**2010 Course description**

**Historical Anthropology of the Balkans**

**Prof. Dr. Karl Kaser**

Historical Anthropology can be understood in a simple way as a fusion of two scientific disciplines. But it is much more – the term signals a transdisciplinary understanding of the human being. Our identities are shaped by biological, cultural, societal, religious, sexual, historical, reproductive etc. components and capacities. Our interest for history makes only real sense, if historical knowledge becomes integrated in our lives. Therefore, one of the basic concerns of Historical Anthropology is an alternative understanding of history. What, for instance, can history teach me about my life-course, my relationship to my partner or my understanding of family relations? We are shaped by history and culture, but, at the same time, we are producing history and cultures. One of the aims of Historical Anthropology, therefore, is to create awareness of these potentials. The course picks up fundamental topics of our life cycles from historical and cultural perspectives. Our concentration on the Balkans, however, does not exclude transcultural comparison.

***Prof. Dr. Karl Kaser*** *(*[***karl.kaser@uni-graz.at***](mailto:karl.kaser@uni-graz.at)***)*** *is chair of the Centre for Southeast European History at University of Graz/Austria (*[*http://www.uni-graz.at/suedost/*](http://www.uni-graz.at/suedost/)*). His research and publication have been focusing on the history of family, kinship and gender relations in the Balkans. His most recent monograph is “Patriarchy after Patriarchy. Gender Relations in Turkey and in the Balkans, 1500-2000” (2008).*

**Economic Anthropology and/of Postsocialist Europe: From “Transition” to “Global Transformations”**

**Dr. Aliki Angelidou, Dimitra Kofti**

During the last two decades, sociocultural and economic transformations which followed the end of socialist regimes in Europe are at the centre of growing anthropological studies. This course aims to critically discuss ways in which anthropological understandings of economy, and more specifically notions of ‘property’ and ‘privatisation’, ‘labour’ and ‘production’, ‘money’, ‘market’ and ‘consumption’ have been informed and reshaped through ethnographies of transformations in Eastern Europe. We will follow a historical approach of these studies. Ethnographic research in the early 1990’s focused mainly on concepts such us ‘socialism’, ‘postsocialism’ and ‘transition’, constituting a specific field of studies in relation to its socialist past. Gradually, anthropological approaches started to include broader global issues of ‘capitalism’, ‘neoliberalism’ and ‘europeanisation’; as a result, contemporary research on postsocialist countries is becoming more and more critically engaged in discussions concerning local performances of global economic processes. During the course, we will focus on case studies from our own fieldwork researches conducted in Bulgaria, as well as from numerous ethnographies and film screenings dealing with the above mentioned concepts and their links with anthropological approaches to late capitalism.

***Dr. Aliki Angelidou ( [alangel@panteion.gr](mailto: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 socio-economic transformations in post-socialist rural Bulgaria. Currently, she carries out research on migration, borders and transnationalism with special focus on migrants’ mobility from East European countries to Greece and on the elites’ mobility in the Balkans.*

***Dimitra Kofti ( [d.kofti@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:d.kofti@ucl.ac.uk)****) is a PhD candidate at the Department of Anthropology, University College London. Her research interests focus on economic and political anthropology. Her PhD in progress is based on fieldwork conducted on transformations of industrial labour and management in the context of privatisation in Bulgaria.*

**Doing Fieldwork: Theory, Method and the Production of Anthropological Knowledge**

**Dr. Christina Veikou, Dr. Vassilis Dalkavoukis, Dr. Ioannis Manos**

The aim of this course is to provide basic outlines on epistemological, methodological and practical matters to those engaged in ethnographic research. More concretely, it intends to develop an understanding of the relationship between methodological practice, data analysis and the writing of ethnography. The course is linked to the fieldwork exercise in Albania and Greece that will follow. In this view, participants will be able to reflect on and discuss their ideas and research strategies about the projects that are expected to conduct.

The course will encourage an appreciation of the problems of anthropological fieldwork and address issues such as access to the field, norms and conventions in applying research techniques in particular cultural contexts, the processual nature of fieldwork, ethical concerns, and the personal and emotional commitment of the researcher. It will also concentrate on the process of recording ethnographic data through fieldnotes and reflect on the process of turning fieldwork data into a narrative account of fieldwork. Among the topics that will be addressed are:

* Theory and method in the anthropological fieldwork
* Defining the ‘field’ – ways of doing fieldwork – the experience of fieldwork
* Research methods and the production of data: Addressing epistemological and methodological issues
* Field notes in ethnographic research and the writing of ethnography

***Dr. Christina Veikou ( [chrveikou@yahoo.gr](mailto:chrveikou@yahoo.gr))*** *has been**lecturer in Social Anthropology in the Department of History and Ethnology at the University of Thrace and Counselor at the Greek Pedagogical Institute. She has conducted fieldwork in Northern Greece and her research interests focus on Symbolic Anthropology, Anthropology of Education and Intercultural Teaching Practices..*

***Dr. Vassilis Dalkavoukis ( [vdalkavo@he.duth.gr](mailto: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.*

***Dr. Ioannis Manos ( [ioannis.manos@gmail.com](mailto:ioannis.manos@gmail.com))*** *is lecturer in Social Anthropology in the Department of Balkan Studies at the University of Western Macedonia, Florina, Greece. His research interests include identity formation processes, nationalism and ethnicity, dance and music, borders and the epistemology and methodology of research*

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

**Prof. Vassilis Nitsiakos, Dr. Vassilis Dalkavoukis, Dr. Vassiliki Kravva, 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](mailto: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. Vassiliki Kravva ( [valia01@otenet.gr](mailto: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.*

***Kostas Mantzos ( [kmantzos@hotmail.com](mailto: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.*

*For* ***Dr. Vassilis Dalkavoukis*** *and* ***Dr. Ioannis Manos*** *see the information included in the course “Doing fieldwork”.*

**Interculturality as a Topos of Anhropological Theory**

**Associate Professor Dr. Snjezana Zoric**

Theoretical and empirical research on intercultural communication takes place on the disciplinary borders between anthropology, philosophy, linguistics, sociology, psychology etc. The necessity of its reflection comes out from the fundamental intercultural situation of the world today which implies globalization from the one side and urgent need for self-determination from the other. So far, the reality of the world demands the inclusion of political conscioussness in all intercultural encounters and theoretical discourses.

The topos of our investigation in this course would not be so much the concept of culture but the phenomenon of this „inbetween“, creating eventually a new concept of interculture. Thematizing of „inbetween“ intends to make a shift from the dichotomy of „one' s own“ and „the strange“ from the limitation of a given horizon within the own worldview and create a new one which allows plurality of worlds which will not meet each other absolutely, as oponents, leaving behind absolute hatred and horror, but  „the own“ and „the strange“ will open to each other in their respective world(liness). The term „world“ as I understand it here is phenomenological, not as a given entity that we should interpret and give a meaning, but as an event we should create on the way of the intercultural encounter.

As we always find ourselves in a specific historical moments and in a specific scientific frame, our endeavours in this course will be determined with them as well. Methodically we will proceed from the exposition of metatheoretical level in reflecting the concept of interculturality in the context of intercultural philosophy exemplified on two anthropological disourses on Orientalism and Balkanism. I want to close these reflections with an interactional attempt to approach a possible „event“ of the world becoming multiversal in posing the question How far is the Orient Oriental ?

* The Concept of Interculturality
* Intercultural Hermeneutics and Translation of Culture
* Orientalism and Balkanism
* How far is the Orient Oriental?

***Dr. Snjezana Zoric ( [szoric@unizd.hr](mailto:szoric@unizd.hr))*** *is associate Professor at the Department of Ethnology and Cultural Anthropology, University of Zadar, Croatia. She studied Philosophy, Indology, Science of Religion She holds. M.A. and Ph.D. in Ethnology and Cultural Anthropology. She thought in Hanguk University for Foreign Studies, Seoul, South Korea, University of Wuerzburg, Marburg and Heidelberg. Her research interests are Anthropological Theory, Interculturality and field research throughout Asia. She conducted her researches in India, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Taiwan, Japan, Korea.*

**Studying Oral Traditions in Comparative Perspective**

**Assistant Professor Dr. Marilena Papachristophorou**

**Prof. Dr. Hande Birkalan-Gedik**

**Introduction to the study of oral tradition: Comparative method, fieldwork and ethnography**

This course seeks to introduce the student to the study of oral tradition and to examine issues related to it. The folktale will serve as a vehicle to present case studies. Our approach will survey verbal genres and their possible adaptations to urban / web contexts as well as basic principles of the comparative method especially considering the study of the transcribed texts: international classification systems, national catalogues and archive research. That is, methodology issues of an initially philological research. It will also focus on questions of description and methodology for a two-way fieldwork: first, collecting and transcribing in order to compile archival material and, second, understanding orality in specific cultural and social contexts. Contested theories and ethnographic practice: the case of “oicotypes”, enlarging localities and perceiving the Balkans as a melting pot. From fieldwork to the anthropology of orality: strategies, ideological and symbolic systems, collective identities.

**Gender and Genre in Comparative Perspectives: Festival, State, and Folklore Texts and Performances**

Gender roles can play a crucial role in narrative traditions, both in terms of genre and performance. Some genres, such as for instance, the epic, may in some cultures be performed only by men; the folktale may be the prerogative of women or of elderly narrators, depending on time and cultural context. Thus, gender and narrative genre may mutual constitute one another. The course will explore the dimensions of this interrelationship on the basis of theoretical literature and subsequently examine narrative texts and performers. We will analyze social, cultural and historical milieus, especially the relationships of power inherent in folklore texts and performances, in reference to the role of state and intellectuals, with a primary focus on examples drawn from Turkey. As the course maintains a comparative perspective, the literature considered will, however, include examples from Balkans and elsewhere and students will have opportunity to consider questions of gender and genre in other cultural settings that they are familiar with.

***Dr. Marilena Papachristophorou ( [mpapach@cc.uoi.gr](mailto:mpapach@cc.uoi.gr))*** *is assistant professor of Folklore at the University of Ioannina and formerly Researcher at the Hellenic Folklore Research Centre of the Academy of Athens (1997-2009). She studied French and Comparative Literature in Sorbonne (University Paris IV) and obtained her PhD in Social Anthropology and Ethnology from the Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales, Paris. Her main research and teaching areas are the anthropology of orality, with special emphasis on oral narratives, and fieldwork research methodology.*

***Prof. Dr. Hande Birkalan-Gedik ( [hande1kalan@yahoo.com](mailto:hande1kalan@yahoo.com))*** *is professor of folklore at the Department of Anthropology at Yeditepe University, Istanbul – Turkey. Completing a double MA Folklore and Central Eurasian Studies, she obtained her Ph.D. at Indiana University, Folklore Institute with minors in Anthropology and Gender Studies. Her research specialities are gender and genre, folklore theory and methods, fieldwork, migration, and nationalism.*

**Border Zones’ Minorities (the Pomak Case)**

**Dr. Margarita Karamihova**

The aim of this course is to present an anthropological perspective and to discuss minority groups’ construction and development after new states borders establishment (during 19th and 20th centuries). We shall explore theoretical, pragmatic and symbolic aspects of religious affiliation as a marker of groups’ identities. The dynamics of groups identities influenced by political, economical, social and cultural factors will be the main focus of discussions.

Through concrete ethnographic case studies we will approach questions related to the specific and highly contested minority group of Pomaks. Course will discuss the process of minority construction (“Construction of Pomak Groups”); the influence of different policies over groups in question (“Dynamics of Religious Affiliation of Pomaks”, “Minority at the Border Zone”); public practices and identity demonstrations (“New Identity Related Projects in Zlataritsa”). A film screening (documentary “The More you Talk, the More you Cry”, Director Dimitris Kitsikudis), will be arranged.

***Dr. Margarita Karamihova (*** [***karamihova\_m@abv.bg***](mailto:karamihova_m@abv.bg)***)*** *is a senior researcher at Balkan Ethnology Department of Ethnographic Institute with Museum, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences. Currently she is teaching the following courses: “Holly Shrines and Pilgrimages” (Sofia University “St. Kl. of Ohrid”, MA program in Cultural Studies) and “Minority Groups on the Balkans” (Academy of Ministry of Internal Affairs, Bac. and MA programs). Her research interest is directed to contemporary migrations and alignment with the communist past.*