

CURRICULUM VITAE

Sara Nikolić

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Sara Nikolić is an anthropologist and Research Fellow at the Institute for Philosophy and Social Theory, University of Belgrade. Her current research focuses on housing, homemaking and urban self-management in post-socialist cities, employing critical and visual ethnography. She holds a PhD in anthropology (2024); her thesis examined housing practices in New Belgrade's large housing estates. She is an editorial collective member of the *Radical Housing Journal*. Through her work, Sara aims to reveal the complex ways people create meaning and community amid rapid urban change.

ACADEMIC WORK EXPERIENCE

- **2018 – 2021**
Research Assistant, Institute for Philosophy and Social Theory, University of Belgrade
- **2021 – 2024**
Research Associate, Institute for Philosophy and Social Theory, University of Belgrade
- **2024 –**
Research Fellow, Institute for Philosophy and Social Theory, University of Belgrade

EDUCATION

- **Ph.D.** in Ethnology and Anthropology, Faculty of Philosophy, University of Belgrade, **2024.**
 - Dissertation: *Anthropology of New Belgrad Blocks: Urban Dwelling, Production of Social Spaces and the New Life of Urban Commons*
 - Supervisor: Prof. Dr. Ildiko Erdei
- **M.A.** in Ethnology and Anthropology, Faculty of Philosophy, University of Belgrade, **2017.**
- **B.A.** in Ethnology and Anthropology, Faculty of Philosophy, University of Belgrade, **2016.**

PROJECTS

2025-27

Funded by

Position

Trade Unions - New Voice for Louder Youth (TUAC2026)

Erasmus+

Core team member; WP2 coordinator

2025-26

Funded by

Position

Insurgent Berlin-Belgrade

CircleU (COIL), DAAD, BMBF

Core team member; Researcher

2024-26

Funded by

Position

SPACE project: Youth initiatives for Public Spaces

Erasmus Youth (project ID: 101186349)

Core team member

2025

Funded by

Position

Promoting gender equality through research on access to reproductive care and education on gender stereotypes

Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe – OSCE

Core team member; Researcher

2024-2026

Funded by:

Position

EDU Home

European Union

Key Stuff Member; Researcher; Housing Expert

2024

Funded by:

Position

Constituency building concept and practices in Serbia,
programme “For an Active Civil Society – Together” (ACT) phase 2
(2023-2027)

HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation (HSI) and Civic Initiatives

Key Stuff Member; Researcher

2023-2024

Funded by:

Position

COST Action CA19117: "Researcher Mental Health" (ReMO)

European Union

Well-Being Ambassador

2023-2024

Funded by:

Position

Interiors of Inequality: Ethnographic Exploration of Social Housing in Serbia

Sylff Asociation

Coordinator; Researcher

2020-2021	<u>EnTrust</u> (Horizon 2020 project). Enlightened trust: An examination of trust and distrust in governance – conditions, effects and remedies
Funded by:	European Commission
Position	Researcher (WP2)
2019-2020	Learning Democratic Participation
Funded by:	U.S. Embassy Belgrade
Position	PR Officer; Researcher; Workshop coordinator; Lecturer at the <i>Summer school on Social Engagement and Democracy</i>
2019-2021	<u>Cultures of Rejection in Europe (CuRe)</u>
Funded by:	Volkswagen Stiftung
Position	Core team member; Researcher
2019	Potential of Social Movements in Serbia: Curvy Road Towards Politics
Funded by:	Wesminister Foundation for Democracy
Position	Core team member; Researcher; Consultant; Author of final report
2019-2020	Bottom-up civic initiatives with democratizing potentials in the Western Balkans
Funded by:	European Fund for the Balkans
Position	Researcher; Country expert for Serbia
2018-2019	(Bottom-up) Democratization through regional synergies in the Western Balkans
Funded by:	The Balkan Trust for Democracy (German Marshall Fund)
Position	Researcher

PUBLICATIONS

- **Nikolić, Sara**, Igor Išpanović & Dušanka Milosavljević. 2025. „State-Sponsored Unhomeliness: Struggle for Certainty and Privacy in Serbian Social Housing”. *Slovenský národopis/Slovak Ethnology* 75 (3): <https://doi.org/10.31577/SN.2025.3.32>
- Dalia Dukanac & **Sara Nikolić**. 2025. „Comparing Fieldnotes, Converging Methodologies: Architectural and Anthropological Perspectives on Socialist-Modernist Mass Housing in New Belgrade“. In *The Routledge Handbook of Architecture and Anthropology Contemporary Approaches to a Cross-Disciplinary Field*, edited by Marie Stender, Claus Bech-Danielsen, Aina Landsverk Hagen, Madlen Kobi and Ying Zhou, 50-62. London, Routledge. <https://doi.org/10.4324/9781003495017-6>

- Vasiljević, Jelena, Bojana Radovanović, & **Sara Nikolić** (2025). "Izazovi u izgradnji baze podrške među organizacijama građanskog društva Srbije: Nalazi kvalitativnog istraživanja". *Sociologija* 67 (2): 213-238.
- **Nikolić, Sara**, Damir Zejnullahović & Miloš Janković. 2024 „I'd Rather Bite My Tongue Off Than Stand With Them: Paralysis of Political Engagement in Serbia". *Issues in Ethnology and Anthropology (Etnoantropološki problemi)* 19 (1): 239–263. <https://doi.org/10.21301/eap.v19i1.10>.
- **Nikolić, Sara**. 2024. „Beyond Vandalism: Gentle Privatism and the Graffiti Code of Conduct in Block 45“, *Maska Performing Arts Journal* 219-220: 62-79. https://doi.org/10.1386/maska_00185_1
- Bojanić, Sanja, Jelena Čeriman & **Sara Nikolić**. 2023. Use of Photo-Elicitation in Sociology: Contextualising Poverty and Social Exclusion (in Croatian), *Croatian Sociological Review* 53 (3): 429–457. <https://doi.org/10.5613/rzs.53.3.4>
- **Nikolić, Sara**. 2023. "Burning Tires, Sauerkraut and Dung: The (Classist) Boundaries of an Olfactory Landscape". In *Sensory Environmental Relationships: Between Memories of the Past and Imaginings of the Future*, edited by Blaž Bajič and Ana Svetel. Vernon Press, 155-173.
- Iguman, Sanja, Nevena Mijatović & **Sara Nikolić**. 2022. "'Keep up the Good Work, Za naš Kejl!' Citizens' Passive Support to the Local Activist Group", *Filozofija i društvo/Philosophy and Society* 33 (1): 120-142. <https://doi.org/10.2298/fid2201120i>
- **Nikolić, Sara**, Jovana Timotijević & Danilo Ćurčić. 2022. *What do we mean when we say... Fair Housing Policies* (in Serbian). Belgrade, Institute for Philosophy and Social Theory. <https://ifdt.bg.ac.rs/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/Sara-Jovana-Danilo.pdf>
- **Nikolić, Sara**. 2021. Praksa. *Pojmovnik angažmana*, eds. Cvejić, Igor, Gazela Pudar Draško & Mark Losoncz, 39-40. Beograd: Institut za filozofiju i društvenu teoriju.
- Fiket, Irena & **Sara Nikolić**. 2021. Građanska neposlušnost. *Pojmovnik angažmana*, eds. Cvejić, Igor, Gazela Pudar Draško & Mark Losoncz, 35-36. Beograd: Institut za filozofiju i društvenu teoriju.

- **Nikolić, Sara** & Anja Vujović. 2020. „Draži zajedništva: senzorni pristupi prostornim zajedničkim dobrima.“ *Glasnik Etnografskog instituta SANU* 68 (1): 149-168
- Delibašić, Balša, **Sara Nikolić** & Jelena Vasiljević. 2019. Bottom-up Democratization Formation and Action of Social Movements in Serbia and Macedonia. <https://rifdt.institfdt.bg.ac.rs/handle/123456789/1946>
- **Nikolić, Sara**. 2019. Pastelozza: Refurbishing of the PPR Heritage. *Urban Development Issues* 63, 51-64. [10.2478/udi-2019-0016](https://doi.org/10.2478/udi-2019-0016)
- **Nikolić, Sara**. 2019. „Off the Beaten Track - Sensory Ethnography as The Missing Layer in Urban Planning“, *Engaging (for) Social Change: Towards New Forms of Collective Action*, eds Ivković Marjan & Srđan Prodanović, 283-304. Belgrade: Institute for Philosophy and Social Theory.

TEACHING

Anthropology of Work

Work and Wellbeing Minor Program
University of Rijeka
2025/2026

This course positions work at the centre of anthropological inquiry, examining labour as a key site where power, inequality, and social relations are produced and contested. It introduces major debates in economic anthropology while situating contemporary transformations of work within neoliberal capitalism and globalization. Drawing on ethnographic case studies, the course engages themes such as the reorganization of labour, the feminization of service work and migration, and emergent forms of labour activism, equipping students to critically analyse the changing conditions of work in the global economy.

CONFERENCES AND SEMINARS

- 2026. *Medical Deserts as Infrastructural Erosion: the Everyday Logistics of Reproductive Healthcare in Rural Serbia* (with Ljiljana Pantović and Ivan Đorđević). EASA2026: Possibilities in a Polarised World.
- 2026. *Insurgent Homemaking: Reclaiming Learning Infrastructure through Care and Commoning* (with Dušanka Milosavljević). Common City Conference: Struggling for Urban Justice in a Time of Authoritarianism and Multiple Crises. Institute for Housing and Urban Research (IBF), Uppsala University.

- 2026. *Concrete Legacies: How Yugoslav Urban Design Shapes Contemporary Grassroots Politics*. What do Buildings do to Us?. Yerevan Center for International Education.
- 2025. *Infrastructure of Care and Mutual Aid: Direct Action Support for the Student Uprising in Serbia* (with Bojana Radovanović and Marija Radovanović). 12th International Research Conference of the European Research Network On Philanthropy. University of Heilderberg.
- 2025. *Zborovi as political infrastructure: grassroots mobilisation in New Belgrade* (with Maria Minić). AESOP Planning/Conflict themathic group conference. Contested Urban Policy. Breeding Concrete Utopias. Technische Universität Berlin.
- 2025. *State Sponsored Unhomeliness* (with Igor Išpanović and Dušanka Milosavljević). New Divisions, Struggles, and Solidarities in South East Europe. Belgrade.
- 2024. *Practice of Commoning or Preserving Priviledges. Activism in New Belgrade LHEs*. The Common City Conference. Uppsala University.
- 2024. *Everything is Real Wood, No Chipboard, No Plastic in Sight. Materiality: practice, space, symbols* (seminar). Institute for Philosophy and Social Theory.
- 2024. *Visual Methods in Housing Research*. Cities Building Cultures Conference – New Approaches to Heritage Developement in Eastern Europe. RWTH Aachen University.
- 2023. *Neglect and Allure: Gentrification of the Concrete Utopia*. 10th International Urban Geographies of Post-Comunist States Conference. University of Riga.
- 2023. *Burning Tires, Sauerkraut and Dung. The (Classist) Boundaries of an Olfactory Landscape*. Uncommon Senses IV: Sensory Ecologies, Economies, and Aesthetics, Montral, Concordia University.
- 2023. *New Belgrade midway privatism and the commons*, European Network for Housing Research (ENHR) Young Housing Scholars Seminar.
- 2023: *Ethics in Visual Research*. Invisible Realities: Workshop of Visual and Architectural Ethnography. Institute for Philosophy and Social Theory, Belgrade.
- 2022. *Drawn to See: Corporeality, Design and Ethnography*. STRAND 10th International Conference nn Architecture – Philosophy and Architecture. Belgrade.
- 2021. *Spray Paint, Sludge and Sauteed Onions: Smellscales of New Belgrade*. IUAES Congres Legacies and Next Generation Anthropology.
- 2020. *Solidarity, Not Charity*. Il Colloquio Internacional Conflictos Urbanos, Red Iberoamericana de Investigación en políticas, conflictos y movimientos urbanos.

- 2019. *Commoning the Lifeworlds: Self-Managed Production of Social Space* (with Anja Vujović). IUAES Inter-Congres World Solidarities.
- 2019. *Rising of New Force: Core Values of New Social Movements in Serbia and Their Potential for Creating a New Political Front* (with Balša Delibašić). Understanding East Central European Politics (UECEP) 2019, Corvinus University of Budapest.
- 2019. *Housing As Commons*. Seminar with prof. Stavros Stavrides. Institute for Philosophy and Social Theory, University of Belgrade.
- 2019: *Rhetorics – Rethinking the Impact of Humanities Seminar*. Institute for Philosophy and Social Theory, Center for Ethics, Law and Applied Philosophy, Institute for Slavic Studies of the University of Cologne.
- 2018. *Pastelozza: Refurbishing the PPR heritage*. East Meets West: Contemporary Urban Issues Revisited. Institute of Urban and Regional Development.
- 2018. *Fieldnotes – From Communis to Communication*. Engagement for Social Change: Moving Beyond Resistance, Institute for Philosophy and Social Theory.

LECTURES, WORKSHOPS, PANELS AND GUIDED TOURS

- 2026. Guided tour of Bežanija Blocks, New Belgrade. For: Atelier Miller, USI Accademia di architettura Mendrisio, study visit to Belgrade.
- 2026. *Concrete Legacies: How Yugoslav Urban Design Shapes Contemporary Grassroots Politics*. Geography Department - Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin.
- 2024. Navigating Layers – Ethnographic Exploration of New Belgrade Large Housing Estates. Postgraduate researcher colloquia. School of Art, Kingston University.
- 2023. Invisible Realities: Workshop on Visual and Architectural Ethnography. Institute for Philosophy and Social Theory, University of Belgrade.
- 2023. Photo-Essay: Ethnographic Toolkit for Exploring Industrial Heritage through Photography. Mines and Water: Interpreting the European Industrial Heritage (Erasmus+).
- 2022. (Un)exceptional Neighbourhoods: Transforming, Contesting and Reclaiming the Socialist-Modernist Large Housing Estates, RC21 Ordinary Cities in Exceptional Times.
- 2022, 2023, 2024. Engaged Research (with Ana Đorđević) Summer School of Democracy and Social Engagement. Institute for Philosophy and Social Theory.
- 2022. Privatism vs Commons. Activism in New Belgrade. MIT architecture graduates study visit to Belgrade.

- 2021 Housing (with Danilo Ćurčić and Jovana Timotijević), Active for Social Change Series. Institute for Philosophy and Social Theory

SUMMER SCHOOLS

- 2022 PhD School "Heritage at Home. Interdisciplinary Perspectives on the Heritage of Residential Districts in the Post-Socialist/Soviet Cities", The Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT), RWTH Aachen University, Leibniz Institute for the History and Culture of Eastern Europe in Leipzig (GWZO).
- 2019 6th RC21- IJURR Doctoral School in Comparative Urban Studies, Delhi, India.
- 2018 Dialogic Anthropology, European University Viadrina

ORGANIZATION OF CONFERENCES AND SUMMER SCHOOLS

- Philanthropy, Solidarity, and Care: Mobilising for the Common Good in Southeast Europe. March 17-18, 2027. Institute for Philosophy and Social Theory, University of Belgrade, Serbia.
- Change. June 12-15, 2024. Institute for Philosophy and Social Theory, University of Belgrade, Serbia.
- Revitalizing democracy through participatory democratic innovations, May 16-18, 2022. Laboratory for Active Citizenship and Democratic Innovations. Institute for Philosophy and Social Theory, University of Belgrade, Serbia.
- 4th Summer School on Social Engagement and Democracy, September 18-22, 2022, Institute for Philosophy and Social Theory, University of Belgrade, Serbia.
- 3rd Summer School on Social Engagement and Democracy, September 19-23, 2022, Institute for Philosophy and Social Theory, University of Belgrade, Serbia.
- 2nd Summer School on Social Engagement and Democracy, September 20-24, 2022, Institute for Philosophy and Social Theory, University of Belgrade, Serbia.

ACADEMIC PAPER REVIEWS

International Journal of Urban and Regional Research
 Slovenský národopis/Slovak Ethnology Journal
 Frontiers in Political Science
 Housing, Theory and Society

MEMBERSHIPS AND POSITIONS

Radical Housing Journal, editorial collective member
Laboratory for Theory, Politics and Creation of Space, coordinator
Ethnological and Anthropological Society of Serbia

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT AND MEDIA APPEARANCES

- (23.4.2026) Public lecture [*Šta se desi kada fakultet postane zajednički dom? Primer FDU*]. Ministry of Space Collective.
- (20.3.2026) Public lecture [*Privremeni autonomni dom: skućavanje, briga i prakse zajedničkog na blokiranom FDU*]. Društveni centar Krov, Centar za vizuelnu antropologiju/Social Centre Krov & Visual Anthropology Centre.
- (6.11.2025) *Kako ovi ljudi žive?* Pešcanik.
<https://pescanik.net/kako-ovi-ljudi-zive/>
- (27.2.2025) Panel Discussion "Student Spaces for Students", (liberated Student Cultural Centre, Belgrade)
- 2021-2024 was host and editorial board member of *Zvuk misli*, podcast of Institute for Philosophy and Social Theory
- (2022) Interview for LeftEast, *The Huge Task of Repoliticizing the Question of Housing*
<https://lefteast.org/the-huge-task-of-repoliticizing-the-question-of-housing-reflections-on-the-reading-workshops-about-the-economy-of-housing-inequality-in-serbia-and-beyond/>
- (2021) *Priča o priči*, Insajder TV
<https://insajder.net/emisije/pricaoprici/prica-o-prici-ne-mocni>
- (2021) *Život na srpskom*, Nova S
<https://nova.rs/podcast/pravila-zivota-na-novom-beogradu/>
- (2020) *Mladi i politička participacija*, Oblakoder
<https://www.oblakodermagazin.rs/mladi-i-politicka-participacija-sara-nikolic-i-vuk-velebit-salon-e02/>