



School of Economics and Regional Studies
Department of Balkan Slavic and Oriental Studies
Culture – Borders – Gender / LAB

7th International PhD Seminar

Culture, Borders, and Gender: Research Trajectories, Emerging Themes, and Interdisciplinary Dialogues in the Contemporary World

February 27-28, 2026
University of Macedonia, Thessaloniki, Greece

CALL FOR PAPERS

The Culture–Borders–Gender Laboratory invites PhD candidates and postdoctoral researchers to participate in the 7th International PhD Seminar, to be held in a hybrid format on 27–28 February 2026 at the University of Macedonia, Thessaloniki, with the option to attend in person or online.

The seminar aims to provide an open, supportive space for presenting work-in-progress research, exchanging constructive feedback, and strengthening academic dialogue among early-career researchers from Greece and abroad. With a strong emphasis on critical interdisciplinarity, the seminar encourages approaches that connect social anthropology with cultural studies, border studies, and gender studies, and with contemporary methodological and digital practices.

We welcome both theoretical contributions and ethnographic case studies that illuminate the complexity of the contemporary world, forms of inequality, power relations, and processes of social and cultural transformation. A key requirement for participation is that presentations must be based on ongoing doctoral research (work in progress) that has not yet been completed or formally approved and has not been published as a standalone academic work.

The seminar's thematic areas highlight the dynamic nature of interdisciplinary research and its importance for interpreting the complexity of the contemporary world. Indicative topics include:

- Cultural practices, rituals, symbols, institutions, and discourses

- Borders, border regimes, and cross-border mobility
- Experiences of minorities, migrants, and refugees
- Gender, gender relations, and the body
- Crisis/crises: humanitarian, environmental, economic, and others
- Literature, arts, language, and translation
- Material culture, space, and monuments
- Digital technologies and audiovisual culture

What we expect from the presentations

The seminar is conceived as a **space for dialogue, reflection, and collective learning**, where participants are encouraged to share their research **as it unfolds**. Presentations should be based on **ongoing doctoral research (work in progress)** and may focus on different stages or aspects of the research process, including:

- the formulation of research questions and initial theoretical orientations
- methodological choices, uncertainties, and fieldwork dilemmas
- early insights, emerging analytical paths, or tentative interpretations
- challenges, difficulties, or open questions that invite discussion and feedback

Public Event with Invited Speakers

Minorities, Borders, and Memory in the Balkans: Lives at the Margins in the Balkans

Friday 27 and Saturday, 28 February
University of Macedonia & online streaming via Zoom

The event is organised as a dialogue around the anthropological study of minorities, borders, and memory in the Balkans, drawing on both contemporary ethnographic research and classic works of Balkan ethnology. It brings together two interventions that, from different ethnographic and theoretical starting points, examine issues of violence, survival, and mobility, as well as the experiences and practices of local communities amid historical and geopolitical transformations.

Friday, February 27

University of Macedonia & online streaming via Zoom

**"To leave or to stay? The dilemma of the Greeks of Constantinople
after the events of September 1955"**

Dr. Anna Theodorides
 L'école des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales, Paris, France

Saturday, February 28

University of Macedonia & online streaming via Zoom

"Layers of knowledge:

A century of ethnological and anthropological research in the Prespa Region"

Prof. Ljupčo S. Risteski

Institute of Ethnology and Anthropology,
Ss. Cyril and Methodius University
Skopje, North Macedonia

"Identity of the residents of East Sarajevo"

Dr. Bogdan Dražeta

Assistant Professor and Senior Research Assistant,
Department of Ethnology and Anthropology
Faculty of Philosophy, University of Belgrade, Serbia

Abstract submission guidelines

Interested applicants are invited to submit the following materials:

1. Presentation abstract (up to 350 words)

The abstract should outline the doctoral research topic, the current project stage, and the key questions, issues, or challenges the applicant intends to discuss during the seminar.

2. Short academic biography (up to 200 words), including:

- the topic, research focus, and title of the doctoral dissertation
- a brief description of the current stage of the research
- the institution and doctoral programme
- contact details (email address and telephone number)

3. Presentation duration: up to 15 minutes

4. Presentation languages: Greek or English

5. Submission deadline: 23 January 2026

6. Submission of abstracts:

Please send all materials to **cbg-lab@uom.edu.gr**

7. Certificate of participation:

A certificate of participation will be provided to all participants.

8. Further Information:

Anna Mountzoglou – **anna@uom.edu.gr**

Applicants will be informed of the acceptance of their proposal no later than **Wednesday, January 28**.

Publication opportunities

Selected papers, following further revision and in accordance with established academic standards, **may be considered for publication** in special sections of **open-access**

academic journals supported by the **Culture–Borders–Gender Laboratory** (cbg-lab.uom.gr):

- **Culture–Borders–Gender / Studies**
<https://tinyurl.com/msrbkxw2>
- **EIRINI**
<https://tinyurl.com/5n8z8s52>

Scientific Committee

- **Fotini Tsibiridou** (Director of the Laboratory), Professor,
Department of Balkan, Slavic and Oriental Studies
- **Ioannis Manos**, Professor,
Department of Balkan, Slavic and Oriental Studies
- **Eleni Sideri**, Assistant Professor,
Department of Balkan, Slavic and Oriental Studies

Organising Committee

- **Fotini Tsibiridou** (Director of the LAB)
- **Ioannis Manos**
- **Eleni Sideri**
- **Anna Moumtzoglou**, Special Technical Laboratory Staff (ETEP),
Department of Balkan, Slavic and Oriental Studies

Seminar Platform: Zoom

Zoom Link:

<https://zoom.us/j/8364531775?pwd=OVg3YVZlbmVCYWs3S0JYcEFGYIV1QT09>

Meeting ID: 836 453 1775

Passcode: KB2JKa