**2009 Course description**

**Special Issues in Anthropological Theory**

**Dr. Georgios Agelopoulos, Dr. Aliki Angelidou, Dr. Eleftheria Deltsou, Dr. Rozita Dimova, Dr. Deema Kaneff**

During the last decade the Balkans has attracted the interest of an increasing number of social anthropologists. Recently published papers and monographs have influenced both our understanding of the region as well as anthropological theory. The course looks at the origins of ethnographic accounts of the Balkans, the interwar fieldwork projects in the region, as well as at the relationship between Mediterranean Anthropology and Balkan ethnographies. It also focuses on the postmodern perspectives of the Balkans, the post-socialist anthropological analysis of the region and the permeability of the boundaries of “Europe” with regards to the “Balkans” in the context of the increasing identification of “Europe” with the EU. We do not intend to cover all the anthropological literature on SE Europe. In addition, we are not encouraging the development of a “Balkan Anthropology”. Our priority is to highlight the relationship between historical developments, epistemological paradigms and ethnographic research conducted in this region. Students will be divided in two groups based on their background knowledge on anthropological theory.

Dr. Georgios Agelopoulos ( *avgiagel@gmail.com*) is assistant Professor at the Department of Balkan, Slavic and Oriental Studies, University of Macedonia, Thessaloniki. He holds an M.Phil. (University of St. Andrews, UK) and a Ph.D. in Social Anthropology (University of Cambridge). His research interests include the study of Nationalism and Ethnicity, Balkan Anthropology, Minorities, and Migration. He is teaching courses on Balkan ethnography, nationalism and ethnicity.

Dr. Aliki Angelidou ( *alangel@panteion.gr*) is lecturer in Social Anthropology at the Department of Social Anthropology, Panteion University, Athens. She completed her PhD in Social Anthropology at Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales, in Paris, exploring the socio-economic transformations in post-socialist rural Bulgaria. Currently, she carries out research on migration and multiculturalism in Athens with special focus on migrants from former Soviet Union and East European countries.

Dr. Elefteria Deltsou ( *eldelt@uth.gr*) is lecturer in Social Anthropology at the Department of History, Archaeology and Social Anthropology, University of Thessaly, Volos. She holds a Ph.D. degree from the University of Indiana. Her research interests include the politics of culture and the past, tourism, tradition and identity politics, development and the EU.

Dr. Rozita Dimova ( *rozita@zedat.fu-berlin.de*) holds a PhD in Anthropology from the Stanford University, Stanford, CA, USA. She has served as a postodctoral research fellow at the Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology (2003-2006). Currently she is the coordinator of the project Ambiguous Identities and Nation-state building in Southeastern Euope“ led by the Free University of Berlin, Institute for Eastern European Studies.

Dr. Deema Kaneff ( *d.kaneff@bham.ac.uk* ) holds a PhD in Anthropology from the University of Adelaide, was a postdoctoral fellow at Cambridge University and Senior Researcher at the Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology (Halle) before taking up the position of Reader in European Studies, at the Center for Russian and East European Studies, University of Birmingham, UK. Her research interests focus on social and economic transformations in Eastern Europe (Bulgaria and Ukraine, especially emerging inequalities and neoliberal reforms).

**History of Balkan Ethnology**

**Dr. Ljupco Risteski, Dr. Ilia Iliev, Dr. Slobodan Naumovic**

The course will demonstrate some common characteristics and specific trends in several Balkan national schools of ethnology / anthropology. We will discuss the influence of Central European Volkskunde tradition on the local traditions, the impact and the resistance to the Marxist ethnology in the second half of the 20th century, the specificity of ethnological traditions on the periphery of larger political formations and exchanges with their respective metropolis (Moscow, Belgrade), as well as some common problems in the dialogue with mainstream social and cultural anthropology during the last decades.

Dr. Ljupco S. Risteski ( *risteski@iunona.pmf.ukim.edu.mk*) is associate Professor at the Institute of Ethnology and Anthropology, University of Sts. Cyril and Methodius – Skopje. He received an MA (1997) in Social - Cultural Anthropology from the Faculty of Philosophy, University of Belgrade and a Ph.D. (2002) in Ethnology from the . University "Sts. Cyril and Methodius" - Skopje. His research interests include Balkan ethnology and anthropology, especially the fields of mythology and folk religion of Balkan Slavic people.

Dr. Ilia Iliev ( *ilyailiev@gmail.com*) is assistant professor at the Department of Ethnology, University 'St. Kliment Ohrisdki', Sofia, Bulgaria where he got his PhD in 1998. He teaches History and Theory of Ethnology and Ethnography of Socialism and is doing applied research on poverty and social exclusion in nowadays Bulgaria. His major research interests are social history of the communist countries, ethnicity, and the transformations of Bulgarian agriculture.

Dr. Slobodan Naumovic ( *naumari@eunet.rs*) is Associate Professor of Anthropology at the Department of Ethnology and Anthropology at Belgrade University in Serbia. He received his MA in Social Anthropology from Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales (EHESS), Paris in 1992 and his PhD from the University of Belgrade in 2008. His research interests include the ethnography of Serbia, political anthropology, historical anthropology, visual anthropology, and internet culture.

**Nation, region, local: new stakes and new practices of ethnicity**

**Prof. Vintila Mihailescu**

The course is aiming to point at the changing symbolic geography of newly integrated European countries. What is the place of each of these spatial references in the new design of nations and how are they linked to each other ? How are perceived and displayed ethnic belonging and identity in this context? How are multicultural norms going along with longue durée national commitments? All these issues will be approached taking the Dobrogea region as a case study.

Prof. Vintila Mihailescu ( *mihailescuvintila@yahoo.com*) is Professor of anthropology at the National School of Political Studies and Administration in Bucharest and General Director of the National Museum of the Romanian Peasant. Main fields of interest: cognitive anthropology, economic anthropology, community studies, history of anthropology.

**Ethnographic Research in Border Areas: Field Practice in both Sides of the Greek-Albanian Border**

**Prof. Vassilis Nitsiakos, Dr. Vassilis Dalkavoukis, Mr. Kostas Mantzos. Dr. Ioannis Manos**

This course is an introduction to ethnographic fieldwork and will be conducted in both Greek and English. It focuses on issues such as re-thinking “participant observation”; from realist ethnography to modern paradigms; fieldwork and the understanding of the “other”; Identity and “otherness”; applied ethnography in border areas; national borders and ethnic groups and boundaries. Oral histories and biographies are also examined as valuable theoretical and methodological tools that enrich qualitative social analysis and deepen our understanding of concepts such as “boundaries”, “transition” and “memory”. The course examines the case of the Greek- Albanian border zone with fieldwork practice in the area of Konitsa (Greece) and Permet (Albania).

Prof. Vassilis Nitsiakos ( *bnitsiak@cc.uoi.gr*) holds an MA in Folklife studies (University of Leeds) and a PhD in Social Anthropology (university of Cambridge). He is teaching courses on Ethnic and National identities in the Balkans.  His current research interests involve issues of migration, identities and the Ethnography of borders in the Greek-Albanian border.

Dr. Vassilis Dalkavoukis ( *vdalkavo@he.duth.gr*) is Lecturer of Ethnography of Greece at the university of Thrace. His research interests include issues of local and ethnic identities in Northern Greece.

Kostas Mantzos ( *kmantzos@hotmail.com*) holds an MA degree in Social Anthropology of UCL and is currently completing his Phd thesis on the Greek minority of Albania.

Dr. Ioannis Manos ( *ioannis.manos@gmail.com*) is lecturer in Social Anthropology in the Department of Balkan Studies at the University of Western Macedonia, Florina, Greece. He holds an MA (1998) and PhD (2002) in Social/Cultural Anthropology from the University of Hamburg in Germany. He has conducted fieldwork on the politics of culture and identity, the politicization of dance and its role in identity formation processes in northern Greece.

**Globalisation**

**Professor Thomas Hylland Eriksen, University of Oslo, Norway**

**Dr. Vassiliki Kravva, Technological Institute of Thessaloniki**

The course outlines and discusses some of the main features of globalisation, and indicates how the intensified interconnectedness of the world's peoples can be made useful for anthropologists. Drawing extensively on my book on Globalization (Thomas Hylland Eriksen "Globalization: The Key Issues", Berg 2007), I shall discuss phenomena such as acceleration, vulnerability, mixing, and disembedding, using a variety of examples dealing with consumption, politics, cultural identity and so on, emphasising the dialectical character of transnational processes. During the course, Dr. Valia Kravva will contribute a lecture on food in the context of globalisation and transnational flows.

Prof. Thomas Hylland Eriksen ( *t.h.eriksen@culcom.uio.no*) is the author of many books dealing with anthropology and the modern world. His main research interests are cultural complexity, ethnicity, nationalism, creolisation and globalisation. He is currently writing an anthropological history of the early 21st century.

Dr. Vassiliki Kravva ( *valia01@otenet.gr*) holds an MA and a PhD in Social Anthropology (Goldsmiths College, University of London). Dr. Kravva has published on food, identity, the body, embodied memory, oral history, religious identity and minority issues. She has been a Centropa researcher, collecting life histories of Greek Jews (CENTROPA: European oral history project). Her book on food and identity is about to be published in Greek.

**Popular music (and culture) in the former Yugoslavia**

**Dr. Rajko Mursic**

As his starting point, the lecturer will use some examples from the history of popular music (and popular culture) from former Yugoslavia, and present ways of its understanding as ongoing popular creativity, transmission and communication. He will as well present and discuss some theoretical tools and approaches in studies of contemporary life in the “Western” world, beginning with critical examination of terminology (youth cultures, subcultures, scenes, milieux, neo-tribes, etc.) and research methodology (ethnography, hermeneutics, textual analysis, mixed and innovative methodologies). He will as well present and discuss examples and issues of nationalisms, localisms, globalisation and media, as well as limits of expression and human rights, in the past, recent and present-day popular music and popular culture.

Dr. Rajko Mursic ( *rajko.mursic@ff-uni-lj.si*) is associate Professor at the Department of Ethnology and Cultural Anthropology, University of Ljubljana. He received an MA (1994) in cultural anthropology and a Ph.D. (1998) in ethnology from the Faculty of Arts, University of Ljubljana. His research interests include anthropology of popular music and popular culture, media anthropology, theories of culture, research methodology and theory of science, while his regional interests comprise transnational studies and Central and South-eastern Europe.

**Negotiations of religious identities in the Balkans**

**Dr. Katerina Seraidari, Dr. Katerina Markou**

This course will examine the multi-religious societies of the Balkans, where different social actors interact and negotiate their national, political and religious identity. By adopting an interdisciplinary approach and by questioning the frontiers between history and anthropology, our aim is to understand the complex process of individual and collective identification, as well as its relation to State and international politics.

In the first part of the course, we will analyze the role that Orthodoxy played during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries focusing, on the one hand, on the creation of independent states in the Balkans and on the other hand, on the recent break-up of Yugoslavia. The place of Orthodoxy in Greece will retain our attention, since its development has not been affected by the political and ideological changes brought by socialism, as was the case in the other Balkan states. The aim is to examine how the idealized and imagined “ecumenical community of Balkan Orthodoxy” (according to the Greek historian P.Kitromilides) has been progressively dissolved because of religious competition and modern concepts of secular statehood and nationality.

In the second part of the course, we will examine the Islamic presence in the Balkans and its relation with the other dominant religious groups. A part of the course deals with the multiple negotiations between national and religious identity from the post-0ttoman period to the recent re-emergence of nationalism in the Balkan area. We will also explore the recent developments (from the end of the Cold War until today) of Islam in the different Balkan states considering the new political regional, European and international context.

Dr. Katerina Seraidari ( *k.seraidari@infonie.fr*) studied Modern Greek History at the University of Athens, before completing a Ph.D. of Social Anthropology at the Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales (2000). A reworked version of her thesis, “The cult of icons in Modern Greece”, was published in French by the Presses Universitaires du Mirail (2005). She also published in Greek the book: “May her grace be with us!” Devotional practices and ideological conflicts in the Cyclades” (Athens, Philippotis, 2007). She is currently an associated member of the Centre d’anthropologie de Toulouse. Her work focuses on the intersection between religion and politics in Greece and on gender roles in devotional Orthodox practices.

Dr. Katerina Markou ( *markat@social.soc.uoc.gr*) is lecturer at the Department of Sociology, University of Crete. She received her PhD in Social and Historical Anthropology from the Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales (2001) in Paris. Her work focuses on religious minorities in the Balkans, especially Muslim Slav speaking populations. Her research interests include nationalism and identity politics, methodological questions in ethnographic research as well as the study of Islam in the Balkans.