

PERSONAL INFORMATION



Yelis Erolova Ahmedova

📍 6A Moskovska st., 1000 Sofia, Bulgaria

☎ +359 2 8052611 📠 +359 88 55 65 302

✉ kham@abv.bg; yelis.erolova@iefem.bas.bg

🌐 <http://iefem.bas.bg/>; https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Yelis_Ahmedova
<https://orcid.org/0000-0002-3578-9852>; <https://bas.academia.edu/yeliserolova>

Date of birth: 02/09/1979 | Nationality: Bulgarian

WORK EXPERIENCE

02 November 2009 to present

Assistant Professor

IEFSEM – BAS, 6A Moskovska st., 1000 Sofia, Bulgaria, <http://iefem.bas.bg/>

Academic research, expert and teaching work, project management and coordination

EDUCATION

2006-2009

PhD in Ethnography

EIM – BAS, Sofia, Bulgaria

Thesis title: 'Borders and Identities. Diaspora Communities in Dobrudzha'
(Diploma # 33385/13.07.2009)

2002-2003

Master Degree in Ethnology

Sofia University 'St. Kliment Ohridski', Bulgaria

Thesis title: 'Authority and prestige of the Kardarash Roma'
(Diploma#M 181379/20.02.07)

1998-2002

Bachelor Degree in History and Ethnology

Sofia University 'St. Kliment Ohridski', Bulgaria

(Diploma#B164373/29.03.03)

TRAINING

December 2014- August 2015

Language training at Language center of Istanbul University, granted by YTB-Turkey.

May 2012

Short-term visiting programme at the Institute for Southeast European Studies at Regensburg University, Germany, granted by the host organization.

April 2012

Specialization at the Institute of Ethnology and Cultural Anthropology and Centre for Migration Research at Warsaw University, Poland, granted by the Bulgarian Ministry of Education.

20th June – 1st July 2012

VII Summer School on Migration in the Neighbourhood of the European Union', organized by EUI, Florence, Italy, granted by the ERSTE foundation.

October 2007-January 2008

Specialization at the Babes-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca, Romania under the International PhD Programme Promoting Anthropology in Central and Eastern Europe (Marie Curie SocAnth).

PERSONAL SKILLS

Mother tongue(s) Turkish

Other language(s)	UNDERSTANDING		SPEAKING		WRITING
	Listening	Reading	Spoken interaction	Spoken production	
English	C1	C1	B2	B2	B2
Russian	B2	C1	B1	B1	B1
Romanian	A2	A2	A2	A1	A1

Communication skills

Good communication skills gained through my fieldwork as an ethnologist and as a volunteer among asylum seekers

Digital skills

SELF-ASSESSMENT				
Information processing	Communication	Content creation	Safety	Problem solving
Proficient user	Proficient user	Proficient user	Proficient user	Proficient user

- good command of office suite (word processor, spread sheet, presentation software)
- good command of photo editing software gained

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Teaching and lectures

Guest-lecturer at lecture course ‘Communities and identities’ in Ethnology program for MA students (35 hrs X 2), Plovdiv University ‘Paisii Hilendarski’, Bulgaria, 2nd semester, 2012, and 1st semester, 2013.

- Lectures under Erasmus + (In English)

‘Ethnocultural diversity of Bulgaria’, Sociology Department, Uludag University, Bursa, Turkey, 18 May, 2018.

‘Ethnocultural diversity of Bulgaria’, ‘Muslim Roma in Bulgaria’, ‘Labor emigration. Case studies on Bulgarian migrants in Cyprus, Turkey and Poland’, ‘Contemporary refugee movement. Bulgaria as a final or transit destination’, Sociology Department, Uludag University, Bursa, Turkey, 24-28 Oct 2016.

‘The Muslims in Bulgaria’ (4 h.) и ‘Welcome to Europe! The Syrian Refugee Migration Pressure in Bulgaria’ (4 h.), Sociology Department, Ege University, Izmir, Turkey 2-9 November 2014.

‘Political and economic migrations from Bulgaria to Turkey’ (4 h); ‘Muslim Roma in Bulgaria’ (4 h), Sociology Department, Ege University, Izmir, Turkey, 8-13 December 2013.

‘Ottoman Legacy in Bulgaria’ (3 h); ‘Crimean Tatars in Bulgaria and Romania (1,5 h); ‘Bulgarians in Cyprus. Intermariages and Labor Migrations’ (1,5 h); ‘Dimensions of Roma identity. Case studies on Bulgarian Roma migrants in Poland’ (3 h), Institute of Ethnology and Cultural Anthropology, Warsaw University, Poland, 9-20 April 2012.

- **Public lectures (in Bulgarian)**

‘Specifics of the Communist Policy towards the Gypsy Minority in Bulgaria’, organized by non-governmental organization EVET, Pamporovo, Bulgaria, 22 June 2018.

‘Education system in Bulgaria’, organized by State Agency for Refugees, Sofia, Voenna rampa, 4 September 2017.

‘Cultural orientation in Bulgaria’, organized by State Agency for Refugees, Sofia, Voenna rampa, 16 June 2017.

‘Ethnicity, identity and stereotypes’ and ‘Traditional ethnic tolerance or stereotypes towards refugees in Bulgaria?’, organized by non-governmental organization EVET and Municipality of Primorsko, Primorsko, Bulgaria, 4-6 September 2014.

‘Migrations from Bulgaria towards Turkey’, ‘Cultural characteristics and socio-political attitudes of the ethnic communities in Northern and Southern Dobrudzha’, organized by non-governmental organization EVET, Slanchev Bryag, Bulgaria, 5-6 September 2013.

‘History of the Roma/Gypsies. Gypsy groups in Bulgaria’, ‘Cultural Specifics and Etiquette among Roma/ Gypsies’, organized within the ‘Educational and Medical Integration of Vulnerable Minority Groups with the Special Focus on Roma’ under PHARE Programme (BG-01-03-0013 - Component 03: Health), Nessebar, Bulgaria, October, 2007.

Publications

- **Books**

(In Bulgarian) Erolova Y. and Slavkova M. (eds). (2013). *Ethnicity, religion and migrations of the Gypsies in Bulgaria*, Sofia: Paradigma, 308 p. ISBN 978-954-326-206-9.

(In Bulgarian) Erolova, Y. 2010. *Dobrudzha – Borders and Identities*. Sofia: Paradigma. 320 p., ISBN 978-954-326-125-3.

- **Edited volumes**

Maeva, M., Y. Erolova, P. Stoyanova, V. Ivanova and M. Hristova (eds) 2020. *Between the Worlds: Magic, Miracles and Mysticism*. Issue 2. Sofia: IEFSEM & Paradigma (Forthcoming).

Erolova, Y., Krastev P. and Y. Popcheva (eds.) 2021 *Current Field Studies on Cultural and Historical Heritage*. Sofia: IEFSEM – BAS (Forthcoming) (in Bulgarian).

Slavkova, M., Maeva, M., Erolova, Y. and Popov, R. (eds.) (2019). *Between the Worlds: People, Spaces and Rituals*. Sofia: IEFSEM-BAS & Paradigma. 489 p., ISSN 2683-0213.

Ahmed, V. and Erolova, Y. (eds.) 2018 *Sacred Places of the Muslims in Bulgaria*. Sofia: High Islamic Institute. ISBN 978-619-7406-07-8. (In Bulgarian)

(In Bulgarian) Borisova, M., Gergova, L., Gergova, Y., Erolova, Y. and Matanova, T. (eds.) (2017). *Bulgarians abroad, foreigners in Bulgaria*. Sofia: IEFSEM-BAS, ISBN 978-954-8458-50-4, 371 p.

- **Scholarly journals**

1. [Erolova, Y. 2019. Refugee Integration in Bulgaria: Conditions and Challenges – Glasnik Etnografskog instituta, SANU, 3 \(67\); ISSN: 0350-0861, <https://doi.org/10.2298/GEI1903559E>, pp. 559-571.](#)

2. (In Bulgarian) Erolova, Y. 2019. Why refugees cannot be a factor on the demographic situation in Bulgaria? *Nasselenie Review*, Volume 37, Number 3, ISSN 0205-0617 (Print); ISSN 2367-9174 (Online), pp.545-585.

3. [Erolova, Y. 2017. Asylum seekers and refugees in Bulgaria: between opened and closed doors. *Uludağ Üniversitesi Fen-Edebiyat Fakültesi Sosyal Bilimler Dergisi*, 18 \(33\), pp. 359-378. ISSN:1302-2423, DOI:10.21550/sosbilder.292481.](#)

4. (In Bulgarian) Erolova, Y. 2016. Between written and oral history: re-settlement of the Turks from Bulgaria to Turkey from 1950 to 1951. *Bulgarska etnologiya*, 4, ISSN 1310-52-13, pp. 204-224.

5. Erolova, Y. 2013. An Ethnological Study of the Crimean Tatars, Roma/Gypsies and Old Believers in Northern and Southern Dobrudzha. *Revista de Etnografie si folklore / Journal of Ethnography and Folklore*, Vol. 1-2, ISSN 0034-8198, pp. 237-260.

6. (In Bulgarian) Erolova, Y. 2013. Intermarriages as a cause or consequences of the contemporary Bulgarian emigration toward European and non-European countries. Strategies for coexistence. *Bulgarska etnologiya*, 2, ISSN 1310-52-13, pp. 180-194.
7. Erolova, Y. 2013. Labour migrations of Bulgarian Turks to Turkey since 1990. A case study on migrants from Svishtov, Bulgaria. *Südosteuropa*, 61, ISSN 0722-480X, pp. 1-24.
8. (In Bulgarian) [Erolova, Y. 2008. Religious and political dimensions of the self-identifications of OldBelievers in Dobrudzha. *Journal of Ethnology and Culturology*, vol. 4, Chisinau, Moldavian Academy of Science, Institute of Cultural Heritage, ISSN 1857-2049, pp. 169-173.](#)

- Chapters and conference proceedings

9. Erolova, Y. 2021. About Contemporary Religious Identity of the Muslim Roma in Bulgaria. In: Y. Erolova, P. Krastev and Y. Popcheva (eds.) *Current Field Studies on Cultural and Historical Heritage*. Sofia: IEFSEM – BAS (Forthcoming) (in Bulgarian).
10. Erolova, Y. 2020. Ethnic Identity and Marital Choice among the Gypsies/Roma with Turkish Identity in Bulgaria. In: *Annual of the Faculty of History of Veliko Turnovo University 'St. St. Cyril and Methodius'. Article Collection in Honor of Professor Dr. Maria Ivanova, III*, Veliko Tarnovo: University Press (Forthcoming). (In Bulgarian)
11. [Erolova, Y. and Nakova, A. 2019. Integration by 'Fencing': The Case of Refugees in Bulgaria. In: M. Slavkova, M. Maeva, Y. Erolova and R. Popov \(eds\). *Between the Worlds: People, Spaces and Rituals*. Issue 1, Sofia: IEFSEM-BAS & Paradigma, ISSN 2683-0213, pp. 425-453.](#)
12. [Erolova, Y. 2019. Ethnic and Social Challenges of Post-Disaster Housing: Case Studies of Asparuhovo and Hitrino, Northeast Bulgaria. In: T. Murat, \(ed.\) *The 2nd Kurultai of the Endangered Cultural Heritage*. Constanta: Anticus Press, ISSN 2668-3474, pp. 91-102.](#)
13. (In Bulgarian) Erolova, Y. 2019. Refugee attitudes for settlement and integration into Bulgarian society. In: K. Vladimirova et al. (eds.). *Measures to overcome the demographic crisis in Republic of Bulgaria*. Vol. 3. Migrations and national identity. Sofia: IPHS-BAS, ISBN 978954229635, pp. 294-316.
14. (In Bulgarian) Erolova, Y. and Nakova, A. 2019. National Policy in the Field of Asylum and Refugees. Managerial Decisions in International and National Context since 2013. In: K. Vladimirova et al. (eds.) *Measures to overcome the demographic crisis in Republic of Bulgaria*. Vol. 3. Migrations and national identity. Sofia: IPHS-BAS, ISBN 978954229635, pp. 239-260.
15. (In Bulgarian) [Erolova, Y. 2018. Ethno-social Aspects of the 2014 Flood Consequences in Asparuhovo quarter in Varna. In: M. Mizov \(ed.\) *Ecology and Civil Society*. Sofia: Avangard Prima, ISBN 978-619-239-135-5, pp. 237-250.](#)
16. (In Bulgarian) Erolova, Y. (2018). About Biritual Religious Sanctuary Akyazaly Baba- St. Athanasius in village of Obrochishte, Balchik region. In: Sv. Dimitrova (ed.) *The Memory about Tradition. A Collection in honor of the 70th Anniversary of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Anghel Goev*. Veliko Tarnovo: Faber, ISBN 978-619-00-0742-5, pp.269-289.
17. (In Bulgarian) Erolova, Y. 2018. 'Unallowed' practices in some sacred places among Muslims in Bulgaria. In: V. Ahmed and Y. Erolova (eds.). *Sacred Places of the Muslims in Bulgaria*. Sofia: High Islamic Institute, ISBN 978-619-7406-07-8, pp. 58-82.
18. [Erolova, Y. 2018. Historical and Ethnographic Portraits of the Re-Settlement of the Turks in Bulgaria to Turkey in 1950-1951. In: A. Aytac \(ed.\) *XII. International Turkic Culture, Art and Protection of Cultural Heritage Symposium/ Art Activity 'Turkey-Macedonia Relations'*, ISBN 978-619-7406-07-8, pp. 117-124.](#)
19. [Erolova, Y. 2018. \(Re\) Invented Traditions – Reconstructed Identities \(Case Studies from Bulgarian-Romanian Border Region of Dobrudzha\). In: Murat, T. \(ed.\) *The 1st Kurultai of the Endangered Cultural Heritage*. Constanta: Anticus Press, pp. 7-20. ISBN 978-975-448-228-7.](#)
20. [Erolova, Y. 2018. The Responses of the Religious Organizations in Bulgaria to the Refugee Influx. In: Elmaz, M., U. Ozturk, M. Becermen \(eds\) *War and Peace. Proceedings Book. V. International Philosophy Congress*. Istanbul: SENTEZ YAYINCILIK, pp. 485-491. ISBN 978-605-99-2284-5.](#)

21. [Erolova, Y. 2017. Contemporary development of the Akyazılı Baba tekke / St. Athanasius in Bulgaria. In: Anastasova, E. and Köiva, M. \(eds\). *Balkan and Balticum. Current Studies in the Postsocialist Space*. Tartu, ISSN:1406-2011, DOI:10.7592/Sator.2017.18.04. pp. 73-93.](#)
22. Erolova, Y. 2017. Religious Trends among Muslim Roma in Bulgaria. In: Kyuchukov, Hristo and William New (eds). *Languages of Resistance: Ian Hancock's Contribution to Romani Studies*. Munich: Lincom, ISBN 978-605-99-2284-5, pp. 301-317.
23. (In Turkish) Erolova, Y. 2017. Bulgaristan'dan Polonya'ya Roman Göçü. In: Emin Atasöy and Jan A. Wendt (eds.) *Sosyal Bilimler Işığında Polonya Cumhuriyeti*. [Erolova, Y. 2017. Romani migrations from Bulgaria to Poland. In: Emin Atasöy and Jan A. Wendt (eds.) *Republic of Poland in the light of social sciences*] Istanbul: Beta, ISBN 6053339113, pp. 333-346.
24. (In Bulgarian) [Erolova, Y. 2017. Challenges faced by refugees in Bulgaria. In: Borisova, M., L. Gergova, Y. Gergova, Y. Erolova, T. Matanova \(eds.\). 2017. *Bulgarians abroad, foreigners in Bulgaria*. Sofia: IEFSEM-BAS, ISBN 978-954-8458-50-4, pp. 323-345.](#)
25. [Erolova, Y. 2014. Turkish Roma from Bulgaria and their Migration to Poland. ERSTE Foundation Fellowship for Social Research: Should we stay or should we go? Migration and its effects on demographic and economic development in Central Eastern Europe 2011–2012, 36 pages <https://issuu.com/erste-foundation/docs/20erolova/4>.](#)
26. (In Bulgarian) [Erolova, Y. 2013. The Iceland of Aphrodite – 'Home for Many Bulgarians \(Ethnological study on Bulgarian migrants in the Republic of Cyprus\). In: Maeva, M. and S. Zahova \(eds.\) *Ethnography of Migrations: Bulgarians in the Mediterranean*. Sofia: Paradigma, ISBN 978-326-199-4, pp. 173-203.](#)
27. Erolova, Y. 2013. Bulgarian Migrant Community in the Republic of Cyprus. In: Dimitrova, T. and T. Kahl. (eds.) *Migration from and towards Bulgaria 1989-2011*. Berlin: Frank and Timme, ISBN 978-3-86596-520-2, pp. 183-206.
28. (In Bulgarian) Erolova, Y. 2013. Our Gypsies in Poland. In: Erolova, Y. and M. Slavkova. *Ethnicity, religion and migrations of the Gypsies in Bulgaria*. Sofia: Paradigma, ISBN 978-954-326-206-9, pp. 163-186.
29. (In Bulgarian) Erolova, Y. 2013. Muslim Gypsies: 'Gypsies', 'Turks' or / and 'Millet'. In: Erolova, Y. and M. Slavkova. *Ethnicity, religion and migrations of the Gypsies in Bulgaria*. Sofia: Paradigma, ISBN 978-954-326-206-9, pp. 25-46.
30. (In Bulgarian) Erolova, Y. 2013. About the Kalderash Culture. In: Erolova, Y. and M. Slavkova. *Ethnicity, religion and migrations of the Gypsies in Bulgaria*. Sofia: Paradigma, ISBN 978-954-326-206-9, pp. 229-288.
31. Erolova, Y. 2012. Identity and religion of the Muslim Roma/so-called Turkish Gypsies. In: T. Varady and G. Basic (Eds.) *The Change of Roma Identity, Culture and Language Conditioned by Planned Socio-Economic Integration*. Belgrade: SANU, ISBN 978-86-7025-598-2, pp. 239-249.
32. Erolova, Y. 2012. Ethnocultural dimensions of the labour migrations from Bulgaria to Turkey since 1990. In: F. Iyiyol, O. Uras (eds). *I. International Balkan Congress Proceedings*. Istanbul: Suleyman Sah University, ISBN 978-605-63388-0-9, pp. 967-988.
33. (In Russian) Erolova, Y. 2011. Funeral customs and ethno-confessional identity of the Old Believers in Bulgaria. In: I. Danilov and Sv. Moldovan (eds.) *Russian Lipovan Culture in the National and International Context*, vol. 5, Bucharest: CRLR, ISSN 2248-0358, pp. 240-248.
34. [Erolova, Y. 2010. Labour Migrations of the Bulgarian Roma in Poland. In: Nando Sigona \(ed.\) *Proceedings of International Conference 'Romani Mobilities in Europe: Multidisciplinary Perspectives'*. Available at: <http://romanimobilities.wordpress.com/2010/01/29/romani-mobilities-in-europe-conference-proceedings-final-version/>.](#)
35. Erolova, Y. 2010. Crimea and/or Turkey in self-identification of the Crimean Tatars in Dobrudzha. In: Karamihova, M. (ed.) *Readings in the History and Culture of the Balkans. In Support of University Teaching*. Sofia: Paradigma, ISBN 978-954-326-134-5, pp. 213-230.
36. (In Bulgarian) Erolova, Y. 2010. From tent to palace. In: M. Karamihova (ed.) *Readings in the History and Culture of the Balkans. In Support of University Teaching*. Academica Balkanica, Sofia: Paradigma, ISBN 978-954-326-129-1, pp. 239-261.
37. (In Romanian) Erolova, Y. 2010. Cultura materială și identitatea țiganilor din Dobrogea. [Material Culture and Identity of the Gypsies from Dobrudzha] In: Șt. Șerban (coordinator). *Teme in*

antropologia sociala din Europa de sud-est. Volum in memoriei Profesorului Paul H. Stahl. București: Paideia, ISBN 978-973-596-563-1, pp. 333-358.

38. Erolova, Y. 2010. Bulgarian Interreligious Society. In: D. Brandes, O., Lukács, V. Grajdian (eds.). *Telling Stories of Hope: Reconciliation in South East Europe Compared to World-Wide Experiences.* Evangelische Verlagsanstalt, Cluj-Napoca: Presa Universitară Clujeană, ISBN 978-3374028306, pp. 218-225.

39. Erolova, Y. 2008. Boundaries and identities: The Crimean Tatars in Dobrudzha. In: El. Marushiakova (ed.) *Dynamics of National Identity and Transnational Identities in the Process of European Integration.* Newcastle: Cambridge Scholars Publishing, ISBN 978-1-8471-8471-9, pp. 449-467.

40. (In Bulgarian) Erolova, Y. 2008. Boundaries and identities: The Crimean Tatars in Dobrudzha. In: M. Decheva (ed.) *Dynamics of National Identity and Transnational Identities in the Process of European Integration.* Sofia: Paradigma, ISBN 978-954-326-074-4, pp. 615-636.

41. (In Bulgarian) Erolova, Y. 2008. Changes of professional orientations of the Kalderash Roma in Bulgaria. In: *Transactions in the history and culture*, Conference Proceedings, Skopje, ISBN 9789989159275, pp. 301-314.

42. (In Bulgarian) [Erolova, Y. 2003. Markers of Self-Identification of the Karderash Roma](#). In: *Balkan Identities*. Vol. 3, Sofia: HIS, pp. 283-290.

43. (In Bulgarian) Erolova, Y. 2002. Property, social and religious heterogeneity of the Roma community in some quarters in Sofia and Sliven. In: *Ethnologica Academica*, vol. 2. Communities and Cultures. Sofia: Vulkan 4, ISBN 954-488-064-X, pp. 38-42.

▪ Popular-scientific articles

1. (In Bulgarian) Erolova, Y. 2019. About the discussion on the definition of the traumatic events experienced by the Turks and Muslims in Bulgaria in the 1980s. – *Journal of Religion and Culture 'Muslims'*, 12 (300), pp. 11-12.

2. (In Bulgarian) [Erolova, Y. 2017. A Black Cat Should Not Cross Your Path!](#) *Journal of Religion and Culture 'Muslims'*, 33, pp. 12-13.

3. (In Bulgarian) [Erolova, Y. 2017. Personal Names between Tradition and Modernity.](#) – *Journal of Religion and Culture 'Muslims'*, 11, pp. 8-9.

4. [Erolova, Y. 2016. Nawrez among the Crimean Tatars in Bulgaria and Romania – Diplomatic spectrum.](#) Available on: <http://diplomatspectrum.com/en/bulgaria/culture/465-nawrez-of-the-crimean-tatars-in-bulgaria-and-romania.html>.

5. (In Bulgarian) Erolova, Y. 2009. V. I. Lenin and his monument in Novgrad village, Rousse district. In: *Memorial places, events and personalities*. Sofia: Values Foundation, p. 33.

▪ Reviews

(In Bulgarian) Erolova, Y. 2017. – Magdalena Lubanska. Muslims and Christians in the Bulgarian Rhodopes. Studies on Religious (Anti) Syncretism. Warsaw-Berlin, 2015. *Bulgarska Etnologiya*, 4, pp. 485-489.

(In Bulgarian) Erolova, Y. 2009. – Evg. Y. Ivanova, V. Krastev. The Roma Woman – spaces and boundaries of her life. Stara Zagora. 2008. – *Bulgarska Etnologiya* 1-2, pp. 152-154.

Project experience

▪ Consultant in project ‘Contemporary Bulgarian Identity – National and European Dimensions’ Implementing organization: IEFSEM-BAS, funded by National Science Fund, Bulgaria; KII-06-H50/6 from 30.11.2020; Coordinator: Prof. DSc. Rachko Popov; 2020-2023.

▪ Investigator in project ‘Still in Bulgaria. Cultural and Social Effects of Labour Mobility and Migration on Bulgarian Society (1990-2019)’; Implementing organization: IEFSEM-BAS, funded by National Science Fund, Bulgaria; Contract: KP-06-H40/9 from 10.12.2019; Coordinator: Assoc. Prof. M. Maeva; 2019-2022.

- Investigator in the National Scientific Program ‘Cultural-Historical Heritage, National Memory and Social Development’, funded by Ministry of Education and Science – Republic of Bulgaria, Decision of Council of Ministers # 577 from 17 August 2018, Coordinator for IEFSEM-BAS Assoc. Prof. Mila Maeva; 2018-2021.
- Investigator in project ‘Documentary heritage of the traditional Protestant communities in Bulgaria’; Implementing organization: IEFSEM-BAS, funded by British Library, the Endangered Archives Programme, EAP 1145; Coordinator: Assist. Prof. M. Slavkova; 2018-2019.
- Investigator in project: ‘Local Disasters and Quality of Life: Cultural Strategies in Overcoming of Natural, Technological and Biological Hazards and Disasters Research’; Implementing organization: IEFSEM-BAS; funded by National Science Fund, Bulgaria, Contract: 20/5/11.12.2017; Coordinator: Assoc. Prof. E. Tzaneva; 2017-2021.
- Investigator in project: ‘Cultural Adaptation and Integration of Immigrants in Bulgaria’; Implementing organization: IEFSEM-BAS, funded by National Science Fund, Bulgaria, Contract: 20/8/11.12.2017; Coordinator: Assoc. Prof. P. Hristov; 2017-2021.
- Investigator in project ‘Refugees in the Concepts of Bulgarians - Fears, Understanding and Empathy’; Implementing organization: IFS-BAS, funded by National Science Fund, Bulgaria; Contract: 15/03/11.12.2017; Coordinator: Prof. T. Nedelcheva; 2017-2021.
- Investigator in project: ‘Measures to overcome the demographic crisis in the Republic of Bulgaria Project’; Implementing organization: IPHS – BAS; Coordinator: Prof. Dr. A. Hristova; 2017-2018.
- Investigator in project ‘Documentation of the Pre-industrial Elements in the Culture of Bulgarian Minorities’ Culture during the 20th Century’; Implementing organization: IEFSEM-BAS, funded by British Library, the Endangered Archives Programme, Coordinator: Mila Maeva, PhD, 2011-2012 – phase 1; 2014-2015 – phase 2.
- Investigator in project ‘Bulgarians and Romanians – Identities and Cultures in the European Union’, supported by Bulgarian Academy of Sciences and Romanian Academy. Coordinators: Prof. Sabina Ispas, Assoc. Prof. Ekaterina Anastasova. 2012-2014.
- Principal investigator in research project ‘New Dimensions of Roma Mobility in CEE (A Case Study on Roma Migrations from Bulgaria to Poland)’ under Fellowship for Social Researchers. Generations in Dialogue Program of ERSTE Foundation, Austria, 2010-2011.
- Coordinator of project ‘Dynamics of the return and reintegration processes of Bulgarian migrants’, funded by National Science Fund – Young Researchers. Leading organization: ISKS-BAS; 2012-2013.
- Participant in project ‘Expanding the skills and qualifications of young scholars for border areas – prerequisites between science and practice’, funded by Operational Program for Human Resource Development. Leading organization: ISKS-BAS, Manager: Assoc. Prof. Zoya Gadeleva; 2009-2011.
- Investigator in project ‘Cultural heritage and national identity in terms of pan-European labor mobility’, funded by National Science Fund. Leading organization: EIM-BAS. Coordinator: Assoc. Prof. Vesselin Popov; 2009-2011.
- Investigator in project ‘European Dimensions of the Balkan Culture and History’, funded by Operational Program for Human Resource Development, Ministry of Education and Science. Leading organization: EIM-BAS. Coordinator: Assoc. Prof. Margarita Karamihova. 2008-2010.
- Investigator in ‘International PhD Programme Promoting Anthropology in Central and Eastern Europe (Marie Curie SocAnth). European Partnership for Qualitative Research Training (Social Anthropology)’, under the European Community’s Sixth Framework Programme (MEST-CT-2005-020702). Individual research project: ‘Ethnic identity and material culture of the Roma/ Gypsies in Romania’. 2007 – 2008 r.
- Principal investigator in project ‘Boundaries and Identities. Diaspora Communities in Dobrudzha’, funded by Maison des sciences de l’home et de la societe –Sofia. 2007.
- Investigator in project ‘Dynamics of National Identity and Transnational Identities in the process of European Integration’ funded by Jean Monnet Action, Support for Study and Research Centres. Programme of the European Commission. Leading organization: EIM-BAS; Coordinator: Assoc. Prof. Elena Marushiakova; 2006-2007.

**Conferences,
Seminars,
Round tables**

1. Seminar ‘Contemporary Field Studies on the Cultural-Historical Heritage’, organized by IEFSEM – BAS, Sofia, Bulgaria, 10 November 2019; [Paper \(in Bulgarian\): ‘Academic and public insights on the religiosity of Muslim Roma in Bulgaria’](#)
2. International Conference: ‘Between the Worlds: Magic, Miracles and Mysticism’, organized by IEFSEM – BAS, Sofia, Bulgaria, 29-31 October 2020; [Paper: ‘Magic in the Eyes of Muslim Roma \(Cases from Bulgaria\)’](#).
3. 3rd Conference of the German Network of Forced Migration Researchers ‘Contexts of Displacement, Refugee Protection and Forced Migrants Lives’; Panel: 6.12 Subnational Refugee Governance. European Perspectives, организатор: Университета в Кьолн, Германия, 17-19 September 2020; [Paper: ‘Beyond the Decentralised Approach to Refugee Integration in Bulgaria. A Case Study of Harmanli’](#).
4. Seminar ‘Contemporary Field Studies on the Cultural-Historical Heritage’, organized by IEFSEM – BAS, Sofia, Bulgaria, 10 October 2019; [Paper \(in Bulgarian\): ‘New Religious Changes among Turkish-speaking Roma in Southern Bulgaria’](#).
5. International Symposium ‘30th Anniversary of Forced Migration from Bulgaria to Turkey’, organized by ‘Izmir Katip Celebi’ University, Izmir, Turkey, 18-19 October, 2019; [Paper: ‘Political Activity of the Turks in Post-1989 Bulgaria’](#).
6. Gypsy Lore Society Annual Conference and Meeting, organized by University of Iceland, Reykavik, Iceland, 15-17 August 2019; [Paper: ‘The Gypsies: A National Security Issue in Contemporary Bulgaria?’](#)
7. International conference ‘The 2nd Kurultai of the Endangered Cultural Heritage’, Constanta, Romania, organized by AKECH, 20-23 June 2019; [Paper: ‘Ethnic and Social Challenges of Post-Disaster Housing: Case Studies of Asparuhovo and Hitrino, Northeast Bulgaria’](#).
8. International symposium ‘Homing: displacement, suspension, projections and achievements in making home on the move’, organized by University of Trento, Italy, 3-4 June 2019; [Paper: ‘Bulgarian Case of Refugee Homing’](#).
9. National Conference ‘Ecology and Civil Society’, organized by Centre for Historical and Political Studies, Sofia, 23 November 2018; [Paper \(in Bulgarian\): ‘Ethno-social Aspects of the 2014 Flood Consequences in Asparuhovo quarter in Varna’](#).
10. National Conference with International Participation ‘The Destiny of Traditions’, organized by Ethnology Department, Sofia University ‘St. Kl. Ohridski’, Kjustendil, Bulgaria, 16-18 November 2018; [Paper \(in Bulgarian\): ‘Refugee Food Cultures \(Cases from Bulgaria\)’](#).
11. National Conference with International Participation ‘Demographic Challenges and Policies’, organized by IPHS-BAS, Sofia, Bulgaria, 14-15 November, 2018, [Paper \(in Bulgarian\): ‘Why Refugees Can \(not\) Be a Factor on the Demographic Situation in Bulgaria?’](#).
12. International Congress ‘War and Peace’, organized by Uludag University, Bursa, Turkey, 11-13 October 2018; [Paper: ‘The Responses of the Religious Organizations in Bulgaria to the Refugee Influx’](#).
13. Gypsy Lore Society Annual Conference and Meeting, Bucharest, Romania, 4-8 September 2018; [Paper: ‘The „Roma” of Asparuhovo – flood disaster victims or culprits?’](#).
14. International Conference ‘The 1st Annual Kurultai of the Endangered Cultural Heritage’, organized by AKECH и ALECLA, Constanta, Romania, 5-8 July 2018; [Paper: ‘\(Re\) Invented Traditions – Reconstructed Identities \(Case Studies from Bulgarian-Romanian Border Region of Dobrudzha\)’](#).
15. International conference ‘Sufism on the Balkans – a bridge between cultures’, organized by University of Isfahan, University of Najafabad, Iran, Cultural Counsellor

- of the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Institute for the study of the societies and knowledge at BAS, Sofia, Bulgaria, 14 May 2018; **Paper:** 'Re-thinking Akyazili baba tekke as a sacred and tourist place'.
16. National roundtable 'The Reformation and We', organized by IEFSEM-BAS, Sofia, 13 December 2017; **Paper (in Bulgarian):** 'Conversions from Islam to Protestantism (Case studies on Iranian refugees in Bulgaria and Turkey)'.
 17. International conference 'Between the worlds: people, rituals and spaces', organized by Institute of Ethnology and Folklore Studies with Ethnographic Museum at BAS, Sofia, Bulgaria. 30-31 October 2017; **Paper:** 'Refugee Pathways between European Laws and Bulgarian Reality'.
 18. Scientific forum 'Sacred places of the Muslims in Bulgaria', organized by Grand Mufti's Office, Sofia, Bulgaria. 19 October 2017; **Paper (in Bulgarian):** 'Unallowed practices in some sacred places among Muslims in Bulgaria'.
 19. International roundtable 'Nowruz – a celebration of a new beginning', organized by the Union of Bulgarian Journalists and Association 'Spectrum 21', Sofia, Bulgaria. 27 April 2016; **Paper (in Bulgarian):** 'Nawrez among the Crimean Tatars in Bulgaria and Romania'
 20. International conference 'Contextualizing Changes: Migrations, Shifting Borders and New Identities in Eastern Europe', organized by IEFSEM-BAS, Embassy of Austria, Sofia, Bulgaria. 8-11 October 2014; **Paper:** 'Bulgarian Attitudes towards Syrian Refugees. The Case Studies of Telish and Rozovo'.
 21. 2nd International conference 'Balkan and Baltic States in United Europe – History, Religion and Culture', organized by IEFSEM-BAS, Sofia, Bulgaria. 1-3 October 2014; **Paper:** 'Bulgarians and Romanians – 'New' Old Europeans'.
 22. National conference 'Bulgarians abroad, foreigners in Bulgaria: institutions, organizations and community life', organized by IEFSEM-BAS, Sofia, Bulgaria. 29-30 September 2014; **Paper (in Bulgarian):** 'Being a refugee in Bulgaria – cultural shocks and challenges'.
 23. 7th Congress of InASEA 'Cultures of Crisis: Experiencing and Coping with Upheavals and Disasters in Southeast Europe', organized by InASEA and Kadir Has University, Istanbul Turkey, 18-20 September 2014; **Paper:** 'Welcome to Europe! The so-called 'refugee crisis' in Bulgaria'.
 24. National Conference 'Welcome to Cyberia! Notes from the Digital Field', organized by IEFSEM- BAS, Sofia, Bulgaria, 20-21 June 2013; **Paper (in Bulgarian):** 'Internet as a tool for maintaining of the regional identity of the migrants from Svishtov'.
 25. National conference with international participation 'Atelierele Brăiloiu', organized by Institute of Ethnography and Folklore at Romanian Academy, Bucharest, Romania, 19 October 2012; **Paper:** 'An ethnological study on the Crimean Tatars, Roma/Gypsies and Old Believers in North and South Dobrudzha'.
 26. First International Balkan Congress, organized by Suleyman Sah University, Istanbul, Turkey, 24-25 September 2012; **Paper:** 'Ethnocultural dimensions of the labour migrations from Bulgaria to Turkey since 1990'.
 27. Gypsy Lore Society Annual Conference and Meeting, Istanbul, Turkey, 19-23 September 2012; **Paper:** 'Gypsies Muslim Leaders in Bulgaria'.
 28. International Conference 'Migrations from and towards Bulgaria', organized by Friedrich Schiller University, Jena, Germany, 27-28 April 2012; **Paper:** 'Bulgarian Migrant Community in the Republic of Cyprus'.
 29. Gypsy Lore Society Annual Conference and Meeting, Gratz, Austria, 1-3 September 2011; **Paper:** 'Contemporary Labour Migrations of the Turkish Gypsies from Bulgarian region of Dobrudzha'.
 30. International Conference 'Promene identiteta, kulture i jezika Roma u uslovima

- planske socijalno-ekonomske integracije’, organized by Serbian Academy of Sciences, Belgrade, Serbia, 7-8 December 2010; **Paper:** „Religion and Identity of the Muslim Roma in Bulgaria’
31. Gypsy Lore Society Annual Conference and Meeting, Lisbon, Portugal, 8-10 September 2010; **Paper:** ‘Gypsies on the both sides of Bulgarian-Romanian border before and after 1989. A case study on selected Gypsy groups in North and South Dobrudzha’.
 32. Work meeting „Travel, Exchanges, Translations’ under IS0803 BG ‘Remaking Eastern Borders in Europe: A Network Exploring Social, Moral and Material Relocations of Europe’s Eastern Peripheries’, COST Action IS0803, organized by EIM-BAS, 14-15 May 2010; **Paper:** „Diaspora Identity. A Case Study on Crimean Tatars in Dobrudzha’.
 33. Conference ‘Human rights and ethnic tolerance’, organized by non-governmental organization EVET, Konrad Adenauer Stiftung and World League of Turkic Youth, International Human Rights Eurasia Forum. Sofia, Bulgaria, 19-21 May 2010; **Paper (in Bulgarian):** „The significance of the civic organizations for the ethnic minorities in Bulgaria’.
 34. International conference ‘Romani Mobilities in Europe: Multidisciplinary Perspectives’, organized by Refugee Studies Centre at Oxford University, Oxford, United Kingdom, 14-15 January 2010; **Paper:** „Labour Migrations of Bulgarian Roma to Poland’.
 35. International Conference ‘Alignment with the Regime of Communism – 20 years later’, organized by EIM-BAS, Sofia, 2009; **Paper:** ‘Reflections on Bulgarian-Romanian Border in the so-called ‘Socialistic period’ (Case studies from Dobrudzha region)’.
 36. Fifth International Scientific Symposium ‘Culture of Russian Lipovans in International and National Context’, organized by Comunitatea Rusilor Lipovean din Romania, Tulcea, Romania, 11-15 May 2019; **Paper (in Russian):** „Funeral Customs and Ethnoconfessional Identity of the Russian Old Believers in Bulgaria’.
 37. International conference ‘Healing of Memories’, organized by Foundation Reconciliation in South-East-Europe, Sambata de sus monastery, Fagaras county, Romania, May 2009; **Paper:** ‘Ethnoreligious communities in Bulgaria’.
 38. National Round table ‘Underwear discourse’, organized by New Bulgarian University, Sozopol, Bulgaria, 9 September 2009; **Paper in Bulgarian:** ‘Underwear in dowry’.
 39. Seminar within Individual European Partnership for Qualitative Research Training (Social Anthropology) under the European Community’s Sixth Framework Programme, organized by Max-Planck-Institut für Ethnologische Forschung, Halle, Germany, 2008; **Paper:** ‘Ethnic Identity and Material Culture of the Roma/Gypsies in Dobrudzha’
 40. International Conference „Dynamics of National Identity and Transnational Identities in the process of European Integration’, organized by EIM-BAS, Sofia, Bulgaria, 2006; **Paper:** ‘Boundaries and Identities: Crimean Tatars in Dobrudzha’.
 41. International conference ‘Transitions in History and Culture’, organized by the National Institute of History of Macedonia and Ethnographic Institute with Museum – BAS, Skopje, Macedonia, 2006; **Paper (in Bulgarian):** ‘Professional Orientations Changes of the Kalderash Roma in Bulgaria’.
 42. Seminar ‘Ethnology and Bulgarian Society’, organized by Ethnology Department, History Faculty, Sofia University ‘St. Kliment Ohridski’, Sofia, Bulgaria, May 2003; **Paper (in Bulgarian):** ‘The Marital Choice of the Kalderash Roma’.
 43. International Conference ‘Ethnos and culture on the Balkans’, organized by DIOS Foundation, Troyan, Bulgaria, 2000; **Paper (in Bulgarian):** ‘Funeral Rites among the Muslims Sunni. Field Studies in Town of Svishtov and Village of Novgrad, Rouse district’.

44. Seminar within project 'Poverty and Ethnicity', organized by Ethnology Department, History Faculty, Sofia University 'St. Kliment Ohridski' and IMIR Foundation, Sofia, Bulgaria, 1999; Paper (in Bulgarian): 'Heterogeneity of the Roma Community in Sliven and Sofia'.

Memberships

Gypsy Lore Society; European Academic Network on Romani Studies; Academic Centre for Local and Global Studies

Others:

- **Expert statements**

Y. Erolova, M. Slavkova. May 2011. Conception for Alternative Tourism Development. Festival as a Tourist Attraction. 88 pages. (In Bulgarian)

M. Slavkova, Y. Erolova. 2005. A study into the attitude to education of the Roma population in the Municipality of Nova Zagora. Sofia, IMIR. (In Bulgarian)

- **Field work and archiving**

More than 30 ethnological fieldworks in Bulgaria, Romania, Turkey, Cyprus, Poland. Author of more than 20 archive units in the Ethnographic Archive of IEFSEM-BAS

- **Volunteering**

Lecturer at cultural orientation programme for asylum seekers/refugees at the Special Centre for Temporary Accommodation of Foreigners-Sofia, Migration Directorate at the Ministry of Internal Affairs, organized by Caritas-Sofia, October 2016-June 2018.

Participant in the Mentor programme for refugees, organized by Caritas-Sofia, Sofia, Bulgaria, Mart-June 2016.

Participant in the volunteer project 'Integration program for refugee and asylum seeker children', organized by Caritas-Sofia, CVS-Bulgaria and State Agency for Refugees, Sofia, Bulgaria, 2011-2012 (5 months) and 2013-2014 (3 months)

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