaboration with Ross Daly and Haig Yazdjian, directed by Harris Lambrakis. Alexandra Balandina: tombak, bendir.
[YouTube video](#)
- 2019 **Byzantine and Christian Museum, Athens, Greece**, 3 June 2019.
Concert with the Greek National Opera Intercultural Orchestra, directed by Harris Lambrakis.

Alexandra Balandina: tombak, bendir.

[YouTube video](#)

Founding and Direction of University Music Ensembles

- 2025–present **Ionian University, Department of Music Studies, Corfu, Greece.**
Co-founder and co-director, with Associate Professor Ioannis Arvanitis, of the university ensemble “Music of the Eastern Mediterranean,” established in October 2025.
- 2006–2008 **Irish World Academy of Music and Dance, University of Limerick, Ireland.**
Founder and director of the World Music Ensemble for MA Ethnomusicology students.

Awards and Fellowships

- 2001-2006 **Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC), M.Phil./Ph.D.** (fees-only scholarship), Music Department, Goldsmiths College, University of London.
- 2001 **The British Institute for Persian Studies, The British Academy** (three-month accommodation in Teheran, Iran), MA in Ethnomusicology, Music Department, Goldsmiths College, University of London.
- 1998 **Erasmus student exchange programme.** Studied at Brunel University, Department of Social Anthropology. Scholarship received from Department of Social Policy and Social Anthropology, Panteion University of Social and Political Sciences.

Membership in Academic Associations and Networks

Association of Social Anthropologists of Greece (SKAE), founding member and Vice-President.

Society for Ethnomusicology (SEM), member.

British Forum for Ethnomusicology (BFE), member.

International Council for Traditions of Music and Dance (ICTMD), member.

Middle East and Central Asia Music Forum (MECAF), member.

European Association of Social Anthropologists (EASA), member.

Languages

Russian, English, Greek, Serbo-Croatian, Slavic-Macedonian and Farsi (modern Persian)