

# MEDICINSKA ANTROPOLOGIJA Z OBMOČJA NEKDANJE JUGOSLAVIJE

Mednarodni simpozij

# MEDICINSKA ANTROPOLOGIJA S PODRUČJA NEKADAŠNJE JUGOSLAVIJE

Međunarodni znanstveni skup

# MEDICAL ANTHROPOLOGY FROM THE REGION OF THE FORMER YUGOSLAVIA

International symposium

LJUBLJANA, 28.–29. 11. 2024



## **Medicinska antropologija z območja nekdanje Jugoslavije: mednarodni simpozij**

Ljubljana, 28.–29. 11. 2024

Oddelek za etnologijo in kulturno antropologijo Filozofske fakultete Univerze v Ljubljani  
v soorganizaciji z Oddelkom za etnologijo in kulturno antropologijo Univerze v Zagrebu

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Odsjek za etnologijo i kulturnu antropologiju Filozofskog fakulteta Sveučilišta u Ljubljani  
u suorganizaciji sa Odsjekom za etnologiju i kulturnu antropologiju Sveučilišta u Zagrebu

## **Medical anthropology from the region of the former Yugoslavia: international symposium**

Ljubljana, 28.–29. 11. 2024

Department of Ethnology and Cultural Anthropology, Faculty of Arts, University of Ljubljana  
co-organized with the Department of Ethnology and Cultural Anthropology of the University  
of Zagreb

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## International symposium

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**Ljubljana, 28.–29. 11. 2024**

Programska knjižica

Programme booklet

**Programski in organizacijski odbor/Programme and Organizational committee:** Uršula Lipovec Čebren (Univerza v Ljubljani), Tanja Bukovčan (Univerza v Zagrebu), Jelena Kupsjak (Univerza v Zadru), Ljiljana Pantović (Univerza v Beogradu), Besjana Rrahmani (Univerza v Ljubljani), Pia Krampf (Univerza v Ljubljani)

Simpozij bo potekal na **Oddelku za etnologijo in kulturno antropologijo Filozofske fakultete na Zavetiški ulici 5**, na Viču v Ljubljani (nasproti Gimnazije Vič)./The symposium will take place at the **Department of Ethnology and Cultural Anthropology, at Zavetiška ulica 5**, in Vič, Ljubljana (vis-à-vis the high school Gimnazija Vič).



# PROGRAM

Za tiste, ki nas spremljate prek videoconference/For those of you joining us via videoconference: <https://uni-lj-si.zoom.us/j/95056416302>

## ČETRTEK/ČETVRTAK/THURSDAY, 28. 11. 2024

12.00–12.20 Uvodni pozdravi/Greetings and welcome

### Medicinska antropologija z območja nekdanje Jugoslavije/ Medical anthropology from the region of the former Yugoslavia

12.20–12.35 **Tanja Bukovčan** in **Uršula Lipovec Čebtron**: Medicinska antropologija z območja nekdanje Jugoslavije/Medical anthropology from the region of the former Yugoslavia

12.35–12.50 **Barbara Hrovatin**: Razumevanja celostnega zdravljenja v biomedicini – razmišljanja zdravnikov-učiteljev/Understandings of healing in biomedicine – reflections of physicians-teachers

12.50–13.05 **Atila Lukić**: Dekontekstualizacija, invaliditet i tijelo/Decontextualisation, disability and the body\*

13.05–13.20 **Juš Škraban**: Etnografija nevarnosti na varovanem oddelku socialnovarstvenega zavoda/Ethnography of danger in the secure unit of a social care institution

13.20–13.35 **Mateja Habinc**: Izgorelost v antropološki perspektivi/Burnout from an anthropological perspective

13.35–14.00 Diskusija/Discussion (vodi/discussant: **Jelena Kupsjak**)

14.00–15.00 **Kosilo/Lunch**

### Javno zdravje, javno zdravstvo/ Public health, public healthcare

15.00–15.15 **Jelena Kupsjak** in **Ljiljana Pantović**: Suradniško istraživanje u javnom zdravstvu u Srbiji i Hrvatskoj/Collaborative Research in Public Health in Serbia and Croatia\*\*

15.15–15.30 **Sara Pistotnik**: Ranljive osebe, ranljivost skupin ali nedostopnost storitev?/Vulnerable individuals, vulnerability of groups or inaccessibility of services?

15.30–15.45 **Jelisaveta Fotić**: Dijabetes kao prirodni tok starenja: Antropološka analiza kvaliteta života starih u Beogradu/Diabetes as a Natural Course of Aging: An Anthropological Analysis of the Quality of Life of the Elderly in Belgrade\*

15.45–16.00	<b>Zoran Milosavljević:</b> “If you adore me, DIOR me” - Promene diskursa tehnoseksualnosti muškaraca koji imaju seks sa muškarcima u Srbiji od 2014.-2024./«If you adore me, DIOR me» - Changes in the Discourse of Technosexuality among Men Who Have Sex with Men in Serbia from 2014-2024*
16.00–16.15	<b>Vesna Trifunović:</b> Vakcine i vakcinacija iz antropološke perspektive/ Vaccines and Vaccination from an Anthropological Perspective*
16.15–16.45	Diskusija/Discussion (vodi/discussant: <b>Tanja Bukovčan</b> )
16.45–17.00	<b>Pavza/Break</b>
17.00–18.00	<b>Ustanovna skupščina mreže medicinske antropologije na Balkanu/Founding assembly of the Balkan Network for Medical Anthropology</b>

### PETEK / PETAK / FRIDAY, 29. 11. 2024

#### Porod, poporodna oskrba in komunikacija v zdravstvenih ustanovah/ Birth, postnatal care and communication in healthcare institutions

10.00–10.15	<b>Danijela Paska:</b> Medikalizacija poroda: Tehnomedicinska dimenzija skrbi u hrvatskim javnim bolnicama/Medicalization of childbirth: Technomedical dimension of care in public hospitals in Croatia*
10.15–10.30	<b>Neža Zore:</b> Izzivi obporodne zdravstvene obravnave oseb z izkušnjo migracije v Sloveniji: Jezikovne in kulturne ovire/Challenges of perinatal medical treatment of persons with migration experience in Slovenia: Language and cultural barriers
10.30–10.45	<b>Anja Marolt:</b> Sporazumevanje med zdravstvenim osebjem in tujejezičnimi starši novorojenčkov/Communication between healthcare professionals and foreign language speaking parents of newborns
10.45–11.00	<b>Besjana Rrahmani:</b> KR: Kranj apo Republika e Kosovës? Një studim antropologjik i identitetit, komunitetit dhe ndërmjetësimit/KR: Kranj or Republic of Kosovo? An anthropological study of identity, community and mediation
11.00–11.20	Diskusija/Discussion (vodi/discussant: <b>Uršula Lipovec Čebtron</b> )
11.20–11.30	<b>Pavza/Break</b>

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**Družbene dimenzije pandemije covid-19/  
Social dimensions of the COVID-19 pandemic**

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11.30–11.45	<b>Vanja Germ:</b> Vpliv pandemije covid-19 na delo in zaposlovanje v Sloveniji/The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on work and employment in Slovenia
11.45–12.00	<b>Pia Krampf:</b> Dostop do zdravstva in zdravja ljudi na poti med pandemijo covid-19 v Sloveniji/Access to healthcare and health for people on the move during the COVID-19 pandemic in Slovenia
12.00–12.15	<b>Jasmina Kuduzović:</b> (Ne)dostopnost zdravstvenega zavarovanja in težave s prehajanjem meja v času pandemije covid-19/(In)accessibility of health insurance and problems with crossing borders during the COVID-19 pandemic
12.15–12.30	<b>Tisa Kučan Lah:</b> Vpliv pandemije covid-19 na duševno zdravje mladih v Pomurju in Ljubljani/Impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on mental health of young adults in Ljubljana and the Pomurje region
12.30–12.50	Diskusija/Discussion (vodi/discussant: <b>Alenka Bartulović</b> )
12.50–13.00	Zaključne misli/Closing remarks

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\* Prispevki, označeni z zvezdico, bodo predstavljeni prek videokonference./Papers marked with an asterisk will be presented via video conference.

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# ABSTRACTS/ POVZETKI



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Tanja Bukovčan in Uršula Lipovec Čebtron

## Medicinska antropologija z območja nekdanje Jugoslavije

Razvoj medicinske antropologije na Balkanu, posebno na območju nekdanje Jugoslavije, je potekal kot svojevrsten odziv na družbeno-politične transformacije te regije, ki so bile značilne za postsocialistično obdobje. Vse od začetkov medicinske antropologije na Balkanu je nanjo vplivala zapuščina socialne medicine ter načelo univerzalno dostopnega zdravstvenega varstva, ki je bilo stalnica petdesetletnega socialističnega obdobja, v katerem se je poudarjalo zdravje kot socialno pravico in preučevalo, kako kulturni, ekonomski in politični konteksti oblikujejo dostop do zdravstvenega varstva in posameznikovo zdravje. Tak pristop je, na primer, dajal prednost dostopni zdravstveni oskrbi za podeželsko prebivalstvo pred vsakim nekolonialnim pozicioniranjem.

S padcem socializma se je to področje prilagodilo raziskovanju novih vprašanj, ki izhajajo iz hitre privatizacije, neenakosti v zdravstvu in pluralizacije zdravstvenih praks. Raziskovalce in raziskovalke so vse bolj zanimala napestosti med tradicionalnimi praksami zdravljenja in sodobnimi zdravstvenimi sistemi, pa tudi učinki reform zdravstvenega varstva in ekonomskih razlik na zdravstveno stanje prebivalstva. Kljub vplivu teoretičnih okvirov zahodne antropologije je medicinska antropologija na Balkanu ohranila svojevrstne pristope, ki se osredotočajo na vprašanja dostopnosti in enakosti, hkrati pa obravnavajo edinstvene kulturne dinamike, ki oblikujejo regionalno specifične oblike iskanja zdravstvene pomoči. V prispevku bova pokazali, da bi ponovni pregled in vključitev regionalno specifičnih dognanj lahko izboljšalo naše razumevanje vprašanja enakosti v zdravju v današnjih medicinsko pluralnih družbah, ki so soočene s hitro širitvijo medicinskega tržišča. V času, ko je balkanska regija ponovno potisnjena na rob Evrope, na glavno migrantsko pot, skuša ta prispevek raziskati, kako se določene vladajoče politike odražajo v lokalnih in lokaliziranih praksah, kjer se zdi doseganje enakosti v zdravju vedno bolj nedosegljivo.

\*

Dr. Tanja Bukovčan je izredna profesorica, zaposlena na Oddelku za etnologijo in kulturno antropologijo Filozofske fakultete Univerze v Zagrebu na Hrvaškem, kjer je doktorirala in trenutno poučuje predmete s področja medicinske in vizualne antropologije. Post-doktorsko raziskavo je opravila

na Univerzi v Edinburgu v Združenem kraljestvu. Poučevala je tudi na Medicinski fakulteti Univerze v Zagrebu in Filozofski fakulteti Univerze v Ljubljani. Njeni raziskovalni interesi vključujejo medicinski pluralizem in medicinske trge, etnografijo v klinični praksi, odločanje v zdravstvu in vizualno etnografijo.

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\*

Dr. Uršula Lipovec Čebren je redna profesorica, zaposlena na Oddelku za etnologijo in kulturno antropologijo Filozofske fakultete Univerze v Ljubljani, kjer predava medicinsko antropologijo, antropologijo migracij, etnologijo Amerik idr. Njeni raziskovalni interesi vključujejo zdravstvene vidike migracij, ranljivosti na področju zdravja in zdravstvenega varstva, kulturne in druge ovire pri dostopu do zdravstvenega varstva ter medkulturno mediacijo v zdravstvu. Bila je vodja in raziskovalka v različnih nacionalnih in mednarodnih projektih na področju zdravja in zdravstvenega varstva (Sonar-Global, Sonar-Cities, WHOLE, SH-CAPAC, MIPEX itd.).

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Tanja Bukovčan in Uršula Lipovec Čebroň

## Medical anthropology from the region of the former Yugoslavia

The development of medical anthropology in the Balkans and specifically in the region of the former Yugoslavia has evolved uniquely in response to the region's socio-political transformations, that have characterized the post-socialist period. Early on, Balkan medical anthropology was influenced by the legacy of social medicine, the principle of universally accessible healthcare, a staple of the socialist period spanning fifty years, which emphasized health as a social right and examined how cultural, economic, and political contexts shape healthcare access and individual well-being. This approach, for example, prioritized accessible care for rural populations over any neo-colonial positioning.

With the fall of socialism, this field adapted to investigate new issues arising from rapid privatization, healthcare inequalities, and the pluralization of medical practices. Scholars increasingly analyzed the tensions between traditional healing practices and modern biomedical systems, as well as the effects of healthcare reforms and economic disparities on health outcomes. Despite the influence of the theoretical frameworks of Western anthropology, medical anthropology in the Balkans has maintained a distinct approaches, focusing on issues of accessibility and equity while also addressing the unique cultural dynamics that shape health-seeking behaviors in the region. In this presentation we will argue that revisiting and integrating these region-specific insights could enhance our understanding of health equity challenges in today's medically plural societies amid the rapid expansion of medical markets. Additionally, because the Balkan region is again re-sited as the margin of Europe, on the main migrant route, this paper seeks to explore how specific mainstream policies are mirrored in local and localized practices, where achieving health equity feels increasingly out of reach.

\*

Tanja Bukovčan, PhD, Associate Professor, works at the Department of Ethnology and Cultural Anthropology, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Zagreb, Croatia, where she obtained her doctoral degree and currently teaches courses in medical and visual anthropology. She did her postdoctoral research at the University of Edinburgh, UK. She

also taught at the Faculty of Medicine, University of Zagreb and the Faculty of Arts, University of Ljubljana. Her research interests include medical pluralism and medical markets, ethnography in clinical practice, decision-making in healthcare and visual ethnography.

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Uršula Lipovec Čebren, PhD, Professor, works at the Department of Ethnology and Cultural Anthropology, Faculty of Arts, University of Ljubljana, where she teaches courses in medical anthropology, anthropology of migration and ethnology of Americas. Her research interests include health aspects of migration, vulnerabilities in health and healthcare, cultural and other barriers to healthcare access and intercultural mediation in healthcare. She was a leader and researcher in different national as well as international projects in the field of health and healthcare (Sonar-Global, Sonar-Cities, WHOLE, SH-CAPAC, MIPEX etc.).

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Barbara Hrovatin

## Razumevanja celostnega zdravljenja v biomedicini – razmišljanja zdravnikov-učiteljev

Predavanje podaja izsledke doktorske raziskave, ki skozi refleksije na stičiščih medicine, fenomenologije in antropologije osvetljuje slabo raziskano področje razumevanj zdravljenja v biomedicini. Delo temelji na živeti izkušnji bolezní (angl. *illness experience*) in možnostih celostnega zdravljenja (angl. *healing*) v okvirjih biomedicinskega sistema.

Fokus raziskovanja ne zajema empiričnega pojava kot takega, temveč skuša nasloviti vprašanja: Je celostno zdravljenje smiselna resničnost za zdravnike-učitelje? Ali so zdravilni odnosi možni v obstoječih biomedicinskih strukturah in kje zdravniki-učitelji vidijo največje ovire zanje? Raziskava razkriva vrzeli med objektivirajočim glasom profesionalne medicine, ki se osredotoča na bolezen kot na biološke mehanizme znotraj delov telesa (t. i. esencializiranje v standardizirano, raz-osebljeno biomedicinsko telo) in subjektivnim glasom živete izkušnje bolezní, ki razlamlja biti v svetu in ga naredi nedomačega. Utemeljuje klinično srečanje kot etični temelj biomedicine ter osvetljuje tenzije med njenimi epistemološkimi temelji in vse večjim številom poskusov za t. i. humanizacijo biomedicinskih praks (denimo Na osebo osredičena medicina, Skrb za celovito osebo, Narativna medicina). Izpostavlja pomen živete izkušnje bolezní in zdravljenj v biomedicini in podpira premik v epistemologijo, ki upošteva utelešena in usvetovljena človeška bitja na obeh straneh stetoskopa.

\*

Dr. Barbara Hrovatin, dr. med. je po študiju splošne medicine in ambulantnem delu številna podiplomska raziskovanja širših okvirjev medicine in zdravljenj sklenila z doktoratom iz medicinske antropologije: *Razumevanja celostnega zdravljenja v biomedicini – razmišljanja zdravnikov-učiteljev* (ZRC SAZU, 2023). Z različnimi izobraževalnimi pristopi in svetovanji deluje na področju celostnega zdravljenja in krepitve humanizma v medicini.

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Barbara Hrovatin

## Understandings of healing in biomedicine – reflections of physicians-teachers

Lecture is focused on the PhD research, illuminating the underexplored field of understandings of healing in biomedicine through reflections at the intersections of medicine, phenomenology and anthropology. The work is founded on the lived experience of illness and the possibilities of healing in biomedical structures.

The research is not focused on the empirical phenomenon of healing as such but seeks to address the questions: Is healing a meaningful reality for physicians-teachers? Are healing relationships possible in the existing biomedical structures and what are the greatest obstacles for healing relationships as understood by physicians-teachers? This research is uncovering chiasms between the objectifying voice of professional medicine, focusing on diseases as biological mechanisms inside parts of the body (so called essentialising into the standardised, depersonalised biomedical body), and the subjective voice of the lived experience of illness which is rupturing the being-in-the-world and making it unhomelike. It is substantiating the clinical encounter as the ethical foundation of biomedicine and illuminating tensions between the epistemological foundations of biomedicine and the growing number of initiatives for so called humanisation of biomedical practices (as for example Person-centred care, Whole person care, Narrative medicine). This research is exposing the importance of the lived experience of illness and treatments in biomedicine and supports the shifting towards epistemology, that takes into account the embodied and enworlded human beings on both sides of the stethoscope.

\*

After studying at the Ljubljana Medical university and working as a general practitioner, Dr. Barbara Hrovatin, dr. med., deepened the diverse postgraduate explorations of the wider landscapes of medicine with the PhD in medical anthropology entitled »Understandings of healing in biomedicine – reflections of physicians-teachers« (ZRC SAZU, 2023). She has been dedicated to strengthening humanism in medicine and to integrative approaches to healing through different educational approaches and counselling.

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Atila Lukić

## Dekontekstualizacija, invaliditet i tijelo

U ovom izlaganju propitujem i analiziram specifične načine na koje se danas razmišlja o tijelima kao o invalidnim. To će se postići analizom javnih politika o invaliditetu u Hrvatskoj. Tijela koja danas nastanjujemo možda su politizirana, ali ono što je važnije jest da su izvučena iz svog kulturnog konteksta. Na taj način, i politika i kultura bivaju spljoštene, označavajući male političke akcije i smještajući kulturu kao način života ili, još gore, kao životni stil. Ovo tijelo je prisiljeno identificirati se, imati povijest; a u ovom slučaju medicinsku povijest. U Hrvatskoj se invaliditet ne posreduje kroz medicinske prakse, već se razmatra kao medicinska stvar.

Moje istraživanje usmjereno je na moguće strategije otpora ovakvim praksama. Oslanjajući se na Foucaultovu kritiku, nastojim pozicionirati tijelo kao učinak odnosa, vrstu bića koja svoju politiku može crpiti samo iz vlastitog konteksta. Slučaj javne politike u Hrvatskoj uglavnom se oslanja na prijenos politika, a rijetko na njihovo prevođenje u moguće, izvedive političke akcije.

\*

Atila Lukić ima doktorat iz antropologije. Trenutno predaje Kulturnu sociologiju na Sveučilištu u Osijeku, na Odsjeku za sociologiju, te radi kao nastavnik u nekoliko srednjih škola u Osijeku. Suurednik je Političkog leksikona pandemije i autor mnogih članaka koje je napisao zajedno sa svojim koautorom Gordanom Maslovom.

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Atila Lukić

## Decontextualization, disability, and the body

This paper will attempt to examine and analyse specific ways in which bodies today are thought of; as disabled. This will be done through an analysis of public policies about disability in Croatia. The bodies we inhabit today are perhaps politicized but are more importantly taken out of their cultural context. In this way, both politics and culture are flattened to denote small political actions as well as placing culture as a way of life or worse lifestyle. This body is forced to identify itself, to have a history; and in this instance a medical history. In Croatia disability is not mediated through the practices of medicine but it's thought of as a medical stuff.

My research is focused on possible strategies of resistance to these kinds of practices. Drawing on Foucault's critique I try to position the body as an effect of relations, a species being of sorts, which can draw its politics only from its own context. The case of public policy in Croatia draws mostly on policy transfers and rarely policy translations into possible, viable political actions.

\*

Lukić, Atila. Atila has a PhD in Anthropology. He currently teaches Cultural Sociology at the University of Osijek, Department of Sociology and works as a teacher in a few high schools in Osijek. He is a co-editor of the Political Lexicon of the Pandemic and author of many articles with his cowriter Gordan Maslov.

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Juš Škraban

## Etnografija nevarnosti na varovanem oddelku socialnovarstvenega zavoda

Varovani oddelki v socialnovarstvenih zavodih so zaprti oddelki, kamor je večina uporabnikov nameščenih proti volji po sklepu sodišča. Eden izmed pglavitnih razlogov, ki mora biti izpolnjen, da je namestitev po Zakonu o duševnem zdravju dopustna, je nevarnost oz. to, da uporabnik ogroža zdravje, življenje ali premoženje sebe ali drugih.

Ta predstavitev je osnovana na intenzivnem etnografskem in akcijskem raziskovanju, ki je potekalo od jeseni 2020 do jeseni 2023 na varovanem oddelku enega izmed posebnih socialnovarstvenih zavodov v Sloveniji.

Predstavlil bom »etnografijo nevarnosti« in to na več ravneh. Najprej nas bo zanimalo, kako na sodišču ugotavljajo nevarnost in kakšno vlogo ima prepoznana nevarnost uporabnikov v postopku nameščanja na varovane oddelke. Nadalje nas bo zanimalo, kakšne organizacijske ukrepe sprejema varovani oddelek kot odziv na »nevarne« uporabnike in, širše, kakšno vlogo igra nevarnost v oskrbi na varovanem oddelku. Nazadnje bom predstavil, kako je akcijskoraziskovalna skupina s socialnodelovno metodo »analiza tveganja« uporabila koncept nevarnosti za spodbujanje odpustov iz varovanega oddelka.

V prispevku analizirani koncept je ključen za razumevanje ukrepov proti volji, kot so zapiranje in vezanje, vse bolj pa se uveljavlja tudi kot ključen koncept na področju celotnega socialnega varstva. V prispevku želim podati kritično refleksijo koncepta in njegove uporabe v praksi, še posebej v luči ukrepov proti volji, kot je namestitev na varovani oddelek.

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Juš Škraban je diplomirani etnolog in kulturni antropolog. Ukvarjal se je s kulturnimi kompetencami, medkulturno mediacijo in širše enakostjo v zdravstvu, zadnjih pet let pa deluje še posebej na področju socialnega dela in varstva v povezavi z duševnim zdravjem. V doktorski disertaciji z naslovom Odpravljanje prisile kot sredstvo dezinstucionalizacije, ki jo končuje, analizira poskuse preobrazbe varovanega oddelka v posebnem socialnovarstvenem zavodu v skupnostne službe.

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Juš Škraban

## Ethnography of danger in the secure unit of a social care institution

Secure units in social care institutions are locked units in which most users are placed against their will by court order. One of the main grounds that must be met for placement to be permitted under the Mental Health Act is that the service user poses a risk to the health, life or property of themselves or others.

This presentation is based on intensive ethnographic and action research conducted from autumn 2020 to autumn 2023 in a secure unit of one of the special social care institutions in Slovenia.

The “ethnography of danger” will be presented on several levels. Firstly, we will be interested in how dangerousness is determined in court orders and what role the perceived dangerousness of users plays in their placement in a secure unit. Secondly, we will be interested in what organisational measures are taken in the secure unit in response to ‘dangerous’ users and what role dangerousness plays in the care provided in the secure unit in general. Finally, I will outline how the concept of dangerousness was used by the action research group to promote discharge from the secure unit using the social work method of ‘risk assessment’.

The concept analysed in this presentation is key to understanding involuntary measures such as seclusion and restraint and is increasingly becoming a key concept in the field of social (and health) care. In this paper I will provide a critical reflection on the concept and its application in practice, particularly in relation to involuntary measures such as placement in a secure unit.

\*

Juš Škraban has a bachelor’s degree in ethnology and cultural anthropology. He has worked on cultural competences, intercultural mediation and equality in health care. For the last five years has been working particularly in the field of social work and mental health care, especially on reducing coercion. In his PhD thesis entitled “ Abolishing coercion as a means of deinstitutionalisation”, which he is completing, he analyses attempts to transform a secure unit in a special social care institution into community-based services.

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Mateja Habinc

## Izgorelost v antropološki perspektivi

Svetovna zdravstvena organizacija je izgorelost zaznala že leta 1992, v najnovejši, 11. izdaji Statistične klasifikacije bolezni in povezanih zdravstvenih stanj (ICD) iz leta 2019, ki je začela veljati januarja 2022, pa je sicer ne prepoznava kot bolezen. Opredeljuje jo kot problem, povezan z zaposljivostjo ali nezaposlenostjo, oziroma kot »poklicno stanje«, povezano z delovnim okoljem. V 80. letih 20. stoletja, ko se je z izgorelostjo ukvarjala predvsem psihologija, pojem pa se je iz ZDA razširil tudi v Evropo, je socialna psihologinja Christina Maslach s posebnim vprašalnikom izkušnjo različnih stopenj izgorelosti vzpostavila kot specifično in vsaj za nekatere raziskovalce razumevanje izgorelosti s tem tudi poenotila. Čeprav so razloge za izgorelost psihologi sprva pripisovali predvsem posameznikom, so sčasoma vse bolj izpostavljali tudi organizacijske oziroma družbeno-ekonomske dejavnike oziroma družbenokulturne, okoljske in psihološke stresorje. Odgovornost za izčrpanost in izgorelost na delovnem mestu se je s posameznika tako prenašala tudi na državo, izgorelost na delovnem mestu pa je v nekaterih evropskih državah postala tudi uradna medicinska oziroma v zdravstvenih sistemih priznana diagnoza. A takšne države so izjema, saj je pojem za mnoge še vedno strokovno dvoumno in nejasno opredeljen. Sodobno, potrošniško vodeno medikalizacijo izgorelosti mnogi raziskovalci tako danes razumejo kot del družbenega interesa za mentalno zdravje in trenda medikalizacije mentalnih stanj. S tem v zvezi avtorico zanima, kakšne so strokovne in laične obravnave izgorelosti na Slovenskem, predvsem pa, kako jo raziskovati tudi antropološko.

\*

Dr. Mateja Habinc je izred. prof. na Oddelku za etnologijo in kulturno antropologijo Filozofske fakultete Univerze v Ljubljani. Raziskovalno jo zanimajo različne vsebine, povezane z načinom življenja v Sloveniji od let po drugi svetovni vojni naprej; predvsem s področja materialne in družbene kulture. V zadnjih letih se ukvarja predvsem z vprašanji dediščinjenja, dediščinskih skupnosti, specifičnih oblik trgovanja (v zgodovini) oziroma ponovne uporabe; z raziskavami izgorelosti na delovnem mestu se navezuje na svoje predhodne raziskave postsocializma.

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Mateja Habinc

## Burnout from an anthropological perspective

The World Health Organization mentioned burnout as early as 1992, but it was not recognized as a disease in the latest, 11th edition of the 2019 Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Medical Conditions (ICD), which came into force in January 2022. It was defined as a work-related problem linked to (dis)employment and the working environment – as an „occupational condition“. In the 1980s, when burnout was predominantly a psychological topic and when the concept spread from the US to Europe, social psychologist Christina Maslach introduced a questionnaire which established different levels of burnout as a specific experience. At the same time, this also standardized the different understandings of burnout, at least for some researchers. Initially, psychologists attributed burnout primarily to individual psychological predispositions, while over time, organizational and socioeconomic factors were also emphasized and sociocultural, environmental, and psychological stressors contributing to burnout were highlighted. The responsibility for exhaustion and burnout at work was thus transferred from the individual to the state, and in some European countries burnout at work therefore became an official medical diagnosis or at least a medical condition recognized by the health systems. Nevertheless, these countries are still exceptions, as the concept of burnout is still vaguely defined and unclear among experts. For example, many researchers warn that the current medicalization of burnout is driven by consumerism as well as society's interest in mental health and its medicalization. The presentation will therefore focus on professional and lay approaches to burnout in Slovenia and reflect on anthropological research on burnout.

\*

Dr. Mateja Habinc is an Assoc. Prof. at the Department of ethnology and cultural anthropology at the Faculty of Arts of the University of Ljubljana. In her research, she is interested in various matters related to the way of life in Slovenia since the Second World War, especially in the fields of material and social culture. In recent years, she has been especially dealing with questions of heritagisation, heritage communities, specific (historical) forms of trade or reuse; with her research on burnout at work, she is drawing on her previous research of postsocialism.

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Jelena Kupsjak in Ljiljana Pantovic

## Suradničko istraživanje u javnom zdravstvu u Srbiji i Hrvatskoj

Ovaj rad kritički ispituje koncept suradnje kroz zajednička istraživačka iskustva Jelene Kupsjak i Ljiljane Pantović. Istraživanje, koje je trenutno u tijeku, ima za cilj uspostaviti „epistemička partnerstva“ (Marcus) s javnozdravstvenim stručnjacima u Hrvatskoj i Srbiji, postavljajući temelje za proširenje studije na javnozdravstvo u drugim bivšim jugoslavenskim zemljama te izvan profesionalnih zajednica.

Posljednjih desetljeća svjedočimo značajnim promjenama u javnozdravstvenim sustavima u Hrvatskoj i Srbiji, uvođenjem neoliberalnih reformi i logika koje su zamijenile prethodno socijalizirane pristupe temeljene na principima socijalne medicine. Kroz projekt istražujemo granice suradničkog istraživanja i samog koncepta suradnje, nastojeći bolje razumjeti ulogu socijalne medicine, javnog zdravstva i medicinske antropologije te njihov međusobni odnos radeći sa profesionalnim zajednicama.

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Kupsjak, Jelena. Jelena ima doktorat iz etnologije. Njezino istraživanje fokusira se na pitanja zdravlja, skrbi i dobrobiti u kontekstu tranzicije sustava javne skrbi i javnozdravstvene suradnje, perspektive OneHealth i klimatskih promjena. Trenutno je postdoktorandica na Odjelu za etnologiju i antropologiju Sveučilišta u Zadru, gdje predaje Uvod u etnologiju i kulturnu antropologiju, Medicinsku antropologiju i etnomedicinu te Ekonomsku antropologiju.

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Pantović, Ljiljana. Ljiljana je naučna saradnica na Institutu za filozofiju i društvenu teoriju Univerziteta u Beogradu. Doktorirala je antropologiju na Univerzitetu u Pittsburgu (SAD) sa disertacijom pod naslovom: Privatno u okviru javnog – Pregovaranje o porođaju u Srbiji. Fokus njenih trenutnih istraživačkih interesovanja je medicinska antropologija i interdisciplinarni pristupi proučavanju brige, zdravlja i roda. Ona je voditeljka projekta „Bliskost i briga: Nega starijih osoba u Srbiji tokom pandemije Covid19“ (2021/2022) koji je podržan grantom Fondacije za otvoreno društvo.

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Jelena Kupsjak in Ljiljana Pantovic

## Collaborative Research in Public Health in Serbia and Croatia

This paper critically examines the concept of collaboration through the joint research experiences of Jelena Kupsjak and Ljiljana Pantović. The ongoing research aims to establish „epistemic partnerships“ (Marcus) with public health professionals in Croatia and Serbia, laying the groundwork to expand the study to public health in other former Yugoslav countries and beyond professional communities.

In recent decades, there have been significant changes in the public health systems in Croatia and Serbia, with the introduction of neoliberal reforms and logics that replaced the previously socialized approaches based on the principles of social medicine. Through this project, we explore the boundaries of collaborative research and the concept of collaboration itself, striving to better understand the role of social medicine, public health, and medical anthropology, as well as their interrelations while working with professional communities.

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Kupsjak, Jelena. Jelena has a PhD in Ethnology. Her research is focused on questions of health, care, and wellbeing in the context of public care systems in transition and public health cooperation, OneHealth perspectives and climate change. She is currently a Postdoc at the Department of Ethnology and Anthropology University of Zadar where she teaches the Introduction to Ethnology and Cultural Anthropology, Medical Anthropology and Ethnomedicine, and Economic Anthropology.

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\*

Pantović, Ljiljana. Ljiljana is a Research Fellow at the Institute of Philosophy and Social Theory of the University of Belgrade. She received her PhD in Anthropology from the University of Pittsburgh (USA) with a dissertation entitled: Private within the Public – Negotiating Birth in Serbia. The focus of her current research interests is medical anthropology and interdisciplinary approaches to the study of care, health, and gender. She is the leader of the project Closeness and Care: Elderly Care in Serbia during the Covid19 pandemic (2021/2022) supported by a grant from the Open Society Foundation.

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Sara Pistotnik

## Ranljive osebe, ranljivost skupin ali nedostopnost storitev?

Med 2015 in 2022 je v sodelovanju Oddelka za etnologijo in kulturno antropologijo Filozofske fakultete UL, Nacionalnega inštituta za javno zdravje in drugih partnerjev potekalo več raziskav, ki so kljub različnim fokusom bolj ali manj intenzivno obravnavale tudi dostopnost zdravstva za različne skupine prebivalstva. Eno med raziskovalnimi vprašanji je bilo, katere osebe se soočajo z ovirami pri vstopu v zdravstveni sistem oziroma katere skupine prebivalstva so v slovenskem zdravstvu »ranljive«. Rezultati kvalitativnih raziskav so kmalu pokazali na vprašljivost merjenja »ranljivih« skupin, saj gre za homogenizirajoče poimenovanje, ki lahko vodi v utrjevanje stereotipov in minimaliziranje raznolikosti okoliščin, ki prispevajo k oviram. Sprememba pogleda iz »ranljivih« skupin k ranljivosti skupin je omogočila bolj kompleksno analizo družbenih procesov, ki ustvarjajo ovire v zdravstvu za različne osebe. Ker pa se je ranljivost pokazala kot izrazito relacijski fenomen, se je tudi ta pristop izkazal za pomanjkljivega. V prispevku bom tako razmišljala, na kakšen način bi lahko pri raziskovanju ovir v zdravstvu okrepili fokus na dostopnost zdravstvenih institucij, saj je ta navsezadnje ključna za odpravo ovir, s katerimi se vsak dan soočajo raznolike osebe, ki skušajo izboljšati svojo zdravstveno situacijo.

\*

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Sara Pistotnik

## Vulnerable people, vulnerability of groups or inaccessible services?

Between 2015 and 2022, in collaboration with the Department of Ethnology and Cultural Anthropology (Faculty of Arts), the National Institute of Public Health and other partners, several research projects were conducted, which, despite their different focuses, also addressed more or less intensively the accessibility of healthcare for different population groups. One of the research questions was which people face barriers to entering the healthcare system, or which population groups are „vulnerable“ in the Slovenian healthcare system. The results of the qualitative research soon showed the questionability of measuring “vulnerable” groups, as it is a homogenising label that can lead to stereotyping and minimising the diversity of circumstances that contribute to barriers. The shift in perspective from „vulnerable“ groups to the vulnerability of groups has allowed for a more complex analysis of the social processes that create barriers to health for different people. However, as vulnerability has been shown to be a highly relational phenomenon, this approach has also proved to be flawed. In this paper, I will reflect on ways in which research on barriers to healthcare could strengthen the focus on the accessibility of healthcare institutions, which is ultimately the key to overcoming the barriers that diverse people face every day when trying to improve their health situation.

\*

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Jelisaveta Fotić

## Dijabetes kao prirodni tok starenja: Antropološka analiza kvaliteta života starih u Beogradu

U ovom radu analiziram kvalitet života starijih osoba sa tip 2 dijabetesom (T2D) u Beogradu. S jedne strane, T2D se najčešće posmatra kao individualna odgovornost i bolest onih koji „ne slušaju“, s druge strane stari ljudi se doživljavaju kao neproduktivni članovi i teret za društvo koje ubrzano stari, stavljajući starije osobe sa T2D u dvostruko obavezujući položaj ranjivosti. Ovo je posebno slučaj u postsocijalističkom neoliberalnom kontekstu kao što je srpski, gde se teret zdravstvene zaštite selektivno prebacuje sa države na pojedince kao pacijente-potrošače.

Pisanjem iz antropološke perspektive želim da promenim percepciju krivice i pokažem okolnosti koje su dovele do dijagnoze dijabetesa. Imajući to u vidu, koristim objektivne (stanovanje, ranije zaposlenje, moguće trenutno zaposlenje, visina penzije, cena lekova) i subjektivne (odnos pacijent-lekar, pristup informacijama i stavovi o kvalitetu života) pokazatelje kvaliteta života. Empirijski, rad je zasnovan na polustrukturiranim intervjuima sa pet starijih osoba sa T2D i četiri člana porodice koji su pružili dodatne informacije i na taj način upotpunili iskaze sagovornika. Glavni nalaz rada pokazuje da moji sagovornici ne doživljavaju dijabetes kao biografski poremećaj, već kao očekivani, normalni životni tok. Rad otvara prostor za istraživanje mentalnog zdravlja kod starijih osoba, i dalje tabu teme zbog njihove dvostruko obavezujuće pozicije ranjivosti.

\*

Jelisaveta Fotić je doktorantkinja medicinske antropologije na Filozofskom fakultetu, Univerzitetu u Beogradu, gde se u svojoj disertaciji bavi životom ljudi sa dijabetesom između države i udruženja građana u Srbiji i Hrvatskoj. Zaposlena je na Balkanološkom institutu SANU gde je, između ostalog, asistent urednika časopisa Balcanica. Njene publikacije obuhvataju teme hroničnih bolesti, stigme kod dijabetesa i društvenih aspekata zdravlja u postsocijalističkom neoliberalnom kontekstu. Jelisaveta je aktivistkinja, istraživačica i edukatorica na polju dijabetesa.

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Jelisaveta Fotić

## Diabetes as a Natural Course of Aging: An Anthropological Analysis of the Quality of Life of the Elderly in Belgrade

In this paper, I analyze the quality of life of elderly individuals with type 2 diabetes (T2D) in Belgrade. On one hand, T2D is often viewed as an individual responsibility and as a disease of those who „do not listen“; on the other, elderly people are perceived as unproductive members and a burden on a society that is rapidly aging, placing older individuals with T2D in a double-bind position of vulnerability. This is especially true in the post-socialist neoliberal context, such as in Serbia, where the burden of healthcare is selectively shifted from the state to individuals as patient-consumers.

Writing from an anthropological perspective, I aim to change the perception of blame and highlight the circumstances that led to a diabetes diagnosis. With this in mind, I use objective (housing, previous employment, possible current employment, pension amount, medication costs) and subjective (doctor-patient relationship, access to information, and attitudes about quality of life) indicators of quality of life. Empirically, the paper is based on semi-structured interviews with five elderly individuals with T2D and four family members who provided additional information, thus complementing the informants' accounts. The main finding of the paper shows that my informants do not perceive diabetes as a biographical disruption but rather as an expected, normal life course. The paper opens up space for exploring mental health among the elderly, which remains a taboo topic due to their double-bind position of vulnerability.

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Jelisaveta Fotić is a PhD student of Anthropology at the University of Belgrade, researching how the state and patient organizations impact daily life of people with diabetes in Serbia and Croatia. Employed at the Institute for Balkan Studies SASA, she works as editorial assistant for *Balkanica*. Her publications address chronic illness, diabetes stigma, and social aspects of health in post-socialist neoliberal contexts. She is a patient activist, researcher and diabetes educator.

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Zoran Milosavljević

## **“If you adore me, DIOR me” - Promene diskursa tehnoseksualnosti muškaraca koji imaju seks sa muškarcima u Srbiji od 2014.-2024.**

Diskurs tehnoseksualnosti muškaraca koji imaju seks sa muškarcima (MSM) doživeo je niz promena u periodu 2014. - 2024. Virtuelna etnografija pokazala je da je vokabular korišćen u online MSM komunikaciji u poslednjih deset godina osiromašen.

U ovom desetogodišnjem periodu dogodile su se tri značajne promene: HIV pozitivan status se više ne spominje u online komunikaciji; kemseks se otvoreno afirmiše i upražnjava; i upotreba pre-ekspozicione profilakse - PrEP-a je napravila inverziju MSM identiteta te se osobe koje su HIV pozitivne i koriste antiretroviralnu terapiju deklarišu da su na PrPE-u, koji je zapravo namenjen za HIV negativne osobe kao forma prevencije HIV infekcije. Ono što se delimično zadržalo u online MSM komunikaciji je upotreba “strateške nevidljivosti” kao tehnike saopštavanja nelagodnosti u identitetu. Vizuelnost je zamenila jezičku komunikaciju, oskudan jezik takodje ne komunicira o pregovoranju rizika u seksualnim praksama. Seks rad i traženje sponzora postalo je uobičajena praksa.

Onlajn MSM komunikacija je dovedena do svog paradoksa jer je princip “Sharing the world, meeting the other” (Irigaray, 2008) dovođen do apsurdna – nemogućnosti susreta, i redukciju seksualnih praksi na eksces. U materijalnom realnom svetu MSM kulture sve se više može čuti od ispitanika da je zasićenost vizuelnim brzim slikama Instagrama i ostalih aplikacija dovela do psihičkih transformacija oličenih u samoj nestrpljivosti gde je vigilnost pažnje višestruko narasla na račun njenog tenaciteta.

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Dr sc. Zoran Milosavljević je doktor medicine, epidemiolog u treningu i doktor nauka iz oblasti socijalne i medicinske antropologije. Bavi se multidisciplinarnim istraživanjima u oblasti seksualnog i reproduktivnog zdravlja sa posebnim naglaskom na epidemiju HIV-a u Srbiji i uticaja virtuelne, onlajn komunikacije na zdravlje – “e-health”. Osnovne studije medicine je završio u Beogradu, a magistrirao je na Univerzitetu u Hal-u, Velika Britanija (Hull/UK), i na Univerzitetu u Vudju, Poljska (Lodz/Poland). Zvanje doktora nauka iz oblasti socijalne i medicinske antropologije stekao je na Univerzitetu u

Hal-u. U zvanju je naučnog saradnika na Etnografskom institutu SANU. Radi na Odeljenju za HIV infekciju, polno prenosive bolesti, hepatitis i tuberkulozu Instituta za javno zdravlje Srbije "Milan Jovanović Batut".

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Zoran Milosavljević

## „If you adore me, DIOR me“ - Changes in the Discourse of Technosexuality among Men Who Have Sex with Men in Serbia from 2014-2024

The discourse of technosexuality among men who have sex with men (MSM) has undergone a series of changes from 2014 to 2024. Virtual ethnography has shown that the vocabulary used in online MSM communication over the past ten years has become impoverished.

During this ten-year period, three significant changes occurred: HIV-positive status is no longer mentioned in online communication; chemsex is openly affirmed and practiced; and the use of pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) has led to an inversion of MSM identity, with individuals who are HIV-positive and on antiretroviral therapy declaring that they are on PrEP, which is actually intended for HIV-negative individuals as a form of HIV prevention. What has partially remained in online MSM communication is the use of „strategic invisibility“ as a technique to express discomfort with identity. Visuality has replaced verbal communication, and the sparse language also fails to address the negotiation of risks in sexual practices. Sex work and seeking sponsors have become common practices.

Online MSM communication has reached a paradox where the principle of „Sharing the world, meeting the other“ (Irigaray, 2008) has been brought to an absurdity – the impossibility of encounter, reducing sexual practices to mere excess. In the material, real world of MSM culture, respondents increasingly express that the saturation with fast visual images from Instagram and other apps has led to psychological transformations characterized by impatience, where vigilance has significantly increased at the expense of attention's tenacity.

\*

Zoran Milosavljevic, MD, PhD, is a medical anthropologist and epidemiologist in training based in Belgrade, Serbia. He has carried out research and published in the fields of gender, sexuality, e-health and HIV/AIDS in Serbia. He holds PhD in social anthropology from the School of Social Sciences, University of Hull/UK. He is a research associate at the Ethnographic Institute of the Serbian Academy of Arts and Sciences (SASA), and at the Department for HIV/AIDS and STDs prevention in the Institute of Public Health of Serbia.

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Vesna Trifunović

## Vakcine i vakcinacija iz antropološke perspektive

U svom izlaganju ću govoriti o temama mojih istraživanja na polju vakcina i vakcinacije. Tim putem ću predstaviti svoja interesovanja u okviru medicinske antropologije i ujedno ukazati na moguće antropološke pristupe vakcinama i vakcinaciji koji se ne iscrpljuju problemom odbijanja vakcina. Iako me je prvenstveno zainteresovala ta pojava u Srbiji, dalje bavljenje i razmišljanje o vakcinama i vakcinaciji mi je otvorilo druge perspektive iz kojih se može pristupiti ovoj temi. Sa primenjenog aspekta korisni antropološki uvidi se mogu pružiti u pogledu razumevanja kontekstualnih uticaja na pojavu vakcinalne kolebljivosti (vaccine hesitancy) u post-socijalističkom periodu, zatim u pogledu kreiranja adekvatnih politika vakcinacije i poboljšanja komunikacije između zdravstvenih radnika i roditelja na temu vakcina i vakcinacije. Pristup iz perspektive antropologije materijalne kulture i tehnologije omogućava analiziranje vakcina kao artefakata, čime antropološki pristup daje doprinos u razumevanju socio-kulturnih i političkih uticaja na proizvodnju vakcina. U izlaganju ću ukratko predstaviti osnovna pitanja i rezultate istraživanja u kojima sam se bavila pomenutim temama.

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Vesna Trifunović je naučna saradnica u Etnografskom institutu Srpske akademije nauka i umetnosti. Završila je Doktorske studije etnologije i antropologije na Filozofskom fakultetu Univerziteta u Beogradu. Oblast njenog istraživanja je antropologija medicine i javnog zdravlja, sa posebnim osvrtom na pitanja vakcina i vakcinacije. Baveći se temama vakcinalnog skepticizma, komunikacije o vakcinaciji i proizvodnje vakcina, objavljivala je rezultate svog rada u domaćim i međunarodnim časopisima, učestvovala na međunarodnim konferencijama, simpozijumima i radionicama. Sarađivala je na projektu Tailoring Immunization Programmes (TIP) in Serbia kao saradnica Regionalne kancelarije SZO za Evropu i angažovana je u Technical Advisory Group on Behavioural and Cultural Insights pri Regionalnoj kancelariji SZO za Evropu.

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Vesna Trifunović

## Vaccines and Vaccination from an Anthropological Perspective

In my presentation, I will discuss the themes of my research in the field of vaccines and vaccination. Through this, I will introduce my interests within medical anthropology and highlight possible anthropological approaches to vaccines and vaccination that go beyond the issue of vaccine refusal. Although my initial interest was sparked by this phenomenon in Serbia, further exploration and reflection on vaccines and vaccination opened up other perspectives from which this topic can be approached. From an applied aspect, useful anthropological insights can be provided in understanding the contextual influences on the emergence of vaccine hesitancy in the post-socialist period, as well as in developing appropriate vaccination policies and improving communication between healthcare workers and parents on the topic of vaccines and vaccination. An approach from the perspective of the anthropology of material culture and technology allows for the analysis of vaccines as artifacts, thereby contributing to the understanding of the socio-cultural and political influences on vaccine production. In the presentation, I will briefly outline the key questions and research findings related to these topics.

\*

Vesna Trifunović is a research associate at the Ethnographic Institute of the Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts. She completed her doctoral studies in Ethnology and Anthropology at the Faculty of Philosophy, University of Belgrade. Her research area is the anthropology of medicine and public health, with a particular focus on issues of vaccines and vaccination. By addressing topics such as vaccine skepticism, communication about vaccination, and vaccine production, she has published her research findings in domestic and international journals and has participated in international conferences, symposia, and workshops. She collaborated on the project „Tailoring Immunization Programmes (TIP) in Serbia“ as an associate of the WHO Regional Office for Europe and is engaged with the Technical Advisory Group on Behavioral and Cultural Insights at the WHO Regional Office for Europe.

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Danijela Paska

## Medikalizacija poroda: Tehnomedicinska dimenzija skrbi u hrvatskim javnim bolnicama

U izlaganju se analizira medicinska skrb roditelja pri porodu u javnim bolnicama u Hrvatskoj, s posebnim naglaskom na medikalizaciju poroda i tehnokratski model medicinske skrbi. Korištenjem foucaultovske analize biomedicine kao sustava nadzora i kontrole, istražuje se kako bolnice, kao institucije moći, standardiziraju znanje i medikaliziraju prirodni proces rađanja. Tehnokratski model rađanja, u kojem se žensko tijelo tretira kao reproduktivni stroj, pacijentica kao objekt, a medicinsko osoblje otuđuje od pacijentice, postaje dominantan okvir skrbi pri porodu.

Istraživanje se oslanja na teorijska razmatranja antropologinje Robbie Davis-Floyd koja uvodi shvaćanje tehnokratskog modela rađanja kroz dvanaest načela koji uključuju razdvajanje uma i tijela, objektivizaciju, alijenaciju, hijerarhijsku organizaciju te autoritet liječnika. Polazeći od življenog iskustva žena, izlaganje će prikazati kako ova načela naglašavaju kontrolu nad porodom, uz prikaz normaliziranih medicinskih intervencija.

Ujedno se razmatraju kulturne dimenzije hrvatskog društva, uzimajući u obzir diskurzivnu formiranost reproduktivnog zdravlja žena, budući da medicinski sustav valja proučavati kao kulturnu instituciju oblikovanu društvenim vrijednostima. Izlaganje će ponuditi kritičku analizu postojećih praksi koje ukazuju na dehumanizaciju s pojavom opstetričkog nasilja, sugerirajući potrebu za transformacijom porodništva prema modelu koji uvažava autonomiju, subjektivnost i individualne potrebe žena.

\*

Danijela Paska doktorandica je etnologije i antropologije poslijediplomskog studija Humanističkih znanosti pri Sveučilištu u Zadru. Cilj rada jest dati kulturno-antropološku analizu javnih politika reproduktivnog zdravlja žena te materijalizaciju istih kroz življenog iskustvo poroda i pobačaja u javnim bolnicama u Hrvatskoj. Njezini znanstveni interesi vežu se uz kritičko propitivanje odnosa moći i struktura nejednakosti u društvu s posebnim fokusom na položaj roda te umreženost s nacionalnosti, kapitalizmom i religijom.

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Danijela Paska

## Medicalization of Childbirth: The Technomedical Dimension of Care in Croatian Public Hospitals

This presentation analyzes the medical care of women during childbirth in public hospitals in Croatia, with a special focus on the medicalization of childbirth and the technocratic model of medical care. Using a Foucauldian analysis of biomedicine as a system of surveillance and control, it explores how hospitals, as institutions of power, standardize knowledge and medicalize the natural process of childbirth. The technocratic model of childbirth, in which the female body is treated as a reproductive machine, the patient as an object, and the medical staff is alienated from the patient, becomes the dominant framework of care during childbirth.

The research draws on the theoretical considerations of anthropologist Robbie Davis-Floyd, who introduces the concept of the technocratic model of childbirth through twelve principles, including the separation of mind and body, objectification, alienation, hierarchical organization, and the authority of doctors. Based on the lived experiences of women, the presentation will illustrate how these principles emphasize control over childbirth, along with the depiction of normalized medical interventions.

The cultural dimensions of Croatian society will also be considered, taking into account the discursive formation of women's reproductive health, as the medical system should be studied as a cultural institution shaped by social values. The presentation will offer a critical analysis of existing practices that point to dehumanization with the emergence of obstetric violence, suggesting the need for a transformation of obstetrics towards a model that respects the autonomy, subjectivity, and individual needs of women.

\*

Danijela Paska is a PhD candidate in Ethnology and Anthropology at the Postgraduate Program in Humanities at the University of Zadar. The aim of her work is to provide a cultural-anthropological analysis of public policies on women's reproductive health and their materialization through the lived experiences of childbirth and abortion in public hospitals in Croatia. Her scientific interests are related to the critical examination of power relations and structures of inequality in society, with a special focus on the position of gender and its interconnectedness with nationality, capitalism, and religion.

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Neža Zore

## Izzivi obporodne zdravstvene obravnave oseb z izkušnjo migracije v Sloveniji: Jezikovne in kulturne ovire

Med raziskovanjem v okviru magistrskega dela sem se osredotočila na izzive, s katerimi se srečujejo ženske z izkušnjo migracije v obporodni zdravstveni obravnavi v Sloveniji, zlasti na jezikovne in kulturne ovire. Z uporabo kvalitativnih metod, predvsem intervjujev z diplomiranimi babcami in s sogovornicami, ki so migrirale v Slovenijo, sem analizirala vpliv omenjenih ovir na zdravstveno obravnavo. Ključni izzivi, s katerimi se omenjeni posamezniki soočajo, vključujejo pomanjkanje znanja jezikov, omejen dostop do jezikovno-kulturnega posredovanja ter nekatere medkulturne nesporazume, do katerih prihaja v nekaterih kliničnih okoljih. V nalogi se posvečam tudi konceptu institucionalnega rasizma, ki se med drugim kaže v etnocentričnih pogledih nekaterih zdravstvenih delavcev ter v splošno ponotranjeni asimilacijski logiki med nekaterimi diplomiranimi babcami. Raziskava izpostavlja potrebo po izboljšanju komunikacije z uvedbo profesionalnih medkulturnih mediatorjev, kar bi prispevalo k bolj enaki obravnavi migrantk in okrepitvi temeljnih moralnih načel medicine.

\*

Sem diplomantka Oddelka za etnologijo in kulturno antropologijo. Na simpoziju bom predstavila svojo raziskavo magistrske naloge z naslovom *Obporodna zdravstvena obravnava oseb z izkušnjo migracije v Sloveniji*. Verjamem, da lahko preplet zdravstvenih in družboslovnih ved pomembno prispeva k boljši in pravičnejši obravnavi skupin, ki so v obstoječem zdravstvenem sistemu pogosto spregledane.

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Neža Zore

## The Challenges in Maternal Care as Experienced by Migrants in Slovenia: Language and Cultural Barriers

While conducting research for my master's thesis, I focused mainly on the challenges faced by migrant women when interacting with the healthcare system in Slovenia, specifically those relating to language and culture. Using qualitative methods, especially interviews with practicing midwives as well as women who have migrated to Slovenia, I analysed the effect these barriers have on the treatment received. The key obstacles that these individuals faced were a lack of language skills, limited access to language and cultural mediation services as well as some intercultural misunderstandings that occur in clinical settings. I also look into the concept of institutional racism which, among other things, is reflected in the ethnocentric views of healthcare workers and the general assimilation logic as internalised by some midwifery graduates. My research highlights the need to improve communication through the introduction of professional intercultural mediators, thereby facilitating the equal medical treatment of migrants and reinforcing the basic moral principles of medicine.

\*

I am a graduate of the Department of Ethnology and Cultural Anthropology. At this symposium, I will be presenting the research I conducted for my Master's thesis Maternal Healthcare as Experienced by Migrants in Slovenia. I firmly believe that interweaving social sciences and medicine can make way for better and more equitable treatment of groups which are often overlooked by the current healthcare system.

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Anja Marolt

## Sporazumevanje med zdravstvenim osebjem in tujejezičnimi starši novorojenčkov

Prispevek obravnava jezikovne in kulturne nesporazume tujejezičnih bolnikov in zdravstvenega osebja v slovenskem zdravstvu, predvsem na Enoti za intenzivno nego in terapijo novorojencev v Porodnišnici Ljubljana ter primerljivih enotah v tujini, kjer se srečujejo s podobnimi ovirami. Zaradi sodobnih migracijskih trendov prihaja tudi v Sloveniji do pogostejših stikov zdravstvenih delavcev s pacienti, s katerimi so si jezikovno in kulturno drugačni. Z avtoetnografsko metodo so predstavljeni primeri jezikovnih in kulturnih nesporazumov iz vsakodnevne prakse ter analizirani s pomočjo literature in razmišljanja nekaterih zdravstvenih delavcev. Predstavljeni primeri interakcij med tujejezičnimi starši novorojenčkov in zdravstvenim osebjem pogosto prikazujejo neorasizem slednjega. Odsotnost sistemske pomoči pri reševanju nesporazumov in drugih ovir ter zanašanje na iznajdljivost zdravstvenega osebja pa neorasizem le še poglobljata. Posebej so izpostavljene tudi ženske migrantke, ki so redkeje predmet raziskovanja, imajo pa zaradi biološke sposobnosti rojevanja drugačne izkušnje od moških. Boljšo in manj kaotično zdravstveno obravnavo bi omogočala jasnejša zakonodaja, ki bi sistemsko vpeljala pomoč, ki jo nekatere zdravstvene institucije že uporabljajo. Na tak način bi bilo manj stisk med tujejezičnimi pacienti in tudi zdravstvenimi delavci, ki pogosto izumljajo najinovativnejše načine za prenos informacij svojim uporabnikom.

\*

Rojena leta 1988 je dodiplomski študij babištva na Zdravstveni fakulteti končala leta 2011. Od leta 2012 je zaposlena kot dipl. babica na Ginekološki kliniki Univerzitetnega kliničnega centra v Ljubljani. Že od začetka karierne poti dela na Kliničnem oddelku za perinatologijo v Enoti za intenzivno nego in terapijo novorojencev. Leta 2024 je zaključila magistrski študij na Oddelku za etnologijo in kulturno antropologijo Filozofske fakultete, predmet njenega zanimanja so odnosi med zaposlenimi v zdravstvenih ustanovah in tujejezičnimi uporabniki zdravstvenih storitev.

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Anja Marolt

## Communication between healthcare professionals and foreign language speaking parents of newborns

The article addresses linguistic and cultural misunderstandings between non-native-speaking patients and healthcare staff in the Slovenian healthcare system, primarily in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at the Ljubljana Maternity Hospital, as well as comparable units abroad, where similar challenges are faced. Due to modern migration trends, healthcare workers in Slovenia are increasingly encountering patients who are linguistically and culturally different. Using an autoethnographic method, the article presents examples of linguistic and cultural misunderstandings from daily practice, analyzed through literature and reflections from some healthcare workers. The examples of interactions between non-native-speaking parents of newborns and healthcare workers often reveal forms of neoracism. The absence of systemic support for resolving misunderstandings and other barriers, along with the reliance on the resourcefulness of healthcare staff, only deepens this subtle racism. The article particularly highlights migrant women, who are less frequently the subject of research, but who, due to their biological ability to give birth, have different experiences than men. Clearer legislation that would systematically introduce assistance, already used by some healthcare institutions, would lead to better and less chaotic healthcare treatment. This would reduce tensions between non-native-speaking patients and healthcare workers, who often come up with the most innovative ways to communicate information to their patients.

\*

Born in 1988, she completed her undergraduate studies in midwifery at the Faculty of Health Sciences in 2011. Since 2012, she has been employed as a midwife at the Gynecology Clinic of the University Medical Centre in Ljubljana. From the beginning of her career, she has worked in the Clinical Department of Perinatology in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU). In 2024, she completed her master's degree at the Department of Ethnology and Cultural Anthropology at the Faculty of Arts. Her area of interest is the relationships between employees in healthcare institutions and non-native speakers using healthcare services.

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Besjana Rrahmani

## KR: Kranj apo Republika e Kosovës? Një studim antropologjik i identitetit, komunitetit dhe ndërmjetësimit

Kontributi im në këtë hulumtim, ka për qëllim të shqyrtojë se si komuniteti shqiptar (kryesisht nga Kosova) është përballur me sfida të veçanta gjatë vendosjes në një strukturë të re shoqërore në Kranj. Historia e këtij komuniteti është një dëshmi e qëndrueshmërisë, adaptimit dhe identitetit. Por si mund të ndërtojmë ura mbi dallimet kulturore, duke nxitur njëkohësisht përfshirjen? Kjo tematikë e vendos ndërmjetësimin ndërkulturor në “zemër të hulumtimit”. Fokusohet në rolin e ndërmjetësuesit ndërkulturor si një lehtësues i marrëdhënieve në mes dy grupeve komunitetesh: shqiptarët dhe sllovenët. Edhe pse është një profesion relativisht i ri që po del në pah, roli i këtij profesioni është thelbësor kur vjen fjala për orientimin dhe funksionimin e rregullt të këtij komuniteti të huaj në shoqërinë sllovene.

Në prezentimin tim, do të shqyrtoj gjetjet kyçe nga hulumtimi im mbi integrimin e komunitetit shqiptar në Kranj, duke u bazuar në intervista me individ lokal, mësues dhe përfaqësues të komunitetit. Përmes këtij hulumtimi në terren, janë shfaqur një sërë njohurish të papritura për shkëmbimet ndërkulturore dhe keqkuptimet. Do të shqyrtojmë përvojat e këtij komuniteti që tejkalon nëpër identitete të dyfishta, rolin e institucioneve lokale në përfshirjen e tyre dhe ndikimin e ndërmjetësuesve ndërkulturorë në lehtësimin e tensioneve.

Bashkohuni me mua ndërsa zbërthejmë dinamikat komplekse të papunësisë, barrierave gjuhësore dhe kulturore, procesit të tërësishëm të integritit dhe asimilimit, racizmit dhe stereotipeve gjinore.

\*

Besjana Rrahmani është një antropologe 25-vjeçare nga Kosova, e cila kohët e fundit ka përfunduar studimet e Masterit në Ljubljana. Teza e saj shqyrton rolin e ndërmjetësuesve ndërkulturorë shqiptarë dhe komunitetit shqiptar në Kranj, Slloveni. Interesimi i saj për antropologjinë mjekësore u shfaq në vitin 2019 gjatë hulumtimit dhe pjesëmarrjes në trajnime për ndërmjetësues ndërkulturorë, të cilat formësuan fokusin e saj aktual akademik. Ajo është e apasionuar pas çështjeve sociale dhe ka marrë pjesë në programe dhe projekte të ndryshme trajnime për të pasur një ndikim pozitiv në shoqëri.

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Besjana Rrahmani

## KR: Kranj or Republic of Kosovo? An anthropological study of identity, community and mediation

My research contribution explores how the Albanian community (primarily from Kosovo) has been exposed to unique challenges as they settle into a new social fabric in Kranj. Their stories are a testament to resilience, adaptation, and identity. But how do we bridge cultural differences while fostering inclusion? This topic places intercultural mediation at the heart of the research. It focuses on the role of the intercultural mediator as a facilitator of relationships between the two communities: Albanian and Slovenian. Even though it is a relatively new emerging profession, its role is essential when it comes to the navigation and proper functioning of this outsider community in Slovenian society.

In my presentation, I will explore key findings from my research on the integration of the Albanian community in Kranj, drawing from interviews with local women, teachers, and community representatives. Through this fieldwork, unexpected insights into cultural exchanges and misunderstandings have emerged. We will look at the experiences of this community navigating dual identities, the role of local institutions in their inclusion, and the impact of intercultural mediators in easing tensions.

Join me as we unravel the complex dynamics of unemployment, language and cultural barriers, the whole integration and assimilation process, racism, and gender stereotypes.

\*

Besjana Rrahmani is a 25-year-old anthropologist from Kosovo, who recently completed her Master's studies in Ljubljana. Her thesis explores the role of Albanian intercultural mediators and the Albanian community in Kranj, Slovenia. Her interest in medical anthropology emerged in 2019 while researching and attending intercultural mediator training, which shaped her current academic focus. She is passionate about social issues and has participated in various training programs and projects to make a positive impact.

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Vanja Germ

## Vpliv pandemije covid-19 na delo in zaposlovanje v Sloveniji

Avtorica v svojem prispevku predstavi vpliv pandemije covid-19 na delo in finančno stanje posameznikov v Sloveniji s poudarkom na njihovih izkušnjah in doživljanju sprememb. Študija temelji na gradivu, pridobljenem v sklopu mednarodne raziskave COVID-19: Ocena ranljivosti in vključevanje skupnosti mednarodnega konzorcija Sonar-Global, ki je potekala med letoma 2020 in 2022. Raziskava je vključevala 214 intervjujev med prebivalci Ljubljane in Murske Sobote, pri čemer se je avtorica osredotočila na izkušnje posameznikov v povezavi z delom in zaposlovanjem med pandemijo. Avtorica v prispevku obravnava vpliv pandemije na povečanje brezposelnosti, prekarizacijo in prilagajanje dela. Prav tako analizira vladne ukrepe za blažitev posledic pandemije, ki so bili pogosto ocenjeni kot nezadostni ali nepravilni. Ugotovitve kažejo, da so se izkušnje dela med pandemijo močno razlikovale glede na naravo dela, kar je povzročilo različne izzive in strategije prilagajanja.

\*

Vanja Germ je diplomirana sociologinja in magistra etnologije in kulturne antropologije (Filozofska fakulteta, Univerza v Ljubljani). Tekom svojega študija se je raziskovalno zanimala predvsem za tematike s področja medicinske antropologije. Trenutno je zaposlena v Zdravstvenem domu Ljubljana.

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Vanja Germ

## The Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Work and Employment in Slovenia

In this article, the author examines the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on work and the financial situation of individuals in Slovenia, focusing on their experiences and perceptions of changes. The study is based on data gathered from the international COVID-19 study, „Vulnerability Assessment and Community Engagement,“ conducted by the Sonar-Global international consortium between 2020 and 2022. The research includes 214 interviews with residents of Ljubljana and Murska Sobota, with the author concentrating on individuals' work and employment experiences during the pandemic. The article discusses the pandemic's impact on increased unemployment, the rise of precarious work, and work adjustments. It also analyzes government measures to mitigate the pandemic's effects, which were often criticized as inadequate or unfair. Findings indicate that work experiences during the pandemic varied significantly depending on the type of work, leading to different challenges and adaptation strategies.

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Vanja Germ holds a degree in Sociology and a Master's in Ethnology and Cultural Anthropology from the Faculty of Arts, University of Ljubljana. Her research interests during her studies primarily centered on medical anthropology. She is currently employed at the Ljubljana Health Center.

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Pia Kramppl

## Dostop do zdravstva in zdravja ljudi na poti v Sloveniji med pandemijo covid-19

Avtorica bo v prispevku predstavila uvide o dostopu do zdravstva in zdravja ljudi na poti, ki jih je ponudilo etnografsko gradivo, zbrano leta 2021 v Ljubljani v slovenskem delu projekta Sonar-Global, natančneje v raziskavi COVID-19: Ocena ranljivosti in vključevanje skupnosti. Gradivo je analizirala v sklopu skupnega magistrskega dela z naslovom Migracije in zdravje med pandemijo covid-19: Projekt Sonar-Global v Sloveniji in Franciji, napisanega leta 2024. Tako kot lahko v antropologiji zdravje razumemo kot odraz družbenih, ekonomskih, okoljskih, geopolitičnih in drugih dejavnikov (kot zapiše recimo Sandrine Musso), tako so sogovornice\_ki v raziskavi zdravje večinoma razumeli kot preplet fizičnih, duševnih, družbenih in drugih dejavnikov. V prispevku bo avtorica predstavila nekaj konceptov, s katerimi so raziskovalke\_ci že poskusili razumeti neenakosti v dostopu do zdravstva, in pa med seboj prepletene dejavnike oz. družbeno-kulturne dimenzije, ki so se pokazale v etnografskem gradivu in ki lahko bolj ali manj neposredno vplivajo na dostop ljudi na poti do zdravstvenih storitev ter na njihovo zmožnost ohranjanja zdravja. Te bo poskušala prikazati tudi prek citatov sogovornic\_kov, torej oseb z begunsko izkušnjo, a različnimi pravnimi statusi, ki so na njihove izkušnje lahko vplivali (begunec, prosilka za azil, oseba z dovoljenjem za zadrževanje), in pa dveh sogovornic\_kov iz organizacij, ki delajo z ljudmi na poti.

\*

Pia Kramppl je doktorska študentka prvega letnika na Oddelku za etnologijo in kulturno antropologijo Univerze v Ljubljani. Zanimajo jo neenakosti v dostopu do zdravstva in zdravja ter različne izkušnje ljudi na poti. Za medicinsko antropologijo in antropologijo migracij so jo navdušili predmeti na dodiplomskem in magistrskem študiju, svoje zanimanje zanju pa bo prelila tudi v raziskovanje na doktorskem študiju.

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Pia Krampfl

## Access to healthcare and health for people on the move during the COVID-19 pandemic in Slovenia

In this paper, the author will present some insights on the access to healthcare and health for people on the move that can be found in the ethnographic material collected in Ljubljana in 2021 during the Slovenian part of the Sonar-Global project, more specifically in the study COVID-19: Vulnerability Assessment and Community Engagement. She analysed the material when preparing her 2024 joint master's thesis Migration and Health During the COVID-19 Pandemic: The Sonar-Global Project in Slovenia and France. In anthropology, health can be understood as social, economic, geopolitical, and other factors being reflected in our bodies (as Sandrine Musso, for instance, writes). For the most part, the interlocutors in the study also understood health as an entwinement of physical, mental, social, and other factors. The author will present a few concepts that researchers have already tried to understand the inequalities in the access to healthcare, and the intertwined factors or socio-cultural dimensions that were present in the ethnographic material and that can more or less directly influence the access of people to healthcare services and their capacity to preserving their health. She will try to show those by citing some interlocutors, i.e. refugees with different legal statuses that could influence their experiences (refugee, asylum seeker, persons with permission to remain in the Republic of Slovenia) and two interlocutors from organisations that work with people on the move.

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Jasmina Kuduzović

## **(Ne)dostopnost zdravstvenega zavarovanja in težave s prehajanjem meja v času pandemije covid-19**

V prispevku sem se osredotočila predvsem na tuje študente iz Bosne in Hercegovine ter Srbije, ki se v Sloveniji pogosto soočajo s problemom pridobitve zdravstvenega zavarovanja in okrnjenega nabora pravic, ki izhajajo iz njega. Kot obstoječe ovire so se izkazale pravice do zdravstvenega zavarovanja, ki izhajajo iz bilateralnih pogodb med matično državo študenta in Republiko Slovenijo, saj predvidevajo zgolj osnovne pravice iz zdravstvenega zavarovanja. V času pandemije so tuji študenti nečlanic EU lahko brezplačno dostopali le do zdravstvene oskrbe v primerih, ki bi lahko ogrožali njihovo življenje. Za vse neogrožajoče zaplete so morali zdravniško pomoč poiskati v matični državi, zaradi delno prepustnih državnih meja pa je bilo to skorajda nemogoče. Težavne so bile tudi odredbe karantene, ki so zahtevale prestajanje te na začasno prijavljenem naslovu v Sloveniji. Polg tega so s spremembo Zakona o tujcih (2021) tuji študenti zunaj EU po novem morali dokazovati zadostna sredstva za preživljanje v času šolanja v Sloveniji v višini 5000 €. Težave so imeli tudi tuji študenti oz. kandidati brez slovenskega državljanstva in statusa Slovenca pri vpisu na medicinski fakulteti Univerze v Ljubljani in Mariboru, ki sta njihov vpis krivično zavrnila.

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Jasmina Kuduzović

## **(In)accessibility of health insurance and problems with crossing borders during the COVID-19 pandemic**

In the article, I focused mainly on foreign students from Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia, who in Slovenia often face the problem of obtaining health insurance and curtailed rights arising from it. The rights to health insurance, which derive from the Bilateral Agreements between the student's home country and the Republic of Slovenia, have proven to be existing obstacles, as they only provide for basic rights from health insurance. During the pandemic, foreign students from non-EU countries could only access medical care for free in cases that could threaten their lives. For all non-life-threatening emergencies, they had to seek medical help in their home country, but due to partially permeable national borders, this was almost impossible. Quarantine orders, which required them to be served at a temporarily registered address in Slovenia, were also problematic. In addition, with the amendment of the Foreigners Act (2021), foreign students from outside the EU must now prove sufficient means to support themselves during their studies in Slovenia, in the amount of €5,000. Foreign students or candidates without Slovenian citizenship and Slovene status also had problems enrolling in the medical faculty of the University of Ljubljana and Maribor, which were unfairly denied admission due to political influence at the time.

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Tisa Kučan Lah

## Vpliv pandemije covid-19 na duševno zdravje mladih v Pomurju in Ljubljani

Predstavila bom svojo raziskavo Vpliv pandemije covid-19 na duševno zdravje mladih v Pomurju in Ljubljani, izvedeno v okviru mednarodne raziskave "COVID-19: Ocena ranljivosti in vključevanje skupnosti", ki jo je vodil medicinsko-antropološki konzorcij Sonar-Global. Raziskava o duševnem zdravju mladih temelji na terenskem gradivu pridobljenem v Ljubljani (kot urbano okolje) in Pomurju (kot ruralno okolje). V njej predstavljene stiske, temeljijo na lastnih opažanjih in dojemanjih sogovornikov. To pomeni, da zanje nimajo nujno biomedicinske diagnoze, temveč jih lahko dojemamo kot družbeno trpljenje (ang. social suffering). Termin družbeno trpljenje so skovali Arthur Kleinman, Veena Das in Margaret Lock, z njim pa poudarjajo, »da se običajno družbeno življenje povsod po svetu doživlja kot bolečina in trpljenje« (po Kleinman 2023: 182). Kot razloge za družbeno trpljenje avtorji izraza med drugim navajajo razne krize, med katere lahko prištevamo tudi pandemijo covid-19. Ob duševnih stiskah, se raziskava posveča tudi načinom spopadanja z njimi, ki so jih omenjali sogovorniki. Tudi tukaj se ne omejuje zgolj na biomedicinsko pomoč, temveč upošteva tudi druge neformalne oblike pomoči. Tekom raziskave se kažejo podobnosti in razlike med mladimi v Pomurju in Ljubljani.

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Tisa Kučan Lah

## Impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on mental health of young adults in Ljubljana and the Pomurje region

Under the title „Impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on mental health of young adults in Ljubljana and the Pomurje region“, I present my research conducted in the framework of the international study „COVID-19: Vulnerability Assessment and Community Engagement“, led by the medical-anthropological consortium Sonar-Global. The research on mental health of young adults is based on field material collected in Ljubljana (as an urban setting) and Pomurje (as a rural setting). The distresses presented in the research are based on the interlocutors own observations and perceptions. This means that they do not necessarily have a biomedical diagnosis, but can be perceived as social suffering. The term social suffering was coined by Arthur Kleinman, Veena Das and Margaret Lock, and is used to emphasize that ‚ordinary social life is experienced as pain and suffering everywhere in the world‘ (after Kleinman 2023: 182). The authors of the term cite various crises as reasons for social suffering, among which the covid-19 pandemic can be counted. Alongside mental distress, the research also focuses on the ways of coping with it, mentioned by the interlocutors. This part is as well not limited only to biomedical help, but also takes into account other informal ways of getting help. In the course of the research, similarities and differences between young people in Pomurje and Ljubljana are drawn.

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