

Veronica Dristas

Veronica Dristas (Ph.D. Candidate, University of Pittsburgh) is the Associate Director of the Global Studies Center at the University of Pittsburgh. Previously, she served as the Assistant Director for Outreach at the Global Studies Center for ten years; Coordinator of the Italian Language Program at the University of Pittsburgh for five years; director of the University of Pittsburgh's summer study abroad program in Florence, Italy and the Director for five years for Abbey Road Programs in Bologna, Italy (a high school study abroad immersion program). She is bi-lingual, Italian and English, and also speaks French.

The focus of Ms. Dristas's dissertation is on program development for the advancement of language proficiency and cultural acquisition in study abroad programs. Her other research interests focus on program development for the advancement of language proficiency in the literature classroom, discourse analysis, technology and teacher education. She is the co-author of *Cultural Learning Outcomes and Summer Study Abroad*, chapter in "Identity and Second Language Learning: Culture, Identity, and Dialogic Activity in Educational Contexts." Ms. Dristas has been invited to deliver papers for the International Society of Language Studies and the 3rd International Conference for Language Teacher Education at CARLA. She has been awarded numerous honors and awards such as the Hewlett International Grant, the High Performance Network Initiative, the Communication-across-the-Curriculum Faculty Seminar Grant, the Instructional Excellence Grant, and the Andrew W. Mellon Stipend: Certificate Program in Technology and Language Instruction at the Center for Educational Technology, Middlebury College.