



Name: **Antoanneta Potsi**  
Address: **Universitätsstraße 25, D-33615, Bielefeld**  
Phone: **+49 (0) 5210 106-6066**  
E-mail: **anneta.potsi@uni-bielefeld.de**

#### PhD Project:

##### **Pre-primary education from the perspective of the Capability Approach: Beliefs and Self-Reported Practices of pre-primary school teachers**

Individuals' beliefs have a direct impact on all aspects of human behavior. Based on personal experience, value system and philosophy that favours, individuals create a belief system for each major issue that concerns them. Rarely these beliefs rest on scientifically valid data. Most of the times are related with internal deep-rooted representations. When it comes to the issue of education, it is widely recognized that teachers play an important role in the cognitive and emotional development of the infants. Taking into account of individuals' beliefs, one may argue that teachers' beliefs directly affect their practices. Bearing in mind the decisive role of educators in the formation of the infant, I consider that the beliefs of early childhood educators should be a matter of discussion and is therefore the focus of my research. As a theoretical framework is used the concept of the capability approach, pioneered by Amartya Sen and Martha Nussbaum. The lack of research in the area of pre-school teachers' beliefs and practices in Europe and specifically in Greece, as being the country where the survey has been conducted, has led me to reveal and to illuminate unknown aspects of this field of knowledge by addressing the following questions:

Which factors of pre-primary teachers' background affect the beliefs with regard to what is important for the children? Are there statistically significant differences in the beliefs of the teachers with respect to the capabilities of play, senses-imagination-thought, affiliation and emotions to children? According to the teachers, do these capabilities consist an end to themselves or the means of the educational procedure in the pre-school institutions?

#### Curriculum Vitae:

1999-2002 Secondary school leaving exams, Lyceum Eleousa, Ioannina

2002-2006 University Diploma in Early Childhood Education, Department of Early Childhood Education, School of Educational Science, University of Ioannina

2007-2009 PhD Student, Department of Early Childhood Education, University of Ioannina

2007-2009 Participation and successful completion of the European Programme "New Models of Activism in European Social Work" (PhD-ACT)

2009-present PhD Student, scholarship holder, Research School "Education and Capabilities"

2010-2011 Work shadowing in DRK kindertagesstätte "Der Obsthof", Menden-Sauerland of the pedagogical concept "Offene Arbeit" and in Kinderstagesstätte "Ravensberger Regenbogen", Bielefeld, of the pedagogical concept „situationsorientierten Ansatzes“.

2006-2008 Director in a Centre of Creative Engagement for Children: Municipality of Ano Pogoniou, Ioannina

2007-2009 Research assistant in the Laboratory of Pedagogy and Didactic Methodology, Department of Early Childhood Education, University of Ioannina

WS 2010-2011 Lecturer in Bielefeld University. Seminar: *Familienpolitik International: Do we really need a family friendly policy?* In cooperation with Simone Gerwert and Ksenia Kuzmina

SS 2011 Invited Lecturer in Hildesheim University. Seminar: *Work-Life Balance as a challenge for family policy.* In cooperation with Simone Gerwert and Ksenia Kuzmina

WS 2011-2012 Lecturer in Bielefeld University. Seminar: *Work-Life Balance from an International Perspective.* In cooperation with Simone Gerwert and Ksenia Kuzmina

## Publications and Presentations:

- Potsi, A. (2011): Greek pre-primary education from the perspective of the Capability Approach: Beliefs and Practices of pre-primary school teachers. *Social Work & Society*, Vol. 9. ([urn:nbn:de:0009-11-29877](https://nbn-resolving.org/urn:nbn:de:0009-11-29877))
- Potsi, A., Malousi, M. (2010): The evaluation as a compelling call of our times: Taking responsibility. Paper presented at the 2nd International Conference on Early Childhood Education, Ioannina (GR).
- Potsi, A. (2009): Quality in Greek pre-primary education from the perspective of the Capability approach. Paper presented at the Pre-Conference of the International Social Work & Society Academy (TiSSA), Vilnius (LT).
- Potsi, A. (2008): The family and Greek State's Social Policy. Paper presented at the Pre-Conference of the International Social Work and Society Academy (TiSSA), Riga (LV).
- Pantazis, S., Sakellariou, M., Boziou, M., Potsi, A. (2007): Pre-school education of foreign children in Greece – Pedagogical Work. Paper presented at the Conference Plenum of the International Social Work & Society Academy (TiSSA), Messina (IT).

## Further Information:

[http://ekvv.uni-bielefeld.de/pers\\_publ/publ/PersonDetail.jsp?lang=de&personId=12733938](http://ekvv.uni-bielefeld.de/pers_publ/publ/PersonDetail.jsp?lang=de&personId=12733938)

<https://lsf.uni-hildesheim.de/qisserver/rds;jsessionid=D0B475D538DC3FBB1AA0F1FA6461FB04?state=verpublish&status=init&vmfile=no&moduleCall=webInfo&publishConfFile=webInfo&publishSubDir=veranstaltung&veranstaltung.veranstid=27918&expand=36767>

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