

Persa Koumoutsi, a writer, literary translator and essayist, born in Cairo. She returned to Greece after completing her studies at the Faculty of Arts of Cairo University. For the first few years he taught in Secondary and Higher Education, while from 1993 he dealt exclusively with literary translation, mainly of Arabic literature into Greek. Among the works translated from Arabic are 14 novels by the Nobel Prize-winning Egyptian author Naguib Mahfouz as well as many works by other distinguished Arab writers and poets. Her bibliography also includes the first Anthology of Contemporary Arabic Poetry in Greek, for which she received the Award of the Hellenic Society of Literary Translators, 2017. For her translation oeuvre which now amounts to over 40 titles of Arabic literatures she has been awarded the Cavafy International Prize, in 2001 and a special distinction from Department of Greek and Italian Studies at Al-Azhar University, 2015. She is also published author of eight personal novels, most of them focusing on intercultural dialogue. Her personal work has also been distinguished and a significant part of it has been translated into Arabic by the General book Organisation, National Translation Center of Egypt and Sefsafa publications. She has collaborated with Arabic and European universities and institutes on interculturalism and dialogue education programs and has written articles, critical texts and studies and given lectures on the same topics. In 2019 she co-created with ngo Culturepolis and now directs, the Center for Greek and Arabic Literature and Culture, KELALP which aims to promote and strengthen the cultural ties between Greece and the Mediterranean countries with an emphasis on the Arab world, through targeted programs, bilingual webinars and events, raising awareness on issues concerning contemporary Greek and Arabic literature, poetry, language, seeking important collaborations with other cultural institutions in Greece and abroad. In 2021 she received the prestigious "Achievement Award" for its overall contribution to Literature, Translation, and International Understanding from the Qatar-based Sheikh Hamad International Organization.