11th InASEA Conference

In, out and in between

Transnational and internal migration in Southeast Europe

Department of Anthropology
Faculty of Philosophy
University of Prishtina
"Hasan Prishtina"

19-22.09.2024

Venue: Faculty of Philosophy

Book of abstracts

International Association for Southeast European Anthropology
REPUBLIKA E KOSOVËS
MINISTRIA E PUNËVE TË JASHTME DHE DIASPORËS
Komuna e Rahovecit
StoneCastle Vineyards and Winery
IOM UN MIGRATION

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Publisher: Department of Anthropology, Faculty of Philosophy, University of Prishtina "Hasan Prishtina" © 2024
E-mail: antropologjia@uni-pr.edu
Web: https://filozofiku.uni-pr.edu/page.aspx?id=1,66
Design: Arsim Canolli, Tahir Latifi and Tringa Sefedini













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Keynote lecture 1

Russell King

A Tale of Three Scientific Diasporas: Albania, Kosovo and North Macedonia Compared

This keynote talk will present the results of recent and ongoing research into the scientific diasporas spawned by highly educated migrants from the three main Albanian ethnic communities in the Western Balkans. The first part of the lecture will critically discuss the linked concepts of brain drain and scientific diaspora, with special emphasis on the potential development-inducing effects of brain return and at-a-distance involvement of the diaspora. We define scientific diaspora rather narrowly as PhD-holders living and working abroad, plus scholars studying for a PhD abroad. We combine data from large-N online questionnaire surveys with insights from smaller-N in-depth interviews to comparatively explore a range of themes pertinent to the three scientific diasporas. These themes include survey and interview participants' socio-demographic profiles, the destination countries chosen, reasons for emigration, fields of study/research, employment experiences, willingness to return-migrate, conditions for return and forms of collaboration envisaged with the homeland. Some policy issues conclude the presentation.

Short CV

Russell King is Emeritus Professor of Geography at the University of Sussex and Visiting Professor in Migration Studies at Malmö University. He has been teaching and researching on migration for fifty years. At Sussex he founded the Sussex Centre for Migration Research in 1997 and edited the Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies from 2001 to 2013. In recent years he has developed a special interest in migration processes in the Western Balkans and Southeast Europe, with numerous published papers on Albania, Kosovo, Bulgaria, Greece and Turkey. His latest book, co-authored with Nilay Kılınç, is entitled A Place in the Homeland? Turkish-German Return Migration, due to be published by Edinburgh University Press in early 2025.

Keynote lecture 2

Peggy Levitt

Transnational Social Protection: Changing Social Welfare in a World on the Move

Increasing numbers of individuals live for long periods outside their countries of citizenship without full rights or voice as long-term residents without membership. More and more people also live as long-term members without residence, residing outside their native country while still participating in its political and economic life. Over the past three decades, scholars have examined the many kinds of transnational social fields that emerge as a result – i.e., networks, relationships, and institutions that operates across borders. Migrants and nonmigrants co-construct these to earn their livelihoods, claim their political rights and fulfill their political responsibilities, and to protect and provide basic care for their families. These dynamics fundamentally challenge nationally-based social welfare systems in ways that we are just beginning to understand. My talk, based on my new book that is co-authored with Erica Dobbs, Ken Sun, and Ruxandra Paul, will synthesize research on transnational social protection, discusses recent theoretical developments, and offers a new conceptual framework to analyze the interplay of protection, precarity, and transnational migration.

Short CV

Peggy Levitt is the Mildred Lane Kemper Chair of Sociology at Wellesley College and a co-founder of the Global (De)Centre. Her latest book, Transnational Social Protection: Social Welfare Across National Borders (co-authored with Erica Dobbs, Ken Sun, and Ruxandra Paul) was published by Oxford University Press in 2023. Peggy co-directed the Transnational Studies Initiative and the Politics and Social Change Workshop at the Weatherhead Center for International Affairs at Harvard University from 1998-2020. She received Honorary Doctoral Degrees from the University of Helsinki (2017) and from Maastricht University (2014). She has held numerous fellowships and guest professorships including, most recently, at the Rockefeller Center in Bellagio, Italy (2024).

Double Panel: Remittances, Return Migration and (Elusive) Development in Southeastern Europe

Panel Abstract

Can out-migration stimulate the development also of sending regions? This question has been vexing observers in Southeastern Europe ever since the days of massive overseas emigration before World War One. More recently, national governments in tandem with international organizations, such as United Nations and the World Bank, started to implement – or at least to promise – measures to turn out-migration into a "win-win-situation": the sending countries should benefit from it as well, for example through encouraging return migration and investment of migrant remittances into so called "productive" purposes.

In our comparative panel, we want to look closely at a broad array of economic and redistributive practices of (return) migrants and their families in Southeastern Europe. How do they respond to state efforts to support migrant entrepreneurship and return? How do vernacular notions of development and improvement square with official ideas and expert opinions? How does the context, which migration scholars consider crucial for any development effect, actually filter down in practices? Which broader set of rationales and life goals can be observed in economic practices of (return) migrants? How to generational dynamics and care patterns affect migrant strategies? Drawing on a diverse set of approaches, the panel seeks to read migrant practices against hegemonic institutional and ideological frameworks, highlighting the diversity of migrant motives and the importance of local dynamics (in contrast to the simplicity of top-down development models). While mostly drawing on contemporary developments, the panel includes examples also from the rich migration history of socialist Yugoslavia, when the government spent a lot of effort to turn out-migration into a development tool. Their disappointing results might offer lessons for today.

Ulf Brunnbauer

From Hopes to Disillusionment: Researching the Migration-Development Nexus in Socialist Yugoslavia

This paper traces the fate of migration studies in socialist Yugoslavia. Yugoslavia was one of the few sending countries that built up systematic research on the consequences of out-migration quickly after the mass departure of workers had started in the mid-1960s. By the early 1970s, there was top-notch migration research, concentrated in Zagreb at the Center for the Study of Migrations. I argue that, like in many other countries, migration research was closely aligned with policy making. In the Yugoslav context this implied that migration researchers

would focus on the potential development impact of migration, and develop policy recommendations how to achieve the desired developmental effects. However, my research shows that migration scholars became increasingly agnostic about such an effect. Instead, some of the leading migration experts grew critical of the prevailing patterns of economic policy making, deploring for example the reluctance of local communists to support private business. In this situation, the government decided to blame the messenger instead of implementing fundamental reform: the leading migration research center in Yugoslavia was disbanded and replaced by orthodox ideologists. These were less interested in migrant practices than in blaming West European countries for Yugoslavia's economic malaise. More generally, this paper contributes to the role of expert knowledge in formulating the migration-and-development nexus.

Short CV

Ulf Brunnbauer is Academic Director of the Leibniz Institute for East and Southeast European Studies and Professor of the History of Southeastern and Eastern Europe at the University of Regensburg (since 2008). He was awarded a PhD in history by the University of Graz (1999) and a habilitation in history by the Free University of Berlin (2006). He published widely on the history of migration (mainly out-migration) and the politics of migration in Southeastern Europe, for example in his book *Globalizing Southeastern Europe* (2016). He currently directs a collaborative project on migrant entrepreneurs in Kosovo and Serbia.

Sara Žerić Đulović

Small Businesses in Socialist Yugoslavia: Opportunities for Returnees or Stumbling Blocks to Economic Development?

After several years of negotiations about the development of the small business in Yugoslavia, 1980 was finally the turning point. In the midst of the economic crisis, inflation and lack of foreign currency, new hope was offered to smaller labor organizations, as well as private individuals and independent businessmen. On the other hand, a glimmer of hope was also offered to migrants - especially after the annexations of 1970 showed that a large number of them would return to the country if they could have their own business. The small economy has become an ideal model for the development of smaller towns and settlements, but only in theory. What was supposed to be the salvation of Yugoslav development and an opportunity for the partial return of Yugoslav guest workers, soon became a stumbling block to development. Legal regulations did not benefit

anyone, least to all those who already had a business abroad. They, on the other hand, preferred to delay their return to the country, rather than invest foreign currency in something that would not pay off in the end. Ultimately, the small business outcome failed to materialize. With the disintegration of the state, that small glimmer of hope about the small economy as a driving force behind the development of the Yugoslav economy also disintegrated. This paper examines what all contributed to the failure of the small business in socialist Yugoslavia, with an emphasis on the return of migrants. Nevertheless, this paper will consider several successful cases of return of Yugoslav guest workers thanks to investments in the small business. In this connection, the focus is on the labor rights of returnees, tax measures and customs regulations.

Short CV
Sara Žerić Đulović earned her BA (2017) and MA (2020) degrees in history from the University of Pula. In 2019 she received a Chancellor's Award for Student Excellence. Since September 2020, she is a volunteer assistant in the Centre for Cultural and Historical Research of Socialism. In October 2021 she started a doctoral program at the University of Regensburg and since then she has been working on her doctoral thesis "Gastarbeiters as agents of development in Socialist Yugoslavia". From July 2022, she has been working at the IOS as a research associate at the project "Transnational Families, Farms and Firms: Migrant Entrepreneurs in Kosovo and Serbia Since the 1960s".

Vanya Ivanova

From New Economic Niches to Contributing to the Larger Society: Motives of (Sustainable) Return of Bulgarian Citizens

Return migration to Bulgaria is a topic that has intensified in the media coverage and is part of the political agenda in a variety of contexts, either when it comes to the Bulgarian ethnic diaspora, or the new emigration after the changes from 1989 on. Mentioned and seen as an asset for a country with a demographic decline, concrete measures are rather obscure and remain mainly on paper. The Minister of Finance of the current government, during the debates on the country budget in the end of 2023, stated that the increase in income, investments, and better economic situation, in general, will bring back many Bulgarians home, being himself educated abroad and returnee to Bulgaria. However, non-governmental and private initiatives (like the organization created by returnees "Here-There", the campaign "Bulgaria Wants You" and others) remain most supportive in

provoking and sustaining the return of Bulgarians, especially through informing about labour possibilities, through Job Fairs abroad, as well as constantly advertising national and international companies' job offers and free positions on their websites and social media platforms. Besides the pure economic motives, COVID-19 provoked a return triggered by emotional and social motives – like being close to the family, helping relatives, and contributing to the larger society through volunteering practices. The paper is based on a qualitative ethnographic study including observations and in-depth interviews with younger and older returnees started in 2010, which is, on one hand, longitudinal – as the initial set of returnees were interviewed 10 years later, and on the other hand – up-to-date with a growing data set of interviews with new returnees. One of the highlights of the longitudinal study is that the majority of the highly qualified returnees aged 35 – 45 have passed through different stages of career development, to finally find themselves in the private sector, creating their innovative business initiatives.

Short CV

Vanya Evtimova Ivanova has been a researcher at the Institute of Ethnology and Folklore Studies with Ethnographic Museum of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences in Sofia since 2020. Before joining the institute she worked a researcher at the Center for European Refugees Migration and Ethnic Studies of the New Bulgarian University for more than a decade, where she was also awarded her PhD in 2015 (with a dissertation on "Return Policies: Comparative Analysis of the Highly Qualified Migration in Bulgaria and Bosnia and Herzegovina"). She has published widely on migration and refugees issues concerning Bulgaria and Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Judith Möllers, Tom Dufhues & Janine Pinkow-Läpple

A Typification of Rural Migrant Entrepreneurs

This paper discusses the entrepreneurial potential of rural migrants who accumulate resources during their time abroad. These individuals not only send financial resources to their origin countries but also share knowledge and practices. These tangible and intangible resources hold immense potential for development and can spark social change and entrepreneurial activity. Typically, a higher proportion of migrants (both returning and otherwise) become entrepreneurs than other members of the population. As such, (in-)tangible remittances and return migration can be catalysts for entrepreneurial activity.

Our research is exploratory and based on qualitative data, focusing on under-researched rural areas in Kosovo. The purpose is to enhance our understanding of the relationship between remittances, migration, and rural entrepreneurship by examining migrant entrepreneurship and the driving resources in Kosovo. Ultimately, we aim to identify a typology of rural migrant entrepreneurs.

Short CVs

Judith Möllers is Deputy Head of the Department of Agricultural Policy at IAMO in Halle/Saale, Germany. She is an agricultural economist and has been a senior scientist at IAMO since 2006. She wrote her PhD thesis on rural non-farm diversification in transition processes at Hohenheim University, Germany. Her current areas of expertise and professional interest include rural livelihoods, migration, rural non-farm employment, rural poverty, structural change in transition, and the impacts of EU accession on rural livelihoods. The geographical focus of her research is mainly on Southeast Europe.

Tom Dufhues is a Researcher at IAMO, working in the Department External Environment for Agriculture and Policy Analysis. He joined IAMO in 2005. He was awarded a PhD in agricultural economics by the University of Hohenheim with a dissertation on rural finance in Vietnam. He also worked at Philipps-University of Marburg, Technical University of Munich, and Martin Luther University in Halle (Saale). His current areas of expertise and professional interest focus on rural areas in transformation countries in Southeast Europe and Central and Southeast Asia.

Janine Pinkow-Läpple is a doctoral researcher at the Leibniz Institute of Agricultural Development in Transition Economies (IAMO) and Humboldt University of Berlin. Prior to that she obtained a Master's degree in Peace Research and International Politics at the Eberhard Karls University of Tübingen. Her areas of expertise and professional interest include return migration, social/intangible remittances and female migration. The geographical focus of her research is Southeast Europe. She currently writes her doctoral thesis on social remittances (Working title: "From Social to Intangible Remittances: A Conceptual Recalibration).

Caroline Hornstein Tomić, Janine Pinkow-Läpple & Ana Budimir

"Biram Hrvatsku": Exploring the ´return migration and development´ nexus in peripheral regions in Croatia

With "Biram Hrvatsku" (I choose Croatia), the Croatian government has laid out a policy measure aimed at incentivizing the return of Croatian internal and

transnational migrants to “economically less developed and demographically weakened areas” in Croatia´s periphery. By supporting return migration and investment in such regions, the spiral of demographic shrinking and economic decline is supposed to be reverted. Our study explores the relationship between policy intentions and outcomes, as well as the benefits and beneficiaries of the ‘Biram Hrvatsku’ program. Through a selection of case studies, we investigate the experiences of return migrants, primarily from Germany, who have established themselves in designated areas targeted by the policy. By tracing their paths, we aim to better understand the factors that enable or hinder return migration contributing to (local) development. In addition, we seek to establish, why from its launch the program has been exposed in local media as failing to reach its aim of spurring local revitalisation and development. Ultimately, our research contributes to filling a significant gap since academic literature on return migration and development has largely overlooked peripheral areas.

Short CVs

Caroline Hornstein Tomić is Senior Researcher at the Institute of Social Sciences Ivo Pilar in Zagreb, specializing on high-skilled and return migration, diaspora and identity politics, post-socialist transformation processes, and civic education. She is a Co-Founder and Managing Partner of the pan-European non-profit THE CIVICS Innovation Hub and of the Croatian NGO Znanje na djelu, and a Board Member of the European Forum Alpbach Foundation. She has worked also in the public sector, last as Operative Division Head at the German Federal Agency for Civic Education (2016-2018), and as Resident Representative of the Konrad-Adenauer-Foundation in Bosnia-Hercegovina (2001-2005).

Janine Pinkow-Läpple is a doctoral researcher at the Leibniz Institute of Agricultural Development in Transition Economies (IAMO) and Humboldt University of Berlin. Prior to that she obtained a Master’s degree in Peace Research and International Politics at the Eberhard Karls University of Tübingen. Her areas of expertise and professional interest include return migration, social/intangible remittances and female migration. The geographical focus of her research is Southeast Europe. She currently writes her doctoral thesis on social remittances (Working title: “From Social to Intangible Remittances: A Conceptual Recalibration).

Ana Budimir is a doctoral researcher at the Faculty of Political Science, University of Zagreb. Prior to her position as a teaching and research assistant, she obtained a Master of Philosophy in Development Studies degree from the University of Oxford, UK; an MA in Political Science from the University of Zagreb, and a double BA in Political Science and Economics from the

University of Zagreb. She is also a consultant for the Word Bank, where she works on projects related to regional development, innovation and migrations. In addition, she also manages a non-for-profit initiative *Leading Utilities of the World,* which connects best water utilities worldwide and helps them share and foster innovations.

Carolin Leutloff-Grandits

Tapping into the diaspora: institutional attempts to strengthen the potential of the Kosovar diaspora to support their homeland

This presentation deals with the various efforts of governmental and non-governmental institutions to strengthen the relations of the Kosovar diaspora, especially the second generation, with their homeland and to increase the role of the diaspora in the development of the homeland. It asks what fields of action these institutions focus on to strengthen relations, what kind of relations they envision, especially with regard to the financial and social remittances expected from the diaspora, and what kind of discourses they use for their understanding of development and for attracting diaspora members. In addition, the relationships between the different actors: state, non-state and international actors, and how this reflects the positions of diaspora members vis-à-vis these actors will be explored. Thus, the presentation aims to critically reflect on the institutional landscape in relation to the promotion of the nexus between migration and development in Kosovo. The presentation is based on the ongoing ethnographic field research on migrant entrepreneurs in Kosovo that started in 2021.

Short CV
Carolin Leutloff-Grandits, PD Dr. phil., is a social anthropologist and a senior researcher at the interdisciplinary Viadrina Center B/ORDERS IN MOTION at the European University Viadrina. She received her PhD from the Martin-Luther University in Halle (Saale) and her habilitation (Venia legendi) in social anthropology from the University of Vienna and conducts research on migration, borders, social security, care and family, particularly in the countries of the former Yugoslavia and Germany, including the former inner-German border region. Her recent monograph is *Translocal Care Across Kosovo's Borders. Reconfiguring Kinship Along Gender and Generational Lines* (Berghahn 2023).

Nebi Bardhoshi

An Ethnographic Study of an Abandoned Area

In 2018, two ethnographic fieldworks were conducted in the Opari region of Albania, with the objective of gathering data on its historical background and current conditions in areas affected by depopulation. The data collection process has continued using social network ethnography, and a third expedition is scheduled for July 2024 to further this research.The significant exodus that occurred after the decline of the socialist regime [1990-1992] played a pivotal role in selecting Opari as the field site for ethnographic investigation. Furthermore, the absence of anthropological publications for this area also influenced the decision to conduct ethnographic research in this region. Notably, a comprehensive ethnographic report on Opari was archived by Rrok Zojzi in 1951, providing insights into demographics, emigration, social structure, material culture, economy, popular astronomy, religious beliefs, and particularly, the craft of house construction. This report and other published or archived data have served to formulate key questions and observe socio-cultural transformations during socialism and post-socialism.This presentation will delve into the social conditions of living in an abandoned area over the past three decades. The talk will unfold as follows: firstly, an exploration of daily life within the depopulated area will be provided; next, an examination of local perspectives on emigration and its causes during the post-socialist era will be discussed. In the third part, data will be presented on the issue of road construction, house building or reconstruction, the restoration and preservation of sacred sites and monuments, community and individuals rights on natural resources. These four topics are analyzed as cultural domains where people's relationships with the state within this specific social context are negotiated.

Short CV

Prof. Dr. Nebi Bardhoshi is a member of the Department of Ethnology at the Institute of Anthropology in Tirana. He is the author of several monographs, including *Border Stones: Customary Law, Ownership, Social Structuration* (2011), *An Anthropology of the Kanun* (2015), and *Ethnography under Dictatorship: Knowledge, the State, and 'Our Holocaust'* (2018), co-authored with Olsi Lelaj. Bardhoshi has authored numerous academic articles and has also served as a co-editor for scientific volumes. Additionally, he is a co-founder of the Laboratory of Visual Anthropology in Prizren and the Laboratory of Urban Anthropology in Kamza.

Siray Lengerli Aydemir

In the Pursuit of Conceptual Metaphors: The Vocabulary of Refuge-seeking

and Migration in Turkish Media

Being a complicated issue of all times, migration has particularly made its mark on the new century with new challenges and new meanings defined with more negative connotations such as crisis, conflict, trouble, imbalance, dilemma, escape, barrier, exclusion or, with more euphemistic expressions that include powerful and a protectionist stance such as a door to a new life, hope, shelter, tolerance, hosting, benevolence and many others ranging from extreme ones to more neutral linguistic forms. This observation has brought us to the idea that migration and refuge seeking is not only an issue of socially dynamic cases or international relations but has already become an unavoidable and inevitable part of language. Now, there is a specific and deliberate language surrounding migration and refuge seeking.

This presentation aims to decipher the concept of migration, migrants and refuge-seeking in a discursive environment and how they are constructed within a metaphorical context. The study analyses news about migration and refuge-seeking issued by TRT website, (Turkish Radio and Television Corporation) which is the state broadcaster and national TV and radio channel and, Anadolu/ Anatolia Agency website, the state-run news agency, in the light of George Lakoff and Mark Johnson's Conceptual Metaphor Theory in their book Metaphors We Live By. The theory claims that metaphors are not only aesthetic devices of language that decorate it with niceties, but also due to belonging to our cognitive processes, they are hidden in the concepts such as argument (argument is war), time (time is money), or even in prepositions such as in, out, up. The presentation includes metaphorical expressions in the news within a migration context that are related to various conceptual fields referring to Lakoff and Johnson's Conceptual Metaphor Theory. The news issued between 2023-2024 are collected and specific metaphorical expressions are detected by referring to the theory.

Short CV

Siray Lengerli Aydemir received her BA degree in English Linguistics from Hacettepe University, Ankara, in 2002. She completed her Master's degree at Atılım University, Ankara, in the Department of International Relations in 2006. She completed her PhD studies in English Culture and Literature at Atılım University in 2019. Currently, she works as a lecturer in the Department of English Translation and Interpretation at Atılım University and she actively gives courses on Current Issues, European Culture and Institutions, Translation Theory and Criticism and, Discourse Analysis. Her research interests include colonial discourse, discursive resistance, power and, interdisciplinary studies on

critical discourse analysis.

Anca Filipovici

Exploring individual experiences within a collective dream: Aliyah, the post-war migration to Palestine of Zionist Jews from Romania

Migration has been a persistent theme throughout the extensive history of European Jews. By the late 19th century, migration transformed into a political project and an identity-defining journey with the advent of Zionism. Originating in Central Europe as a response to antisemitism, Zionism spread in Romania too. The ideology experienced a resurgence in the interwar period, evolving into the overarching national movement of European Jews striving for the establishment of a sovereign state in Palestine. Amidst the Holocaust, Zionist youth movements in Romania grappled with the challenge of assisting Jewish victims, often facilitating their clandestine voyages to Palestine via illegal boats, notably through the port of Constanța. After 1945, Zionist movements regrouped and established training centers (hachshara) all over the country with the mission to prepare the Jewish survivors for what will later be known as the mass migration of the Romanian Jews during communism.
Within this framework, my historical analysis delves into the individual experiences of Aliyah among young Zionist Jews from Romania. This examination relies on their written memoirs and testimonies sourced from the Fortunoff Oral Archive, complemented by archival materials from Romania (including the Secret Police archive) and Israel (specifically, the Moreshet and Ghetto Fighters' House archives). These experiences illuminate various facets of migration, including distinct forms of Jewish identity and belonging, navigating the tension between the homeland of the past and the promised heimat of the future. The narratives also delve into the complex relationships with the country of origin, underscored by the tragic return to Romania for some migrants who became victims of Zionist trials in the early 1950s. Additionally, the analysis explores the practices of colonial settlement in the kibbutzim of Palestine, unraveling encounters with "another Otherness" — the Arabs and the local Jewish community. The central argument of the paper posits that while Aliyah is commonly perceived as a unified national aspiration among Zionist Jews, individual accounts offer a more nuanced perspective, unveiling the intricate nature of an experience that is collectively lived but ultimately leaves a profound impact on the individual.

Short CV

Anca Filipovici, a researcher at the Romanian Institute for Research on National Minorities (Cluj-Napoca, Romania), holds a PhD in history from the Babeș-Bolyai University of Cluj (2013) and is the author of numerous articles and studies on topics such as nationalism and ethnicity, the history of youth and education and the history of the Jews in Romania. Since October 2023, she is the recipient of the C. and N. Weickart Postdoc Fellowship at the Fritz Bauer Institute, Frankfurt am Main. In 2022, she was awarded a Fortunoff fellowship at the Vienna Wiesenthal Institute for Holocaust Studies.

Filip Boberić & Ines Chrťan

Narratives of belonging, conflict and solidarity: What do forced and labour postYugoslav migrations have in common?

Presented paper explores two cases of post-Yugoslav migrations with seemingly completely different character that were researched separately: one of contemporary labour migrations from Serbia to Slovakia, and the other of forced migrations from Croatia and Bosnia and Hercegovina to Serbia during the Yugoslav wars. Analysis of these two cases is based on qualitative data collected separately in Slovakia (July-September 2020 and September 2022-September 2023) and Vojvodina (August-November 2022) through ethnographic fieldworks based on narrative methods supported by participant observations. Focusing on the processes of making sense of disintegration of socialist Yugoslavia and subsequent social, economic and political transformations, the aim of this paper is to find out how migrants from both of these backgrounds build narratives about belonging by continually constructing, reshaping or erasing boundaries between countries, regions, societies and cultures. The issue is examined through the prism of transnational migration paradigm (Glick Schiller et al., 1992), which emphasizes the multilocal social networks of migrants connecting "guest" and "home" society.Furthermore, narratives tackling the experience of (transnational) migration and transformation of social relationships are analysed as a part of what could be termed 'post-Yugoslav spaces of dialogue and discourse' inspired by intersectional, situational and critical constructivist approaches to the questions of belonging, identity, social conflicts and solidarity (e.g. Jansen, 1998, 2005; Werbner, 2002, 2019). Keywords: forced migration, transnational migration, belonging, post-Yugoslav context, narratives.

Short CVs

Filip Boberić is a PhD student at the Institute of Social Anthropology at the Comenius University, Faculty of Social and Economic Sciences in Bratislava,

Slovakia. His ethnographic research work deals with the processes of post-Yugoslav transformation through various critical constructivist lenses. Main issues that his research interests encompass are the consequences of displacements induced by the Yugoslav wars, (de)construction of nationalist and antinationalist narratives, belonging, identity politics and (co)ethnicity, the politics and culture of consumption, and the politics of urban space.

Ines Chrt'an is a PhD Student of social anthropology at the Comenius University, Faculty of Social and Economic Sciences in Bratislava, Slovakia. Her main area of interest lies in economic anthropology, with focus on migration, gender and labour, as well as intersections of these phenomena. She has done multi-sited fieldwork in Serbia and Slovakia, focusing on transnational labour migration between these two countries. Currently, she is writing her doctoral thesis on gender dynamics in the context of transnational migration from Serbia to Slovakia. She has been a board member of Slovak Association of Social Anthropology since 2021.

Kalina Yordanova

Melancholic response to war violence and forced migration

This paper outlines some psychological aspects of experiences of expulsion and forced migration. Informed by psychology and anthropology, it uses clinical findings from the psychological consultations of Syrian refugees and migrants to Southeast Europe, and namely to Greece and Bulgaria. It shows that forced migration as a consequence of war constructs a depressive response of a melancholic type in a huge number of migrants. The paper also suggests an intergenerational aspect to this response. Children on the move are exposed to violent content without having the emotional and cognitive maturity to grasp it. As a result, they need their parents to help them understand their experience, but parents, on the other hand, are absorbed by their own unresolved traumatic past and are not able to deal with their children's anxieties. Thus, children identify with their parents' prolonged grief and with the unconscious assumption that forced migration has robbed them of opportunities.The paper introduces the social aspects of expulsion, too. Having lost families, home and networks, and often drifting to the new environment's periphery, migrants tend to regard host countries with ambivalence as an expression of inner vulnerabilities. Psychoanalyst Darian Leader (2008) argues that the destruction of the social tissue of communities and the subsequent solitude in exile prevent mourners from further integration since they feel they belong neither to the home country, nor to the host one.Finally, from a wider international perspective, forced

migration stirs a rather xeno-racist discourse. While armed conflicts call for humanitarian action, it also fuels debates nationally on how many refugees and migrants can be accepted by each country. The subsequent rise of European ultra-right-wing parties massively projects feelings of chaos and badness into the newcomers, who find themselves, as the object of such projections, outside the others' compassionate response and imbued with hostility (Varvin, 2017).

Short CV
Kalina Yordanova is a clinical psychologist and anthropologist. She holds a MA degree in Clinical Psychology (Sofia University), a MA degree in Central and East European Studies (UCL, UK) and a Doctoral Degree in Anthropology and Psychoanalysis (UCL, UK). She has published on the topics of memory transmission, the break-up of Yugoslavia and forced migration. Her fieldwork was in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Kalina Yordanova is part of Doctors Without Borders' mental health team (MSF). Her last assignment was in Athens as a Mental Health Activity Manager of MSF France. Over the last 10 years, she has been working with refugees of war and victims of torture, mainly from Syria and Iraq.

Dimitar V. Atanassov

Forcible Migrations as Interpreted by Bulgarian historiography: Three Cases

The paper aims at examining three cases from different periods of Bulgarian history as how they are interpreted in Bulgarian historiography. The first one is related to forcible displacements, caused by Bulgarian rulers during the Middle ages. It could be stated that these events, even though carried out with significant violence, they are still considered in a positive light by Bulgarian Medievalist establishment. The second one is the forcible migration by Turkish people, which took place during the Russian-Ottoman war from 1877-1878. Its humanitarian value it still concealed as "agrarian transformation". The third episode is related to the late 1980-ties, when 360 000 of Bulgarian citizens with Turkish background migrated to Turkey as a consequence of the mass personal names change campaign, run by the Bulgarian socialist state. The event, even though made alongside with violent measures, is still interpreted by academic historiography as positive.The research conducts an attempt to analyze the reasons why forcible migrations, being caused as a result of state policy, are regarded as "meeting the necessity" and in an undoubtedly positive way.

Short CV
Dimitar Atanassov works as senior assistant professor at the Institute for Ethnology and Folklore Studies, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences. His academic interests lie in the areas of history of Balkans, medieval history, Orthodox philosophy and theology, history of philosophy, anthropology of history, history of ideas, ideological representations of history, historiography analysis, (ab-) uses of the past.

Spyridon Triantafyllou

Migration Profile of Asylum Seekers in Greece

According to the UNHCR, more than 70,000 migrants have stranded in Greece since 2016, while their asylum process is still pending. Reviewing data provided from the Greek Ministry of Migration and Asylum, Greece has been gradually transformed to a "host country", and thus responsible for all migrants residing in its territory. The fundamental aim of my doctoral thesis is to study the profiles of asylum seekers who arrived in Greece in the period 2017-2019, and, based on their skills and education, to predict how many of them will stay and ultimately be integrated in the EU labor markets. One of the main hypotheses is that the most skillful migrants will eventuallyleave Greece after granted asylum and live in other EU countries with proven capacity to integrate them. Having interviewed almost 1,000 asylum seekers arriving from 2017 and onwards, it is suggested that there is an association between the skillset of a migrant and the destination country. Several actors are examined, confirming that it is probable for skillful migrants with an intention to migrate to finally resettle in Europe, while unskillful migrants to not achieve that and finally stay in Greece. Adopting the "Probits" model, the most important conclusions are: a) migrants who have completed tertiary and secondary education, have a skillset, and those with relatives in the EU are more likely to be integrated in an EU country, and b) there is a positive association between migrants who have been granted asylum or subsidiary protection and have a skills framework, which strengthens the first conclusion.

Short CV
The author is PhD Candidate at University of Macedonia (Thessaloniki, Greece) and he conducts research in field of migration and integration in Greece. He is Senior Officer of Hellenic Police and currently serves in the Office of Police Inspector General for Northern Greece (Thessaloniki, Greece). His latest publications is Triantafyllou, S. (2023). *Migration Profiles of Asylum Seekers in Greece. Proceedings of the International Conference on Humanitarian*

Crisis Managment (KRISIS 2023), M. Drakaki, D. Vega (eds). Institute for the Management of Refugee Flows and Crises, University Research Center, International Hellenic University.

Double Panel: Unexpected guests: The migration of the nonhuman in Southeast Europe

In the last few years environmental anthropology – theoretical and ethnographic perspectives on the human society relations with the non-humans in a symmetrical approach – have proliferated worldwide. In the time of Anthropocene, that is when human became a geological force, the boundaries between humans and nonhumans, between nature and culture become blurred (Chakrabarty 2009; Fredengren 2018). The actual climatic regime (Latour 2018) is a time of crisis in which human and nonhuman are equally threatened. This becomes all the way more important in Southeast Europe as both political regimes - socialism and postsocialism –had appalling environmental consequences. Thus, in Anthropocene, we cannot write anthropology without taking nonhuman into account. This panel is set to explore the movement of nonhuman species as a consequence of economic and political changes in Southeast Europe. The outmigration of humans due to dire socio-economic conditions of late neoliberalism left behind not an emptied space but a space that invited other species to settle in. The rural dilapidated houses devoid of human presence become shelter for other species such as jackal (Canis aureus) whilst the rewilded Danubian islands become the house of Amorpha fruticose to give only two examples. With this panel we try to move attention towards a more than human ethnography in which the movement of human population triggered the movement of nonhuman as well. The theoretical ambit of this panel is twofold. First, the panel attempts to bring more-than-human anthropology into the anthropological mainstream. Second, the panel sets to contribute to building an anthropology of more-than-human with ethnographic materials from Southeast Europe.

Stefan Dorondel

The Globalization of Nonhumans. A Theoretical Approach

This paper invites to theoretical reflection on what is called in the ecological literature “invasive species”. Based on long time fieldwork in Bulgaria and Romania, the paper will set the theoretical coordinates of the invasive species

literature seeking to open new avenues for the ethnographic work in Southeast Europe. I show that this topic has at least two paramount coordinates. One coordinate is a real interdisciplinarity as the topic requests a close collaboration between anthropologists and natural sciences scholars such as biologists, geographers, climatologists, and limnologists. Second, the methodology engaged for studying this topic has to be expanded from the usual ethnographic tools towards other types of observation such as following the animals' footprints. As Nils Bubandt, Astrid Oberborbeck and Rachel Cypher (2022) have pointed out, ethnographic research of the Anthropocene requires new tools and an increased attentiveness to more-than-human existence. With this paper, I seek to draw a theoretical line of the panel, suggest new research avenues for the anthropology of Southeast Europe and set new types of epistemologies more appropriate for the Anthropocene.

Short CV

Stefan Dorondel is interested in environmental anthropology and environmental history of Southeast Europe with a focus on rivers, wetlands, and floodplains and on the entanglements of human and nonhuman in these landscapes. He was the PI of the danislands project (https://danislandsproject.wordpress.com), the author of *Disrupted Landscapes. State, Peasants and the Politics of Land in Postsocialist Romania* (Berghahn, Oxford & New York, 2016) and co-editor of *A New Ecological Order. Development and the Transformation of Nature in Eastern Europe* (Pittsburgh University Press, 2022) among other publications.

Petar Petrov

Newcomers to (former) agricultural lands in depopulated rural areas in Bulgaria

Villages in (semi-)mountainous areas in Bulgaria has been characterized by depopulation since the mid-20th century. At the turn of the century, in post-socialist economic context, the rural exodus became mainstream. As a consequence of rural flight, but also of socio-economic problems and uncertainties, agricultural activities decreased significantly and got spatially limited mostly to the home-gardens and the gardens/fields close to the villages. Arable fields turned into grasslands; some of them were neglected or completely abandoned. They were colonized by weeds, ferns, shrubs and trees that benefited from land-use changes, particularly from land abandonment. Since also the number of grazing livestock animals decreased, animals could not help keeping the growth of "unwanted" plants under control by grazing and tramping.Based

on ethnographic and botanical fieldwork (interviews, observations, relevé sampling of vegetation) and archival research, this paper will present particular cases of changes in vegetation that are linked to changes in land use and, thus, to human (in)activities. It will show why and how some plant species establish themselves in abandoned or poorly/partially managed land that is "attractive" to these new settlers. People, plants and animals will be viewed as coauthors of land cover change and landscape transformations.The study is conducted within the framework of the project "The Neighbour from Sofia, the New Villager from Germany: Counterurbanisation, Socio-Cultural Interactions and Local Transformations", supported by the National Science Fund of Bulgaria, Contract No. КП-06-Н70/10 (2022–2025).

Short CV

Petar Petrov is an ethnologist at the Institute of Ethnology and Folklore Studies with Ethnographic Museum, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences. His fields of interest include rural anthropology, environmental anthropology, agricultural transformations, cultural practices of gardening and farming, landscape change.

Svetoslava Toncheva

Governing human-wildlife interaction in the Anthropocene: human-bear coexistence in the Rhodope mountains of Bulgaria

The question of non-human roles in conservation and more precisely - how to appropriately represent non-human nature in conservation governance and decision making has given rise to number of hot debates. Grassroot movements, emerging around the world (commonly described as ecocentrism), scientific quests and proposals (generalized as the 'post human turn'), have all aimed to promote the more-than-human perspectives and attribute equal importance to all forms of (animate) life. However, their relative failure to translate in conservation decision making has again given rise to the question how to appropriately represent non-humans in conservation governance for more inclusive and just conservation in the Anthropocene. This paper aims to direct the attention namely to multispecies governance by exploring a case of human-bear coexistence in the Rodopi mountains of Bulgaria, where outmigration and postsocialist transformations have emptied space for brown bears in areas previously inhabited or managed by local populations. It explores the process of locally inspired human and non-human "agency and creativity" in the construction of institutions (regulations) governing the novel human-bear relations in the area.

Short CV
Svetoslava Toncheva is associate professor in environmental anthropology, Institute of Ethnology and Folklore Studies in the Ethnographic Museum, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences. Her research focuses on human-nonhuman interactions, convivial conservation, multispecies ethnography and large carnivores. She is a research partner in "Wild Rodopi" NGO, working on brown bear conservation, the author of the monograph "Humans and bears. Politics and coexistence models" (in Bulgarian) and number of other publications in international peerreviewed journals.

Stelu Serban

"Migration" of fluvial islands. The case of Bulgarian – Romanian border area

Borders in general are aimed at performing functions of separation and control. This is even more evident in the case of political borders, borders that separate administrative-political entities such as states. However, far from being mere territorial demarcations, political borders are characterized by asymmetrical development of institutions, authorities, and daily practices. The paper approaches the case of two islands Vajaietoarea, recognized as belonging to Romania, and Bezimen, Bulgarian, now united and very close to the Bulgarian bank. The islands locate 15 km far from Bulgarian town Tutrakan. At the beginning of the 20th century there was only Vajaietoarea, a small island towards the Romanian shore, the thalweg/border passing through the middle of the main riverbed of the Danube. Still Vajaietoarea has continuously "migrated" to the Bulgarian bank and after changing the fairway in the 1980 merged with the newly appeared Bulgarian island of Bezimen. The local people and the state agencies as well use in common the new territory, but sometimes disputes and even open conflicts arise. This paper is set to understand the migration of Danubian islands and its effects (agency) on both state agencies and local population and propose the formulation of concepts such as "environmental border". This concept would ease the inclusion of in delimiting borders between states.

Short CV
Stelu Şerban is a sociologist at the Institute for Southeast European Studies, Bucharest, interested in post-socialist transformations in Southeast Europe, ethnicity, political ecology. He recently co-edited *A New Ecological Order. Development and the Transformation of Nature in Eastern Europe* (Pittsburgh

University Press, 2022). He published in international peer-reviewed journals such as Journal of Balkan and Near East Studies, Environment and History, Canadian Journal of Development Studies, Nationalities Papers, Environmental Values.

Lehel Peti

Transnational Migration and Integration Strategies: a Study of two Pentecostal Roma Communities from Eastern Romania

The paper analyzes the social impact of the migration practices of two Moldavian Pentecostal Roma communities. The economic survival of one of the Roma community is for the most part based on migration primarily to Western and Northern European countries for the purpose of begging (begging migration). Another segment of the community migrates to Western European countries with the purpose of longer term migration/settling down (mostly United Kingdom, France and Germany). The migration of the other Roma community from the same microregion concentrates exclusively on Western Europe and while many of them succeeded to settle down in the Western European countries, some of them has invested their incomes in agriculture and started local farms. The paper aims to present the modernization trajectory of Roma communities in Moldavia that have gained significant financial resources compared to the Romanian community as a result of migration. What will be the relationship of the Roma from Moldavia settling abroad for the long term with the villages where they started large-scale construction? I will show the importance of the religious capital in the organizing of migration and I will argue that an important function of Pentecostal conversion is to present the positive social transformations that have taken place in the wake of migration as the "readiness/ability to modernize" and a willingness to integrate themselves into the larger society.

Short CV
Lehel Peti graduated in 2004 from Babeş–Bolyai University (Cluj-Napoca, Romania), specializing in ethnography and Hungarian language and literature. Also followed an MA course at the Hungarian Department of Ethnography and Anthropology and was awarded the PhD-degree in 2010. At present he is a researcher at the Romanian Institute for Research on National Minorities. He was also a member of the EAST-WEST (Vernacular religion on the boundary of Eastern and Western Christianity: continuity, changes and interactions) research team conducted by professor Éva Pócs, project funded by ERC Advanced Grant. His current research project focuses on Pentecostal communities in eastern

Romania.

Mimoza Dushi

Integration Perspectives Across Generations: Examining the Perception of Integration Among Kosovan Migrants in Germany and Switzerland, with a Focus on Children

This article explores the integration experiences of Kosovar Albanian migrants in Western European countries, particularly Germany and Switzerland, prominent destinations since the early 1960s. Originally arriving as guest workers with intentions of a temporary stay, many chose permanent residence, laying the groundwork for the Kosovar diaspora. Serving as catalysts, these migrants played a crucial role in constructing the diaspora, triggering subsequent migration flows, including asylum-seekers, refugees, economic migrants, and family reunification. Drawing on 53 biographical interviews conducted between 2014 and 2016 with parents in Germany and Switzerland, the research question guiding this exploration is: How do the biographical accounts of Kosovar Albanian migrants in Western European countries reflect the challenges and strategies involved in their integration, especially for the first and second generations, and how do these experiences shape the broader understanding of migration dynamics and diaspora formation? The aim of this research is to contribute nuanced insights to the comprehension of migration processes and inform strategies for effective integration policies. The integration journey for these migrants has been challenging, marked by low-wage jobs, limited upward mobility, language barriers, and various obstacles. Despite these challenges, many brought their families, actively engaging in and contributing to the host countries' societies. The second generation, primarily the children of these migrants, experienced a comparatively smoother integration process, growing up in improved economic conditions, adopting diverse strategies, excelling in bilingualism, pursuing education, and securing employment, fostering a sense of integration into both society and the labor market.

Short CV

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Mimoza Dushi is a full-time faculty member in the Department of Geography, Faculty of Mathematical and Natural Sciences at the University of Pristina. Currently serving as a Fulbright Visiting Scholar at The George Washington University in Washington, DC, USA, Dr. Dushi earned her PhD in Demography in 2009 from the University of Prishtina. Over the course of her career, she has taken on various roles, including principal investigator at the ICM-

RRPP project, a post-doc researcher at the University of Innsbruck in Austria, and conducted post-doctoral research at GWU in DC, USA. Her research spans migration, labor mobility, labor and migration politics, demography, population dynamics, census, and qualitative research.

Milena Benovska

Social Networks and Social Capital in the Everyday Life of the Bulgarian Migrants in Atlanta, Georgia

Thirty years after the end of socialism, emigration from Bulgaria is one of the most significant processes shaping the development of the country. The population of the country has decreased by app. 2 million people during the last thirty years: from just over 9 million in 1989 to just over 7 million in 2018. Along with negative natural growth, emigration is the second major factor in the shrinking demographic potential of the country. I address the most recent (after 2000) Bulgarian emigration to the United States, in particular to Atlanta - Georgia. Research privileges the perspective of the host country, as opposed to the approaches applied so far (Maeva, Zahova 2013; Maeva 2017; Penchev et al 2017; Vukov et al 2017). It is the main aim to explore social networks, respectively, the ethnic social capital of emigrants as a means for their establishment and adjustment to the host country. In theoretical terms, I privilege the concept of migration, instead of the term diaspora (Lee 1966; Butler 2001; Ma Mung 2004; Cohen 2005). Theories of social networks and social capital are the theoretical basis of the research (Scott 2000; Putnam 2000). Research is based on 21 months of fieldwork: participant observation in Atlanta during the period 2013-2024 (app. 2 months yearly), including 20 autobiographical interviews. I argue that the functioning of social networks: a) of families and family circles; b) of friends; c) the Bulgarian enclave in general, is a significant resource for economic success and the basis of so-called ethnic entrepreneurship (Chiswick and Miller 2005). Research focuses on people who are engaged in "Bulgarian companies". Paper focuses on both main types of social networks (of families and of friends). Insofar as forms of urbanism (eg, large distances in Atlanta) influence the degree of participation in social life, I will explore main locations where Bulgarians gather and communicate, in the urban space.

Short CV
Milena Benovska is professor of sociocultural anthropology/ ethnology at the Southwest University of Blagoevgrad (Bulgaria); PhD in philology and doctor habilitatus in history. Earlier she used to hold positions at the New Bulgarian

University (Sofia) and at the Institute of Ethnology and Folklore Studies (Sofia). She published 244 academic publications, including four monographs, in political anthropology, the anthropology of religion, and folklore studies. Last book: Milena Benovska. 2021. *Orthodox Revivalism in Russia. Driving Forces and Moral Quests*. Routledge: London and New York. ORCID: 0000-0002-1936-5275.

Mariyanka Borisova

Bulgarian State Schools Abroad as in between Institutions (following the Examples of Schools in Budapest and Bratislava)

Bulgarian state schools in Central Europe are a product of early socialism and arose as a need of the Bulgarian horticultural communities there. Bulgarian horticultural migration, active until the middle of the 20th century, has the specifics of a local phenomenon (gardeners mainly originate from Central Northern Bulgaria), a national phenomenon (the consequences for the sending country), an international phenomenon (it affects the socio-cultural dynamics in the sending and receiving society). After the political changes in 1989 and the intensified migrant flows, the Bulgarian so called "Sunday" schools, as a flexible format and an initiative mainly of the migrant communities themselves, were established and imposed, gradually attracting state support. What is happening with the Bulgarian state schools? Is there a relationship between the type of migration (before/after 1989) and the type of the school (state/"Sunday")? The Bulgarian state school in Budapest functioned until 2011, and only the Bulgarian state schools in Bratislava and Prague are operating by 2024. The goal of the paper is to analyze their position as educational centers in between Bulgaria and the host country, trough the example of the Bulgarian state schools in Budapest and Bratislava, to outline the challenges and perspectives for such structured and organized schools and their role in preserving the Bulgarian cultural heritage in the respective destination.

Short CV

Mariyanka Borisova is Assistant Professor in the "Anthropology of Verbal Tradition" Department at the Institute of Ethnology and Folklore Studies with Ethnographic Museum at Bulgarian Academy of Sciences. Her research interests are in the field of new migration, migrant communities and institutions, cultural heritage, traditional and official holidays, calendar masquerades, oral and written narratives, and local history. Dr. Borisova is an author of a number of articles, coauthor of collective monographs, and participant in projects.

She has fieldwork experience with Bulgarian migrant communities in Europe, Africa, and North America.

Armanda Hysa

Escapees, refugees, migrants or defectors? A discussion on prohibited migration in communist Albania

Albania has a long history of migratory waves, interrupted from 1945 to 1990, a time when migration was criminalized. There exists a large academic literature assessing the post 1990 emigration, yet very little has been written, and even less, analyzed and discussed, on prohibited migration in the communist Albania, even though attempted migration was the count responsible for hundreds of victims killed on the fenced borders, and multiple times more so political prisoners. Yet the term migration, or attempted migration, was never used by the regime. Instead, the used term, in the legal field and daily speech, was "escapee", a highly resembling term to "defectors", as used nowadays for North Korean citizen fleeing the country. Yet, accepting these terms as they were used by the dictatorial regime (or still being used in the case of N. Korea) would seem like admitting that citizens trying to migrate are indeed defecting or betraying the country. It is, then, the aim of this paper to open a discussion of these terms while attempting to shed light on this painful aspect of Albanian dictatorial past.

Short CV
Dr. Armanda Hysa is an ethnologist and historian from Tirana, Albania, with extensive experience of more than 20 years in social and historical comparative research on ottoman cultural heritage in the Balkans, formal and informal institutions and practices in the region, interethnic relations in the region, gender, corruption, and identity politics. Her research career was conducted during her years as part of Albanian Academy of Sciences, Center of Albanian Studies in Tirana, and as Albanian Studies fellow at the School of Slavonic and East European Studies, University College London.

Mircea Păduraru

Restaurative Nostalgia, Politics and Hungarian Catholicism. Anthropological Notes on the Pilgrimage in Șumuleu-Ciuc

The Marian pilgrimage in Șumuleu-Ciuc gathers every year thousands of Hungarians from all over the world in a spectacular synthesis of ethnic celebration, catholic devotion, and recent Hungarian pagan spiritual movements. Relying on the powers of the visual (photographic) discourse, this paper uncovers
the carnivalesque folkloric character of the event, exploring participation as staging/ performing tradition and imagined Hungarian uniqueness. A nostalgic community is being generated here, accommodating religious piety and political protest, while symbolically re-claiming the place by means of a temporary display of powerful folkloric Hungarian imagery.

Short CV

Mircea Păduraru is senior lecturer at the Faculty of Letters, "Alexandru Ioan Cuza" University in Iasi, where he teaches ethnology and post-war literature seminars. His areas of interest are: ethnology of religion, material religion, ethnology and power, ethnography and ecclesiology, erotic folklore. He is a member of several local and international professional associations and research groups (International Society for Ethnology and Folklore, International Society for Folk Narrative Research, Ecclesiology and Ethnography, Association of Ethnological Studies in Romania, etc.). His recent book is *The Prohibited Fund. An Incursion into the Anthropology of Licentious Folklore* (2023).

Krisztina Rácz

Virtual Aunts and Uncles: A Community Between National Minority and Diaspora

The past decade has seen mass emigration of Hungarians from Serbia to the kin-state and Western European countries. This has resulted in a need for new ways of understanding what it means to belong to the community, both empirically and in terms of theorizing it. Unpacking the complex dynamics of identification of a national minority community with high diasporic tendencies calls for an approach that merges the lens of national minority and diaspora studies. The research I present analyzes the common themes of the two humorous Facebook pages popular among Vojvodina Hungarians, namely rurality, food, ethnic others, and crossing borders, taking them to be important elements of the community's identity. Connecting these topics to the concepts of community, nostalgia, home, minority, and borders, I argue that the content and style of these topics not only represent and revoke but also construct a Vojvodina Hungarian identity in which community membership does not rest on being in, but on being from Vojvodina.

Short CV
Krisztina Rácz is a researcher at the Institute for Philosophy and Social Theory of the University of Belgrade. She has an MA in Sociology and Social Anthropology from CEU and a PhD from the Balkan Studies program of the University of Ljubljana. Her research interests embrace language, ethnic minorities, gender, education, and social memory. To the study of these, she is applying ethnographic methods, having conducted fieldwork in Serbia, Slovenia and Romania; and her publications build on contemporary theoretical perspectives.

Tahir Latifi

Identity and Political Mobilisation of the Albanian Diaspora in the 1980s and 1990s

The first wave of Albanian labor migrants, known as Gastarbeiter, occurred in the 1960s and 1970s. This was followed by a second wave, which was caused by different factors than the first. The second wave occurred after the 1981 demonstrations, which resulted from the persecution and repression of Albanians by the Yugoslav state authorities. This oppression led to the persecution, imprisonment, and forced migration of many Albanians from Kosovo, including intellectuals and students. Among this wave of migration were educated, qualified migrants, many from urban areas, who typically migrated to Switzerland and Germany, as well as other countries. In March 1989, Serbia abolished Kosovo's autonomy, which led to the violent dismissal of Albanians from their workplaces in 1990-1991. This situation sparked another wave of mass migration towards Western and Northern Europe, as well as the USA, Canada, and Australia. During the 1980s and 1990s, Albanian migrants formed the core of the Kosova-Albanian political diaspora. They organized into legal and illegal political and cultural organizations. My paper highlights the political, social, and cultural contributions of the Albanian diaspora to the Kosova liberation movement. It is important to examine how the Yugoslav Secret Service treated these groups and to expose the harassment and persecution their members faced, even in exile. This research is based on interviews with Albanian diaspora activists and relevant literature covering the political, social, and cultural contributions of the Kosova-Albanian diaspora.

Short CV
Tahir Latifi is an Assistant Professor at the Department of Anthropology at the University of Prishtina. He completed his PhD studies at the University of Graz,

Centre for Southeast European History and Anthropology. His research focuses on family and kinship, gender, social policy, migration, demography, and socio-cultural changes. He has recently been involved in three projects: Kujtesa e Kosovës: Rrëfimet e të mbijetuarve të masakrës së Krushës së Madhe [Kosovo memory: Documenting the stories of survivors of the Krusha e Madhe massacre]. Last year, he started working on a new research project on documenting the memory of returned *Gastarbeiters* to Kosova.

Ana Luleva

Precarity, Migration and Hope

In the post-socialist times, the rapid transformation from a state-planned to a free market economy, deindustrialisation and privatisation, set in the context of political neo-patrimonialism and controversial reforms, caused a process of precarisation of broad social strata. Along with this, after the fall of the Iron Curtain, Bulgaria became part of the global world. This opened up new opportunities and perspectives for people seeking solutions to their economic problems. In the pre-accession period to the EU and after 2007, when the country became a member of the EU, the regime of facilitated mobility made it possible to move freely and find jobs abroad. This proved to be a lifesaving strategy, widely applied in areas that had lost their former livelihoods. In this paper, I will examine labour migration as a strategy for coping with precarity at home, outlining recent trends in the process. The paper is based on longitudinal observations and biographical interviews with people who decided to migrate with the hope of coping with precarity and uncertainty in Bulgaria.

Short CV
Dr. Ana Luleva is a Professor of Ethnology at the Institute of Ethnology and Folklore Studies with Ethnographic Museum, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences. My research interests are in the fields of anthropology of socialism and post-socialism, anthropology of uncertainty, memory studies, and critical heritage studies.

Cristina Spinei

Migration as Crisis: Coping with Poverty and Deprivation in the Republic of Moldova

This talk focusses on the special situation of the Republic of Moldova and, after examining the local processes of social mutations, discusses the concreteness of action structures within and outside the family in the face of the high migration rate. I will firstly look at the image of the family as experiential space of those developments shaken by migration and subsequently at the longerterm transformation of social and gender relations as a result of these changes. In order to make manifest the symbolic power of individual and collective crisis, I will further give an overview of a selection of novels by Moldovan writers, that zoom in on broken destinies, uprooting, inadequate handling of migration consequences. The texts shed light on the characters' limited range of possibilities by addressing, on the one hand, the phenomenon of forced prostitution and, on the other, the hampered childhood due to the permanent absence of their parents, who are forced to work abroad long-term. This talk will address the extreme adjustment disorders in the literary texts and read them as an articulation of labour migration and inequality. My aim is to show how literature functions as reaction to existing conditions and as condemnation of social injustices by dint of the connected risks of migration, i.e. the deformation of souls and the incurable wounds in the figures' inner lives. On the foil of the Moldovan determinants I will thus stress the extent to which the axes of poverty, labour migration and cross-border crime appear as multi-layered and how, in their interdependence, they bring about significant changes in the social order and drastic discrimination with regard to supposedly self-evident facts such as belonging and support, whereas structural weaknesses and social inequalities increase and the living conditions of individuals and of communities deteriorate.

Short CV
Cristina is an assistant professor at the Institute for German Studies (University of Iasi), and author the first monograph on Gregor von Rezzori Iasi (*Über die Zentralität des Peripheren: Auf den Spuren von Gregor von Rezzori)*. Her conducts research on social and cultural history of Central Europe and of Bukovina; German literature of the 20th century; interrelatedness of literature, history and politics; representations of the Holocaust in German literature.

Violeta Periklieva

The Friday Group – a Mechanism for Adaptation of Foreign Lifestyle Migrants in Villages in Southwestern Bulgaria

Over the past decade and a half, in Bulgaria, along with the continuing trend of village-city migration, opposite migration movements have also been clearly

observed. They are related to a change in life attitudes among part of the urban population and an aspiration for new, better way and quality of life. In this sense, the counterurbanization trend in Bulgaria is basically a lifestyle migration. Part of this trend of settling in Bulgarian villages is also the international counterurbanization. With the acceptance of Bulgaria as a member of the EU in 2007, a considerable number of foreigners chose the Bulgarian villages as their home, mainly because of the nice nature and climate and the cheaper life. In the context of international counterurbanization, the proposed paper will examine a small community of foreigners settled in Southwest Bulgaria, in the regions of Petrich and Sandanski, who call themselves the Friday group. The community is not built on a settlement basis – these are people living in different villages, nor according to nationality – although most are British, there are also Belgians, Australians, Russians, South Africans. They all have different social statuses and worldviews; they have their own specific reasons and motives for leaving their countries and choosing the villages of this Bulgarian region, their own ideas and attitudes about life after migration and their own individual forms of adaptation in and interaction with the new environment. They build different relationships with each other (some get along, some are close friends, and others don't like each other at all). What connects them is mainly the fact that they are foreign lifestyle migrants living nearby, fluent in English, who, in the form of the Friday Group, build a kind of mechanism for adaptation to the host environment. The study is conducted within the framework of the project "The Neighbour from Sofia, the New Villager from Germany: Counterurbanisation, Socio-Cultural Interactions and Local Transformations", supported by the National Science Fund of Bulgaria, Contract No. КП-06-Н70/10 (2022–2025).

Short CV

Violeta Periklieva, Ph.D., is an Assistant Professor at the Institute of Ethnology and Folklore Studies, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences. Her research interests are in the field of migrations and mobility, borders and border regions, identity, religiosity, ethno-cultural and religious communities, cultural-historical heritage. During her studies in ethnology, she gained rich field experience among different ethnic, religious and local communities in Bulgaria, Macedonia, Croatia and Kosovo. She worked on several projects related to the topic of migrations and mobility, demographic problems in Bulgaria, borders, identity and cultural-historical heritage.

Vlora Fetaj Berisha & Visar Munishi

Burial at birth-place: diaspora, tradition and continuity

The Kosovo Albanian diaspora, already integrated and settled in the host countries, still strive to preserve and practice their traditions, customs, and rituals, carried from the country of origin. One of the most significant and important rituals amongst Kosovo Albanian diaspora is the burial ceremony as the final moment when the living could meet the deceased. The dying wish of a person who used to live in diaspora, whose wish was to be laid to rest in their country of birth, carries immense importance for both parties, the deceased individual and their family and community. Such a dying wish and the process of its fulfillment evoke deep emotions, both when the deceased was alive and entrusted their request to their loved ones, and after their passing when the request must be carried out. The idea of returning to one's birthplace (Kadriu) and the desire for burial within that context are regarded as fundamental characteristics of the Albanian entity in the diaspora. Through our interviews and empirical data, we will try to gain a deeper understanding of this phenomenon and the significance of burial rituals in one's country of birth, and additionally, we will explore the ceremonial and ritualistic aspects. Furthermore, a significant portion of our research will be dedicated to the Covid-19 pandemic period, where we will examine how ritual practices have been adapted to adhere to the strict health protocols of the respective countries for which we managed to obtain valuable materials in the field. In addition, folklore material, specifically focusing on the mourning process of the living for the deceased, whose presence is an integral part of this ritual, will be an additional part of our presentation. Our presentation will include numerous audio-visual materials.

Short CVs

Vlorë Fetaj Berisha completed her studies in Literature and Albanian Language at the University of Prishtina, including a PhD at the Center for Albanological Studies in Tirana (2016). With a decade of experience at the Museum of Kosova's Ethnology Sector, she joined the Department of Folklore at the Institute of Albanology in Prishtina since October 2011, focusing on spiritual culture and oral tradition research. She authored "Rituals of Birth and Death in Deçan's Surroundings" (2011) and "Demush Shala: Collector and Folklore Scholar" (2020). She also compiled "Këngë popullore të djepit," a volume of lullabies by Dr. Demush Shala.

Visar Munishi, an ethnomusicologist at the Institute of Albanology in Pristina, is currently pursuing a PhD at the Institute of Ethnology and Folklore Studies with Ethnographic Museum in Sofia. His research focuses on the handcrafting of traditional musical instruments in Kosovo, as well as the exploration of wedding rituals and songs in Kosovo.

Maria Sakorafa

Meanings of migration in two highland villages of Greece

This paper focuses on understanding of social context in two highland villages of Greece, using as thematic axis the various meanings that residents give to migratory mobility inside and outside Greece. In both villages, this kind of mobility is seen as an indicator of demographic and economic sustainability and is placed on the core of everyday narratives and rherorics, which constitute the social past, present and future of locals. According to meanings taken away during participative observation, economic migration from the villages towards Greek and foreign cities is mentioned as the most prevalent past social condition to which is assigned the multileveled reduction of these two communities and their present transformation in diasporic communities. In relation, in the reversal of this condition are being placed the future perspectives and potentials of this local society. Moreover, migration –internal or external- as a life choice has been used the last decades as the main criterion for the distinction – and division – of local people in permanent and seasonal residents, shifting in this particular distinction the field of social competition. The dynamics of this competition are expressed in everyday social interactions –verbal and actual- problematizing the residency in village as an experience which interchange between advantageous and disadvantageous meanings and producing dilemmas about residential choices of past as well as of present, with criteria which interchange between quality of life and occupational chances. In the case study of the two villages, the quality of life as life vision and style is shown as the main motive for the reversal migration from the cities to the villages as amenity migration and is addressed to seasonal residents and tourist visitors as well, both pensioners and young entrepreneurs. The phenomenon of migration, linked with demographic reduction, is now chosen in different facet, linked with demographic sustainability.

Short CV

Maria Nik. Sakorafa, teacher of Greek Language in Secondary Education. Employee member of the Institute of Educational Policy. Graduate of Greek Philology (Aristotle University of Thessaloniki) with specialization in Classic Philology and of Business Organization and Administration (University of West Macedonia). Postgraduate in Modern Greek Literature and Culture-European, Balkan, East (Aristotle University of Thessaloniki) and of Digital Systems (University of West Macedonia). Candidate of doctor of Philosophy (Aristotle

University of Thessaloniki-Department of History and Archaeology, Study of Folklore and Social Anthropology). Holder of Certifications in English, German and Italian Language.

Atanaska Stancheva

In search for a good life. Lifestyle migration models in Bulgarian rural areas

In recent years, rural areas have become increasingly attractive places to settle and accomplish a good life for both young and middle-aged people. This tendency marks the beginning of the back-to-land movement as an expression of "a renewed interest in the values of the countryside" (Brunori and Bartolini 2016: 195). The rural embodies specific meanings for migrants and as a geographic place it has an essential role for their self-realization. Lifestyle migrants are united by a common seeking of a 'good life' and present migration as a route to that good and more fulfilling way of life, especially in contrast to the one left behind. The report aims to present different models of lifestyle migration in Bulgarian rural areas and to consider it as a process – from the decision to move, and the choice of place and its specifics, through the searches, challenges and development of the overall migration project. The study is conducted within the framework of the project "The Neighbour from Sofia, the New Villager from Germany: Counterurbanisation, Socio-Cultural Interactions and Local Transformations", supported by the National Science Fund of Bulgaria, Contract No. КП-06-Н70/10 (2022–2025).

Short CV
Atanaska Stancheva, PhD, is Assistant Professor at the Institute of Ethnology and Folklore Studies with Ethnographic Museum, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences. Her main research interests are environmental anthropology, rural areas sustainable development, alternative food networks, ecovillages, migrations to rural areas, visual anthropology.

Arsim Canolli

Katunopia: A Tale of Villages in Kosova

The concept of "place" is pivotal in the anthropology of landscapes (Tilley, 2017) and human geography (Tuan, 2012). It reflects a dynamic process where people

continuously create, transform, and influence their environments. Through both tangible and intangible connections, individuals and communities engage with destinations they aspire to reach and those they leave behind. This ongoing interaction of place-making and moving-places is central to understanding how human mobility shapes and is shaped by the meanings we ascribe to our surroundings. Within the interdisciplinary realms of anthropology and beyond, these concepts serve to dissect the intricate ways in which place and movement shape social institutions, cultural practices, and social life at local, national, and global scales. I will explore the concept of place-making as a social imaginary within the practice and narrative of "returning to the village" and internal migration in general. This phenomenon, often referred "rural revival," encapsulates motives of escape, leisure, and also economic rejuvenation. Why are individuals and families, particularly those from urban environments, drawn back to village life to build, work, play, and reside? My analysis will incorporate insights from my previous (Canolli, 2017) and ongoing research in Kosova villages (Gollak region, near Prishtina) to navigate an interpretive response to this question. Employing the analytical lens of "katunopia" (Canolli, 2022) - a portmanteau of "katun" (Albanian for "village") and "utopia", a imaginary world objectified in practice and discourse, - I aim to unpack how social imagination, nostalgia, and memory contribute to diverse responses to urban alienation, village lifestyle homogenization, and commercialization.

Short CV

Arsim Canolli teaches cultural anthropology at Department of Anthropology, Faculty of Philosophy, University of Prishtina 'Hasan Prishtina', Kosova. He has written several books and papers on topics of food culture, anthropological theories, history of Kosovar ethnology, cultural heritage, ethnographic museums, oral history and folk festivals. His latest book is published in Albanian as "*Roots, Routes and Routines: Anthropological Interpretations*" (2022). Arsim is editor-in-chief of journal *Kosova Anthropologica*.

Diana Mihut

Regional food heritage and cultural integration. A case study on Romanian internal migration

The current paper proposes a case study on Romanian internal migration, focusing on food heritage understood at the same time as a cultural mediator and a defining element of one's cultural identity. On one hand, I will concentrate on the rural-urban migration with its implicit lifestyle differences, and the necessity

of adaptation to the new life reality. On the other hand, I will pay attention also to the regional internal migration that constitutes the framework of different cultural exchanges occasioned by specific regional culinary identities. The proposed paper's subject is one of the results of a huge number of interviews carried out starting in 2021 by a team of Romanian researchers (among which the undersigned) focusing on Romanian food heritage. Besides numerous significant cultural meanings and practices related to everyday food, this research project also revealed manners in which internal Romanian migrants had integrated very specific regional cuisines which sometimes may be fundamentally different. Consequently, the paper's conclusions will be drawn based on relevant examples provided by our informants which represent examples of merging precise flavors and ingredients, cooking techniques, and even dishes themselves understood as a necessary effort for their cultural integration.

Short CV

Diana Mihuț is a research assistant within the Department of Romanian Studies at the West University of Timișoara and a member of the RHeA (Research Center for Heritage and Cultural Anthropology) research group. She has carried out field research in rural communities from the cross-border Banat region, with a focus on regional intangible heritage and its capitalization. Since 2020 she has been part of the research team that conducted specific Romanian food heritage related field research.

Diana Malaj

Othering the Newcomers: The Case of Kamza, Albania

This presentation will analyze the processes of Othering experienced by the inhabitants of Kamza who migrated from the northern and northeastern parts of Albania to Kamza. The research will cover the period from the 1990s to the present. Kamza is a post-socialist city adjacent to the capital city of Tirana in Albania. Even though it has been considered the periphery of Tirana, since 1996, the city has been declared an independent municipality. The primary migration wave in this area occurred during the first decade after the socialist regime's decline. Specific issues addressed in this article will deal with the origins of internal migration, the migration and housing practices employed by the inhabitants of Kamza, and how the media and public discourse portrayed them, especially in crucial urban political tensions and protests during the last three decades. Newcomers in Kamza constructed their houses and settled in various ways. However, according to state law, most migration practices were considered informal or illegal, and the new settlements were labeled "informal areas." Due

to the scale of migration, Kamza was transformed from a state farm into the city of Kamza. Nevertheless, since the onset of internal migration into Kamza and other suburban areas of cities, newcomers faced harsh and stigmatized media representations, becoming the "Inferior Other." Othering, as a concept, has been central in different disciplines such as philosophy, anthropology, arts, and geography. At its core, 'Othering' is a process of identifying what is considered different from 'the Self,' which can reinforce positions of dominance and subordination (Johnson, 2004). Othering encompasses discourses, dynamics, processes, and structures that promote marginalization and persistent inequality across all types of human differences based on group identities (Powell and Menendian, 2016; Staszak, 2009). The case of Kamza will demonstrate how new internal migrants, without racial, cultural, or ethnic differences from other parts of the country, became subjects of othering processes.The scientific research on which this paper is based is conducted within the framework of the doctoral project "Discourses, processes, and practices of Othering in Peripheral Urbanization: The case of Kamza" as well as part of the research work conducted at the Laboratory of Urban Anthropology, held in Kamëz over the past three years.

Short CV

Diana Malaj is an activist, lawyer, and researcher. She is a Ph.D. candidate in Law and Politics at the Centre for Southeast European Studies at the University of Graz. Her research interest is analyzing discourses, processes, and practices of othering in peripheral urbanization from an interdisciplinary perspective. She is interested in tracing and documenting the effects of these discourses and practices on the urban environment and its people and the forms of resistance to them.

Florența Popescu-Simion

Rurality, the Re-Discovered Paradise: Layers of Signification

In Romania, the communist party imposed the industrialisation in the 1950's, leading to massive displacements of the rural population, who moved in large numbers in the cities. The movement altered the demography, the social tissue and the rural culture of the peasants. The villages started to depopulate. The peasants (especially in the agricultural areas) seemed condemned to poverty and doomed to disappear. The fall of the communist regime in 1989 was followed by the collapse of the Romanian industry. Many state companies were sold for almost nothing or left to perish, while the workers (former peasants or

children of peasants who came to town in the 1950's or 1960's) were sacked and found themselves on the brink of personal collapse. In the 1990's, many unemployed workers left the towns and returned to their villages of origin, trying to make a living out of the land they took back after the dissolution of the state farms. The villages were in economic disarray. From the first decade of the new millennium, due to the redressing of Romanian economy, many educated people, with a satisfactory standard of living, started to buy or to build houses in the rural areas, moving there either temporarily or for good, but commuting (daily or not) to their jobs in the cities. This new "rural" population has almost nothing in common with their peasant neighbours, except that they want to lead an imagined "rural" life, while altering the architecture, as well as the socio-cultural tissue of the villages.The present paper proposes to investigate these layers of the new ruralisation, through the testimonies of a few exponents of this internal migration.

Short CV

Florența Popescu-Simion is a senior researcher at the "Constantin Brăiloiu" Institute of Ethnography and Folklore in Bucharest, and associate professor with the Faculty of Letters from the University of Bucharest, where she teaches urban ethnology and history of representations. Her main domains of interest are urban folklore and rituals, calendric contemporary customs, dynamics of funerary rites. She published an author book: *The City and the Other World* (2015), she edited a volume of studies from an interwar journal: "Boabe de grâu [Wheat grains]". Ethnological landmarks) (2023), and published studies on the contemporary aspects of the rituals in the cities.

Robert Pichler

Migration, family and (female) return in feminist literature from the former Yugoslavia and Albania.

This contribution delves into the intricate intersections of migration, family dynamics, and female return through the lens of feminist fictional literature from the former Yugoslavia and Albania. Focusing on three literary novels by female 'migrant' authors—Sanda Gugić's "Zorn und Stille," Lana Bastašić's "Fang den Hasen," and Lindita Arapi's "Albanische Schwestern"—the presentation sheds light on changing relationships within families due to migration and return orientations from feminist perspectives. Set against the backdrop of Yugoslavia's violent dissolution and Albania's turbulent transition the narratives tackle issues of identity and belonging in different (post)migrant contexts. The

nuanced coming-of-age stories reveal the inner lives of families marked by repression, rebellion, and the pursuit of emancipation, liberation, and individual fulfillment. Each narrative endeavors to reconcile with the authors' migration history and unravel the emotional ties and dependencies associated with family and origin. Utilizing a biographical comparative approach, this study highlights the intricate relationship between origin and return, underscoring the deep-rooted obligations crucial for sustaining trans-local connections. Drawing on established literary studies on migration (King et.al. 1995), this research advocates for the significance of fictional biographical literature in probing the subjective dimensions and emotional attachments inherent in the migrant experience.

Short CV

Robert Pichler is a historical anthropologist and photographer at the Balkan Research Department of the Austrian Academy of Sciences. His main fields of expertise are migration and transnationalism, history of family and kinship and visual studies. He uses photography for his historical and ethnographic research and develops projects at the interface of art and ethnography.

Arta Sopaj

Multilingual Identity Dynamics: Exploring Albanian and Kosovar Diaspora Linguistic Practices in Germany

As a linguist and a member of the Albanian and Kosovar diaspora residing in Berlin, I embark on a scholarly journey to unravel the intricate multilingual identity negotiations within our communities in Germany. This research endeavor situates itself at the nexus of linguistics, diaspora studies, and sociocultural dynamics, aiming to dissect the profound interplay between language, migration, and identity formation. Through meticulous qualitative interviews, ethnographic observations, and theoretical engagement, I delve into the nuanced linguistic practices that underpin the construction of identity among Albanian and Kosovar diaspora members. By adopting an interdisciplinary lens, I unravel the complex tapestry of language loyalty, bilingualism, and cultural affiliation, shedding light on the multifaceted dimensions of diasporic linguistic landscapes. My investigation navigates through the labyrinth of sociolinguistic phenomena, exploring how language serves as a medium for cultural expression, social interaction, and identity negotiation within diaspora communities. I interrogate the role of language in shaping social networks, fostering community cohesion, and preserving cultural heritage amidst the diasporic experience. Furthermore, I

scrutinize the impact of transnational connections, media consumption patterns, and educational trajectories on language maintenance and shift among diaspora populations. Through an exploration of language ideologies, attitudes, and practices, I unveil the intricate dynamics of linguistic repertoire construction and negotiation among diaspora members in their daily lives. By weaving together theoretical insights with empirical findings, this research endeavor not only enriches our understanding of the complex interplay between language and identity in diasporic contexts but also offers invaluable insights for policymakers, educators, and community stakeholders invested in fostering linguistic diversity, cultural preservation, and inclusive societal integration.

Short CV

Arta Sopaj is a PhD Candidate at Humboldt University, Berlin, under the mentorship of Professor Dr. Christian Voss. Her research focuses on Language Loyalty in a pluricentric Diaspora, particularly examining Albanians and Kosovars in Germany. Arta's academic interests lie in interdisciplinary diaspora studies, sociolinguistics, and the Western Balkans region. Prior to pursuing her PhD in Berlin, she completed her master's degree in linguistics at the University of Tirana. Currently, Arta and Professor Dr. Christian Voss co-teach the seminar "Interdisciplinary Diaspora Studies and the Western Balkans" at Humboldt University.

Georgia Pagiavla

Exploring the Migration-Inequality Nexus in Southeast Europe

The global attention towards migration and inequality has increased significantly. Goal 10 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) which specifically calls for addressing inequalities also emphasizes the importance of enabling organized, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people (highlighted by indicator 10.7). Few studies suggest an interlinkage between migration and inequality, while others argue that migration is a result of existing inequality. Alternative viewpoints propose that migration can exacerbate inequality in areas of origin through the inflow of remittances sent by emmigrants. This research aims to examine the connection between migration and inequality in Southeast Europe. Through a review of literature spanning the three decades this study seeks to identify common challenges and overarching issues related to migration and inequality in this region. Additionally it strives to address a gap in existing scholarship by expanding the discussion on the migration and development nexus to include considerations about inequality. This broader

approach provides an understanding of the socio economic dynamics at play. By drawing insights from critical studies on migration, feminist theory and critical developmental studies this paper critically examines prevailing narratives surrounding migration and inequality, in Southeast Europe. It advocates for nuanced analyses that go beyond economic indicators encompassing wider social, political and cultural dimensions. The paper aims to contribute to more inclusive and equitable approaches to migration governance and development policy in the region.

Short CV
Georgia holds an undergraduate degree in Economic and Regional Development from Panteion University and a postgraduate degree in Economic Development from the University of Glasgow. She completed her postgraduate studies in Economic Theory at the Athens University of Economics and Business and completed second postgraduate studies in Geography at Harokopio University. She is currently on the 5th year of her Ph.D. program at Panteion University, researching the European Regional Policy of the EU.

Elisabeta Bajrami Ollogu, Merita Zulfiu Alili & Drita Memeti

An analysis of push and pull factors of youth emigration in North Macedonia

Amid high emigration flows from North Macedonia, youth emigration in particular has become an increasing concern resulting in considerable policy implications and socio-economic consequences for the country, such as brain drain, aging of population, fertility rate decrease, etc. Youth emigration is a complex issue and its costs remain under explored, therefore this research aims to shed light on the phenomenon by analyzing the willingness of young people to leave the country permanently and identifying the push and pull factors of potential emigration, and at least provide some evidence of its costs.From a methodological point of view, the research is a combination of literature review and empirical data analysis, conducted in the period of November 2023 – January 2023. Participants in the survey consisted of 223 young people in the city of Skopje. Perceptions were measured using a 5-Likert scale questionnaire, which was administered online making use of different youth networks and NGOs. The results show that the push and pull factors have changed but overall, the willingness to leave the country among young people remains high.

Short CVs
Elisabeta Bajrami Ollogu is an Associate Professor of Social Policy at the

Faculty of Social Sciences, “Mother Teresa” University – Skopje and a civil society activist. Her academic background is a combination of Social and Law studies. Her research interests include welfare studies; social policy; social protection, migration and family policy in the context of South East European countries. She has considerable experience in teaching in higher education institutions of Albania and North Macedonia. She is an active member of several civil society initiatives whose main goal is fostering women social participation and enhancing their leading and decision-making capacity as a way to increase their public presence in policymaking.

Merita Zulfiu Alili is an Associate Professor of Labour Economics at the Faculty of Contemporary Social Sciences, South East European University, Tetovo, North Macedonia. She is a member of the University Senate and member of Women in Science Network. Merita completed her MSc and PhD studies in Economics at Staffordshire University, United Kingdom. From 2015-2023 she joined CERGE-EI Career Integration Fellows, Prague. Merita’s scientific interests are: labour migration, foreign direct investment, labour market inequality, gender equality, transition economies. She was engaged as a researcher and expert in several projects. She has published several articles and books in her field of interest.

Drita Memeti is a doctor of Political Science, currently a lecturer at the University of Tetova and holds the title of Docent in the Study Program: Sociology, Faculty of Philosophy at the University of Tetova, thus being active in academic life with numerous participations in scientific conferences. During her career, besides working, she has always been active in the non-governmental sector, which pushes her to take the initiative to establish Women in Science Network. As president of WSN, Drita organizes and plans the activities of this organization.

Zanita Halimi

Stories of women migrants in times and places/ Case study of Kosova

Migration today is a widely studied topic across various disciplines, including cultural anthropology. Kosovo experiences one of the highest rates of international emigration globally, with approximately every third or fourth family having a member living abroad. However, in much of the existing literature, migration is predominantly depicted as a male phenomenon. This portrayal often overlooks the impact of prevailing gender norms in traditional societies, which can constrain female participation in the workforce and independent migration (i.e., migration without familial ties) (Thadani and

Todaro, 1984). Historically, women have been present within migratory flows primarily as spouses, daughters, and dependents of male migrants. Research indicates that marriage serves as a significant mechanism facilitating female long-distance migration, particularly in patrilocal societies (e.g., Rosenzweig and Stark, 1989).Despite the significant role of women in migration, studies in Kosovo have often neglected their experiences, rendering them invisible in scholarly discourse. This paper aims to address this gap by presenting diverse narratives of women migrants from Kosovo across different time periods and contexts. It seeks to explore key questions such as the decision-making process behind migration, the articulation of their experiences, the primary motivations for leaving the country, attempts to return, methods of maintaining family ties, and the impact of migration on their familial roles.To achieve this, the paper will analyze narrative interviews covering various phases of women's migration, including migration during the ex-Yugoslavia era, the 1990s, post-war migration for educational purposes, and labor migration in crisis-ridden countries like Afghanistan and Iraq.

Short CV

Zanita Halimi has completed doctoral studies at the University of Vienna, producing a dissertation on family photography in Kosovo. She is an assistan professor at the Department of Anthropology, University of Prishtina. She has been involved with various cultural heritage projects and with cultural tourism. Now, she is working on the project titled: *Post Memory Generation* documenting stories about war, of the generation born after war. Her publications mainly deal with family photography, museum exhibitions, social memory, and roadside memorials. Currently she is president of the Kosovo Council for Cultural Heritage.

Zsuzsa Plainer

Stories of Migration – Many Faces of the Hungarian Ethnic Identity (Reconstructing the process of migration in case of István Kelemen, former artistic director of the minority Hungarian theatre section in Oradea and his wife, from the 1970ies to the present)

Ethnic Hungarians' outward migration (from Romania) to Hungary has been an important issue in the minority public sphere. This paper affirms that ethnic identity of those Hungarians from Romania, who emigrated to Hungary, is a contextual cultural construction, permanently reshaped during the process of migration. Hungarians from Romania immigrate to their kin-state, where models

of knowledge are/seem to be alike with the permanent citizens'. Still, these migrants undergo through cultural adaptation in the receiving country, being subjected to-, and applying new systems of ethnic classifications. In order to prove this, I will examine the story of István Kelemen, a former artistic director of the Hungarian theatre section in Oradea and his wife's, Márta, a teacher of Hungarian language and literature. Due to harassments of the Romanian Secret Police (the Securitate) the family emigrated in 1976 from Oradea to Hungary. Their stories of migration are reconstructed through analysis of secret police files and interviews. The approach mixes perspectives of anthropology and theater history, and grasps the life-stories through the crossroads of ethnicity, gender and class (the Kelemens being minority Hungarian, well-qualified intellectuals). In the paper three major approaches to Hungarian identity are stock-taken. Firstly, how minority Hungarian identity of the Kelemens (lived and practiced through their professional activities: research on minority Hungarian theatre history and theatre management in case of István Kelemen, teaching Hungarian literature and culture in case of Márta Kelemen) engenders Securitate surveillance, and becomes a trigger for emigration. Secondly, how the couple's Hungarian identity turns into an asset before and during the process of emigration (e.g. finding a job in Hungary etc.). Thirdly this paper intends to understand those social encounters, in which a native Hungarian person (Márta Kelemen) becomes a "Romanian" in the eyes of many from the country of destination.

Short CV

Plainer Zsuzsa has been working as a researcher at ISPMN, The Romanian Institute for Researching National Minorities in Cluj-Napoca. Trained as an anthropologist, she has a PHD on the controlling of minority Hungarian cultural institutions during state-communism in Romania. Fields of interest: anthropology of ethnicity (Roma and Hungarians in Romania).

Mikaela Minga

Migration dynamics and music-making among the Vlach – Aromanians in Drenova (Albania)

This paper focuses on the dynamics of migration as experienced by a group of multipart singing performers from the village of Drenova (southeastern Albania). They belong to the valachian-aromanian minority group and the music they perform is the so-called Tosk style of the Albanian multipart song (Inscribed as Albanian folk iso-polyphony in the UNESCO Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage). Such dynamics have been investigated during

a particular ethnomusicological project. This project aimed at recording and also documenting their repertoire (with most of the songs performed for the first time) and is now published as a CD album "Aromanian songs from Drenova/Këngë Arumune të Drenovës (Roma: Squilibri 2018). A specific ethnographic work distinguished the making of this album, with interviews and conversations with the performers for unravelling the human and cultural layers with which their music was imbued. Migration dynamics were an important part, considering that from the four of them, two had experienced long term migration in Greece, after the fall of the communist regime and then repatriation, coming back home. On the meanwhile, some of their children had to move from Greece, to England as a consequence of a secondary wave migration. Among the issues that are going to be explored in this paper are: trajectories of migration and the minority groups in Albania; home and repatriation; subjectivity and song; music making and place.

Short CV

Mikaela Minga is a research scholar in the Department of Folklore at the Institute of Anthropology in Tirana. She is also guest lecturer at the University of Arts in Tirana, teaching courses on popular music, jazz and film music. Her main research interests include urban and popular musics in Albania with a particular focus in the cities of Korça and Elbasan; then music institutionalization and the dictatorial regime, dynamics of Albanian post-communism, film music, sound studies and audiovisual media. Among her publications are Luciano Berio dhe Folk Songs (2008), Spanja Pipa e la canzone urbana di Korça (2015) together with Nicola Scaldaferri; *Tinguj që rrëfejnë, tinguj që rrëfehen* (2020) and *Më quajnë Vaçe Zela* (2023).

Lumnije Kadriu

Retirement return migration and family implications

In present times' quite abundant studies regarding return migration there are recognized several types of returning to one's home country, one of them being retirement return migration (Cerase 1974; King 2000; King and Kuschminder 2022). As with every other type of return, the return of retired workers is practiced in myriad contexts, making this type of mobility very nuanced (Bolzman 2022). In Kosovo Albanian migration history, a period from the '60s to '90s was characterized as a labor migration in which one or two men from the family migrated in order to secure necessary income for the betterment of (mostly extended) family life. Possible return during that time implied somehow less

complex pattern, i.e. classic. However, this trend has changed during '90s up to 1999 when, due to the political situation, the security of the family imposed not only financial remittances but also the drawing of family members to host countries. Regardless the fact that many families achieved their reunion in host countries, and the outmigration from Kosovo is still the dominating trend, there is a considerable number of migrants that returned upon retirement. The reasons and motives for return are various, such as old age, early pension due to disablement, care for/of family member, goal achievement, family, property, nostalgia. The circumstances they find upon return are also varied, encompassing reasons and motives of migrant return combined with the new family contexts created in the meantime, which very often are intertwined with traditional norms and expectations. In this paper, using in depth interviews and observation of several cases several issues will be examine: Why and how was the decision of return made? How do they experience the return? Did their return affect families back home and if yes, how? Is their return experienced as an obstacle or a new opportunity for their children? Is their return settled or transnational? Comparing existing literature on retirement return migration with empirical findings will enable understanding how the mentioned changes in outmigration changed the contexts upon return and to what extent tradition and cultural norms shape recent experiences.

Short CV

Lumnije Kadriu is a senior research associate at the Institute of Albanology, Department of Ethnology in Prishtina, Kosovo. Since 2011 is periodically engaged as an adjunct lecturer at the Department of Anthropology, University of Prishtina. Her recent monograph is *Holidays, Family, and Homeland in the Practices of Kosovo Albanian Diaspora* (2017). She participated in numerous national and international conferences organized in Kosovo, Albania, Macedonia, Croatia, Hungary, Bulgaria, and Israel. She is a member of editorial board for the journal "Gjurmime Albanologjike, Folklor dhe Etnologji" published by the Institute of Albanology in Prishtina and of "Antropologji" Published by Institute of Anthropology and Study of Arts in Tirana. She is also member of SIEF and InASEA. Her recent interests are on the processes of globalization and transnationalism.

Marsida Salihi Tafilica

Coming home: Challenges of reintegration for returned migrant women in Northern Albania

Return migration is the movement of people from host countries to their country of origin after spending a period of time abroad. The aim of this study is two-folded: Firstly, it aims to explore migration and return migration experiences of Albanian women in order to understand the difficulties experienced during and after migration and how they handled obstacles. Secondly, it analyzes how women migrants perceive successful reintegration.
Drawing on qualitative in-depth interviews of 19 Albanian women who returned to the city of Shkodra, the research seeks to answer the following questions: (1) Upon return, what are the perceptions of women migrants experiences before, during, and after migration?; and (2) What are perceptions of how reintegration might be improved? The answers offer a comprehensive understanding of return migration and reintegration factors based on their lived experiences.
The outcomes in this qualitative study resulted from a constructivist grounded theoretical analysis. Sampling began as purposive and data analysis continued until saturation had been reached. Findings show that economic, social, and cultural difficulties in Albania and obscurity about the future influence reintegration. Implications for theoretical approaches to reintegration are offered. The research also evaluates the significant contributions return migrants make towards the future development of the city and concludes with recommendations for governmental and non-governmental structures to improve reintegration.

Short CV
Marsida Tafilica has been living in Istanbul, Turkey for six years where she earned a Bachelor and Master Degree with honors in International Relations. Last August, she completed her PhD degree at Clemson University in South Caroline, USA. Since 2011, she has been working as an assistant professor at the Faculty of Education in the University of Shkodra, Albania and as a full-time member in the Municipality of Shkodra. Marsida's research interest is on the field of migration, particularly on return migration in Albania. She is interested to focus her research studies on the challenges of reintegration policies among returnees.

Ruth Vollmer & Selina Engelberth

Questioning the notion of minority return

The notion of minority return is inherently linked with the international peace-building mission after the war in Bosnia. The approach chosen by international actors has been criticized – among other things – for underestimating the lasting impacts of war and violence on social boundaries, while at the same time taking

these boundaries for granted and reinforcing them.
In this Paper, the authors will be presenting tentative findings from recently collected data (2023 – ongoing) from a project that studies subjective perceptions and attitudes regarding (non-)return of migrants who are perceived to belong or perceive themselves as belonging to a minority at the place of (potential) return. Drawing on the subjective experiences of return and on reasoning about (non-) return, this data shows that certain obstacles to return and / or reintegration can certainly be categorized as group / identity related. More importantly, however, it shows a much more nuanced and diverse picture. Minority status is found to be one among many factors that influence the decision to return or experiences post-return, calling for an intersectional perspective on this topic. The data also questions groupist and essentializing notions of minority, instead drawing attention to relational, context-specific and performative aspects of collective identities in the context of "minority return".
Data collection takes place in the South of Serbia, as well as various locations in Albania, Kosovo and North Macedonia. Respondents include perceived / self-identified members of minorities who have returned to their place of origin at one or several points over the last two decades as well as displaced persons within the region who have not yet returned.

Short CVs

Ruth Vollmer works as a researcher at the Bonn International Centre for Conflict Studies (BICC) and has an MA degree in political science and linguistics from the University of Bonn. In her thesis she conducted a Critical Discourse Analysis of media reporting on immigrant integration in Germany. For the past five years, her research focus has been on return migration and reintegration of migrants in the Western Balkan region, mainly Albania and Kosovo. She works mainly with qualitative and participatory methods and has recently published on the role of migrant networks in return and mechanisms inherent in reintegration assistance.
Selina Engelberth is a student of political science at the University of Bonn, Germany. After stays in Israel and the Palestinian Territories, she has focused her studies on the Middle East as well as the German discourse surrounding it. Selina has worked on different research projects in recent years, currently focusing on bicc's project "Return and Belonging after Conflict-induced Displacement", which deals with the return migration of minorities to the Middle East, the Western Balkans and Eastern Europe. Her main research interests are the ethnification of migrants and the role ascribed to identity.

Desislava Pileva & Ivaylo Markov

‘It Helps for Our Pensions over Here’. International Retirement Migration to the Northeastern Bulgarian Countryside as a Lifestyle Change

Research on international migration in the Bulgarian countryside has mainly focused on the emigration of the population to other states in Europe and North America. Since the early 2000s, however, a new process of settlement of foreigners in various Bulgarian villages has begun to be observed. This trend gained momentum after Bulgaria’s accession to the European Union in 2007. The issue has been of interest to journalists for years, but has received little research attention.While the majority of the foreign newcomers in the urban areas are students and expats, in the Bulgarian countryside pensioners are the most numerous group. The paper explores the motivations, experiences, and implications lying behind the international retirement migration, focusing on the theme of relocation as a lifestyle change. We studied several villages in Northeastern Bulgaria, the region with the highest concentration of foreign citizens (excluding the capital of Sofia). Drawing on ethnographic research among retirees and local residents, we examine the factors driving individuals to relocate there. While the quote “It helps for our pensions over here” highlights economic considerations, the study reveals a complex tapestry of desires, which fuel this trend. Beyond affordability, retirees express a yearning for an escape from the urban life and a slower pace of life. However, the primary motivation for choosing the specific area is not just the desire for a life close to nature, but the proximity to the sea. Although at first sight these movements resemble the well-known retirement migration to the Mediterranean, there are a number of specificities - Bulgaria is an ex-socialist state, it has the worst economic indexes in the Union, despite having a sea coast, Bulgaria is not a Mediterranean state, etc. Therefore, the paper will contribute to a nuanced understanding of international counterurbanization in Europe.The study is conducted within the framework of the project “The Neighbour from Sofia, the New Villager from Germany: Counterurbanisation, Socio-Cultural Interactions and Local Transformations”, supported by the National Science Fund of Bulgaria, Contract No. КП-06-Н70/10 (2022–2025).

Short CVs

Desislava Pileva holds PhD in Ethnology (since 2018, PhD thesis ‘Immigration and Mixed Families (between Bulgarians and Immigrants from the Middle East and North Africa)’). She is Assistant Professor at the Institute of Ethnology and Folklore Studies with Ethnographic Museum, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences. Her main research interests are in the field of mixed and transnational families, migration and mobility, intercultural communication; counterurbanization and

lifestyle migration, rural entrepreneurship, etc.
Ivaylo Markov holds PhD in Ethnology (since 2011, PhD thesis 'Contemporary Labour Migrations of Albanians from Macedonia'). He is Assistant Professor at the Institute of Ethnology and Folklore Studies with Ethnographic Museum, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences. His research generally covers the following topics: historical patterns of human mobility and their reflections on the contemporary migratory dynamics; role of financial and social remittances in socio-cultural transformation's processes; transnational family-kin relationships; memory and heritage in migration, counterurbanization and socio-economic dynamics in rural areas, etc.
Their last joint publication is the book *Moving to the Village. Aspects of Contemporary Urban-Rural Migration in Bulgaria*. Sofia: Paradigma, 2023 (with V. Periklieva and N. Zhechkova).

Linda Gusia

Spaces of resistance-foregrounding the feminist movement in Kosova

Through analysis of women activists' participation in the transnational feminist movement, the paper emphasizes the intersection of space, mobility, and agency. The paper begins with considering Kosova's place in the transnational imaginary as a historically politicized space, briefly examining the relevance of place and positionality of scholars active in such places. The paper delves into the intricate dynamics of geography's cost, particularly within the realm of transnational spaces, aiming to highlight the complexity and connectivity inherent in various locales. It argues that women in Kosova have continuously occupied multiple positionalities, navigating various spaces, thereby fostering a unique voice—one that was simultaneously political, national, and transnational. Specifically, it examines the emergence of feminist spaces in the 1990s, such as the Center of Protection of Mothers and Children and Motrat Qiriazi, to trace the active participation in transnational feminist spaces. Moreover, it underscores the relevance of recognizing differences among women's movements and the significance of localized contexts. This notion of multiple positionalities gains further prominence in ongoing discussions concerning women's movements in regions like Ukraine and Palestine.

Short CV
Ass. Prof. Linda Gusia is a feminist scholar and sociologist. She is head of the Department of Sociology at the University of Prishtina. Her research has focused on topics of gender, feminism, activism, space, memory and violence.

She co-founded the University Program for Gender Studies and Research (UP), and a co-founder of Institute of Sociology both aiming to synergize research with pedagogy and social. She is also a co-organizer of the annual school on Gender and Sexuality at the University of Prishtina.

Lirika Demiri

Representation of Albanian migrant and diasporic subjects in film: Cinema as a transnational space

In the past decade, there has been a growing body of cinematic works that center on the nuanced experiences of im/mobility, exile, and border crossings of Albanian migrant and diasporic subjects. Tracing themes of separated families, conditions of illegality, affective practices of diasporic belonging, and transnational encounters, this body of cinematic works explores issues of identity, economic precarity, and the politics of border regimes. Drawing on mobility studies and migrant and diasporic cinema scholarship, the paper provides a historically situated close reading of films that examine the histories of migration and displacement of Albanians from Kosovo and Albania. Emphasis is primarily placed on the cinematic works of Visar Morina and Erenik Beqiri. Analyzing cinematic representations of migrancy, the paper argues that this body of cinematic works creates a transnational space for understanding and discussing migration and diasporic experiences beyond narratives of victimhood and racialized discourses.

Short CV
Lirika Demiri is a PhD researcher at the Leibniz Institute of Agricultural Development in Transition Economies (IAMO) in Germany. Her research interests focus on women's work in rural contexts, women activists' stories of resistances, and memory studies. She holds a Master's degree in Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies from the Ohio State University, and is a teaching assistant at the University of Prishtina's Department of Sociology.

Lenka Jakoubková Budilová & Marek Jakoubek

Nationalization of the cultural heritage: the case of "Czech houses" in southeastern Europe

In our contribution we analyze processes resulting from migration and

population changes in southeastern European countries that relate to the concepts of ethnicity and nationalism. As a result of the 19th century politics of the Austrian Empire, several villages were founded in the area of the so-called Military Frontier, on the border with the Ottoman Empire. Today a number of inhabitants of these villages and villages founded by the secondary migration from them, in what is today Croatia, Serbia, Romania, Bosnia, and Bulgaria consider themselves „Czechs“. In our contribution, we focus on the „tangible heritage“ of these villages, namely the houses, often considered in the region as „typical Czech houses“. We will argue that these houses could have been labelled „Czech“ only after a successful process of nationalization of the group and “its” national heritage. We try to apply the concept of “heritagization” and argue that the process of “heritagization” is inseparably connected with the process of “nationalization”, by which the formerly nationally (ethnically) indifferent communities became a part of the national body and their material culture became a part of the national cultural heritage.

Short CVs

Lenka Jakoubková Budilová, Department of Social and Cultural Anthropology, Faculty of Humanities, Charles University. Social anthropologist focused on Europe, and specifically on southeastern Europe. She has done fieldwork in Roma communities in Czechia and Slovakia and later in the Bulgarian village of Voyvodovo, and in Czech villages in Serbian Banat. She is interested in anthropological perspectives on kinship and the family.

Marek Jakoubek, Institute of Social Studies, University of Hradec Králové. Social anthropologist. Together with his wife Lenka he has done fieldwork in Voyvodovo, the former Czech village in Bulgaria, and among the re-emigrants from Voyvodovo in the Czech Republic. Previously he has conducted fieldwork in Roma settlements in eastern Slovakia and in socially excluded localities in northern.

Artan Krasniqi & Agnesa Haxhiu

Kosova as a host country - The experiences of Filipino immigrant women

Kosova continuously has had a high trend of regular and irregular emigration driven by many social factors, but in recent years it has begun to attract foreign workers, thus opening the labor market for foreign nationals.Recently, citizens of countries such as Bangladesh and the Philippines have been seen Kosova as a good opportunity to work and live. According to the official statistics of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, in 2023 there were 722 workers from Bangladesh

(mainly men working in the construction sector) and 70 workers from the Philippines (mainly women working as private housekeeper for Kosovar families) that had work permits in Kosova.Our research explores the experiences of women from the Philippines working in Kosova. The challenges to adapt with the Kosovar culture and society; conditions and circumstances in which they work; as well as the reasons that driven these women to choose to stay and work in Kosova are the main research questions. There is a pilot research that has already been carried out by 4 master's students1 in the Department of Sociology. Four Filipino women were interviewed in groups, with a semi-standardized questionnaire. The interviewees belong to the age group of 30-35 years and different background. For the presentation at InASEA we intend to expand the research and present the findings of at least 10 interviews with Filipino women working in Kosova. We see this new development that establishes Kosova as a country of immigrants, as a new phenomenon that has not been studied in depth until now. Even though such a study has been carried out in several other countries, we will review those studies as an analogy with our study.

Short CVs

Artan Krasniqi has a Ph.D on Sociology from University of Prishtina, Faculty of Philosophy. Since October 2014, he works as a teaching assistant at Department of Sociology, University of Prishtina. From 2009 until 2019, he was part of the Koha Media Group, first as a journalist covering culture for the Koha Ditore newspaper, and then as an editor at the Koha.net online outlet. He has published six volumes of the monograph "Monument" with Botimet KOHA both in English and Albanian language. He has previously worked in few NGO's.

Agnesa Haxhiu is a teaching assistant at the Department of Sociology of University of Prishtina "Hasan Prishtina". She holds a MA in Sociology from the Department of Sociology / UP while a part of her master's studies she has pursued in the University of Graz, Austria with a scholarship from Erasmus+. She is a PhD candidate in Political Science at the South East European University. Currently, she also works as external advisor for Parliamentary Transparency to the Speaker of the Assembly of Kosova.

Mladen Zobec

Entrepreneurship and Ethnicity under Socialism: A Microhistory of Albanian Businesses in Socialist Slovenia

During socialism, Albanian migrant businesses constituted the most prominent

and visible example of an ethnic economy in Yugoslavia. Focusing on socialist Slovenia, this paper offers a microhistory of a group of Albanian craftsmen and businessmen from Polog, North Macedonia. Using oral narratives and archival sources, emphasis is given to the dynamics of inclusion and exclusion within Slovenian society in the broader context of Yugoslav socialism. Although Yugoslavia championed "Brotherhood and Unity," the experiences of Albanian entrepreneurs in Slovenia reveal exclusionary practices ranging from orientalist representations to harassment by the secret police. Despite discrimination, however, Albanian businesses thrived during socialism. The paper delves into how Albanian migrants were not merely passive bystanders subjected to historical events but active agents navigating the historical political conditions. Addressing this question illuminates both the specificities of the group and the wider Yugoslav societal, political, and economic trends pertaining to socialist modernity.

Short CV
Mladen is a sociologist specializing in the Balkans with a focus on the social, political, and economic history of Yugoslavia, labour migration, and ethnic migrant entrepreneurship. He is currently conducting doctoral researcher at the Center for Southeast European Studies, University of Graz within the FWF-supported project "Intra-Yugoslav Albanian migration (1953-1989)". His dissertation explores the lived experiences of Albanian migrant entrepreneurs during Yugoslav socialism. His approach is rooted in oral history and archival research.

Tanja Petrović

Migrant Workers, Migratory Factories: In the Grey Zone of Labor Migration on the fringes of Europe

The paper discusses the patterns of labor migration from and within societies of Southeast Europe that are shaped by the current processes of "Europeanization" on the one hand, and on the other by neoliberal regime, which heavily relies on flexible, socially invisible migrant labor – cheap, often illegal and performed in harsh conditions. It focuses on experiences of migratory, seasonal, temporary workers involved in the new regime of labor that mobilizes men and women from the societies on the fringes of the EU in order to cater to the needs and fill in labor market deficits of the "core Europe." These patterns of transnational labor are shaped though constant flux of people, reshuffling of production sites, opaque investment contracts, ownership relations and work regulations. Although they

seem to destabilize East-West divide of Europe, as people, capital, and resources easily move across European borders, they actually deepen it, neutralizing any possibility for a collective and political self-organization and action of the citizens at the European periphery, already exhausted by disastrous effects of so-called transition to democracy. These opaque, dehumanizing patterns of labor, I argue in this paper, are so deeply ingrained in the economic and social relations of the present-day Europe that they define "European identity" no less than much more present discourses of European democracy and its values.

Short CV

Tanja Petrović is a principal research associate at the Institute of Culture and Memory Studies, Research Centre of Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts. She is interested in the uses and meanings of socialist and Yugoslav legacies in post-Yugoslav societies, as well as in cultural, linguistic, political, and social processes that shape the reality of these societies. She is the author and editor of several books and a number of articles and essays in the fields of anthropology of post-socialism, memory studies, masculinity, gender history, heritage studies, linguistic anthropology, and labor history. Her most recent monograph is *Utopia of the Uniform: Affective Afterlives of the Yugoslav People's Army* (Duke University Press, 2024).

Şahin Yaman

Kazan Tatar Migration in Turkey: Exploring Trade Entrepreneurship and Socioeconomic Dynamics

This study delves into the migration patterns of Kazan Tatars to Turkey and their notable contributions to trade entrepreneurship, examining the behavioral differences in entrepreneurship culture between Kazan Tatars and native Turks within the context of economic sociology. Employing a multidisciplinary approach that encompasses historical analysis, economic perspectives, and sociocultural insights, the research aims to illuminate the nuanced interplay between migration, trade, and socioeconomic factors. Kazan Tatars, renowned for their commercial acumen and entrepreneurial prowess, have migrated to Turkey over centuries, establishing robust networks of trade and commerce. Their entrepreneurial practices exhibit distinct behavioral differences when compared to the prevailing Turkish entrepreneurship culture. These variances may include approaches to risk-taking, innovation, and business strategies, shaped by the unique historical and cultural backgrounds of the Kazan Tatar community. The research delves into the specific roles of Kazan Tatar migrants as trade

entrepreneurs in Turkey. By examining their business practices, networking strategies, and market interactions, it seeks to understand how these behaviors influence economic dynamics and contribute to the development of commercial ecosystems. Additionally, it explores how these entrepreneurial behaviors intersect with broader socioeconomic dynamics, such as identity negotiation, integration challenges, and community development. Through this investigation, the study aims to provide insights into how the distinctive entrepreneurship culture of Kazan Tatars influences trade dynamics and socioeconomic structures in Turkey. By comprehending these behavioral differences within the context of economic sociology, policymakers and scholars can gain a deeper understanding of the complexities of migration processes and their implications for both host societies and migrant communities.

Short CV

Sahin has compelted his doctoral studiea at Istanbul Commerce University, Graduate School of Social Science. He has conducted maany research project in several countries, and currently teaches at Middle East Technical University-METU, Department of Petroleum Engineering and Graduate School of Sciences, Ankara/Turkey. He is interested in the the relationships betwen trade and migration.

Panel: Migratory Movements in the Turkish Context: Historical and Contemporary Perspectives on State, Society, and Scholarship

While it formerly constituted a reservoir for laborers on route to Western Europe, the last thirty years have witnessed Turkey's transformation into a source, destination, and transit country simultaneously. Located at the confluence of Europe, the Middle East, Southeast Asia, and Africa, it has become a recipient of refugees from Syria and Ukraine, along with migrants coming from former Soviet countries, Russia, Iran, Afghanistan, central Asia, and several African nations. This diverse influx of migrants has rendered the country a distinctive laboratory positioned at the border with the European Union. Bringing together four papers with diverse yet interconnected focuses, this panel provides both historical and contemporary analyses of the Turkish state, society, and scholarship regarding the migratory experiences of "in, out, and in between." It starts with a discussion of the socio-political attitudes of the Turkish state towards Turkish (e)migrants in the past with a focus on gender. The second paper provides an overview of contemporary migration scholarship, highlighting trends and understudied areas while posing questions for the future trajectories of the field. The final two papers provide a glimpse into the current scholarship, as the former focuses on Turkish

state policies on the provision of social security to newcomers, and the latter analyses public reactions to (im)migrants in the form of ethnic discrimination and ageism. Through historical and contemporary analysis, this panel aims to illustrate both the continuity and change in the policies and approaches to international migration within the Turkish context.

İbrahim Berkan Karataş

Mapping the Current Trends on the Field of International Migration in Türkiye: A Bibliometric Analysis (2000-2024)

Türkiye has undergone a significant transition from being a substantial emigration region to becoming a destination for immigrants since the early 2000s. As the country began to attract new immigrants, particularly from former Soviet Bloc countries and the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region, migration scholarship on Türkiye has started to center around these issues. Utilizing bibliometric techniques, this research examines this scholarly literature to identify key themes, emerging patterns, and influential works in the field. By analyzing publication trends, citation patterns, and thematic clusters, the study aims to provide insights into the evolving landscape of international migration research (IMR) in Türkiye over the period between 2000 and 2024. Bibliometric analysis is essential for understanding trajectories regarding IMR since it helps identify research trends, assess knowledge gaps, understand policy implications, track international collaboration, and inform decision-making. The last two decades have seen Türkiye emerge as a pivotal player in migratory movements, serving as a buffer zone. This transformation makes it imperative to comprehend these issues. In order to address this matter, the analysis will be run by VOSviewer software, helping figure out scholarly literature to discern key themes, influential authors, research clusters and evolving discourse. The findings of this analysis further seek to deepen our understanding of the complexities involved in international migration by offering a more critical and nuanced perspective on the present state of the field and potential future trajectories. Hence, the research attempts to underscore the importance of employing bibliometric methods in interrogating the current trends and patterns within interdisciplinary domains like IMR.

Short CV

İbrahim Berkan Karataş is a researcher and doctoral student based at Marmara University, Department of Sociology. His research interests center around contemporary social and cultural theory, the sociology of migration, critical

migration studies, Turkish migration and citizenship policies, hospitality, civil society actors, disadvantaged groups in Turkey, and critical science studies.

Mehmet Fatih Aysan

Access to Social Protection by Immigrants in Türkiye

Social security systems have undergone significant challenges through economic and social dynamics. Contemporary migration flows across countries bring new risks and opportunities for different welfare regimes. Hosting about 4.5 million immigrants and having 6 million citizens abroad, Türkiye is among the countries most affected by this wave of immigration. This paper has two objectives. First, it aims to present the general legal framework regulating the Turkish welfare regime, paying particular attention to any variances in the conditions of access to social benefits between Turkish citizens residing in Turkey and foreigners residing in Turkey. Second, it aims to discuss how these different groups of individuals access social benefits across five main social policy areas (unemployment, health care, family allowances, pensions, and guaranteed minimum income).

Short CV

Mehmet Fatih Aysan is a Professor of Sociology at Marmara University and the director of Center for Population and Social Policies. He earned his Ph.D. from the University of Western Ontario (2011) and taught Sociology in the same university (2010-2012). He previously served as a faculty member in the Department of Sociology (2012-2020) and the director of the Graduate School of Humanities and Social Sciences (2016-2020) at İstanbul Şehir University. His sociological interests are rooted at the intersection of demography, family, sociology of work, and social policy. His study centers on how demographic changes, labour markets, and social policies combine to influence the welfare of societies. His research projects were supported by the TUBA, EU, IDRC, and TUBITAK. Dr. Aysan's work appeared in edited books and peer-reviewed journals such as Routledge, Palgrave, Springer, Population & Development Review, Canadian Journal of Sociology, Emerging Markets & Finance.

Ümmügülsüm Aysan & Senanur Elmalı

Understanding the Social Exclusion Dynamics of Syrian Elderly Refugees with Temporary Protection Status in Turkey

The aftermath of the Syrian conflict has witnessed a significant influx of migrants seeking refuge in Turkey, with the elderly emerging as a particularly vulnerable demographic among these displaced populations. This study aims to examine the social exclusion experiences encountered by Syrian elderly individuals aged 55 and above, holding temporary protection status in Turkey. Through a rigorous analysis, this research endeavors to identify and elucidate the multifaceted disadvantages stemming from the intersection of aging, migration, and social exclusion, while also offering solutions to mitigate the adversities faced. This research engaged with a cohort of 20 Syrian individuals aged 55 and above, all of whom possess temporary protection status and reside in Istanbul. Employing the semi-structured interview method facilitated by the snowball sampling technique, the study ensured a comprehensive understanding of the participants' lived experiences. The data gathered underwent meticulous scrutiny through content analysis to derive meaningful insights. The empirical findings underscore the profound challenges encountered by Syrian elderly individuals, with language barriers, mistreatment, and instances of racism emerging as primary impediments. These hurdles not only diminish the quality of life for the elderly but also exert detrimental effects on their social integration within the community. Drawing upon the study's outcomes, it is evident that Syrian elderly individuals holding temporary protection status confront heightened vulnerabilities emanating from the confluence of migration, aging, and social exclusion. In response, the imperative for strategic interventions is underscored, emphasizing the necessity for comprehensive integration efforts and the formulation of supportive, protective, and community-driven policies. Such initiatives are essential to fostering resilience and ameliorating the adverse impacts experienced by this marginalized demographic.

Short CV

Prof. Aysan graduated from Boğaziçi University, Department of Business Administration and worked in the private sector between 2003 and 2008. In 2010, she received her master's degree in consumer behavior from Brock University (St. Catharines, Canada), School of Management. During her time in Canada, she worked as a research assistant at Brock and Western Ontario Universities. In 2018, she received her PhD degree with her thesis titled "Life Satisfaction and Welfare Perceptions of the Elderly in Turkey". Since 2018, she has been working as a faculty member at the Department of Social Work, University of Health Sciences. She continues her studies on social policy, social work, life satisfaction and happiness, and aging, European Welfare States.

Kalie Kërpaci & Michael Sauer

Albanian and Kosovan health-care migration and its potential for sector development: Motives for leaving and (not) returning

Health professionals often seek better job opportunities by crossing national borders, with Germany emerging as a prominent destination in Europe. Since 2015, a significant influx of health professionals from Western Balkan countries has been observed, facilitated by regulations such as the Western Balkan Regulation and the Skilled Immigration Act. Motivated by higher salaries and improved career prospects in Germany compared to their home countries, this trend is expected to continue, particularly if conditions in the Western Balkans remain unchanged.However, this migration contributes to a brain drain scenario in the Western Balkans, exacerbating staff shortages and further straining healthcare systems already burdened by inadequate resources. To address this issue, a comprehensive approach is necessary, considering both the perspectives of migrants and states. Achieving sustainable migration requires balancing costs and benefits for individuals, societies, and states. This study aims to fill gaps in empirical research on Albanian and Kosovan migration to Germany, focusing on the impact on (health) care systems in the countries of origin and the lives of migrants. By conducting narrative interviews, the study seeks to understand the migration experience, including motivations, challenges, and aspirations, both before and after migration. Additionally, the research explores the potential for care sector development in Albania and Kosovo through the involvement of migrants, returnees, and the diaspora. The research methodology involves semi-structured interviews using phenomenological approaches, supplemented by thematic analysis of the collected data. In conclusion, this study seeks to provide a nuanced understanding of health migration from the Western Balkans to Germany and its implications for both sending and receiving countries. By addressing biases and adopting a holistic approach, it aims to contribute to the discourse on sustainable migration and (health) care sector development in Albania and Kosovo.

Short CVs

Kalie Kërpaci is a lecturer at the Department of Psychology, Faculty of Education, Aleksandër Moisiu University of Durrës. Currently, she is a guest postdoc researcher at Bonn-Rhein-Sieg University of Applied Sciences (H-BRS). Her research focus is on the Albanian return migration and on the movement of health professionals from Albania and Kosovo to Germany. Her study on the emigration of health professionals is supported by the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation. Beside her teaching and researching experience, she is involved in designing and conducting training sessions for young Albanians

to develop skills and participate in the civil society.
Michael Sauer is a professor for social policy at the Bonn-Rhein-Sieg University of Applied Sciences (H-BRS), where heads the bachelor studying programme Sustainable Social Policy. His research includes the topics of social policy and labour migration, particularly related to the region of South-Eastern Europe. Before 2018, he worked as an integrated CIM-advisor for the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs in the Republic of Kosovo on the design and implementation of a labour migration programmes. Michael successfully initiated institutional cooperation between the H-BRS and universities in SouthEastern Europe. Amongst others he launched the internship programme Get Balkanized.

Robert Rydzewski

Solidarity in Abandonment at the Intersection of Roads

Various scholars have analyzed forced migration from Southeast Europe (SEE) as a result of the violent breakup of Yugoslavia (Krcmaric 2014). Some have viewed it as a brain drain (Janeska et al. 2016), while others see it as part and parcel of circular migration (Dahinden 2009, King and Lulle 2016, Leutloff-Grandits 2023), considered a survival strategy in times of economic hardship and political oppression (Pichler 2009, Markov 2013, Gashi and Adnett 2015). These researchers scrutinized the impact of migration on local economies, ethnic relations, or demography. Others focused on migration through the SEE as part of global migration trends (Hameršak and Pleše 2019) or on the EU border regime (Hess 2012) imposed as part of SEE integration with the EU (Stojić Mitrović 2019). This paper contributes to the existing body of work on migration by interconnecting migration from and through the SEE. It allows for a better understanding of the socio-cultural dynamics on the fringes of the EU without succumbing to the pitfalls of national or ethnic particularism. Drawing on ethnographic research conducted between 2010 and 2020 among individuals planning to emigrate or who have emigrated from SEE states, as well as those passing through or stuck in "transit centers" like North Macedonia or Serbia, I seek to answer the following major question: What social and cultural dynamics do we encounter at the intersection of two migration regimes (from and through the SEE)? I agree that at the juncture of different migration flows, we can observe solidarity shaped by a common experience of being part of the same global context that swept both groups into the same global migration processes and share, as labor migrants in the EU, the fate of marginalized bodies.

Short CV

Robert Rydzewski is a cultural anthropologist and migration researcher. He currently works as an assistant professor at the Institute of Anthropology and Ethnology at Adam Mickiewicz University. He is also a researcher at the Center for Migration Studies at UAM in Poland. His research interests oscillate around migration at the external EU borders, the transition of post-Yugoslav cities, and grassroots movements. Recently, he published a book titled *The Balkan Route: Hope, Migration, and Europeanisation in Liminal Spaces* with Routledge in 2024.

Marsida Ismaili

Transnational emigration policies in Albania: the case of Afgan refugees and Gjadër (Lezhë) refugees' camp

This paper aims to explore transnational migration policies in Albania, by focusing on the role of the Albanian government. Transnational migration refers to the movement of people across state borders. The paper focuses on emigration policies and their effects, by analyzing the cases of temporary Afgan refugees and the upcoming refugees in the camp in Gjadër, Lezhë, and the implications that derive from these policies in Albania. Emigration is related with different motives, but it affects different political, social, economic and cultural areas for the host country. The paper also discusses the role of Albanian government in supporting the emigration in the case of the Afgan' refugees, as a transitory host country in their route to the US, and the case of emigrants mainly from northern Africa to Italy or other European countries (based on an agreement with the Italian government) by constructing a camp for refugees, as a temporary settlement. Also, it focuses on the reactions of the national and local non-governmental actors and their acceptance or resistance towards these emigration policies. The paper reflects the pros and cons of these policies and their relevance for the parties involved in the process.

Short CV
Dr. Marsida Ismaili is a lecturer in the Department of Political Science, Faculty of Political Science and Law, at "Aleksandër Moisiu" University of Durrës. She holds degrees from the University of Tirana, Faculty of Social Sciences (Second Level Integrated Diploma, in Political Sciences), from the University of Tirana, Faculty of Economics (Master in Public Administration) and from "Aleksandër Moisiu" University of Durrës, Business Faculty (PhD in Public Administration, Economics). Dr. Ismaili is author and co-author of different textbooks and over tenth of publications in peer reviewed journals and participated at several

regional, national and international conferences.

Darko Leitner-Stojanov

“From Monastir to Vienna and back again”

Mobility and migration of merchant families from Ottoman Macedonia in the 19th century International migration from the Ottoman Balkans offers an impressive insight into the mobility and migration dynamics between Europe, Asia and Africa in the Modern period. However, it often remains in the scholarly shadows of the research on post-WW2 migration. From Trieste to Vienna, Odessa to Leipzig, or Istanbul to Cairo, merchants from Southeastern Europe made their way, alone or with their families, to the main trade centers in Central and Eastern Europe. During that process they not only learned to navigate institutional and socio-cultural challenges across the borders, but they also established transnational networks which influenced the home and host societies, as well as themselves and their families.This conference paper will focus on the transnational migration of a dozen of merchant families from Bitola/Monastir to Vienna towards the middle of the 19th century. Based primarily on the analysis of archival material and periodicals, but also on memoirs of contemporaries and interviews with descendants, the aim is to gain an insight into three main areas: 1. Modalities of international mobility (institutional control, transportation means, social aspects of travel); 2. Family structure and migration (kinship, age, gender, financial flow); and 3. Trans-border and cross-cultural networks (between merchants, companies, families). The lives of these families spent between and within the Ottoman and the Habsburg empires, as well as within various and even multiple communities, illustrate a cosmopolitan world that made its mark in both Vienna and Bitola, and beyond. I believe that this paper will be of relevance for the conference topic Transnational individuals, families and communities, among others. The research was done within the project „Vom osmanischen Mazedonien ins habsburgische Wien: Familiengeschichten, Netzwerke und Aktivitäten von fünf orthodoxen Kaufmannsfamilien“, funded by the City of Vienna in 2023.

Short CV

Darko Leitner-Stojanov is a historian based in Vienna. His main research interest is the history ofmigration from Southeastern Europe to Vienna in the 19th – 21th centuries, from Ottoman via Yugoslav to modern times. His work is situated on the intersection between historiography and ethnography, focusing mostly on archival sources, oral history, and photography. From 2020 to 2023 he

researched migration at the Austrian Academy of Sciences/IHB, while in 2024 he will be a JESH visiting scholar at the University of Sarajevo and a fellow at the International Research Center for Cultural Studies at the University of Arts (Linz).

Elife Krasniqi

Resistance, Emancipation and Belongings in the Cultural Production of Second-Generation Transnationalism

The traditional imagery of Kosovo Albanian migration often portrayed an Albanian man, typically a labourer, with family members remaining in Kosovo or eventually joining him in the hosting country. The emergence of the second-generation art disrupted this conventional narrative. Albanian second-generation transnationalism, akin to other national or cultural transnational experiences, goes beyond mere economic remittances that characterized their parents' generation. This transnationalism extends to cultural production, which circulates across multiple spaces, replicating homes, and reflecting the cultural and political dynamics of both the country of origin and the country where they've built their lives. For this presentation, I explore inter-generational dynamics of belongings, emancipation, and resistance by analysing cultural productions of second-generation transnationalism. I particularly examine the work of the two Albanian-German artists/activists living in Berlin– the founder and lead singer of the band "Andrra" [The dream] and the founder and activist of platform "Marrja e Zezë" [Black shame]. Their work directly or indirectly unearths and addresses the human emotions and patterns, initially conditioned by inter-generational exilic experiences and then transcending this conditionality beyond migratory constrains.

Short CV
Elife (Eli) Krasniqi is an anthropologist and writer. She has researched the changes and continuities within Albanian families, the patriarchal system, and feminist responses from the mid-20th century to the early 21st century in Kosovo. Her current research focuses on the Black African presence in the Balkans (the lineage of Ottoman domestic slavery), analyzing the intersection of gender, race, and class in their everyday lives from a visual perspective, since the late 19th century.

Lina Gergova

Bulgarian Migrant Communities in Romania – Stakeholders, Networks, and Cultural Exchange

Today, Romania stands out as a unique laboratory for the study of various Bulgarian communities. These communities encompass indigenous groups, such as those in Dobrogea, as well as diverse migration flows spanning from the 16th century to the present day. Historical migration patterns include Catholic Bulgarians in Banat, refugees from the Svishtov area, gardeners relocated to Bucharest and Buzau, among others. Until the establishment of minority policies in post-communist Romania, these communities remained spatially detached, with only sporadic interactions within regions and the capital. However, both Bulgarian state representatives and the Romanian government, through regulations and programs addressing ethnocultural diversity, have constructed these communities as a cohesive entity. Several NGOs have emerged in recent years, formed by new migrants or established decades ago by local Bulgarians, aiming to engage in political processes within the country. These organizations have also become active participants in fostering cultural and social life among Bulgarians residing in Romania. This paper proposes to analyze the network formed by these communities, focusing on its spatial and temporal dynamics. Specifically, it aims to explore the internal tensions, partnerships, causes, and modes of cultural affirmation and representation. Additionally, the paper will examine the institutions, individuals, and significant events that serve as nodes within this network. The author's objective is to identify stakeholders and elucidate the mechanisms, discourses, and temporal-spatial dimensions governing the network's functioning. Through this analysis, the paper seeks to illuminate the complex process of ongoing construction of the Bulgarian minority/community in Romania. The study draws upon the authors' fieldwork conducted between 2015 and 2018, supplemented by additional research in 2023–2024, encompassing participant observation, event observation, and interviews.

Short CV

Lina Gergova holds a PhD in folklore studies and currently is an assistant professor at the Institute for Ethnology and Folklore Studies with Ethnographic Museum – Bulgarian Academy of Sciences. Her research interests and expertise lie in migration studies, calendar and festivity, and cultural heritage policies. From 2010 to 2012, Lina Gergova was a Marie Curie fellow in Estonia. She is the author or co-author of several books on migrations and national cultural

policies abroad.

Carol Silverman

From Diaspora to Transcultural Mobilities: Performative Intersectionality among Macedonian Migrant Roma

The scholarship on migration has traversed profound shifts in the last 50 years from immigration studies in the 1970s, to diaspora studies in the 1980s, to transnational and transborder studies in the 1990s/early 2000s, and to mobility studies in the last ten years. I explore if and how each of these theoretical frameworks can explain the lived experience of Macedonian Romani migrants. Since the 1960s, and more intensely since the 1990s, Macedonian Roma have created a transnational community with hubs located in Germany, New York, and Australia. Their migration patterns depend on economic and political factors, as well as state and local policies; these in turn are embedded in hierarchical structures that have racialized and excluded Roma. Focusing on the multiple identities of migrants via cultural productions, I examine performance as a window into community expression that reveals dilemmas of mobility, work, family, gender and class, as well as historical remembering. Music is highly valued in all social occasions and is integral to the ritual and economic web. The training, repertoire, and performative strategies of musicians (often the most mobile members of their communities) provide insights into transculturality and exclusion/inclusion. Drawing on Paul Gilroy's Black Atlantic, I illustrate the multiple identities of Macedonian Romani performers and consumers via family, work, and cultural productions. Music is shared in a wide social media transAtlantic network that forms the soundscape of Macedonian Romani family and community life. In fact, musicians are the most mobile members of their communities. Their training, repertoire, and performative strategies provide insights into performative strategies and challenges. Ethnographic fieldwork took place among Macedonian Roma in North Macedonia, USA, Western Europe, Canada, and Australia since 1988**.**

Short CV
Carol Silverman is an anthropologist and folklorist who has been involved with Balkan Romani music and culture for over 40 years. An award-winning Professor Emerita at the University of Oregon, she writes about cultural policy, heritage, gender, and human rights issues among Roma. She has published dozens of articles and two books: Romani Routes: Cultural Politics and Balkan Music in Diaspora (Oxford 2012) won the Book Prize from the Society for

Ethnomusicology; and Balkanology (Bloomsbury 2021) analyzes Bulgarian wedding music. Carol works with the US NGO Voice of Roma, is curator for Balkan music for RomArchive.eu, and does legal consulting.

Irena Šentevska

Post-Yugoslav migration and transnational popular culture: the case of 'turbo-folk'

This paper attempts to situate the ongoing discussions of transnational migratory cultures within the field of contemporary media and popular culture studies in Southeast Europe. I often argue that contemporary mass culture is often unjustifiably excluded from academic considerations in spite of its impact and relevance for the contemporary societies, including the diasporic and migratory communities. The media phenomenon familiar throughout the Balkans and termed in Serbia as 'turbo-folk', seems like a perfect case to demonstrate the dynamics of transnational popular culture at work in the migratory communities from Western Balkans (especially in the context of the historic burden of dissolution of former Yugoslavia, including the armed conflicts). This segment of the music industry strongly influences the diasporic communities from the region culturally, politically and even economically. Drawing from different academic disciplines (anthropology, sociology, musicology, media studies), I observe 'turbo-folk' as a vehicle of transnational exchange and mediation of identity within the migratory and diasporic communities from Western Balkans. I also look at the association of turbo-folk with the concepts of crypto-colonialism and self-colonization. This once despised and now hugely influential form of popular entertainment has been acknowledged as a cultural phenomenon deeply connected with questions of cultural and political legitimacy, both in the countries of former Yugoslavia and in their migratory communities. The historic roots of 'turbo-folk' lie in socialist Yugoslavia's processes of modernization and post-World War II social transformations. 'Turbo-folk' has generated more controversy between the former Yugoslav republics than any other aspect of contemporary mass culture. This makes this music genre and cultural model a valuable object of study when discussing the dynamics of self-identification and shared culture in the migratory communities from Western Balkans.

Short CV

Irena Šentevska is an independent researcher and curator based in Belgrade, Serbia. She holds a PhD from the Department of Art and Media Theory of the University of Arts in Belgrade. Her articles have been published in 12 European

countries, USA and India (Routledge, Palgrave, Bloomsbury Academic, Peter Lang, De Gruyter, Berghahn Books, Indiana UP, Purdue UP etc. and universities in Berlin, Prague, Ljubljana, Graz, Regensburg, Çanakkale, Bangalore etc.) Her first book *The Swinging 90s: Theatre and Social Reality of Serbia* was published in 2016 by Orion Art in Belgrade. Her second book *Singing Belgrade: Urban Identity and Music Video* was published in 2023 by Clio in Belgrade.

Ger Duijzings

Asian migrant workers in Bucharest: an ethnographic exploration

Migrant workers from Asian countries are becoming an everyday phenomenon in the countries of Southeastern Europe. In a city like Bucharest, workers from Vietnam, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka are increasingly populating the workforce, to partly replace the Romanians that have left to work in Germany and other EU countries. Romania is changing from a country of emigrants to one of immigrants. This paper will explore these migrants'integration into the local labor market, where they not only fill the gaps left by Romanians, but also do the jobs typically done by migrants, for which knowledge of Romanian is not so essential, such as nightshift work and delivery services as part of the digital platform economy (delivering food to people at home). The paper will analyze some of the intricacies of the local labor market and the spatial and temporal niches migrants occupy in the city. This paper builds on insights from *Working At Night*, a recent volume edited by Ger Duijzings and Lucie Dušková (Berlin: de Gruyter, 2022).

Short CV
Ger Duijzings is a social anthropologist with extensive fieldwork experience in Southeastern Europe (mainly Kosovo, Bosnia and Romania). Since 2014, he has been Professor of Social Anthropology at the University of Regensburg (with special focus on Southeastern and Eastern Europe). His most important recent publications are in the urban studies field, such as the two volumes*: Engaged urbanism: cities & methodologies* (London: I.B. Tauris, 2016) and *If cars could walk: postsocialist streets in transformation* (New York: Berghahn, 2023).

Petko Hristov

Historical Bulgarian Diaspora in Bessarabia between Scylla and Charybdis of Bulgarian Policy

The paper will present the author's latest research on the immigration process of representatives of the Bulgarian historical diaspora from Ukraine in Bulgaria. The fundamental question of the "return" to the historical Motherland, maintained for generations as a nostalgia for the homelands in the Balkans left two centuries ago, is among the topical aspects of everyday life among Bulgarians in Bessarabia in the last two decades, especially in the context of the full-scale Russia's military aggression in Ukraine after February 2022. This "return" movement comes across some contradictions in the face of the official policy of the Bulgarian state regarding the acquisition of citizenship, the application of the EU policy on asylum seekers and the policy of social and cultural adaptation in the Bulgarian community. In addition to its relevance, the problem has enormous public significance and practical importance for Bulgaria's policy in relation to the numerous Bulgarian diasporic communities and groups (historical and contemporary) all over the world.

Short CV

Petko Hristov is a PhD in Ethnology, and Associate Professor at the Institute of Ethnology and Folklore Research with Ethnographic Museum at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences. Over the past few years, his main scholarly interests involve studying labour migrations on the Balkans; the construction of social networks among trans-border migrants; family and kinship; political anthropology and religiosity. He is the Head of the Ethnographic Archives at IEFSEM – BAS.

Besnik Emini

The issue of displacement of population in Turkey in the articles of journals "Hak", "Pravi put" and "Nash dom" published in Skopje during the period 1920-1941

With the creation of Kingdom of Serbians, Croatians and Slovenians, one of important issues was the position of population with Muslim religion. During the past centuries this population lived under the Ottoman Empire, but with the creation of new kingdom found itself in a state who was organized with a different approach toward this waste population, living in a huge territory of the newly created country. Muslim community in the country had possibility to publish periodicals in Serbian language and Turkish language with Arabic letters, but not in Albanian. Skopje was one of the cities in the south part of the country where were published several journals which major preoccupation

was the position of Muslims. Even though the journals were not a long lasting periodicals, through the pages of these newspaper is reflected the issue of migration of Muslim population of different ethnic background into Turkey. Even though the circumstances when the journals "Hak", "Pravi put" and "Nash dom" were difficult, regarding the freedom of press and censorship of that time, from today perspective they can serve as an important source of information about the perception of this issue, in the time when in the Balkan were created new borders and when suddenly a lot of people felt strangers in their homes and they should move to Turkey. The journals were published through the different year, from 1920, when was published first issue of "HAK", up to 1941 when was published last edition of "Nash dom". The aim of the article is to present what kind of texts were published as a reaction of this issue and what kind of information were delivered to the readers about the chances of emigration.

Short CV

Besnik Emini (1977) is historian based in Skopje, North Macedonia. He graduated in department of history at Philosophic Faculty in Skopje in 2002, and in 2015 got a PhD in history with a dissertation "Albanian movement 1878-1900". He is working as a researcher at the Institute of Spiritual and Cultural Heritage of the Albanians in Skopje.

Brunilda Zenelaga

Intersecting Cultures of Migration in Albania

The theoretical framework of 'Culture of Migration' considers the social norms and referential behavioral repertoires that shape contexts in which migration aspirations are formed and migration decisions made. It highlights especially those mechanisms that translate macro-structural factors and individual dispositions into observable behavior and thus fills an important gap in theorizing about migration. It's main contribution is often seen in the focus on self-perpetuating forces within migration systems even when initial drivers change or lose significance. This paper will apply this framework of a culture or in fact cultures of migration to mobility from and to Albania (migration, return, circular migration, and transnational family settings). The aim of this Paper will be to elaborate in how far the notion is useful to explain the continuously high levels of migration and mobility in the context of changing drivers. It will do so from an intersectional perspective, arguing that whether and for whom migration constitutes a relevant social norm differs depending on (intersecting) social categories, such as gender, age or ethnicity and individual positionalities, which

are also engrained in the embeddedness in private social networks. The analysis will also account for the fact that migration is not only unequally desirable but also unequally accessible to different people and thereby show how the norms, the necessities, and the capabilities to migrate vary, thus painting a nuanced and heterogeneous picture of cultures of migration in Albania.The paper will draw on qualitative empirical data collected during semi-structured interviews with over 130 returned migrants in Albania in the period 2019-2023. The data covers migration decision-making, migration experiences, reasons, and types for return(s) as well as post-return experiences.

Short CV

Brunilda Zenelaga is Associated Professor and full-time lecturer at the Department of Sociology, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Tirana. In 2014 Brunilda completed her PhD dissertation on integration challenges of Albanian migrant families in Italy. Currently she is the President of the Albanian Association of Sociology and Chief of the Board of the Foundation of Conflict Resolution and Reconciliation of Disputes. Brunilda teaches in Bachelor and Master programs and is involved in the Doctoral program as well. Her expertise is on sociology of migration, urban sociology, sociology of inclusion, restorative justice and conflict resolution and methodology in social sciences.

Bresena Kopliku

Transnational migration, from a strategy of living to an agent of development – A perspective from Albania as an origin country

The transnational approach in studying migration is relatively new in the Albanian public debate and academic research, focusing mainly on the study of transnational families and transnational aging. On the other side it still remains to unfold the relationship between migration, transnationalism and development even though Albania is considered to be “the laboratory for studying migration and development”. During the last decade, especially after the visa liberalization, the facilitation of immigration policies and the faster and cheaper transport, transnational fields between Albania as a sending country and the receiving countries have intensified. Migrants’ transnational ties have been intertwined more and more within different kinds of remittances, return migration and diaspora. Financial and social remittances have continued to be an important source of household income in Albania during the last decade; in many cases the “myth of return” has been transformed into different forms of transnationalism, while the engagement of the diaspora has increased as well. This paper is

based on a qualitative approach, with 20 in-depth interviews conducted with transnational migrants living between Albania and other countries. Questions on social and financial capital, motivations, lifestyle, home and belonging, entrepreneurship, care, investments and organizations were addressed in order to further explore how migrants take advantage from transnational practices and if transnational migrants can act as agents of development. By adopting the transnational perspective this paper argues that transnational migration is now a strategy of living for many Albanian families and if addressed by the right policies it can contribute to Albania's development as well.

Short CV

Dr. Bresena Kopliku is a Researcher and Lecturer at the Department of Geography University of Shkodra, Albania where she is currently the Head of Department. Her research interests relate to migration and its diverse typologies, return migration, transnationalism and diaspora. In 2014, she earned her doctor degree, in Human Geography from the Department of Geography, University of Tirana. Based on her research experience she has also collaborated as external expert and consultant of migration issues with several international organizations operating in Albania. She has published under Peter Lang AG, Springer Nature, Emerald Publishing etc. Her current research interests lie on migration and development, digital platforms economy and migration, labour migration and working conditions etc.

Tanya Matanova

Types of economic and social activities among Bulgarian returnees

Home, family, and close people are those things that make Bulgarian migrants feel connected territorially and socially, and in some aspect financially, with their homeland and which in some cases become reasons for their return to Bulgaria. On the one hand, during summer and holiday trips to Bulgaria the own house (which plays the role of a home in the homeland) is being kept up, the native place and region are visited, i.e. the connection to the native land is maintained. On the other hand, Bulgarian migrants send money but also objects, ideas, and values to their relatives and other close people of their social networks. To some extent these circumstances make the adaptation process after return less stressful (as they have a social circle and place to stay). However, they still have to find ways and means of living to continue their life in Bulgaria. In accordance with their social status and migrant and professional experience they carry out different economic activities but also social ones, driven by their wish

to contribute somehow for the transformation of the social situation in Bulgaria at least on local level. Correspondingly, in the paper will be presented and categorized the different types of economic activities Bulgarians carry out after they migrate back to Bulgaria. In addition, attention will be paid to returnees' social activities aimed at transforming the living circumstances in Bulgaria.

Short CV

Tanya Matanova's main scientific work is connected with the research of the life of Bulgarian (e)migrants (mainly in Central and Western Europe but also beyond Europe) – their homeland concepts, migrant institutions, preserved cultural heritage, etc. Her further researches are related to the Russian, Ukrainian, German, Armenian immigration to Bulgaria as well as to the ethnic characteristics and socio-cultural identification processes among descendants of interethnic marriages living in Bulgaria. Other scientific interests are in the fields of migrant entrepreneurship, religious pilgrimages, ethnology of sport.

Remus Gabriel Anghel

Is the grass greener on the other side? Remittances, inequality, and changing labour regime in Romania's agriculture

Food security is becoming increasingly problematized, as the last Covid-pandemic and the ensuing lockdown, or the crisis on Ukrainian cereals in the last summer have demonstrated. How migration and return change agriculture in different countries of origin, including the Eastern Europe, is less understood. In this paper we look at the ways in which agriculture and the labour regime in agriculture changes under the impact of international migration and return in different Romanian contexts. We analyse how two types of actors get involved in the Romanian agriculture: small scale entrepreneurs and self-employed agricultural workers on one hand, and poor returnees from West European agriculture seasonal workers, on the other hand. We argue that inequality affects agriculture substantially by unfolding diverging effects of remittances and social remittances - while richer Romanian farmers try to emulate ideas and practices from abroad, often failing, the poor disinvest their labour as their expectations changed. We have carried out qualitative research in the summer of 2021 and in 2022 in different rural localities in the southern Transylvania and in the region of Timișoara, a larger city in Western Romania. By juxtaposing different rural and regional contexts and different types of returnees in agriculture we thus have a more refined understanding on how relations of inequality played out in such contexts.

Short CV
Remus Anghel is professor at the National University of Political Studies and Public Administration (SNSPA) and researcher at the Romanian Institute for Research on National Minorities. He specialized in migration and conducted research on Romanian migration and effects of migration in the Romanian context. Over the past years he was researching processes of return migration and lately on effects of migration of the Romanian agriculture.

Daniel-Armin Đumić

Marriage migrations of women in Kosovo, Albania, and Serbia in comparative perspective

Historically, Kosovo, Albania, and Serbia have been regions characterized by predominantly patrilocal residence, i.e., after marriage, wives generally moved into the household of the husband or the husband's father. The household registers of Janjeva from 1928 provide information regarding the change in residence of married women in Kosovo. This source includes the surrounding villages as well. Comparative analyses will be conducted for Albania (based on the 1918 census) and Serbia (based on the 1884 census). Analyses will take into account the following possible factors influencing these marriage and migration patterns: ethnicity, religion, occupational group, urban-rural differences, and education. The second step involves examining changes over time by comparing women of different ages. Additionally, village size will be considered, as smaller villages may offer more restricted options for finding suitable spouses compared to larger settlements.

Short CV
Daniel-Armin Đumić is a pre-doc researcher at the section of Southeast European History and Anthropology, Institute of History, University of Graz. He received his master's degree at the Centre for Southeast European studies in 2020. His main research topics are historical demography, diaspora studies, family history within Southeastern Europe, and European comparative studies. Currently he is contributing to the research project "Demography and Society in Historical Southeastern Europe".

Bubulinë Syla

Maintaining Ethnic Identities through Marriages: A case study on Kosovo Albanians in Switzerland

Following the Kosovo war of 1998-99, a high number of the population sought refuge in Western European countries, including Switzerland, marking a significant shift in their lives.This transition forms the backdrop for this study, which addresses the under-researched area of marriages within the same ethnic group among Kosovo Albanian migrants in Switzerland, examining how Kosovo Albanians maintain their sense of ethnicity and identity away from homeland through the institution of marriage. From first-hand field conversation in Switzerland, marriage within their ethnic group is of great importance when speaking to them. They want this not only for themselves but for their children likewise. They believe marrying outside their ethnic group might weaken family bonds, identity and cultural connection. Subsequently, marriages within their ethnic group are actively encouraged and promoted to ensure the transmission of their culture to the next generation, marked by them as strengthening and reifying their ethnical roots. The objective of this project is to understand/explore the dynamics of Kosovo Albanians' marriages in Switzerland. Therefore, this research follows theoretical and empirical objectives. Firstly, it aims to contribute with an ethnographic perspective to the literature on ethnicity and marriage (Jenkins 2008, 2014; Geertz 1973; Barth 1969). Secondly, it will empirically investigate the marital preferences of Kosovo Albanians in Switzerland by asking following qestions: how do ethnicity and identity influence the marriage choices of Kosovo Albanians among the first, middle and second generations of migrants in Switzerland? What preferences do they have in choosing a spouse? What are the implications or outcomes when their choices do not align with their ethnic boundaries?

Short CV

Bubulinë Syla is a scientific researcher at the Albanological Institute of Prishtina, Department of Ethnology, and a teaching assistant at the University of Prishtina, Department of Anthropology. She holds Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Musicology/Ethnomusicology and a second Master's degree in European Ethnology from the University of Vienna. Currently, she is a PhD student at the University of Lucerne, focusing on "Ethnicity and Marriage-Kosovo Albanians in Switzerland." Bubulinë has participated in national and international conferences in Turkey, Ghana, Iceland, the Republic of Czechia, Albania, France, Latvia etc., exploring issues related to Albanian culture in Kosovo, Austria, and Switzerland.

Rini Useini

“Arranged marriages for papers”: The case of Struga, North Macedonia

A very important issue of the people or more precisely of their Balkan traditions has been the choice that a person makes with whom to live his or her life. This choice is decisive for the future with a partner with whom you will live together and create a family. The economic well-being is important for the quality of life of the family. A possible form for well-being but also for survival was found through migration, which is among the oldest human phenomena. Migration to foreign countries of the people from Struga has started since the early 90s. It became a trend in the early years of the 20th century. The first who ran away alone were the householders. Later on they would take the whole family with them. Due to unemployment and economic well-being, many of the young people began to see the West as an opportunity by finding a bride that lives in the country of their destination. Such marriages were a guarantee for those youngsters to provide permanent residence documents. Due to this emigration trend many villages were abandoned by their youth and family members. It had an impact for the whole society as this phenomenon emptied many villages and houses, schools and other cultural institutions. These marriages in anthropological terms are known as transnational marriages. Transnational marriages is a specific form of what is more generally known as “conjugal mixedness” a term defining an interethnic, interreligious or interracial couple’s main characteristic, i.e. the inequality of statuses between the spouses and subsequent social disapproval (Collet, 2015).The anthropological significance of the subject lies in the discrepancy between the ongoing globalization processes (migration, virtual communication and exchange of knowledge, fashion and goods) which contribute to an increase of transnational partnership on one side, and to social disapproval based on unwritten community rules, on the other. Through this topic, I will try to clarify how these marriages are arranged, how they reflect in the community, how these young people face the new reality in western countries, how the demographic structure changes inside and outside the country, and what is the future of this phenomenon. In the field, I handled conversations with different people and situations, in conversation with subjects of interest in this field. I also used analytical and psychoanalytical methods of the subjects, to reach deductive methods and clearer conclusions.

Short CV

Rini Useini received his doctorate at the Institute of Ethnology and Anthropology, University of Skopje “Saint Cyril and Methodius” while Master’s degree - at the “Marko Cepenkov” Institute of Folklore in Skopje. He started his scientific work in 2007 at ISCHA – Skopje in Department of Ethnology, History of art

and Folk architecture where he currently works. He has participated in scientific conferences in China, Albania, Kosovo, Serbia and has published scientific works in the field of Ethnology Folklore and Anthropology. He has published the monograph "Albanian folk dresses in the Struga region".

Janet Reineck

Migration, Motherland, and Cultural Markers: The Evolving Landscape of Albanian identity

When I studied Kosova migration in the 1980s, Albanian men were going alone to Europe to support their families back home. Living as marginalized foreigners, their bodies were in Europe, but their identity as proud Albanian men was back in the village. During rare visits home, they wanted to experience life as it has always been, characterized by extreme moral conservatism, the dialectic of honor and shame saturated with ancient customs inherited from a distant, tribal, heroic past. That's where they found their manhood and meaning. The women left behind found their own self-worth through devotion to the family, industriousness, and moral purity. Since the early 1990s, all this has changed. Millennial migrants are living as nuclear families abroad, raising their children according to local standards and assimilating to varying degrees. They still love Kosova, long for it, but not enough to go back – until the country is seen as economically stable, and education, healthcare, and employment opportunities match those of Europe. And probably not even then. The war, independence, the experience of these migrants, migrant remittances (of money and ideas) have led to tectonic shifts in Albanian lifestyle and worldview. As this happens, where are Albanians finding their identity as human beings, and how is the migration experience affecting this? How important is "being Albanian" for migrants? What are the cultural markers, past and present, that define "Albanian" for those in Kosova and in the diaspora? Which of these markers are changing, and which are throughlines that connect old and new identities: the visible ones (language, food, music and dance, a special brand of hospitality), and the personal, emotional, and psychological (the supremacy of family, the ethos of honor, a shared experience of national suffering resistance, and an ancient heritage)? As an outsider looking in, immersed in Albanian worldview and culture old and new, I feel compelled to understand all the nuances of this, and what it will mean for the future of Kosova.

Short CV

Janet Reineck is an anthropologist and humanitarian aid worker from Santa

Barbara, California who lived in Kosova in the 1980s (researching Albanian culture, migration, and change) and in the 1990s (directing humanitarian aid projects). Her PhD dissertation for the University of California, Berkeley, "The Past as Refuge: Gender Migration, and Ideology Among the Kosova Albanians"(1991) is a detailed study of Albanian traditions and worldview, looking at the effect of the out-migration of men on worldview and behavior in the sending communities. She is now active in teaching Albanian dance abroad and the preservation of ethnographic treasures as part of the development of tourism in Kosova.

Tibor Komar

Playing for the Other Side: Young Footballers born in diaspora between Identity and Opportunity

This abstract explores the phenomenon where young footballers born in one country increasingly choose to represent their parents' homeland. The research is focusing on under-21 year players navigating complex choices between opportunity, identity, and national belonging. The presentation will review the symbolic relationship between diasporic cultural identity and football among the Croatian national football team members born in diaspora. Emphasis is placed on elaborating the elements that contribute to construction of national identity of later generations of migrants, specifically top football players who rather choose to play for the national team of their ancestors and for the "imagined homeland" than for a country of their birth. Migrant communities are usually places where social memory and national heritage are being reproduced and transferred to younger generations of migrants by various means – religious, cultural and sporting practices being most notable. But representing a parent's nation often involves negotiating cultural and emotional ties and players grapple with their sense of belonging, balancing their upbringing and lived experiences with the heritage they might not have fully experienced. The research behind this presentation is based on several key research questions and is elaborated around results obtained from a number of semi-structured interviews and participant observation fieldwork conducted mainly in Germany and Croatia. In conclusion, the decision of young footballers to represent their parents' national team offers a unique lens into the complex interplay of migration, identity, and opportunity. It highlights the challenges and possibilities inherent in navigating a globalized sporting landscape, while also prompting critical reflection on national narratives and the role of sport in modern societies.

Short CV

Tibor Komar was born in 1978 in Zagreb, Croatia where he graduated from the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences with a degree in ethnology and information sciences. Since the same year, he started working at the Department of Ethnology and Cultural Anthropology at the same faculty. He received his PhD in 2014 and is currently working as an assistant professor, holding several courses at the undergraduate and graduate level of studies. His scientific interests reside mainly in the area of anthropology of sports, research of pre-Christian beliefs and new methods of research and preservation of cultural heritage.

Ivelina Eftimova

In between identities – is this possible and what matters at the end of life

Migration is part of life in the modern world. Sometimes it puts people in unusual situations that require different strategies for survival and adaptation to the new environment. However, when it comes to forced migration, there are more prerequisites for deeper personal changes that affect identity as well. An example of such type of migration is the so-called "Great Excursion" at the end of the 80s of the 20th century, which forcibly forced a compact group of Bulgarian Turks to emigrate from Bulgaria to Turkey. These people in Bulgaria are perceived as "Turks" and in Turkey as "Bulgarians", which creates many difficulties and obstacles for them in both places. The remarkable thing is that, on the one hand, the ethnic policy of socialist Bulgaria puts people in difficult life situations, but on the other hand, precisely its educational policy of compulsory education and professional qualification helps these same people to settle quickly in Turkey. Today, these people are pensioners who can travel freely (thanks to their preserved Bulgarian citizenship), and their pensions are significantly higher than those in Bulgaria. The proposed report focuses on those retirees who have chosen to resettle in their home villages either permanently or seasonally. The data were collected from fieldwork in the villages of Mudrevo, Bisertsi and Sevar, which are located in Northeastern Bulgaria. The choice of these villages is due to the fact that not only Sunni Turks live there, but also Kazalbashi (Alevis). These two ethno-confessional groups are highly endogamous, with a clear ethnic identity, which complicates and adds new nuances to their self-definition, especially after migration and democratic changes after 1989. The main questions around which this report is built are: are the reasons for the return of these elderly people primarily economic, or are they more emotional, such as attachment to the place of birth, relatives or the familiar rural community? Finally, to what extent does this affect (if at all)

people's identities at the end of their lives?

Short CV

Assoc. Prof. Ivelina Eftimova, PhD, Faculty of Humanities, Department of History and Archaeology, University of Shumen, 115 Universitetska str., 9700 Shumen, Bulgaria. Lecturer in ethnology and cultural anthropology. Main field of interests: aging, ethnic identity, environment anthropology.

Ermelinda Muçaj

Out of the EU Game: A Discourse-Historical Approach of Migration Securitization and Identity Construction

The Janus-faced intersection between national identity of migrants and acquired identity "in or in between" is exceedingly contested, particularly, after Balkan Migration Crisis in 2015-2016. Following the pendulum shifting constantly towards securitization discourse of migration, the present paper systematically interrogates the linguistic, rhetorical, and ideological dimensions embedded within media narratives by applying Wodak's triangulated Discourse-Historical Approach (DHA) concerned, inter alia, with the sociopolitical context. It uncovers the ways in which migrants are represented and categorized, ranging from 'victims' and 'contributors' to 'threats' and 'outsiders'. The discursive strategies of nomination, predication, argumentation, framing as well as perspectivization, employed by the EU under its "externalization" approach to settle the constant migrant flows left out of "the EU game", are also articulated here through the lens of EU migration policy documents. By unpacking the discursive dimensions of migration securitization, the paper offers insights into the mechanisms through which migration is constructed, contested, and regulated within the Southeast European context. The hermeneutics of migration in this vein elucidates the complex interplay between its diverse facets and enhances its transformation through discourse and policy jointly.

Short CV

Ermelinda Muçaj is currently a Research Fellow investigating the post-conflict peacebuilding discourses in Kosovo and a Project Officer at European Movement in Albania. She holds a Master's in Democracy and Human Rights – a double degree from the University of Sarajevo and the University of Bologna. Ermelinda has got a research internship at RCC's Western Balkan Youth Lab, where she finalized her Master's thesis on youth political participation in Albania and BiH. She has also completed a Master of Science in Language

and Intercultural Communication at the University of Tirana with her thesis on conveying Europeanness - a CDA of EU Ambassadors' speeches, and a Bachelor's in English Language with a specialization in British and American Studies throughout which she also pursued an Erasmus+ study period at the University of Turin. She has presented her research on the Janus face of enlargement fatigue, and language weaponization seen through a political discourse analysis in some scientific conferences.

Rigels Halili

What comes next after migrations? – a reassessment of the Albanian-Greek borderland

This paper will present results from my long-time and still on-going research on southern Albania, with a special focus on several area situated nearby the Albanian-Greek border. A plethora of scholars have written both about Greek-Albanian and Albanian-Greek borderlands and their work by all means has been and continues to be inspiring. However, more than on anthropological present my focus has been on studying the social, economic and cultural life in this area in a diachronic way, putting an emphasis on longue durée rather than on spot-on research. And the project is far from its end. In this respect, a special topic of interest for scholars from various disciplines has been the topic of human migration, mostly the one from Albania to Greece and beyond, and, though in a much more limited way, the internal migratory movements, i.e. within Albania. Only rarely the migration from Greece and abroad to Albania has provoked any scholarly interest. Taking all this in consideration, in my presentation I pose a simple question: what comes next after migrations? What happens to the villages, pasturages, agriculture and in general social and economic life? What is the role of central power? How react the local authorities? What does it mean to loose public transportation, roads, current water, electricity, healthcare and schools? Is it indeed *the* end, as many local inhabitants would state, or are we observing a transitory phase? If so, towards what is this transition going? Is development of tourism a solution? These are some of the question I will try to reflect upon in my paper.

Short CV

Rigels Halili teaches philology and cultural anthropology at the Faculty of Polish Philology, as well as international relations at the Faculty of Journalism and Political Sciences, both at University of Warsaw. He completed his PhD studies at the Graduate School for Social Research, at the Polish Academy of Sciences.

His PhD was published in 2012 as a monograph entitled *Nation and its Songs. Orality, Literacy and Epic Song among Albanian and Serbs*. He has conducted fieldwork in Serbia, Albania and Kosovo. Since 2015 he is a lecturer at the Centre for East European Studies at University of Warsaw, where he teaches about modern Balkans history and culture as well as courses on anthropology and postcommunist transformation.

Maria Adamopoulou

Deserted borderlands: Gastarbeiter migration and demographic anxieties in Northern Greece (1960-1970s)

"The daily conversations of the men in the café and the women at home or in the alleyways, are mainly about the lives of others, of those far-off others. When they're not talking politics, the men tirelessly evoke city and foreign lifestyles through what migrants have written or recounted during their stay, to which they add their own desires and dreams". (Piault 1981,245). Those are the words of Colette Piault, French ethnographer and filmmaker with a doctorate from the Sorbonne in 1963. Here, we follow her ethnographic observations in an article published in 1981, touching upon the realm of imaginaries that has an even more pronounced effect on people living at a standstill. The villagers of her study "In Greece, Absence lived in the village: Here and Now between Elsewhere and Bygone Days", although they live day by day in a small, defined place, their minds roam to the pathways leading abroad. She started to work in Ano Ravenia, a village in Epirus, in 1974 and shot in 16mm a series of six films about aspects of migration from the point of view of the deserted village. This paper is an area study of Northern Greece, namely the provinces of Epirus, Macedonia and Thrace: a borderland in the immediate neighborhood of the Communist Bloc, with a rich history of population movement, it constituted the main pool of outward migration in the 1960s. All transformations on the ground had a highly political relevance coupled with demographic anxieties and economic planning, comparing it to the spread of an epidemic. Using the press of the period together with contemporaneous scholarly accounts, I explore how migration was framed in national security terms contextualized in the Cold War framework.

Short CV

Maria Adamopoulou holds a Doctorate in History from the European University Institute in Florence. Her research focuses on the transnational bonds of Greek migrant workers with their homeland and her monograph *The Greek Gastarbeiter in the Federal Republic of Germany (1960-1974)* appeared in April 2024 by De

Gruyter. From October 2024 she will be Postdoctoral Fellow at the New Europe College in Bucharest working on a project touching upon radio and migration during the Cold War. Her main research interests are social history, migration studies, oral history and memory.

Elissa Helms

Quiet help: Autonomous humanitarianism and Balkan Route migration in a Bosnian border town

Since 2018, Bihac, a small town in northwest Bosnia-Herzegovina close to the Croatia/EU border, has been a gathering site for irregularized migrants traveling the Balkan Route to the EU. Focusing on families fleeing Syria, local residents at first reached out to help, many of them invoking their own recent experiences with war, siege, and refugeeness. Indeed, expectations were that Bosnian Muslims, as are the majority in Bihac, would feel solidarity with the mostly Muslim migrants. However, as had happened in neighboring countries without Muslim populations, many soon turned against the migrants, casting them as illegal "economic" migrants, mostly young single men, leading to vocal initiatives to drive them away. Local authorities began to restrict migrants' movement and to de-facto forbid people from offering food, lodging, or transportation, while EU money funded the establishment of reception centers, or camps, where migrants are provided minimal care while being subject to control as part of "externalization" of the border regime. During my ethnographic research in Bihac in 2019-2020, many migrants preferred to avoid the camps in favor of squats and make-shift shelters in and around the town. Despite the near criminalization of offering aid, many local residents continued to quietly support migrants. They did this mostly from their own resources and as autonomous actors not affiliated with organizations or aid groups. This paper explores the position of some of these residents, asking how they explained their actions and where they drew the line between helping others and putting themselves at risk. Drawing on concepts of autonomous and vernacular humanitarianism and ethnographies of everyday exchange in Bosnia-Herzegovina, I show how these independent aid-givers drew on religious, humanistic, and familial logics to convey their emotional concern for migrants' plight and their own sense of morality.

Short CV
Elissa Helms, cultural anthropologist, is Associate Professor at the Department of Gender Studies at the Central European University, Vienna. Her current research

examines local responses in Bosnia-Herzegovina to Balkan Route migration to the EU. She is the author of *Innocence and Victimhood: Gender, Nationalism, and Women's Activism in Postwar Bosnia-Herzegovina* (U of Wisconsin Press, 2013); co-editor, with Xavier Bougarel and Ger Duijzings, of *The New Bosnian Mosaic: Memories, Identities, and Moral Claims in a Postwar Society* (Ashgate, 2007); and co-editor with Tuija Pulkkinen of *Borders of Desire: Gender and Sexuality at the Eastern Borders of Europe* (Manchester University Press, 2023).

Miha Kozorog

Migration and Wildlife in the Slovenian Borderlands

When anthropology deals with migration, it is most often about flows "of people, capital, information, technology, ideas and practices, including social and economic remittances", as the call for this conference says. Wildlife, moving freely across borders, is rarely considered as an agent in migration, even though wildlife and migration are intertwined in many ways. This paper explores how migration of people affects migration of wildlife and vice versa. Ethnographic cases are from remote borderlands in Slovenia and its surrounding. For example, in the isolated Hungarian borderland, where many people have moved away, wildlife is colonising the re-created wilderness. The adjacent borderland in Slovenia, however, remains agricultural, which animals exploit, but their cross-border migration people politicize, warning that they will migrate from the land. A different case is the south of Slovenia with important animal migration routes along the Dinarides, where the Slovenian government erected physical barriers in order to prevent the movement of people (migrants), but has also affected animal migration and triggered various reactions. This paper explores relations between migration of people and wild animals at borders.

Short CV
Miha Kozorog is Senior Research Associate at the Institute of Slovenian Ethnology of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts and Associate Professor at the Department of Ethnology and Cultural Anthropology of the University of Ljubljana. His recent book (2022, in co-authorship) is titled *Borders: Anthropological Insights* (in Slovene). He is the editor-in-chief of the journal Traditiones. He has conducted fieldwork in Slovenia, Italy, Bosnia-Herzegovina, FYR Macedonia and Hungary. His recent research focuses on wildlife at borders.

Ervin Kaçiu

‘Networked lifes’: Unveiling some of the characteristics of new wave of migration from Albania

Upon examining the landscape and the “new materiality” of the villages in Albania during the field research, it is evident that prominent indicators of contemporary life include ubiquitous water pipes and internet cables connecting each residence. These hydraulic and cable networks delineate the current paradigm of village life. The former persists as a visible mark or reminder of a thirty-year endeavor to secure the fundamental life necessity - the water, thereby inevitably intertwined with the latter. The latter, in turn, assumes significance as a metaphor that explain the habitus within this social field, symbolizing the interconnectedness of the prevailing order centered around managing migration. Through this tie (internet cable network), the void left by the migration of the majority is somewhat assuaged. The migration which has fundamentally altered the temporal and spatial dynamics for those who remain in the village, that live between the local and the transnational, between the past and the present, of a country that they often claim to be without a future as a result of the migration. Based on fieldwork observations, it is evident that migration has been a persistent phenomenon in rural and urban areas over the past 32 years, as a mobility to other countries or urban areas within Albania. However, it should be emphasized that in the last decade, a new wave of migration has emerged, posing a potential threat of complete depopulation for most villages. This recent wave, distinct from previous migration patterns, exhibits new characteristics of the phenomenon, which will be analyzed and discussed in this presentation.

Short CV

Ervin Kaçiu has earned his PHD in political and cultural sociology (2014) from University of Trieste, Italy. He has been teaching political sociology and social theory in various public and private universities in Albania. In 2018, he joined the Institute of Cultural Anthropology and Art Studies as fulltime researcher focusing in anthropology of minorities and diaspora. He is the author of the forthcoming book *An Anthropology on poverty and marginalization: The Case of Roma minority in Albania* and many scientific articles. Over the years Dr. Kaçiu has carried out fieldwork and quantitative researches in Albania, Israel, Italy, and Kosovo. The areas of academic interest for Dr. Kaciu include, anthropology and sociology of minorities, anthropology of vulnerable groups, political anthropology and sociology, genealogy of ideas, political thought and modernity.

Nuri Korkmaz

The Impact of Recent Mass Migration Waves in Southeast Europe and its Borders

Migration can be accepted as the most important phenomenon in contemporary social and political debates in Europe. The period after 2011 marked dramatic changes not only for the immigrants, but also for the transit countries they used to reach their final destinations. Massive crossings of the borders by the refugees became the common image of perception for the borders in Southeast Europe. Eventually, the importance of the borders increased in the period exactly when they were perceived as less relevant. The migration process has affected Southeast Europe and its image dramatically. The perception of the area as periphery was fostered with arguments of European external borders, where additional means to create hard borders were used through the migration discourse. The delay of access to the Schengen zone for Bulgaria and Romania had the same motivation too. However, different excuses were elaborated to neglect the migration phenomenon. This work aims to address recent changes and shifts in the Southeast Europe's image and its borders after the migration that took place in post 2010. By using the discourse analysis method, it will display how this part of Europe and its image was re-elaborated in line with the mass migration movements to Europe and what type of implications it might have for the future of European integration in the region.

Short CV

Dr. Nuri Korkmaz is Associate Professor of International Relations at Bursa Technical University in Turkey. He obtained his PhD in Transborder Policies for Daily Life from the University of Trieste in Italy, MA and BA degrees in International Relations from Gazi University in Ankara, Turkey. Previously, he was Marie Curie early stage researcher at KU Leuven (Belgium), visiting scholar at the Center for Russian, East European and Eurasian Studies, the University of Texas at Austin (USA). His research interests are borders, minorities, nationalism in the Balkans, Black Sea Region and its strategic importance, European border management policies, nationalism and religion in the Middle East, European integration of the Balkans.