

3RD INTERNATIONAL
CONFERENCE

**BETWEEN THE WORLDS:
MIGRANTS, MARGINS, AND SOCIAL ENVIRONMENT**



1-2 DECEMBER, 2021

SOFIA,
BULGARIA

Institute of Ethnology and
Folklore Studies with
Ethnographic Museum,
Bulgarian Academy of Sciences

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(Hybrid/Online)

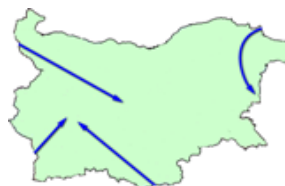
ORGANIZER

Institute of Ethnology and Folklore Studies with Ethnographic Museum,
Bulgarian Academy of Sciences



And

The Balkan Ethnology Department



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UNDER THE FRAMEWORK OF

‘Cultural Integration and Adaptation of Immigrants in Bulgaria’ Research Project



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ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

Assoc. Prof. Petko Hristov, PhD

Assoc. Prof. Mila Maeva, PhD

Assist. Prof. Magdalena Slavkova, PhD

Assist. Prof. Ivaylo Markov, PhD

Assist. Prof. Desislava Pileva, PhD

Assist. Prof. Mina Hristova, PhD

Conference Program

December 1st

8.30 – 9.00	Registration
9.00 – 9.15	Welcome Address
9.15 – 9.45	Keynote Speech Prof. Anna Krasteva, PhD, <i>People and Places: New Migrants in an Old Periphery</i>
9.45 – 11.05	Panel I Historical and Administrative Aspects of Immigration Moderator: Mila Maeva
9.45 – 10.00	Ivaylo Naydenov, <i>Bulgarian Migrant-entrepreneurs between Ottoman Bulgaria and the Danubian Principalities/Romania during the 19th Century</i>
10.00 – 10.15	Ekata Bakshi, <i>Locating Partition (1947, India) – Migration in a Non-metropolitan City through the Lens of Gender and Caste</i>
10.15 – 10.30	Usman Yusuf Bako, <i>EU-ECOWAS Mobility Partnership and Migration Governance: Examining Migration Policy Awareness in Sending Countries</i>
10.30 – 10.45	Mithilesh Kumar, <i>Refugeeizing Citizens, Citizenizing Refugees: Evolving Dynamics between Migrants and Nation-State in South Asia</i>
10.45 – 11.05	Discussion
11.05 – 11.30	Coffee Break
11.30 – 12.50	Panel II Gender, Migration, and Stereotypes Moderator: Paolo Ruspini
11.30 – 11.45	Roger Horn, <i>Zimbabwean Migrant Women in Cape Town, South Africa: Combating Stereotypes and Maintaining Cultural Identity in a Xenophobic State</i>
11.45 – 12.00	Isabelle Gobatto, <i>Migrating to Repair One’s Body: to be “On the Margins” Here or There?</i>
12.00 – 12.15	Subhasree Ghosh, <i>Representation and Displacement: The Process of ‘Othering’ in Post-Partition Calcutta Metropolis</i>
12.15 – 12.30	Kai Viljami Åberg, PhD, Adjunct Prof., <i>The Roma and the Russian Migrants in Finland – Ethnicity as a Means of Stereotypization</i>
12.30 – 12.50	Discussion
12.50 – 14.00	Lunch Break
14.00 – 15.35	Panel III Economic and Social Migration Moderator: Kai Viljami Åberg
14.00 – 14.15	Paolo Ruspini, <i>Transnational Patterns and Intercultural Experiences of Mobile Students in a Southern French University</i>
14.15 – 14.30	Violeta Periklieva, Ivaylo Markov, <i>“We Should Bring Some Changes” – Socio-Cultural Adaptation of the British Medical Students in Bulgaria</i>

14.30 – 14.45	Gerard A. Weber , <i>“There is Nothing Here!”: Industrial Dissolution, Fiscal Austerity and Labor Migration in Neoliberal Galati, Romania</i>
14.45 – 15.00	Nikola Lero , <i>Per Neoliberal Aspera Ad Astra – Locating Nostalgic Diaspora Entrepreneurship “Heroes” in a Murky Migration-Development Nexus in Bosnia</i>
15.00 – 15.15	Mila Maeva , <i>Medical Migration to Bulgaria</i>
15.15 – 15.35	Discussion
15.35 – 16.00	Coffee Break
16.00 – 18.35	Panel IV Migration, Emotions, and Identity Moderator: Slavka Karakusheva
16.00 – 16.15	Johnathan Norris , <i>Desiring Place: Exploring Emotion, Place-Making, and Racialized Encounters in Migration</i>
16.15 – 16.30	Ondřej Žíla , <i>‘Exodus’. Narrating the Serb Flight from Sarajevo and its Role in the Political Discourse of Republika Srpska</i>
16.30 – 16.45	Georgia Sarikoudi , <i>“I Feel More Greek than Albanian”- The Second Generation of Albanians in Thessaloniki</i>
16.45 – 17.00	Mina Hristova , <i>Writing about Bulgaria: Between Adaptation and Cultural Maintenance</i>
17.00 – 17.15	Plamena Stoyanova , <i>Rescuing animals in Bulgaria – or foreigners with causes</i>
17.15 – 17.35	Discussion
17.50 – 18.15	Gifts from Babylon (2018) Dir. Bass Ackermann
18.15 – 18.35	Discussion Dr. Emiel Martens, Assist. Prof., Producer of “Gifts of Babylon”
19.30	Joint Dinner (Optional for In-Person Attendants)

December 2nd

9.00 – 9.30	Keynote Speech
	Assoc. Prof. Marie-José Ruiz , PhD, <i>Framing Victorian migrants’ adaptation and socialization within the British Empire: exclusive education in colonial training centers</i>
9.30 – 10.50	Panel V Integration and Adaptation of Refugees 1 Moderator: Yelis Erolova
9.30 – 9.45	Lucian N. Leustean , <i>Orthodox Conservatism and the Refugee Crisis in Bulgaria and Moldova</i>
9.45 – 10.00	Elif Topal , <i>Demiroğlu Living Together or Avoiding the Poverty Trap? Contribution of Local Institutions to the Daily Life Practices of Refugees in Elazığ</i>

10.00 – 10.15	Vanya Ivanova , <i>Local Answers to Refugee Integration and Adaptation Processes: The City of Stara Zagora</i>
10.15 – 10.30	Lucy Hunt , <i>Learning to Navigate ‘Unsettlement’: Three Stories of How and Why Refugee Youth in Greece Engage with Education</i>
10.30 – 10.50	Discussion
10.50 – 11.15	Coffee Break
11.15 – 12.35	Panel VI Integration and Adaptation of Refugees 2 Moderator: Tanya Matanova
11.15 – 11.30	Yelis Erolova , <i>Beyond the Local Integration of Asylum Seekers/Refugees: a Case Study of Harmanli, Bulgaria</i>
11.30 – 11.45	Mafalda Carapeto , <i>The Bureaucratic Encounter with the State: the Representation of the Practices of the Portuguese Immigration and Borders Service Through the Experience of Immigrants</i>
11.45 – 12.00	Carmen Petruzzi , <i>Unaccompanied Minors in The Mediterranean Sea. Pedagogical Proposals Between Experiences and Life Projects</i>
12.00 – 12.15	D.G. Niruka Sanjeevani , <i>The Protection of Unaccompanied Minors: Examining Contemporary Challenges in the International Refugee Regime</i>
12.15 – 12.35	Discussion
12.35 – 13.35	Lunch Break
13.35 – 15.15	Panel VII Integration and Adaptation of Immigrants 1 Moderator: Catalin Berescu
13.35 – 13.50	Tanya Matanova , <i>Bulgarians in New Zealand – Adaptation and Integration Models</i>
13.50 – 14.05	Mariyanka Zhekova , <i>Little Bulgarian School in Chicago – Cultural Heritage and Integration</i>
14.05 – 14.20	Martha Aladjem Bloomfield , <i>Romanies in Michigan — A Portrait of a Community through Their Own Voices</i>
14.20 – 14.35	Magdalena Slavkova , <i>Back to School: Experiences of Refugee and Gypsy/Roma Return Migrant Children</i>
14.35 – 14.50	Ildiko Otova and Evelina Staykova , <i>Refugees In Bulgaria: In a Trap between Politics and Polices</i>
14.50 – 15.15	Discussion
15.15 – 15.45	Coffee Break
15.45 – 17.30	Panel VIII Integration and Adaptation of Immigrants 2 Moderator: Vanya Ivanova
15.45 – 16.00	Petko Hristov , <i>Ukrainian Immigration to Bulgaria in the Last 30 Years – From Marital Migration to Labor Mobility</i>
16.00 – 16.15	Catalin Berescu , <i>The Everyday Life of Objects that are Crossing the Borders</i>
16.15 – 16.30	Desislava Pileva , <i>Culinary Practices and Taste Negotiations within Bicultural Families in Bulgaria</i>
16.30 – 16.45	Slavka Karakusheva , <i>“We are like the Birds...”: Circular Migration through the Bulgarian-Turkish Border</i>

16.45 – 17.00	Meglana Zlatkova , <i>Returning to the Home village – Migration and Life Transitions</i>
17.00 – 17.30	Discussion
18.00	Joint Dinner

BOOK OF ABSTRACTS

KEYNOTE SPEECHES

Prof. Anna Krasteva, PhD

New Bulgarian University, Sofia, Bulgaria

People and Places: New Migrants in an Old Periphery

The paper has a double objective: to analyse the processes of debordering and rebordering of a border region and the impact of the diversification and multiplication of migration & mobility flows on the former. The case study is Harmanli and the region at the border of Bulgaria with Turkey and Greece. Remoteness, place-based life-words and sense-rich policies and practices constitute the conceptual cluster of the study. The concept of the crisis is the analytical centre of the theoretical design. The paper is structured in two parts. The first one examines the transition from a periphery of a communist state to a border region of the EU. It compares the centre-periphery relations in a communist and European context, as well as the political, social and cultural dimensions of remoteness. The second part analyses three new forms of migration and mobility: refugees, amenity migrants, returnees. The dynamic processes of de/re/bordering and de/re/territorialization are examined in three different crises: post-communist, migration, Covid.

Assoc. Prof. Marie-José Ruiz, PhD

Université de Picardie Jules Verne (Amiens, France)

Framing Victorian Migrants' Adaptation and Socialization within the British Empire: Exclusive Education in Colonial Training Centers

This talk proposes a historical perspective on the interplay between migration, education and gender. Stemming from the study of two emigration societies – the British Women’s Emigration Association (1884–1919) and the Church Emigration Society (1886–1929) – this presentation will highlight the prescribed educational expectations imposed on migrants in the age of Empires. As agriculture was becoming an acceptable field for distressed gentlewomen, two training centers were regularly advertised by these organisations: Swanley Horticultural College (Kent, England) which became a female college with a colonial branch in 1903 and the MacDonal Institute of Domestic Science in Guelph, Canada, which was founded in 1903 as an extension of the Ontario Agricultural College.

Most studies on these schools fall within the scope of the history of education and science, domesticity and gender studies, or the history of agriculture, and they are rarely linked with migration studies as this paper does. Yet, Victorian emigration societies and the colonial training of gentlemen and gentlewomen emigrants provide cases in point of both the shaping power of educational practices in migration processes as well as the impact of migration on education.

These training centers addressed concerns of the time in demographics and productivity. Additionally, advocated by female activists, one solution to the surplus of women question in Britain was opening up women’s employment in agriculture and horticulture. The study of colonial training centers brings light on the development of scientific education for women as a response to pressing concerns about the health and welfare of the nation. This gendered dimension was central to the building up of receiving nations, demographics and development depending on the settlement of British women in its Empire overseas.

Hence, the study of colonial training centers will show that early on education was used as a selectionist tool for normalization in migration processes, sometimes influenced by eugenicist practices prior to the decolonization era. Historical analyses of colonial training centers for migrants offer an infrastructural approach of intermediary structures at the meso level between migrants and State authorities. In a multifactorial approach that encompasses gender and social criteria, I will therefore compare the education and training proposed to women and men as well as their integration in the receiving nations.

This will lead to a reassessment of the very definition of education in the migration context. What did commentators in the “Age of Empire” (Hobsbawm, 1987) mean when they referred to “educated migrants”? Colonial training centers have been overlooked in the historical study of education in migration, but they represented major intermediary actors in the shaping of migrants: they acted as microcosm created by colonial and imperial authorities to create “the” idealized migrant, perfectly trained to meet societal standards, and develop imperial productivity in post-Industrial Revolution societies. They are cases in point in the interplay between education and migration. My aim is indeed to show that education shapes migration and migration shapes education in a binary conceptual relationship. A historical perspective will reveal that migrants

and non-migrants did not always have access to the same educational opportunities and that practices and standards differed, not always to the detriment of migrants. Indeed, in the case of colonial women, recent studies show that migrant women had access to scientific education before non-migrant women (Opitz, 2013).

Panel I: Historical and Administrative Aspects of Immigration

Ivaylo Valentinov Naydenov, PhD, Assistant professor

Institute for Historical Studies,
Bulgarian Academy of Sciences
Sofia, Bulgaria

Bulgarian Migrant-Entrepreneurs between Ottoman Bulgaria and the Danubian Principalities/ Romania during the 19th Century

The main aim of my paper is to reveal the interrelationship between migration and entrepreneurship during the 19th century (the so called Bulgarian National Revival period). I use Bulgarian merchants' experience in the Danubian Principalities/Romania as a laboratory for different kind of research analyses.

The primary sources for the proposed study are mostly unpublished documents stored at the Bulgarian Historical Archive, the National Library in Sofia, and in the Scientific Archive at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences. The available personal archives (which comprise commercial and private letters) can give the opportunity for micro-historical research. On the other hand, economic theory (regarding entrepreneurship, social networks, social capital, trust, etc.) allow systematizing and presenting in a cogent way uniform facts with economic content.

First of all, I will discuss the reasons for the migrations (permanent or temporary) from Ottoman Bulgaria to the lands north of the Danube. The Bulgarian migration in the Danubian Principalities/Romania was massive because it was driven by political events (wars), political instability in the Ottoman Empire, etc. On the other hand, there are some cases about migrations driven by economic motives. In other words, the desire of such persons for better living conditions and higher profits, played the role of pull factor.

I am going to deal with the patterns of migration and settlement of Bulgarians across Wallachia and Moldavia (Romania). I will shed light on their adaption and integration in the new political and socio-economic environment. It will be discussed their relations with the homeland

(with relatives and partners). I will pay special attention to the changes of the mentality and lifestyle of these people with entrepreneurial spirit.

Such a research based on different case-studies, could reveal some hitherto less known or unknown details, local characteristics as well as give us the opportunity for broader generalizations.

Keywords: Bulgarian merchants, migration, entrepreneurship, Danubian Principalities/Romania

E-mail: ivo_ngdek@abv.bg

Ekata Bakshi, PhD Scholar

Centre for Women's Studies,
Jawaharlal Nehru University
New Delhi, India

Locating Partition (1947, India)-Migration in a Non-Metropolitan City through the Lens of Gender and Caste

The Partition of British India (1947) and its consequences has been one of the most crucial themes in the historiography of South Asia and India in particular. The discussions around the Partition have, however, remained myopic in their geographical scope. In the recent years, especially in West Bengal (the Indian-state most majorly affected around the eastern border) feminist and anti-caste scholarships have significantly challenged the hegemonic, i.e., the statist and masculine-upper caste, frames of narrating the Partition. Yet, they have reproduced this spatial myopia in choosing to remain Calcutta (the metropolitan-city as well the state-capital) centric. However, it must be mentioned here that while largely, owing to their cultural and social capital, the upper caste and class refugees could remain hinged to Calcutta, the marginalised sections, having no such support and being completely dependent on the government, had little control over their destinations.

This paper, argues for a differential understanding of refugee-hood and rehabilitation by locating it in the historical and socio-political context of a non-metropolitan city in West Bengal – Asansol, where the erstwhile rural, largely lower/out-caste migrants were rehabilitated from the government camps for development – both of a nascent industrial town and an impoverished, uprooted population – who were to provide cheap labour for the former. Women from the refugee families, interestingly, were never direct subjects of development, being excluded from becoming blue collar labourers because of existing socio-cultural conventions. But their under-paid/ un-paid labour; both in the home and outside though was crucial to the survival of these families as well for the larger political economy of the city. After the introduction of the neo-liberal regime from the 1990s, the little stability gained by these families have been threatened by industrial closure

and widespread informalization, predictably with even graver, gendered ramifications. The paper thus, seeks to bring to fore the salience of the intersecting lens of caste and gender, as well as the regional-contextual specificity of their dynamics, in re-conceptualizing the linkages between forced migration, rehabilitation and labour, especially in the long-duree.

Keywords: caste, gender, refugee-hood, forced-migration, rehabilitation, partition of India

E-mail: ekatabakshi@gmail.com

Usman Yusuf Bako

Department of Political Science and International Relations
Near East University,
North Cyprus

EU-ECOWAS Mobility Partnership and Migration Governance: Examining Migration Policy Awareness in Sending Countries

Migration dialogue has dominated EU-ECOWAS cooperation since the beginning of the 21st century due to the increasing wave of the irregular flow of migrants across the Mediterranean Sea to Europe. Mobilizing different instruments of controlling migration are at the mercy of the culture and pattern of mobility in the sending countries. This research contributes to the literature on migration governance by suggesting a hypothesis that when migrants and immigration officials develop a culture of legal and regular migration, the implementation of mobility partnership between sending and receiving countries is likely to be successful. Thus, examining the migrants and immigration officials' awareness of migration policies is fundamental towards ensuring effective compliance and implementation of mobility partnerships. Data collection using semi-structured interview questions targeting 25 voluntary participants drawn from ECOWAS officials, immigration/border control officials, rehabilitated returned migrants, and academic institutions' experts provide qualitative data for analysis. Data collection and analysis will focus on Nigeria as one of the sending countries from West Africa with a significant number of irregular migrants, constituting over 40% of the entire population of West Africa, and having a direct mobility partnership with the EU.

Keywords: Irregular Migration, Mobility Partnership, Immigration Policy, Migrant Awareness, Migration Control

E-mail: ybkagara@gmail.com/ 20185763@neu.edu.tr

Mithilesh Kumar, Assistant Professor

Department of English and Cultural Studies
Christ (Deemed to be University)
Bangalore, India

Refugeeizing Citizens, Citizenizing Refugees: Evolving Dynamics between Migrants and Nation-State in South Asia

The 2020 Covid-19 pandemic unconcealed the many hidden networks of movement of bodies and things within and outside the nation-state boundaries. In India, the pandemic brought to an end, with the announcement of a nationwide lockdown to prevent the spread of the pandemic, the remarkable popular movement against the new citizenship law based on religion. Immediately, rather simultaneously, the onset of the lockdown precipitated an unprecedented movement of labor migrants from the urban centers back to their villages as workers defied all attempts by the government to stop their arduous journey of thousands of kilometers on foot. Finally, the police ‘unearthed’ the Tablighi Jamaat, a transnational Sunni Islamic missionary, holding a congregation in Delhi and whose members had travelled far and wide within India as the pandemic spread.

The paper argues that these three events pose a foundational challenge, conceptually and politically, to the way refugee, labor migration, and nation-state are understood. These events have forced scholars and policymakers to rethink frameworks such as the Global Compact for Migration, which were trying to grapple with the issue of refugee and labor migration in the 21st Century. The paper claims that nation-states of South Asia are redefining their legal and political ideas of citizenship and refugee to control the flow of bodies within and outside their territory and, in the process, effacing the distinction between citizen-labor and non-citizen refugee. The paper tries to understand the implication on political theory as a result of this maneuver by the South Asian nation-states.

Keywords: South Asia, Refugee, Labor, Global Compact on Migration, Political Theory

E-mail: mithilesh.kumar@christuniversity.in

Panel II: Gender, Migration, and Stereotypes

Prof. Dr. Roger Horn

In M.A. Visual & Media Anthropology Program

University of Applied Sciences for Media, Communication and Management

Berlin, Germany

Zimbabwean Migrant Women in Cape Town, South Africa: Combating Stereotypes and Maintaining Cultural Identity in a Xenophobic State

My proposed paper seeks to contribute to anthropological literature focused on the daily lived lives of long-term Zimbabwean migrant women in Cape Town, South Africa in order to provide “a better understanding of migration as a complex social process rather than as a problem to be solved“ (Berriane and de Haas, 2012:14), thus revealing that migrants, “reality is not as simple and straightforward as often suggested in the catalogue of stereotypes with which they are portrayed” (Nyamnjoh, 2012:66). Since gaining independence in 1980, Zimbabweans have faced countless economic and political challenges, culminating in the first major economic collapse during 2000. These difficulties have led to the migration of approximately 25% of the population (+/- 3 million people) with women comprising approximately 44% of those leaving following the aforementioned economic collapse (Tevera & Chikanda, 2009:2). Despite the “feminization of migration” (Crush and Tevera, 2010:17), women generally remain overlooked in academic research in Southern African. Though my interlocutors face numerous hardships including a lack of sustainable wage jobs, various issues obtaining and maintaining legal documentation, homesickness, and ‘ “ordinary” or “everyday” xenophobia ...deeply entrenched in South African society’ (Dodson, 2010:11) despite ‘a long history of cross-border migration and associated flows or remittances’ (Dodson et al., 2008:1), I will posit ways in which these women for the most part are able to survive and thrive while holding on to their core values, often challenged by what they perceive as an uneducated and drug plagued South African society.

Keywords: women, migration, Zimbabwe, xenophobia, South Africa

E-mail: r.horn@hmkw.de

Isabelle Gobatto

Maître de conférence en anthropologie, Faculté d'anthropologie sociale – ethnology

Bordeaux University

Bordeaux, France

Migrating to Repair One's Body: to be "on the Margins" Here or There?

Ethnographing migratory trajectories, individual and collective, requires an account of the projects that have presided over these migrations, as Abdelmalek Sayad explained as early as 1999 in his book *La double absence*. Moreover, these are sometimes thought of, primarily in terms of mobility and not migration, leading to intentions of return that are not without effect on the ways of taking one's place in receiving societies. In this connection, I will question the mobilities that concern women of West African origin who have undergone sexual alterations, including excision, and wish to come to Europe to have access to surgical reconstruction.

First, I will present life stories related to these projects. In doing so, my intention is to expose how the mobilities of these women make sense in changing African societies, particularly in urban areas. In these contexts, women's life projects are increasingly structured around primarily individual aspirations in relation to the body and its uses, whether in the field of procreation, ways of "making a family", raising children, or in the context of sexual aspirations and desires that require keeping "whole" bodies. This movement of affirmation of individuality is powerfully exposed by individual bodies, which constitute vectors for distancing or even contesting "traditions". The place of these women "on the margins" is therefore present from the contexts of life in the cultures of origin, and perhaps more than in the host societies.

I will conclude on this need to restore to migration everything that makes sense of it, in order to relate the deepest depths of intimacy and sensitive experiences, the heart of anthropological studies in this field.

Keywords: migration, health, emotion, body, surgical reconstruction

E-mail: isabelle.gobatto@u-bordeaux.fr

Subhasree Ghosh, Assistant Professor

Department of History
Asutosh College, University of Calcutta, Calcutta, India

Representation and Displacement: the Process of ‘Othering’ in Post-Partition Calcutta Metropolis

In a world described as increasingly on the move, refugees, displaced or stateless persons and immigrants (forced or voluntary) constitute a large portion of the population. Human encounters with borders produce variant narratives, depending on whether those encounters are welcoming or unwelcoming, of recognition or denial. Against the backdrop of forced migration calibrating refugee-host relationship, this paper examines, taking the city of Calcutta as the site of study, how the forced migrants are represented by their hosts and how they act to represent themselves. Contextualising the mass migration that lashed Calcutta against the 1947 Partition of British India and princely states that created the two nation-states of India and Pakistan and produced one of the largest mass migrations known in human history to the scale of 1.32 million people crossing the border into India from Pakistan by 1961, the paper will try to capture the many -faceted representations of the migrants through the lens of the ‘self’ and the ‘other’; the guest and the host, i.e. the local people of Calcutta and the migrants from across the border. Culling information from Government documents, autobiographies, oral interviews and memoirs, surveys, the paper will focus on how each perceived the other and whether more than half a century and subsequent generations later such perceptions have undergone any change.

A mixed methodology, i.e., both quantitative and qualitative data would be utilised to explore this relationship. Hannah Arendt wrote that the refugees exposed a fundamental tension between universal human rights and the sovereignty of nation-states. For Arendt, human rights were an abstraction; the only real rights were those possessed by citizens. Deprived of citizenship, refugees lacked the necessary “right to have rights.” The moot question that is to be attempted is that once granted citizenship that erased the tag of migrants/refugees/outsideers, did the tension that was palpable between the refugees and the citizens of Calcutta, ease down? Did citizenship normalise the relationship between those who crossed the borders and those who did not? The study assumes significance in light of the fact the process of ‘othering’ has become a thorny issue

in India especially with the coming of a right-wing government in power in 2014. By rewinding to the early days of the nascent nation-state and by foregrounding the multi-layered relationships between the residents of the metropolis of Calcutta, especially between the erstwhile refugees and the locals, the paper would try to trace the trajectory of this ‘othering’ and how the phenomenon, though became more pronounced in recent years, is embedded and entrenched in the very psyche of the nation and its people.

Keywords: partition, South Asia, migration, displacement, social tension

E-mail: subhasrighosh@yahoo.co.in

Kai Viljami Åberg, PhD, Adjunct Professor

Studies of Traditional Music
University of Eastern Finland
Finland

The Roma and the Russian Migrants in Finland – Ethnicity as a Means of Stereotypization

Construction and reproduction of ethnic identity proceed from universal socio-psychological and socio-cultural mechanisms, being integral part of ontological representations of humans about the binary structure of the world. Particularly, categorization, stereotypization and identification permit individuals to localize them in social space and feel attached to social community – state, nation, ethnic etc. and intergroup differentiation. Central elements, products and results of these mechanisms are images of in- and out-groups, modified continually in the course of social interaction.

My paper contains a number of contributions to the images and stereotypes of two ethnic groups in Finland; Finnish Roma and Russian migrants. Both of these groups have lived in Finland hundreds of years but still carry the stigma of stereotypes. Despite increased awareness of a wide range of demographics, existing theory fails to adequately explain how the stereotypes associated with multiple demographic categories (e.g., Black, female, gay, Muslim) combine to influence evaluations of employees. In my opinion a social distance has a special importance in perception of otherness.

This paper based on my long-term fieldworks among the Roma and Russian migrants.

Keywords: Finnish Roma, Russian migrants, stereotypes, ethnicity

E-mail: kai.aberg@kolumbus.fi

Panel III: Economic and Social Migration

Paolo Ruspini MA Pol. Sci., PhD, Associate Professor

Roma Tre University,
Rome, Italy

Transnational Patterns and Intercultural Experiences of Mobile Students in a Southern French University

International and European migration, has been for long permeated by a sort of “methodological nationalism” which affected the way researchers understood the social reality and produced nation-based research. By the late '90, a transnational migrant approach brought to the fore, first in the US than in Europe, a new perspective linking migrant countries of destination, origin and other localities. The “transnational turn” in empirical migration research became quite popular among scholars and practitioners by challenging narrowly nation-oriented approaches.

Student mobility resembles several transnational features in terms of regular contacts, communication and language exchange across borders, traveling between home and host country, transnational practices as remittances or exchange of ideas, cultural and political connections, etc. Students are therefore transnational agents (although not always migrants) embedded in a complex connection of institutions, actors and places which constitutes a spatiality of knowledge (Raghuram, 2013). From a transnational perspective, relevant research questions in this context include:

- What is the impact of transnational patterns of mobility/migration on SA learners' intercultural relations and sense of belonging?
- Do Study Abroad (SA) institutions have a leverage on these both real and virtual transnational configurations and if so in which way?
- How interculturality and the sense of belonging change as the time of SA mobility pass by and transform either into return home, further circulation or more permanent migration?

These set of questions are addressed by comparing the transnational experiences of different cohorts of mobile second language students interviewed during a 2018 fieldwork at a Southern French university.

E-mail: paolo.ruspini@uniroma3.it

Violeta Periklieva, PhD, Assistant Professor

Ivaylo Markov, PhD, Assistant Professor

Department of Historical Ethnology,
Institute of Ethnology and Folklore Studies with Ethnographic Museum,
Bulgarian Academy of Sciences
Sofia, Bulgaria

**“We Should Bring Some Changes” – Socio-Cultural Adaptation of the British
Medical Students in Bulgaria**

The study is focused on the student migration to Bulgaria, in particular, the British medical students. The group consists of the British students at the Medical University of Plovdiv. On the one hand, this university is the one that attracts the greatest number of foreign students from Great Britain in the country, and on the other, the British students at the university form the biggest part of the foreign students there. By analysing their motives for choosing Bulgaria as an educational destination, their notion of Bulgaria and the Bulgarians, their social and cultural adaptation, the organization of the educational process at the university and its impact on the models of adaptation, and their expectations regarding their professional realization after graduation, we argue that the British medical students in Bulgaria form a specific group characterized by the active role in the transformation of the social and cultural environment, i.e. their adaptation is realized by the conscious remodelling of the environment on the British model.

Keywords: student migration, Bulgaria, Plovdiv, British medical students, socio-cultural adaptation

E-mail of V. Periklieva: vioperi@yahoo.com

violeta.periklieva@iefem.bas.bg

E-mail of I. Markov: ivo.d.mark@gmail.com

ivaylo.markov@iefem.bas.bg

Gerard A. Weber, PhD, Associate Professor

Department of Social Sciences
Bronx Community College, City University of New York
New York, USA

**“There is Nothing Here!”: Industrial Dissolution, Fiscal Austerity and Labor
Migration in Neoliberal Galati, Romania**

This paper examines the impact of both the privatization and restructuring, or outright liquidation, of manufacturing facilities and the prolonged reduction in public spending in the post-communist epoch on the lives of blue-collar people in Galati, Romania. It is based upon circa 30 months of anthropological research from 2004 to 2019. Galati, a moderately-sized city in eastern Romania, underwent economic and demographic expansion during the communist period, the construction of a herculean steel plant and other factories attracting agrarian laborers from nearby villages to perform industrial work that offered higher wages and better entitlements than available from collective farming. The neoliberal transformation of the economy that began after the 1989 revolution has diminished the city’s appeal due to well-paid work in industry all but evaporating and revenue for the public sector drying up. Employment upon which working-class people can maintain families is largely gone and state support for housing, healthcare services, education, research and development and infrastructure has been severely trimmed as a result of austere budgets, failure to adequately tax enterprises and banks and other measures. One result of this is that blue-collar people have been forced to locate work outside the city, often abroad – as one man expressed in explaining his departure: “There is nothing here!” This paper presents ethnography of this labor migration and its multifaceted consequences, including social fragmentation, marooning of elderly kin, cultural alienation and more. In conclusion, suggestions are made for how this unsettling trajectory could be reversed for the betterment of working-class families.

Keywords: labor migration, neoliberalism, working class, deindustrialization, fiscal austerity

E-mail: Gerard.Weber@bcc.cuny.edu

Nikola Lero, Research Assistant

University of Stavanger
European Master in Migration and Intercultural Relations
Stavanger, Norway

Per Neoliberal Aspera Ad Astra –

**Locating Nostalgic Diaspora Entrepreneurship “Heroes” in a Murky Migration-
Development Nexus in Bosnia**

The post-war Bosnia has been obsessively relying on capital flows from its numerous migrant communities abroad, resulting in the diaspora remittances-centered migration-development nexus. That issue acts as the locus of previous scholarship on the topic, which left the notions of Bosnian diaspora entrepreneurship scarce. Through the conceptual framework which unites diaspora, migrant entrepreneurship, and Hein de Haas's *Theoretical Perspective(s) on Migration and Development*, this paper examines the characteristics of diaspora entrepreneurship in Bosnia, debating its position in the current migration-development nexus. Via narrative literature review, it offers an overview of the most relevant studies of the post-1995 period. A more in-depth look into the Bosnian diaspora's entrepreneurship in its homeland is rendered through qualitative content analysis of 2017 onward online media outlets and platforms in the Bosnian/Serbian/Croatian and English language. Detailed analysis of the regionally popular Al Jazeera Balkans TV show *Hoću Kući*, among others, is presented, followed by a peek into the *Diaspora Invest* platform, the most successful long-term systematic project for promoting and supporting diaspora investments in Bosnia. Inquiries of these two cases map the robust presence of complex transgenerational local-hometown and transnational EU-Bosnia nostalgia-driven homeland investments incorporated in the meta-narratives of "successful" Bosnians abroad reproducing the neoliberal agendas which celebrate the migrant labor struggles instead of challenging them.

Keywords: Bosnia, diaspora, entrepreneurship, development, nostalgia

E-mail: lero.nikola@yahoo.com

Mila Maeva, Assoc. Prof., PhD

Department of Balkan Ethnology,
Institute of Ethnology and Folklore Studies with Ethnographic Museum,
Bulgarian Academy of Sciences
Sofia, Bulgaria

Medical Migration to Bulgaria

The crisis with COVID-2019 and the world pandemic have showed the role and importance of medical staff not only for health but also for the normal functioning of postmodern societies. Its insufficient number and qualification in the last more than ten years is a serious problem for Bulgaria, which the crisis that occurred in 2020 only has deepened. Therefore, the arrival and accommodation of medical staff here is perceived as an important brain gain for the country.

The study is based on field research conducted in various settlements in Bulgaria in the period 2018-2021. The report will present and analyze individual cases and search for models of medical migration to Bulgaria. He will also review examples of foreign students who study medicine and remain to work and specialize in the country. The highlights of the study are the adaptation and integration of medical staff such as doctors, nurses and laboratory technicians who come to Bulgaria from different countries – Serbia, Syria, India, Ukraine and others. Last but not least, the prospects for attracting qualified medics to the country in view of the state policies towards them will be considered too.

Keywords: medical migration, integration, adaptation, state policy

E-mail: mila.maeva@iefem.bas.bg

Panel IV: Migration, Emotions, and Identity

Johnathan Norris, MA, PhD Student

Department of Anthropology
Graduate School of Arts and Sciences
Boston University
Boston, USA

Desiring Place:

Exploring Emotion, Place-Making, and Racialized Encounters in Migration

Emotions, at both the individual and societal levels, play a critical role in how migrants and refugees navigate their shifting lifeworlds. Drawing on my fieldwork in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania amongst northern Iraqi migrants, this project uses desire as a window into understanding how migrants develop a sense of “home” and “belonging” in their new contexts. Specifically, I argue that their desire to stay in America or their desire to return to Iraq acts as a prism by which migrants construct meaning and feelings of (non)belonging out of certain encounters with native Pittsburghers. In this way, I demonstrate that migrants not only have to navigate through their own imaginations, desires, and memories; they, too, must navigate and, in some instances, embody the often-racialized imaginations and desires of non-migrants. As a result, migrants come to anticipate the racist actions, feelings, and reactions of non-migrants. Therefore, interactions with non-migrants, whether racialized or not, often further solidify migrant desires and reinforce the ways in which migrants conceptualize home and imagine their belonging.

Keywords: emotion, desire, belonging, home, migration, racism, migrant/citizen

E-mail: jrn@bu.edu

Ondřej Žíla, PhD, Assistant Professor

Faculty of Social Sciences,
Charles University
Prague, Czech Republic

**‘Exodus’. Narrating the Serb Flight from Sarajevo and its Role in the Political
Discourse of Republika Srpska**

After the signing of the Dayton agreement in 1995 that ended the Bosnian war, people who identified as Serbs and had lived in suburbs of Sarajevo left the city. The uprooting character of Sarajevo Serbs’ flight in the post-war period, removal of their bodies, material belongings, and even graves into Republika Srpska and elsewhere, signified the definite withdrawal from their place of origin. Based on fieldwork in Bosnia and Herzegovina between 2016 and 2019, this paper analyses the ‘Serb exodus’ discourse in Republika Srpska which has been recently incorporated as one of the main pillars of ‘Serb’ victimhood in the institutionalized form of collective memory cultivated in this entity. Rather complex reasons of why ex-Sarajevans had to leave, shared by interlocutors, were simplified and integrated into a post-war nationalist narrative emphasizing the flight as an unavoidable wrongful reality, compulsory collective action, and trauma. Ex-Sarajevans’ ways they left their place of origin, personal suffering, and struggling in displacement were, however, in many cases in contrast to the developed Republika Srpska collective memory. Putting the ‘Serb exodus’ at the forefront, this paper scrutinizes the correlation between the official Republika Srpska collective memory and interlocutors’ individual memories. By doing so, it discovers tensions beyond the hegemonic discourse embraced in Republika Srpska. The paper argues that while the nationalistic framing helps ex-Sarajevo Serbs rationalize their destiny, better comprehend the inevitability of leaving their homes in the peacetime period, and clarify their belonging to Republika Srpska, it does not mitigate their feelings of being vanquished and not cover their regret about a decision to both leave Sarajevo and not attempt to remain.

Keywords: Sarajevo’s unification; exodus; Republika Srpska; collective memory; Bosnian Serbs

E-mail: Ondrej.zila@fsv.cuni.cz

Georgia Sarikoudi, Postdoc Fellow

Social Anthropology,
Aristotle University of Thessaloniki
Thessaloniki, Greece

***“I feel more Greek than Albanian”- The Second generation of Albanians in
Thessaloniki***

In the late 1980s, Greece was transformed from a country of emigration to a host country when the first immigrants from countries of the former Soviet Union and the Balkans arrived. The largest percentage of those who settled in Greece came from Albania, most of whom initially lived near the Greek-Albanian border and then began moving to urban centers and places where they could find work. Thirty years later Albanians are the most populous group of foreigners, yet in the urban fabric they remain almost invisible. They don't seem to follow a pattern of settlement and social organization like other immigrant communities (living in the same neighborhoods, owning an “Albanian” cafeteria, restaurants, or shops).

In this presentation, which is based on fieldwork research that is still in progress, I will try to explain how the Albanians in Greece are still based on family networks without being organized in an ethnic community and especially why the second generation shows little tendency to identify with their ethnic culture. Finally, I will try to highlight how these choices and tactics are affected by the Greek state policy and the education system.

Key words: Greece, second generation, ethnic identity, Albanians

E-mail: gsarikoudi@yahoo.gr

Mina Hristova, PhD, Assistant Professor

Department of Balkan Ethnology,
Institute of Ethnology and Folklore Studies with Ethnographic Museum,
Bulgarian Academy of Science
Sofia, Bulgaria

Writing about Bulgaria: Between Adaptation and Cultural Maintenance

The adaptation process of migrants is a complex matter, which is found to lie on the axis connecting the country of origin and the one where the newcomers have settled. This process of interconnectedness called by S. Vertovec (2004) *bifocality* is aiming to describe the results of the cultural transfer from and to the relevant culture of the migrants affecting not only the economic processes taking place in their communities but also the ones related to the identity and sense of belonging. Taking from here the paper is looking at the Russian-speaking immigrants in Bulgaria and their patterns of adaptation. Contextualised by the modern technological advancements and the medium created by it (e.g. social media) it will present the ways in which the community shares information on their new cultural surroundings on the Internet (Facebook, Instagram) and how this creates the sense of false adaptation, behind which the cultural background of the home lies. The paper is based on interviews (both online and face-to-face) conducted in 2020 and 2021 among Russian-speaking immigrants settled in the Bulgarian seaside. The empirics are supplemented with analysis of social media publications and the relevant interaction the page-members provided.

Keywords: immigrants, Russian-speaking, social media, false adaptation, identity

E-mail: hristova.mina90@gmail.com

Plamena Stoyanova, PhD, Assistant Professor

Department of Balkan Ethnology,
Institute of Ethnology and Folklore Studies with Ethnographic Museum,
Bulgarian Academy of Science
Sofia, Bulgaria

Rescuing animals in Bulgaria – or foreigners with causes

In 2000 the first “Dancing Bear Park” was opened in Bulgaria. Located on the southern part of the Rila Mountains, in the area of the town of Belitsa, it became a home-sanctuary for nearly 30 bears, who were trained and earlier used for public entertainment. The park was created with the active role and support of the French actress Brigitte Bardot and was one of the first examples of rescued animals, thanks to the efforts of a foreign citizen. The world-famous star, does not live in Bulgaria, but today many of the foreigners who have settled or reside in the country, also have special attitude towards animals. Moreover, for some of them to take care of animals, turns out to be a cause.

In Bulgaria, very few stray animals /and pets/ are neutered which leads to a big populations and high mortality as well. A few organizations are taking responsibility of mostly street cats and dogs. They usually do this with the help of volunteers among which are many foreigners. They adopt animals, became foster homes, and even initiate foundations of shelters in the country.

In this article I will trace a few specific stories among representatives of this particular group of foreigners and try to answer the questions: Who are these people, and what drives them? Why they choose Bulgaria for their activities and how do they work with local organizations in the country? What are the differences in the approach of foreigners and Bulgarians regarding animal welfare and do foreigners have anything to teach us?

Keywords: migration, pets, animal shelters, rescue animal organization

E-mail: flame1228@gmail.com

Gifts from Babylon (2018) 23'47"

Dir. Bass Ackermann

Discussant: Dr. Emiel Martens

Producer of 'Gifts from Babylon'

**Assistant Professor | Department of Media Studies | University of Amsterdam and
Erasmus University of Rotterdam**

“Gifts from Babylon” (2018) is a short narrative film exploring the psychological impact and family crisis caused by irregular Africa-EU migration through the lens of a traumatized Gambian return-migrant. The film captures the personal conflicts that arise when Modou, a deported refugee, returns to his home country after having lived illegally in Europe (including Italy) for five years. Suffering from intense flashbacks of his traumatic migrant journey, he wonders what has become of him.

The film has been shot in the Gambia, with a Dutch-Gambian crew, and received its world premiere at the Nederlands Film Festival and its North American premiere at the Pan African Film Festival in Los Angeles last year (in competition for best narrative short). Since then it has been shown at 60+ film festivals worldwide and received multiple nominations and awards.

After the screening, the producer Dr. Emiel Martens will be a discussant in an Q & A session.

GIFTS FROM BABYLON



CASTING CHRISTOPHER TIAN SMITH

DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY STEF KWINTER OFFLINE EDITOR GABRIEL JOOP - SCORION LOUAS ASSISTANT DIRECTOR AMADOU A. SILLAL - BABICAR MANKA - MOUDDI JOOP

SCREENPLAY BY BAS ACKERMAN - AMADOU A. SILLAL - BABICAR MANKA STORY EDITOR EMILIE MARTENS LINE PRODUCER MANDON ZWAN - MADAMA VOLLEY

EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS TOU DALAOZ FILM - STATE OF MIND - BONES IN YOUR FACE - KJUF - JCF CREATIVE AGENCY PRODUCED BY EMILIE MARTENS DIRECTED BY BAS ACKERMAN

Logo for the film festival or production company, featuring a stylized 'A' and 'B'.

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Panel V: Integration and Adaptation of Refugees 1

Lucian N. Leustean

Reader in Politics and International Relations,
Aston University,
Birmingham, United Kingdom

Orthodox Conservatism and the Refugee Crisis in Bulgaria and Moldova

In 2015, the Bulgarian Orthodox Church issued an unusual statement declaring that the arrival of refugees represented a ‘true invasion’ in the region. One year later, during debates on Moldova’s presidential elections, the Orthodox Church endorsed the fake news that 30,000 Syrians were about to arrive in the country. Drawing on interviews in Chişinău and Sofia, the article argues that the European refugee crisis has led to an internationally-linked Orthodox conservatism characterised by five components: defending a mythical past; fostering close relations with state authorities; anti-Westernism; building conservative networks at local, national and geopolitical levels; and, presenting Orthodox churches as alternative governance structures. These components shape religion-state relations in predominantly Orthodox countries in the region and have had a direct impact on the ways in which religious and state bodies have responded to populism and geopolitics.

Keywords: Religion; refugee crisis; Bulgaria; Moldova; Orthodox Christianity

E-mail: l.leustean@aston.ac.uk

Elif Topal Demirođlu, PhD

Department of Political Science and Public Administration,
Marmara University
Istanbul, Turkey

**Living Together or Avoiding the Poverty Trap? Contribution of Local Institutions to
the Daily Life Practices of Refugees in Elazığ**

A devastating earthquake occurred in Elazığ located in the southeast of Turkey on January 24, 2020. A young Syrian refugee Mahmut, who participated in the search and rescue efforts after the earthquake and saved a woman from the wreckage, made the presence of immigrants in small cities visible with the label of "heroism". In addition to Mahmut, who was reported as a hero in the national and local media, positive statements about the Syrian presence in the city came one after another. This situation was the opposite of the negative process that led to the dispatch of refugees from the city by local authorities after the tension between a group and Syrians in the Elazığ Sanayi Mahallesi (Industrial Quarter) in 2018. This study, in which the presence of refugees in the city, cohabitation and encounters in daily life are generally considered as a state of conflict, consists of the analysis of face-to-face interviews with refugees living in Elazığ Industrial Quarter which is an urban area where Syrian refugees are densely populated, as well as being the old neighborhood of the city and home to heavily damaged housing stock in the earthquake. This study focuses on the practices of immigrants who took over poverty from the local people after the earthquake in the Sanayi Mahallesi and questions the role of local institutions in developing these practices and contributing to social cohesion.

Keywords: living together, local institutions, Elazığ, poverty trap, urban refugees

E-mail: eliftopal@gmail.com

Vanya Ivanova, PhD, Researcher

Department of Balkan Ethnology,
Institute of Ethnology and Folklore Studies with Ethnographic Museum,
Bulgarian Academy of Science
Sofia, Bulgaria

Local Answers to Refugee Integration and Adaptation Processes:

The City of Stara Zagora

Stara Zagora is one of the closest big cities situated in the region of Harmanli, where the largest reception and registration centre for asylum seekers in Bulgaria is situated. The proximity to the so called “refugee camp”, the existence of local Arab community in the city, the role of social workers, along with sustained in time local voluntary group ‘Friends of refugees – Stara Zagora’, makes the city a possible destination for (potential) settlement for some asylum seekers who have been granted international protection in Bulgaria. The paper will explore and analyse the refugee integration policies, practices and processes in the city as a case study focusing on three main thematic areas: 1) local factors, facilitating refugee settlement; 2) key actors in the integration and adaptation processes; 3) refugees’ motivation as a drive to stay or move on. In addition, special focus will be placed on the cultural aspects involved in the integration interplay between local society and newcomers, along with the cultural intermediaries who facilitate the integration and adaptation processes. The study is based on ethnographic field work, semi-structured in-depth interviews with refugees, volunteers, experts and institutional representatives from Stara Zagora and the region.

Keywords: refugees, adaptation, integration, cultural aspects, Stara Zagora

E-mail: vanya.ivanova@iefem.bas.bg

Lucy Hunt, DPhil Student

Department of Education,
University of Oxford
Oxford, United Kingdom

Learning to Navigate ‘Unsettlement’: Three Stories of How and Why Refugee Youth in Greece Engage With Education

In recent years, Greece has seen a steady flow of young forced migrants arriving at its hardening borders. Having often left conflict-affected or impoverished areas, their dream of life in Europe is one of safety and possibility: whether educational, social or financial. However, despite having family or hopes in Northern or Western Europe, they find themselves caught in Greece. They do not know if or when they will be permitted to leave this context of ‘unsettlement’, which forces them to readjust their plans; while simultaneously navigating the liminal ‘here and now’. As they do so, educational spaces offer possibilities for both present and future stability.

This presentation thus explores the role of education in young refugees’ navigation of their new and unsettled social ‘seascape’ (cf Vigh). It draws from ethnographic data generated over nine months of fieldwork with refugees in Thessaloniki - involving interviews, focus group discussions and participant observation as a volunteer teacher - for a DPhil project which explores the challenges and meaning of learning spaces for forcibly displaced youth (aged 15-25). The presentation is based around three young people’s stories, and as such follows Sara Lawrence-Lightfoot’s portraiture technique. Overall, it aims to demonstrate how rather than being passive victims of circumstance or under-achievers, refugee youth are in fact active and strategic navigators of their constantly shifting environment. Furthermore, the portraits exemplify how education can provide both immediate support and a basis for ‘multiple possible futures’ for young newcomers (cf Dryden-Peterson).

Key words: refugees; youth; education; Greece; integration

E-mail: lucy.hunt@ssho.ox.ac.uk

Panel VI: Integration and Adaptation of Refugees 2

Yelis Erolova, PhD, Assistant Professor

Department of Balkan Ethnology,
Institute of Ethnology and Folklore Studies with Ethnographic Museum,
Bulgarian Academy of Science
Sofia, Bulgaria

Beyond the Local Integration of Asylum Seekers/Refugees:

A Case Study of Harmanli, Bulgaria

Since 2013, asylum seekers/refugees are among the most vulnerable immigrant groups in a European context. Their integration is a multifaceted legal, economic, social and cultural challenge both for themselves and for the host society. Refugee integration, determined as ‘a multi-dimensional two-way process’ and / or ‘processes of mutual adaptation with the host society’ is a cross-cutting issue of different policy approaches applied on national, regional and local levels in the receiving countries.

In Bulgaria, the last two national strategies on migration, asylum and integration from 2014 and 2015, and the Government Ordinance on the terms and procedures for concluding, enforcing and terminating the integration agreement of beneficiaries of international protection from 2017 affirm the so-called ‘integration agreement’ (that can be signed between local authorities and international protection status holders) as a main refugee integration tool. The paper draws attention to the refugee integration (im)possibilities, identified within an ethnological study (2018-2020) conducted in the town of Harmanli where the largest Bulgarian reception center is located. The analysis relies on the empirical materials collected among asylum seekers and refugees, volunteers and representatives of the NGO sector; local communities and institutions. Special focus is placed on the initial conditions for the refugees’ integration at local level (access to legal assistance; housing; employment; education and training; cultural orientation); their specific needs based on heterogeneous ethnocultural characteristics (language, religion, customs; food, etc.); and, on the other hand, the social attitudes towards their presence and integration.

Keywords: refugee integration, refugee accommodation, social attitudes towards refugees

E-mail: kham@abv.bg

Mafalda Carapeto, PhD Candidate

Instituto Superior de Ciências Sociais e Políticas,
University of Lisbon
Lisbon, Portugal

**The Bureaucratic Encounter with the State: the Representation of the Practices of
the Portuguese Immigration and Borders Service Through the Experience of
Immigrants**

In order to explore how the Portuguese State deals with immigrants, this article aims to acknowledge how the immigrants, in Portugal, consider the Portuguese Immigration and Borders Service (hereafter SEF). SEF is responsible for applying the Act n. ° 23/2007 of 4th July that has defined the new legal framework for the entry, permanence, exit and removal of foreigners from national territory. Understanding the role of SEF agents through the experience of immigrants is crucial since they are the ones who, through their practices, decide on a daily basis, about certain particularities of the life of those who choose Portugal to live and work. Specially in a country where immigration has been growing for the past few decades. For most migrants SEF provides the first contact they have with both Portugal and with Portuguese bureaucracy. Legislation translates in very different practical procedures. Policy implementation by civil servants in bureaucratic agencies, such as SEF, can be conceived as the work of “street-level bureaucrats” (Lipsky 1980). The interlocutors introduce the themes developed in this communication and are a way of getting to the heart of the analysis: the bureaucratic encounter with the State and the representation of the practices that arise from it. Thus, I will focus not only on the perspective of migrants, through the interviews and informal conversations, but also on the perspective of the State by looking at the discourses that emerge throughout the legal framework, media and grey literature.

Keywords: border regimes; SEF; street-level bureaucrats; state practices; discretionary powers

E-mail: mafaldacarapeto1988@gmail.com

Carmen Petruzzi, PhD, Postdoctorate fellow in Education

Department of Humanistic Studies.
Humanities, Cultural Heritage, Education Sciences
University of Foggia
Foggia, Italy

Unaccompanied Minors in the Mediterranean Sea. Pedagogical Proposals between Experiences and Life Projects

The phenomenon of migrations is a reality that can be read through several dimensions since the arrivals can be researched through flows, wars, political destabilizations and journeys of hope to scrutinize the form and substance of migration. Among the insufficiently explored aspects of this phenomenon there is the journey of teenage people who leave their families in order to reach Europe.

The recent proliferation of specific studies on unaccompanied foreign minors has opened up complex challenges for pedagogists with respect to these teenagers' inclusion within first and second reception facilities, strongly supporting the theory that there is still much to say because "it is not age that makes men, it is what has passed on their head" (Sayad, 1992).

This essay attempts to describe the reality of teenage migrants in the Mediterranean in order to understand what compels them to leave their family and their country to take charge once they are in Europe. The aim of the essay is to grasp the multifaceted nature of building a liquid and mutant identity, a historical process of recognitions received from an individual in the social interactions in which they are involved.

The research project investigates the knowledge of unaccompanied minors in the Mediterranean to try and understand the phenomenon of those who, still minors, undertake a single, long, perilous journey and the human relationships they establish in the new territory, with adults as well as their peers.

Keywords: unaccompanied minors, migration, experience of life, life stories, qualitative methodology

E-mail: carmen.petruzzi@unifg.it

D.G. Niruka Sanjeewani

General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University
Sri Lanka

**The Protection of Unaccompanied Minors: Examining Contemporary Challenges in the
International Refugee Regime**

The unaccompanied minors (UAM)s are referred to children who are outside their country of origin and separated from both parents and other relatives. It is obvious that UAMs do not receive a specific protection from normative legal agreements like 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees which has been recognised as the fundamental cornerstone of the International Refugee Regime. The International Refugee Regime has been developed so far through combative and legal measures that emphasize the requirement of state parties to protect asylum seekers living within their borders. Due to the adaptation of the New York Declaration (NYD) for Refugees and Migrants in 2016, international protection of UAMs was strengthened through two frameworks, namely Comprehensive Refugee Response (CRRF) and Global Compact on Refugees (GCR). Both mechanisms recommend to ease the pressure, which has been imposed on host countries by allowing them to share UAMs among the member countries and enhance third country solution to settle them with family members. But it is uncertain whether aforementioned principles address issues that UAMs face within the host communities. When it comes to Europe, restrictive procedures have been taken by the European Union (EU) in settling UAM across the region under its Dublin Regulation. This fragmented protection is comprised of prolonged detentions of UAMs at transit zones, negligence of their take charge requests and discriminatory policies which hinder the social inclusion of UAMs. Along with understanding, the author concludes that it is required to formulate an effective strategy to grant immediate protection for UAMs and promote their rights.

Keywords: unaccompanied minors, comprehensive refugee response, global compact on refugees, take charge requests, social inclusion

E-mail: nirukasanjeewani@kdu.ac.lk

Panel VII: Integration and Adaptation of Immigrants 1

Tanya Matanova, PhD, Assistant Professor

Department of Comparative Folkloristic Studies
Institute for Ethnology and Folklore Studies with Ethnographic Museum, Bulgarian
Academy of Sciences
Sofia, Bulgaria

Bulgarians in New Zealand – Adaptation and Integration Models

Bulgarian emigration to New Zealand dates back to the second half of the 20th century. As to May 2019 between five and six thousand Bulgarians live on both islands of the state. Some community leaders of those successfully adapted first and second generation migrants take part in the organization and management of Bulgarian migrant institutions (schools, church communities, dance groups, the mass media, etc.).

The aim of this research is to outline the characteristics of the socio-economic adaptation and integration strategies of Bulgarians in New Zealand. Therefore, on the one hand, in the text will be presented stories of Bulgarians who had integrated in the host community through their own professional skills in the spheres of entrepreneurship, commerce, arts, sport. On the other hand, will be searched for examples for integration on community level when Bulgarian institutions – as folklore dance groups and Bulgarian radio- and TV-programs – participate in multiethnic events or function in multicultural environment.

For the purpose of the text will be analyzed respondents' answers in online questionnaires, selected Bulgarian online media (radio broadcasts, newspapers), Facebook and internet sites and groups as well as archived empirical data gathered during field work in May 2019.

Keywords: Bulgarian migrants, Bulgarian community in New Zealand, migrant institutions, adaptation and integration models

E-mail: tanya.matanova@iefem.bas.bg

Mariyanka Borisova Zhekova, PhD, Assistant Professor

Department of Anthropology of Verbal Tradition
Institute for Ethnology and Folklore Studies with Ethnographic Museum, Bulgarian
Academy of Sciences
Sofia, Bulgaria

Little Bulgarian School in Chicago – Cultural Heritage and Integration

The *Little Bulgarian School* in Chicago was established in 2010 and is registered as a non-profit organization for the purpose of *conducting a learning process and events to preserve and promote the Bulgarian language and culture*. When a team of the *Cultural Heritage in Migration* project visited it in 2015, *Little Bulgarian School* was already the largest (with over 350 students) among the 11 Bulgarian schools in Chicago and included early language training at the *Winnie the Pooh Children's Academy*. In 2021 *Little Bulgarian School* has its own building, unites branches in Chicago and the suburbs, as well as in other states, publishes its own textbooks for education, educates children aged between 2 and 18 years, as well as adults. The building purchased with donations of the Bulgarian community in Chicago, is nowadays a home of the school, of dance clubs, and various Bulgarian cultural and sport activities. *Little Bulgarian School* maintains a website and Facebook page, on which it currently promotes a donation campaign to replenish the fund of the school library. The following research aims to answer questions as: How does *Little Bulgarian School* use the educational and social policies of the sending and receiving countries? How does it maintain the cultural identity of school children of Bulgarian origin? Which elements of the cultural heritage are emphasized in its activities? In which way does it follow but also create models for successful adaptation and integration?

Keywords: cultural heritage, cultural identity, integration, Bulgarian school abroad, migration

E-mail: mariyanka.borisova@iefem.bas.bg

Martha Aladjem Bloomfield

Independent Scholar, Author and Oral Historian

Romanies in Michigan — A Portrait of a Community through Their Own Voices

Descendants of Romanies from Hungary and Slovakia, whose families had immigrated to Michigan in the early 20th century, reveal their challenges, migration and adaption to Michigan and subsequent migration to Las Vegas, Nevada through stories and oral history interviews.

They talked about their memories, family, culture, musical careers, challenges in the non-Romani world, feelings as a minority, self-efficacy, and pride in their culture and work. Sharing their voices in the greater social/historical context defies prejudicial newspaper stories and police racial profiling programs.

Many, descendants of famous Romani musicians, from the village of Kassa, Hungary (now Kosice, Slovakia), had immigrated to the United States to escape prejudice and persecution. They first worked in steel mills in western Pennsylvania with other immigrants and in small businesses and performed their traditional Romani music in Hungarian restaurants, bars and taverns. When industrialist Henry Ford was seeking immigrants to work in his automobile factories in Michigan and offered a higher wage, Romanies followed Hungarians to Michigan and helped fill a need with their labor. They continued to perform their music in local Hungarian restaurants.

Their hard-working ethic, versatile musical talents, strong bonds to family, culture and society, and resiliency empowered them to adapt to their new life. Over time, the musicians accommodated to the changing opportunities from the larger society to perform different kinds of music, mostly jazz, and expanded their repertoire and performance venues.

Key Words: Romanies, Oral History, Resilience, Prejudice, United States

E-mail: marthabloomfield@gmail.com

Magdalena Slavkova, PhD, Assistant Professor

Department of Balkan Ethnology,
Institute of Ethnology and Folklore Studies with Ethnographic Museum,
Bulgarian Academy of Science
Sofia, Bulgaria

Back to school: experiences of refugee and Gypsy/Roma return migrant children

This paper deals with experiences at school of refugee and Gypsy/Roma returnee children. Focused on children's issues ethnographic fieldwork was conducted in 2017 and 2018. The research among the families of the non-Romany speaking Rudari and Gypsies with Turkish preferred identity, and Romany speaking Xoraxane Roma, Dasikane Roma, and Erlii was done in 2017 and 2018. A field study in 2018 was conducted in the Kharmanli refugee camp in South Bulgaria, where I contacted refugee parents and their pupils who are enrolled in public schools. I studied their inclusion and adaptation in the social milieu for the two school years of 2017-2018 and 2018-2019. The ethnographic data is analysed along with some key normative documents of the Bulgarian institutions related to migrants and refugees and the education of their children. On the basis of the fieldwork material and reviewed documents, I state that the approaches to returnee and refugee students are mainstream and specific approaches. Under the mainstream approach, the returnee pupils are categorised as 'children of Bulgarian citizens living abroad' and they are not specifically labeled as 'Roma'. It is assumed that the Bulgarian and Gypsy pupils experience difficulties in training and have some specific needs to advance in their education because of the fact that they have studied in two or more different countries and are not well acquainted with the language and context of what are supposed to be their 'home' culture. A special (targeting) approach is adopted for refugee children from the Middle East who arrived with their parents in Bulgaria more intensively from 2013 onwards from Afghanistan, Syria, Iran, Iraq, and Pakistan. The pupils in school-age are included in the same group of 'vulnerable students' along with Roma pupils assuming that both do not have a good command of Bulgarian language and are at risk of social exclusion.

Keywords: Bulgaria, public schools, refugees, Roma/Gypsies, students

E-mail: magdalenaslavkova@yahoo.com

Ildiko Otova, PhD, and Evelina Staykova, PhD, Assoc. Prof.

Centre for Migration Studies (CERMES), New Bulgarian University

Refugees in Bulgaria: In a Trap between Politics and Polices

Although it was asylum that became the earliest institutionalized form of migration, Bulgaria was totally unprepared for the 2012 situation. Resulting from peaking numbers in asylum applications, new arrivals in the country were confronted with a situation of institutional collapse. Despite ostensible normalization of the situation in the ensuing years, the reception system failed to undergo significant changes. Normalization was due to factors outside the system, and the few implemented changes came in response to the dominant securitarian reading and anti-immigrant sentiment. The implications of the country's location on the Balkan Refugee Route also abruptly introduced migration into the political debate. This coincide with the freezing of policymaking in the area of migration, integration in particular, or of their failure, while a debate is missing – because the political actors do not seek to propose alternative visions, but to ensure who among them would give migration a more negative representation. The two leading trends can be summarized as erecting of walls - a fence along the border as regards the governance of the flows and halting the integration policies as regards the policies of incorporating migrants into society. The article offers both a reading of the legislation and specific provisions in the field of international protection and the reception system, as well a discourse analysis tracing politicization of the topic.

E-mail: ildiko.otova@gmail.com, staikova@gmail.com

Panel VIII Integration and Adaptation of Immigrants 2

Petko Hristov, PhD, Associate Professor

Institute of Ethnology and Folklore Studies with Ethnographic Museum,
Bulgarian Academy of Science
Sofia, Bulgaria

Ukrainian Immigration to Bulgaria in the Last 30 Years – From Marital Migration to Labour Mobility

The paper traces development of various forms of Ukrainian immigration to Bulgaria over the past three decades. The initial educational migration of Bulgarians to Ukraine in the early 1990s was transformed into a reverse marital migration to Bulgaria, which grew into labour immigration in certain sectors. Since the beginning of the new Millennium and especially after Bulgaria's accession to the EU in 2007 and the opening of the European labour market for Bulgarian citizens, our country has become an increasingly desirable destination for labour mobility – seasonal or permanent, for different groups of Ukrainian citizens. The abolition of the EU visa regime for Ukrainian citizens in 2017, war and the deteriorating economic and social picture in Ukraine itself also contributed to this process.

The report will attempt to forecast the dynamics of labour movements from Ukraine to Bulgaria in the coming years.

Keywords: labour mobility, immigration, Ukraine, tourist sector

E-mail: hristov_p@yahoo.com

Catalin Berescu, PhD

Research Institute for Quality of Life,
Romanian Academy
Bucharest, Romania

The Everyday Life of Objects That are Crossing the Borders

Most migration studies focus on the social and psychological experiences of the migrants. People are portrayed primarily from the vantage point of their social integration and their life is largely described as an economic machinery. Usually, customs and values are highlighted, in order to give depth to the cultural difference, to portray the Other. However important, these approaches tend to leave aside the domestic universe of the migrant, one in which we can find a whole universe of everyday objects. I argue that we should not see them just as extradiegetic accessories to the great saga of voluntary displacement, or simply as a sign of accumulation of wealth and status. The main interest of my research is in the humble objects that accompany the travel, that set the initial stage of every new start in a new place, and that aim to give warmth to the spatial insertion of every migrant. The objects of immediate use have a powerful meaning, and this is more visible for the refugees or the early migrants, who sometimes carry peculiar items with them, objects that reveal their fears and needs, objects that are not really necessary, but have an emotional load.

My contribution will present some findings from interviews with Romanian migrants and return migrants that are focused less on their major migration experiences, but on the history of their most common possessions, the ones that are carried around across borders and on which they rely, not necessarily for survival, but for achieving a sense of home, identity and emotional balance.

Keywords: migration, everyday life, home, lifestyle, mobility

E-mail: catalinberescu@gmail.com

Desislava Pileva, PhD, Assistant Professor

Department of Historical Ethnology,
Institute of Ethnology and Folklore Studies with Ethnographic Museum,
Bulgarian Academy of Sciences
Sofia, Bulgaria

Culinary Practices and Taste Negotiations within Bicultural Families in Bulgaria

Through food individuals exchange stories of themselves, their families, lifestyle, background, and experience even. Therefore, among other things, migrants bring along specific cuisine and taste for food into the receiving country, and in the case of intermarriage – within their new intercultural families. In this context, the peculiar co-existence of different culinary traditions within a single household enhances the significance of certain meals as ethno-cultural markers of (self-)identification of both partners and their generation. The different origin of the spouses bring together an interesting set of cuisine traditions (preferences and taboos), cultural differences and resemblances, gender roles and interreligious dialogue in the scope of food and food preparation. The aspiration for providing a permanent supply of foods confirms the significance of the non-local cuisine into families' daily culinary routine. In general, there are two main supply sources of specific foods – the migrant's home country and the local ethnic shops. The first suggests possibilities for transnational travel (maintenance of physical co-presence), while the second provides supplies for those who are “only” here. Over all, the food consumed (and avoided) within a family educates the taste of its members, which however results in preferences towards a given cuisine or towards a unique combination of both. The proposed paper considers bicultural families in Bulgaria between locals and immigrants from Middle East and North African countries. The presentation uses qualitative ethnographic information, gathered within the scope of an ongoing ethnographic research project “Cultural Adaptation and Integration of Immigrants in Bulgaria” (contract No: DN 20/8), supported by the National Science Fund of Bulgaria.

Keywords: (self-)identification; food; physical co-presence; ethnic shops

E-mail: desislava_pileva@abv.bg

Slavka Karakusheva, PhD

Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski
Sofia, Bulgaria

“We are like the Birds...”: Circular Migration through the Bulgarian-Turkish Border

The migration processes of the Turks from Bulgaria to Turkey have been significantly analysed in scholarly literature. Particular attention has been paid to the role of the political agendas of both Bulgarian and Turkish nation states towards the Turkish communities in Bulgaria and how they influenced migration processes during the whole XX c. In this historical perspective, people’s movement has been studied as a one-way, definite as an intention and final as a decision and a direction displacement of Bulgarian citizens of Turkish origin. However, recent social, political, economic, and infrastructural transformations in both national contexts have affected the migration patterns by introducing new dynamics of cross-border mobility. The paper aims at examining one aspect of these recent developments, namely the circular migration through the Bulgarian-Turkish border. It focuses on regular border crossings and sustainable settlements in both national contexts, i.e., on the reestablishment and the reorganization of life trajectories at two locations. The research analyses the emotional alongside the rational factors behind the individual or the family motivation for bi-local residency and discusses people’s adaptation and switching to the different social regimes. By studying the flexibility, multiplicity and diversity of their experiences, the paper reconsiders established border-related spatial concepts in migration studies, arguing for a new form of transborder everyday living and social and spatial connectivity.

Keywords: circular migration, Turks from Bulgaria

E-mail: slavka.karakusheva@gmail.com

Meglana Zlatkova, PhD, Associate Professor

“Paisii Hilendarski” University of Plovdiv

Plovdiv, Bulgaria

Returning to the Home village – Migration and Life Transitions

The paper presents the problem of migration in the frame of the life transitions of the generation of the “children of socialism”. The fieldwork data are based on research in a village in the Eastern Rhodope Mountains, with a specific demographic structure with a predominant number of elderly people.

The aspects of migrations will be analyzed in depth in their social and cultural context through life-trajectories of some of the “active” people, returned to the village and maintaining the community.

The paper will outline some aspects of the larger picture of the aspects of different migrations during the lifetime of the generation of people, born in the beginning of socialism as strategies of coping with different socio-political changes, life choices and life transitions such as – internal rural-urban migration, migration from a small town to a big city, migration abroad, trans-border labor mobility and returning to the (home) village.

E-mail: m_zlatkova@yahoo.com