

ANNIKA ASP-TALWAR (Mrs.)

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LANGUAGE SKILLS

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| Mother tongue level | Finnish, Swedish, English |
| Fluent | French, Spanish, Danish, Norwegian |
| Advanced (fluent reading or speaking) | German, Italian, Portuguese, Catalan, Hindi |
| Classical and Medieval languages | Latin, Greek, Armenian, Sanskrit |
| Elementary | Greek (modern), Russian, Bulgarian |

EDUCATION

University of Birmingham, September 2011 – June 2014 (expected)

PhD student supervised by Dr Ruth Macrides. Thesis topic: The Empire of Trebizond and the Pontos, 13th-15th centuries.

University of Oxford, October 2010 – July 2011. Grade: Distinction

Master of Studies in Late Antique and Byzantine Studies. Subjects: Byzantine History, Byzantine Art and Archaeology, Greek (Classical and Medieval), Armenian (Classical and Medieval)

School of Oriental and African Studies, September 2007 – June 2010. Grade: First Class Honours

Bachelor of Arts in History and South Asian Studies. Subjects: Medieval Indian History, Byzantine History, Middle Eastern History, Hindi (2 years), Sanskrit (2 years)

University of Turku, Finland, September 2001 – October 2003.

BA/BSc level courses taken in Mathematics, Geography, History and Classical and Modern languages. Language of instruction: Finnish.

Ecole Fènelon, Clermont-Ferrand, France, September 2000 – June 2001.

Classe préparatoire pour les Instituts d'Etudes Politiques, Lettres Supérieures Option I.E.P.

University-level education in a top school following the French *Classes préparatoires* system. Subjects: History, Geography, Economics, Philosophy, French literature, German and English. Upon termination of the course, equivalence of 1st year university studies was awarded for any one of the subjects studied – I chose Geography. Language of instruction: French.

Helsingin normaalilyseon lukio, Finland, August 1997 – June 2000.

Grades: 7 Laudatur and 1 Eximia cum Laude Approbatur.

Secondary high school (equivalent to British A levels). Subjects: History, Geography, Mathematics (extended course), Study of religions, Philosophy, Psychology, Biology, Finnish literature, English, Swedish, French, German, Latin, Spanish, Italian. My grade in 2000 was the 2nd best result in Finland.

AWARDS

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| July 2012 | Acceptance and funding on the Koç University summer program 'Istanbul Through the Ages' |
| June 2012 | Acceptance on the Dumbarton Oaks medieval Greek and Palaeography summer program |
| 2011 – 2014 | AHRC funding for PhD studies at the University of Birmingham |
| August 2009 | Undergraduate School Prize for the best result in History, School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS) and Undergraduate School Prize – best result in South Asian Studies, SOAS |
| August 2008 | Vernon Parry award, for the best undergraduate result of the year, SOAS |
| June 2000 | School award for the best combined examination result of Latin and German, Helsingin normaalilyseo. My final grade was the 2 nd best in Finland in 2000. |

CONFERENCE PAPERS

- 26 May 2012** Conference talk at the annual international postgraduate colloquium of the Centre of Byzantine, Ottoman and Modern Greek Studies, University of Birmingham, with the title 'Megalomania' in Trebizond? The usage of the term 'Grand Komnenoi'.
- 18 February 2012** Talk entitled 'Despoina Hatun, Palaiologina et aliae – Women in the Chronicle of Michael Panaretos' at the conference *Reality and Illusion: Seeing through the 'Byzantine Mirage'*, organised by the Oxford Byzantine Society, University of Oxford.
- 6 October 2011** Invited to give a presentation at the annual colloquium of the Finnish Society for Byzantine Studies, University of Helsinki. Title: 'Trebizondin keisarikunnan (1204-1461) tähänastinen tutkimus ja tulevaisuudennäkymiä' (In Finnish).
- 26 August 2011** Short communication 'Apocalypse Now. The significance of prophecies, signs and omens in accounts on the Fall of Constantinople.' at the XXI Byzantine Congress at Sofia, Bulgaria.
- 21 May 2011** Invited to speak at the conference 'Eastern Christianity in Context' in Leiden, Netherlands. Paper title: 'For all the Christians you were the joy, Stamboul.' The Byzantine connection of two Armenian laments on the Fall of Constantinople in 1453'.
- 5 March 2011** Talk entitled 'The End is Near – Signs and Omens of the Fall of Constantinople' at the conference 'Between Constantines' organised by the Oxford Byzantine Society, Oxford.

OTHER SEMINARS AND CONFERENCES

- 24-26 March 2012** The Annual Spring Symposium of the Society for the Promotion of Byzantine Studies, Oxford
- 27 November 2010** Study Day in Memory of Professor Ihor Ševčenko: 'St. Catherine's Monastery at Mount Sinai – Its Manuscripts and their Conservation'
- 6-7 November 2010** The Transformation of Byzantium: Law, Society and Literature in the Eleventh Century – International Workshop on Psellos' Letters *under the auspices of the Oxford Centre for Byzantine Research*
- 2010-2012 (ongoing)** Weekly Late Antique and Byzantine seminar at the University of Oxford; the biweekly Byzantine, Ottoman and Modern Greek Studies seminar at Birmingham, various seminars and workshops for Armenian studies at Oxford, Byzantine seminars at King's College London.

ARTICLES

- March 2012** Publication of article 'Vallankaappaaja, äiti, "toinen nainen" ja *despoina hatun* – Trebizondin naisia Mikael Panaretoksen kronikassa' in *Skholion* 2012 (1), Helsinki
- March 2011** Publication of article 'It was predicted – Prophecies on the Fall of Constantinople' in *The Byzantinist*, newsletter of the Oxford Byzantine Society, 2011 (1), Oxford

TEACHING AND TRAINING EXPERIENCE

- September 2006** Teacher at the intensive Guide School for new overseas representatives in Gran Canaria (see below, section 'Employment History').
- 2008- 2009** Trainer of new employees as part of my role working as Business Centre Team Leader. Offered intensive training workshops about my technical expertise to managers and directors of my department. Organised cross-training to other departments (see below).

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

GE Healthcare, June 2010 – October 2010. Customer Service Representative for Medical Diagnostics

Full responsibility for Swedish B2B customers (mainly hospitals). Handling orders, logistics and invoicing for nuclear products in compliance with according regulations. Secondary responsibility (e.g. holiday coverage) for Finland, Denmark and Norway.

LEGO Group, June 2009 – September 2009. LEGO Direct Advisor

Customer service for Finnish, Swedish and English speaking clients via telephone and email. Dealing with sales, troubleshooting, safety concerns and issues.

InterContinental Hotels Group, November 2006 – March 2009. Business Centre Team Leader

Responsibility of the management of the Business Centre and Gift Shop (see below), Event management for HQ meeting rooms and out-of-hours meetings, revenue optimisation, quality assessment, staff management (rota, reviews, disciplinary etc.), design and programming of signage for electronical 'Modulex' screens for meeting rooms.

MyTravel Northern Europe (currently part of Thomas Cook), October 2003 – September 2006.

Overseas Representative in Bulgaria, Greece, Turkey, India, Spain,

Planning and guiding excursions (1-2 days) to sites of historical or natural interest. Teaching at Guide School. Emergency support (24 hrs), complaint handling and troubleshooting. Sales and marketing of in-destination products and services. Personal accounting. Client relations with tour groups and partner companies.