CURRICULUM VITAE

MINA CHAVDAROVA HRISTOVA

Position held:

Assistant Professor at the Institute of Ethnology and Folklore Studies with Ethnographic Museum, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences (IEFSEM-BAS)



Contact:

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Main fields of research:

Identity/identification, group identities (national and ethnic), minorities, inter-ethnic relations, and conflicts; border studies; immigration in Bulgaria; new Russian immigration; refugees; social dimensions of urban space, immovable cultural heritage; post-Yugoslav space (Macedonia and Serbia); citizenship and passports in Balkan states; collective/individual memory; study of values in political and media discourses; social history of money, symbolism, national narrative and value encoding.

Education, qualifications, grants, and fellowships. Professional experience (selection):

2025 – onward **Scientific Secretary** of the Institute of Ethnology and Folklore with Ethnographic Museum at the Bulgarian Academy of Science

2023/2024 Scholar in Residence at the **Max Planck Institute for the Study of Ethnic and Religious Diversity.**

2020 **PhD at IEFEM-BAS** with dissertation topic: 'Anthropological dimensions of borders and construction of identities (on examples from the triple border between Serbia, Macedonia and Bulgaria)'.

2023 **Grant under the National Program**: "Young scientists and postdoctoral students" (of the **Ministry of Education and Science and BAS**). Topic: Blog Adaptation among the new generation of Russian-speaking immigrants in Bulgaria.

2022 **Grant under the National Program**: "Young scientists and postdoctoral students" (of the MES and BAS). Topic: Blog Adaptation among the new generation of Russian-speaking immigrants in Bulgaria.

2016/2021 **PhD student at the University of Graz**, Faculty of History with the topic: "Urban Deconstructions: Nation Building Diversities in Macedonia (The cases of Skopje and Tetovo)"

2021 **Grant under the National Program: "Young scientists and postdoctoral students" (of the MES and BAS)**. Topic: Urban landscapes: ethnic dynamics in the Republic of Macedonia. Personal project.

2013 **Master's degree** in Ethnology and Cultural Anthropology at the **St. Kliment Ohridski University.** Topic: "Skopje 2014 - Creating a New National Identity in the Republic of Macedonia".

2020 **Grant under the Nation al Program: "Young scientists and postdoctoral students" (of the MES and BAS).** Topic: Urban landscapes: ethnic dynamics in the Republic of Macedonia. Personal project.

2019 **Grant under the National Program: "Young scientists and postdoctoral students" (of the MES and BAS).** Topic: Urban landscapes: ethnic dynamics in the Republic of Macedonia. Personal project.

2012 **Bachelor's degree** in Ethnology at the University of St. Kliment Ohridski.

Participation in projects (selected)

With External Financing:

2024/2026 - Head of the Bulgarian team, Learning and Inclusion for SusTainable Community ENgagement (LISTEN), funded by the Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values Programme **(CERV), European Commission**.

2024 **Bulgarian National Science Fund** funded project: "Connectivity and solidarity with Bulgaria of mobile Bulgarian citizens in the EU: values, innovations, activism" (ConnectBG). Leader of partner institution.

2023 **European Union's Joint Research Centre** Values ML 'Unravelling Expressed Values in the Media for Informed Policy Making'.

2022 Project under the **National Scientific Program "Bulgarian Studies"** (Development and consolidation of Bulgarian studies abroad). Title: "Bulgaria: intercultural spaces (traveling lectorium)." Position: leader.

2022 **British Library** "Endangered Archives" Programme with project: Rediscovering the Cultural Heritage of the Muslims in Bulgaria (1920 – 1950).

2021/2023 European framework project under the **Horizon 2020** program: "REFUGE-ED: Effective practices in education, mental health and psychosocial support for the integration of refugee children" (https://www.refuge-ed.eu/).

2021/2023 Project "Policies for the protection and promotion of immovable cultural values of local importance in Bulgaria. Ethnological analysis on the examples of Balchik, Kavarna, Garmen, and Sandanski municipalities" in the context of **BG05M2OP001-1.001- 0001 "Construction and development of a center of excellence "HERITAGE BG"**".

2020 Project for organization of an international conference "Between the Worlds: Magic, Miracles, and Mysticism", financed by the **Bulgarian National Science Fund.**

2019/2024 **Bulgarian National Science Fund** subsided project: "Cultural and Social Consequences of Emigration on the Bulgarian Society (1990-2019) (LEFT- BEHIND)" (№ КН-06-Н40/9 – 10.12.2019 г)

2018/2019 **REFRESH European night of scientists**. Lecturer.

2017/2020 **Bulgarian National Science Fund** funded project: "The image of refugees in Bulgarian society".

2017/2022 **Bulgarian National Science Fund** funded project: "Cultural integration and adaptation of immigrants in Bulgaria".

With Internal Financing:

2021/until now Workshop "Research Methods and Approaches in Ethnology and Anthropology" (IMPEA). Internal project of the unit: IEFSEM-BAS.

2017/2020 "Balkan Traditional and Contemporary Destinations and Forms of Mobility", financed by BAS.

Teaching in universities and high schools:

2025 Lectures on "Ethnosociology" at the University of National and World Economy, Sofia, Bulgaria.

2024 Lectures for doctoral students from the Institute of Ethnology and Folklore with the Ethnographic Museum at the BAS on "Balkan Ethnology" on identities, nationalism, minorities, migration on the Balkans

2023 Lectures for doctoral students from the Institute of Ethnology and Folklore with the Ethnographic Museum at the BAS on "Balkan Ethnology" on identities, nationalism, minorities, migration on the Balkans

2022 Lecture to students in the 8th grade of 90 SU "Gen. Jose de San Martín" on the theme: Identity.

2022 Lecture for "Bachelor students, Department of Ethnology, SU "St. Kliment Ohridski" inthe course "Balkan Ethnology" on the topic: *Field research on identities in the Balkans.*

2022 Lecture for "Bachelor students, Department of Ethnology, SU "St. Kliment Ohridski" in the course "Balkan Ethnology" on the topic: *Field research on identities in the Balkans minorities, propaganda, and communities.*

2021 Lecture for "Ethnology" Bachelor students Department of Ethnology, SU "St. Kliment Ohridski" in the course "Balkan Ethnology" on the topic: *Field research on identities in the Balkans.*

2020 Lecture for "Bachelor students, Department of Ethnology, SU "St. Kliment Ohridski" in the course "Balkan Ethnology" on the topic: *Balkan History. Field research on identities in the Balkans.*

2019 Lecture for doctoral students from the Institute of Ethnology and Folklore with the Ethnographic Museum at the BAS on Balkan Ethnology on the topic: *Identities in the Balkans.*

Membership in organizations, editorial boards, expert councils, international committees:

2023 Association "American Institute for the Study of Southeast Europe - Center Bulgaria". Member of the Management Board.

2015 Association for the study of Nationalisms.

2014 – 2016; 2019 The International Association for Southeast European Anthropology (InASEA).

2021/2022 Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies (ASEEES).

2021/2023 International Society for Ethnology and Folklore (SIEF).

Selected personal bibliography:

MONOGRAPHS

Erolova, Y., Ivanova, V., Slavkova, M., Hristova, M., Popcheva, J. 2023. On The Immovable Cultural Property. Examples from Balchik, Kavarna, Sandanski and Garmen. Sofia: Paradigma. [in Bulgarian]

Nedelcheva, T., Nakova, A., Keliyan, M., Maeva, M., Erolova, Y., Petkova, K., Hristova, M., Hristova, K. 2021. Refugees in the Representations of Bulgarian Citizens: Fears, Understanding, Empathy. Sofia: Publishing house of BAS "Prof. Marin Drinov". ISBN 978- 619-245-185-1.

Hristova, M. 2021. *"We are Bulgarians, but not quite". In-between Spaces and Hybrid Identities in the Balkans in the XXI c.* Sofia: Paradigma. (second revised edition), ISBN 9789543264681. [in Bulgarian]

Hristova, M. 2020. *"We are Bulgarians, but not quite". In-between Spaces and Hybrid Identities in the Balkans in the XXI c.* Sofia: Paradigma, ISBN 9789543264780. [in Bulgarian]

EDITED BOOKS

Maeva, M., M. Slavkova, Hristova, M. (eds.) 2023. Between the Worlds of Old and New Homes. Sofia: Paradigma. (forthcoming).

Maeva, M. and M. Hristova (eds.) 2022. Cultural and Social Consequences of Emigration on the Bulgarian Society. Sofia: Paradigma, ISBN: 978-954-326-497-1. [in Bulgarian]

Maeva, M., M. Slavkova, P. Stoyanova, Hristova, M. (eds.) 2022. Between the Worlds: Migrants, Margins, and Social Environment. E-collection with open access/Proceedings of the "Between theWorlds: Magic, Miracles, and Mysticism" Conference. Sofia: Paradigma.

Voskresenski, V., Matanova, T., Hristova, M. 2021. Bulgarian Communities Abroad: Aspects of the Culture, Identity, and Migration. Publishing House of BAS "Prof. Marin Drinov", Sofia, ISBN 978-619-245-140-0. [in Bulgarian]

Maeva, M., Erolova, Y., Stoyanova, Pl., Hristova, M., Ivanova, V. (eds) 2020. Between the Worlds: Magic, Miracles, and Mysticism. E-collection with open access/Proceedings of the "Between the Worlds: Magic, Miracles, and Mysticism" Conference.

PEER-REVIEWED JOURNALS

Hristova, M. 2026. Iconographies of Constraint – Women, Labor, and the State on Bulgarian Banknotes (1885–1974). Balkanistic Worlds (forthcoming)

Hristova, M. 2025. Bulgaria's Nation-State Building Project Narrated by Its Banknotes: Monarchy and Communism. Annual of Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski" (forthcoming)

Hristova, M. 2024. Between Banal and Signal Nationalism: The Bulgarian Banknotes After 1991 (Part Two). *Bulgarian Ethnology* 4 (forthcoming) [in Bulgarian]

Hristova, M. 2024. Between Banal and Signal Nationalism: The Bulgarian Banknotes After 1991 (Part One) *Bulgarian Ethnology* 3: 301 – 323. [in Bulgarian]

Hristova, M. 2023. Migration and Family Dynamics: Viewpoints of Bulgaria's Left Behind. In: **Maeva, M., M. Slavkova, Hristova, M. (eds.) 2023.** Between the Worlds of Old and New Homes. Sofia: Paradigma.

Hristova, M. 2023. Everyday Nationalism and Identity Narratives: the Case of the Built Environment in the Sandanski Municipality. *NEWSLETTER "HERITAGE BG" - SCIENTIFIC NEWS*. ISSN (Print): 2815-3138 // ISSN (Online): 2815-3316.

Hristova, M. 2023. Blog Adaptation of Russian-speaking immigrant women in Bulgaria: specifics of the process, online behavior and identity. *Bulgarian Folklore* 3: 53-74.

REFUGE-ED Consortium. 2023. The Refuge-ed Dialogic Co-creation process: working with and for refugee children and minors. Humanities & Social Science Communications.

Hristova, M. 2023. Dialogic literary gatherings in school: new approaches to education. Academic Bulletin "The Refugees: Today and Tomorrow". [in Bulgarian]

Hristova, M., Raykova, A., Nikolova, T. 2023. Interactive processes and practices contributing to the mental health of unaccompanied Afghan refugee children. Academic Bulletin "The Refugees: Today and Tomorrow" 13 (01): 17 – 28. ISSN 2683 – 1120. [in Bulgarian]

Hristova, M. 2023. Memory Politics: Immovable Cultural Property of Local Importance in the Sandanski Municipality. Bulletin "HERITAGE BG" – Research Announcements.

Hristova, M. 2020. Quest for outsmarting fate: Bulgaria and the COVID-19 crisis. Special Section Article. Social Anthropology/Anthropologie Sociale, COVID-19 Urgent Anthropological forum. https://doi.org/10.1111/1469-8676.12861.

Hristova, M. 2019. In-between Spaces: Dual Citizenship and Placebo Identity at the Triple Border between Serbia, Macedonia and Bulgaria. NewDiversities. Special Issue: New Solidarities: Migration, Mobility, Diaspora, and Ethnic Tolerance in Southeast Europe. 21(1): 37-54.

Христова, М. 2017. "Bulgarian by profession. Bulgarian by descent"(notes on the identity). In: Bulgarian Folklore 1: 84-110. [in Bulgarian]

ARTICLES IN EDITED VOLUMES

Hristova, M. 2023. Unaccompanied Foreign Minors in Bulgaria: In the Limbo between the New and Old Homes. In: **Maeva, M., M. Slavkova, Hristova, M. (eds.) 2023.** Between the Worlds of Old and New Homes. Sofia: Paradigma. (forthcoming).

Hristova, M. 2023. Writing about Bulgaria: Between adaptation and Cultural maintenance. In: Hristov, P., Markov, I., Pileva, D., Periklieva, V. Coming to (and staying in) the poorest country in EU. Cambridge Scholars Publishing.

Hristova, M. 2022. 'I know the Secrets of…' – Blogging about Bulgaria among the Modern Russian Migrants. In: Maeva, M., M. Slavkova, P. Stoyanova, Hristova, M. (eds) 2022. Between the Worlds: Migrants, Margins, and Social Environment. E-collection with open access/Proceedings of the "Between the Worlds: Magic, Miracles, and Mysticism" Conference. Sofia: Paradigma.

Hristova, M. 2022. The left behind: media representations, stereotypes and images of Bulgarian emigrants. In: Maeva, M., Hristova, M. (eds) Cultural and Social Consequences of Emigration on the Bulgarian Society. Sofia: Paradigma. [in Bulgarian]

Hristova, M. 2021. Images of refugees in Bulgaria: media and social environment. In: Nedelcheva, V., Nakova, A. (eds) The refugees – fears, understanding, and empathy. Sofia: Publishing house of BAS "Prof. Marin Drinov". [in Bulgarian]

Hristova, M. 2020. Minority as Victim: Mechanics of the Mentality and theTraumatic Narrative among the Bulgarian Minority on the Eastern Serbian Border. In: Voskresenski, V., Matanova, T., Hristova, M. 2020. Bulgarian communities abroad: aspects of the culture, identity, and migration. [in Bulgarian]

Hristova, M. 2020. The Role of Middlemen in Acquiring Bulgarian Citizenship – Social and Identity Repercussions. In: Traditional and Modern Balkan Migration destinations and patterns. Volume proceedings of Bilateral Project BAS-MASA.

CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS

Hristova, M. 2023. Perspectives on Migration from the Left-behind in Bulgaria. In: **Maeva, M., M. Slavkova, Hristova, M. (eds.) 2023.** Between the Worlds of Old and New Homes. Sofia: Paradigma. (forthcoming).

Hristova, M. 2018. 'Should I stay, or Should I go?' Migration patterns of Macedonia's young people. In: Rajkovic, M. I., Kelemen, P., Zuparic-Ilijc, D. (eds), Contemporary Migration Trends and Flows in the Territory of Southeast Europe, pp. 105-122.

Selected participation in Scientific forums (past 4 years):

19 – 21.11.2025 International conference: Old Cities, Former Capitals and the Nation-State Building in Europe (18th-20th Centuries): Regional and National Identities. Topic: Mina Hristova (Bulgarian Academy of Science, Sofia), Chavdar Hristov (Sofia University) Bulgaria's Nation State Building Project Narrated by its Banknotes (19th – 20th Centuries)

27.09.2024	International Scientific Conference: "Dynamics of Identities". Topic: „Bulgarian coins and banknotes: signification of national belonging and ideologically dominated periods (1887-2024)", Sofia, Bulgaria
27-28.06.2024	Workshop "The Social History of Money across the Eastern Bloc and the Global South in the Twentieth Century". Topic: 'Bulgarian Coins and Banknotes: Signification of National Belonging and Ideologically Dominated Periods (1887–2019)', Cambridge, UK.
20.06.2024	Presentation at Workshop "Research Methods and Approaches in Ethnology and Anthropology" (IMPEA). Topic: Personal Stories in Anthropology and Overcoming Cultural Differences – the point of view of the Filmmaker – Anthropologist.
28.05.2024	Presentation at the "Balkan Research at the ÖAW" – Austrian Academy of Science, Institute for Habsburg and Balkan Studies. Book presentation. Topic. "We Are Bulgarians, But Not Quite: In-Between Spaces and Hybrid Identities in the Bulgarian-Serbian-Macedonian Border Area", Vienna, Austria.
11.01.2024	Presentation at the Max Plank Institute of Ethnic and Religious Studies as a Visiting fellow. Topic: Blogadaptation of Russian-speaking immigrant women in Bulgaria: specificities of the process, online behaviour and identity
01.12. 2023	Conference "Challenges of the Fieldwork among the left-behind in migration in Bulgaria". Topic: Образи на България от гледна точка на останалите/Images of Bulgaria from the perspective of others
20.10.2023	Refugee Education: Continuing Conversations 4. Topic: How to Make Integration in a Country of Transit? Insights and Innovative Practices for Refugee Children and Unaccompanied Minors in Bulgaria (co-presenter: prof. Anna Krasteva)
03.07.-06.07.2023	20th IMISCOE Annual Conference: How to Make Integration in a Country of Transit? Insights and Innovative Practices for Refugee Children and Unaccompanied Minors in Bulgaria (co-presenters: prof. A. Krasteva, V. Ninova)
19.06.2023	Between science and practice Forum: Dialogic Creativity in the Including Education of Migrant and Refugee Children. Креативни включващи практики и опита на проекта REFUGE-ED/Creative inclusive practices and the experience of the REFUGE-ED project (co-presenters: prof. Anna Krasteva, V. Ninova, Ch. Koleva, Assoc. Prof. E. Staykova)
29.05.-31.05.2023	5th International Conference "Between the Worlds of Old and New Homes". Topic: Unaccompanied Foreign Minors in Bulgaria: In the Limbo between the New and Old Homes
29.05.-31.05.2023	5th International Conference "Between the Worlds of Old and New Homes". Topic: Perspectives on Migration from Bulgaria's left-behind
19.04.2023	Third Annual Conference of the Centre of the Centre of Excellence "Heritage BG". Topic: Паметници и паметни места в община Сандански: памет, политики и социализация/ Monuments and Memorial Sites in Sandanski Municipality: Memory, Policies and Socialization

15.11.2022	Round table: "Policies for the protection and promotion of immovable cultural values of local importance in Bulgaria". Ethnological analysis based on the examples of the municipalities of Balchik Kavarna, Garmen, and Sandanski.
22.10.2022	Jubilee Scientific NBU conference "Human rights in an era of crises". Topic: Blog Adaptation among the new Russian immigration in Bulgaria
1 -2.12.2021	3rd International Conference "Between the Worlds: Migrants, Margins, and Social Environment", Sofia, Bulgaria. Topic: Writing about Bulgaria: Between adaptation and Cultural maintenance
18 – 21.11.2021	ASEEES, New Orleans, USA. Topic: The left-behind: Media Representations, Stereotypes, and Images.
3 – 4.11.2021	International Conference on Entrepreneurship, Creativity and Managerial Innovation: Creativity and Innovation in times of Crisis. The National School of Business and Management of Dakhla, Morocco. Paper Title: Russian-speaking communities in Bulgaria and their Business models as an instrument and strategy for adaptation.
15.5.2021	SIEF2021 15th Congress. Topic: "I know the secrets of…" –blogging about Bulgaria among the modern Russian migrants
2020	International conference "Refugees - fears, understanding, empathy", IFS - IEFEM. Topic: Images of refugees in Bulgaria: media and social environment

AWARDS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

2023 The Centre for the Study of Balkan Societies and Cultures CSBSC, University of Graz, award the Karl Kaser Prize for Historical Anthropology in Southeastern Europe for the book: *"We are Bulgarians, but not quite". In-between spaces and hybrid identities in the Balkans in the 21st century. Second Revised Edition. Sofia: Paradigm.*

2022 **BAS award on the 100th anniversary of Academician Azarya Polikarov,** first place in humanities and social sciences for the book *"We are Bulgarians, but not quite". In-between spaces and hybrid identities in the Balkans in the 21st century. Second Revised Edition. Sofia: Paradigm.*

2017 **BAS Academy Award for Youngest Scientist** (under 30 years of Age) for Academic achievements "Ivan Evstratiev Geshov" in „Cultural and Historical Heritage and National Identity" Track.