CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

TRAVELLING LECTORIUM

BULGARIA: INTERCULTURAL AND INTER-RELIGIOUS SPACES

ORGANISED BY THE INSTITUTE OF ETHNOLOGY AND FOLKLORE STUDIES WITH ETHNOGRAPHIC MUSEUM - BULGARIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES (IEFSEM-BAS)

DATES: 24-30 AUGUST 2026
LOCATIONS: SOFIA - BREZNITSA - RIBNOVO - PLOVDIV - BACHKOVO - SLIVEN
WORKING LANGUAGES: ENGLISH AND BULGARIAN

CONCEPT

THE TRAVELLING LECTORIUM "BULGARIA: INTERCULTURAL SPACES" IS AN INTENSIVE ONE-WEEK EDUCATIONAL AND FIELD PROGRAMME INTRODUCING YOUNG INTERNATIONAL SCHOLARS TO THE ETHNIC, CULTURAL, AND RELIGIOUS DIVERSITY OF BULGARIA.



DEADLINE: 15 OF APRIL 2026
DECISIONS: 15 OF MAY 2026

IT COMBINES LECTURES, FIELD VISITS, ETHNOGRAPHIC OBSERVATION, AND DISCUSSIONS WITH LOCAL COMMUNITIES AND EXPERTS.

THE LECTORIUM'S MAIN OBJECTIVE IS TO DEEPEN PARTICIPANTS' UNDERSTANDING OF BULGARIA'S COMPLEX CULTURAL LANDSCAPE AND ITS POSITION WITHIN THE BROADER POST-SOCIALIST AND BALKAN CONTEXT. IT BRINGS TOGETHER ANTHROPOLOGISTS,ETHNOLOGISTS, HISTORIANS, AND CULTURAL STUDIES RESEARCHERS INTERESTED IN ISSUES OF IDENTITY, INTEGRATION, MINORITY RIGHTS, AND CULTURAL HERITAGE.

THE LECTORIUM IS PART OF AND IS FUNDED BY THE NATIONAL SCIENTIFIC PROGRAMME "DEVELOPMENT AND ESTABLISHMENT OF BULGARIAN STUDIES ABROAD".

MAIN GOALS

- TO RENEW AND STRENGTHEN LINKS BETWEEN BULGARIAN AND INTERNATIONAL ACADEMIA IN THE HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES.
- TO FOSTER A COMPARATIVE UNDERSTANDING OF ETHNIC AND RELIGIOUS COMMUNITIES IN BULGARIA AND THE BALKANS.
- TO OFFER AN INNOVATIVE LEARNING FORMAT COMBINING THEORETICAL FRAMEWORKS WITH ETHNOGRAPHIC FIELDWORK.
- TO PROVIDE HANDS-ON EXPERIENCE IN SENSORY AND COLLABORATIVE ETHNOGRAPHY AND DIALOGICAL EDUCATION.

TOPICS AND LECTURES

THE LECTORIUM INCLUDES BOTH GENERAL INTRODUCTORY LECTURES AND SPECIALISED MODULES FOCUSING ON PARTICULAR ETHNIC AND CONFESSIONAL GROUPS IN BULGARIA, SUCH AS TURKS, ROMA, POMAKS, KARAKACHANS, CRIMEAN TATARS, ARMENIANS, JEWS, VLACHS, AROMANIANS, AND RUSSIAN SPEAKERS. EACH MODULE INTEGRATES HISTORICAL BACKGROUND, CONTEMPORARY SOCIAL CONTEXT, AND A DISCUSSION OF STEREOTYPES, REPRESENTATION, AND IDENTITY TRANSFORMATION.

METHODOLOGICAL FRAMEWORK

THE LECTORIUM APPLIES A MULTIDISCIPLINARY AND HANDS-ON APPROACH BASED ON:

- HISTORICAL CONTEXTUALISATION: UNDERSTANDING PRESENT IDENTITIES THROUGH THEIR HISTORICAL ROOTS.
- ETHNOGRAPHIC FIELDWORK: OBSERVATION, SEMI-STRUCTURED INTERVIEWS, AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT.
- SENSORY ETHNOGRAPHY: EXPLORATION OF VISUAL, MATERIAL, AND PERFORMATIVE CULTURAL CODES.



- COLLABORATIVE ETHNOGRAPHY: TEAMWORK AND CO-PRODUCTION OF KNOWLEDGE WITH LOCAL COMMUNITIES.

- DIALOGICAL EDUCATION: EQUAL EXCHANGE BETWEEN LECTURERS AND PARTICIPANTS THROUGH GROUP DISCUSSIONS.

FIELD VISITS WILL INCLUDE MEETINGS WITH LOCAL CULTURAL CENTRES, NGOS, RELIGIOUS REPRESENTATIVES, AND FOLKLORE GROUPS.

ELIGIBILITY

THE LECTORIUM IS OPEN TO:

- PHD STUDENTS, EARLY-CAREER RESEARCHERS, AND YOUNG SCHOLARS (UP TO 5 YEARS AFTER PHD), WHOSE ACADEMIC FOCUS INCLUDES BULGARIAN OR BALKAN STUDIES, SLAVIC STUDIES, ANTHROPOLOGY, ETHNOLOGY, SOCIOLOGY, HISTORY, POLITICAL SCIENCE, OR RELATED DISCIPLINES.

APPLICANTS SHOULD DEMONSTRATE A CLEAR RESEARCH INTEREST IN BULGARIAN CULTURE, SOCIETY, MINORITIES, OR IDENTITY STUDIES. A GOOD COMMAND OF ENGLISH IS REQUIRED. BULGARIAN LANGUAGE KNOWLEDGE WILL BE CONSIDERED AN ADVANTAGE.

PARTICIPATION AND COSTS

PARTICIPATION IN THE LECTORIUM IS FREE OF CHARGE. THE ORGANISERS COVER:

- ACCOMMODATION (6 NIGHTS),
- FULL BOARD (THREE MEALS PER DAY),
- IN-COUNTRY TRANSPORT,
- AND PARTICIPATION IN ALL ACADEMIC AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES.

PARTICIPANTS ARE EXPECTED TO COVER THEIR INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL COSTS TO AND FROM SOFIA AND ANY VISA-RELATED EXPENSES. THE ORGANISERS WILL PROVIDE INVITATION LETTERS AND ASSISTANCE WITH VISA AND TRAVEL DOCUMENTATION.



APPLICATION PROCEDURE

APPLICANTS ARE INVITED TO SEND:

1. **CURRICULUM VITAE** (CV) - INCLUDING ACADEMIC BACKGROUND AND RESEARCH INTERESTS.
2. **MOTIVATION LETTER** (MAX. 2 PAGES) - EXPLAINING THEIR INTEREST IN BULGARIA AND HOW THE LECTORIUM FITS THEIR ACADEMIC WORK AND WILL HELP THEIR FUTURE DEVELOPMENT.

PLEASE SEND YOUR APPLICATION MATERIALS AS A **SINGLE PDF FILE** TO:

✉ **MINORITIESTRAVELLINGLECTORIUM@GMAIL.COM** WITH THE SUBJECT LINE: TRAVELLING LECTORIUM – APPLICATION 2026

DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS: 15 APRIL 2026
NOTIFICATION OF RESULTS: 15 MAY 2026

LECTURERS:

- ASSIST. PROF. DR. MINA HRISTOVA (COORDINATOR)
- ASSOC. PROF. DR. MILA MAEVA
- ASSOC. PROF. DR. YELIS EROLOVA
- ASSIST. PROF. DR. BEHRIN SHOPOVA
- ASSIST. PROF. DR. PLAMENA SLAVOVA
- ASSIST. PROF. DR. JULIA POPCHEVA
- DR. INXHI BRISKU.



TECHNICAL STAFF:
ROSITSA BALTADZHIEVA, PHD STUDENT

POLINA TRIFONOVA, PHD STUDENT

WEBSITE: WWW.IEFEM.BAS.BG
FACEBOOK: FACEBOOK.COM/IEFSEM

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

MINORITIESTRAVELLINGLECTORIUM@GMAIL.COM