

## **Keynote 2:**

**Anna Hatzidaki**

(National and Kapodistrian University of Athens)

### **Bridging emotions through languages**

Across several studies examining emotional language processing in bilinguals, consistent findings suggest that L2 is not necessarily less emotional than L1, but bilinguals may experience emotional content in varied ways depending on context and language type. This talk will provide a discussion ground for that, considering findings from two studies, investigating emotion not as an inherent reduction phenomenon in L2, but as socially regulated and contextually embedded in bilingual language use. The first study examines switching to L2 for emotion expression from a sociocultural perspective, exploring whether language choice reflects norms governing appropriate emotional expression rather than diminished emotional resonance. The second study extends this perspective by investigating whether L1 and L2 differentially shape how goals are construed and emotionally engaged with. Results from these studies are interpreted as demonstrating a controlled and flexible response system operating in L2, where heightened emotional salience shapes emotional perception and expression, but is used flexibly across languages regulated rather than uniformly attenuated in L2.