

IRENA FIKET

PhD | Senior Research Fellow

Laboratory for Active Citizenship and Democratic Innovations

Institute for Philosophy and Social Theory, University of Belgrade

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Academic CV (academic experience and publications only)

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Deliberative democracy · Participatory democracy · Democratic innovations · Citizen participation · Social movements · Gender equality · Western Balkans ·

EDUCATION

PhD in Political Science and Sociology

Faculty of Political Science and Sociology, University of Rome, La Sapienza, Italy

BA/MA in Political Science

Faculty of Political Science, University of Bologna, Italy

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

Senior Research Fellow

Institute for Philosophy and Social Theory (IFDT), University of Belgrade, Serbia

Current

Academic Coordinator, Laboratory for Active Citizenship and Democratic Innovations (ActiveLab)

Institute for Philosophy and Social Theory (IFDT), University of Belgrade, Serbia

2020–2025

Research Fellow

Institute for Philosophy and Social Theory (IFDT), University of Belgrade, Serbia

2017–2025

Postdoctoral Research Fellow

Centre for the Study of Political Change (CIRCaP), University of Siena, Italy

2014–2016

Postdoctoral Research Fellow and Lecturer

Department of Political Science and Sociology, University of Florence, Italy

2012–2014

Postdoctoral Research Fellow

Department of Political Science (DSP), University of Bologna, Italy

2011–2012

Visiting Postdoctoral Researcher

ARENA – Centre for European Studies, University of Oslo, Norway

2010–2011

Pre-doctoral Researcher

Centre for the Study of Political Change (CIRCaP), University of Siena, Italy

2007–2010

RESEARCH PROJECTS

Nets4Dem – Network of Networks for Democracy, Horizon Europe Framework Programme, 2023–ongoing. Role: Senior Researcher.

EnTrust – Enlightened Trust: An Examination of Trust and Distrust in Governance, Horizon 2020 Framework Programme, February 2020 – 2024. Role: Principal Investigator, Serbian Team (University of Belgrade).

ACTWB – Active Citizenship: Promoting and Advancing Innovative Democratic Practices in the Western Balkans, Erasmus+ Programme, Jean Monnet Network, 2018–2022. Role: Academic Coordinator.

CURE – Cultures of Rejection: Conditions of Acceptability in Socio-Spatial and Digital Environments in Contemporary Europe, Volkswagen Foundation, 2018–2022. Role: Principal Investigator, Serbian Team (University of Belgrade).

Gender in Academic Communities: Researching Inequalities in Early Career Stages from a Comparative Perspective, Ministry of Science (Serbia) & Public Agency for Research (Slovenia), 2020–2021. Role: Principal investigator (2020) and Senior Researcher (2021)

Harmonization of Family and Professional Obligations of Academic Workers, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), University of Fribourg, PERFORM, HELVETAS Swiss Cooperation, 2017. Role: Researcher.

Citizens' Participation and Public Policies (Master Programme), University of Florence, 2012–2013. Role: Master Programme Coordinator.

Deliberative Citizens Arenas in Europe: Questions of Democratic Legitimacy, Research Council of Norway, 2011–2012. Role: Researcher (Individual Grant).

Public Deliberation and Institutional Learning, University of Bologna (in collaboration with the Tuscany Region), 2011–2012. Role: Lead Researcher (evaluation of participatory processes under Tuscany Law No. 69).

EuroPolis: A Deliberative Polity-Making Project, 7th Framework Programme (FP7), European Commission, CIRCaP, University of Siena, 2008–2009. Role: Researcher; Member of Scientific Committee.

Deliberative Poll Turin & European Citizens' Consultations (ECC), CIRCaP, University of Siena, 2007. Role: Junior Researcher (organisation and supervision of deliberative processes; experimental design, data collection, analysis).

INTUNE – Integrated and United? A Quest for Citizenship in an Ever Closer Europe, 7th Framework Programme (FP7), European Commission, CIRCaP, University of Siena, 2007–2009. Role: Junior Researcher.

PUBLICATIONS (full list of publications: <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-3939-4089>)

Peer-reviewed journal articles

Draško, G. P., & Fiket, I. (2026). Institutionalization of participatory democratic innovations: Understanding the roles of established and emerging actors. *Politics and Governance*, 14. <https://doi.org/10.17645/pag.10740>

Fiket, I., Pudar Draško, G., & Allegretti, G. (2026). Towards an innovative democracy: Institutionalizing participation in challenging times. *Politics and Governance*, 14. <https://doi.org/10.17645/pag.11861>

- Vasiljević, J., Fiket, I., Đorđević, A., & Štěpánková, L. (2025). The role of bureaucratic procedures and 'caring professionals' in fostering user trust: Evidence from Serbia and the Czech Republic. *Social Policy and Society*, 24(4), 656–668. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S1474746425100808>
- Fiket, I., Pudar Draško, G., & Ilić, V. (2023). The pandemic in illiberal democracies: Challenges and opportunities for social movements in Serbia. *Southeast European and Black Sea Studies*, 24(1), 79–100. <https://doi.org/10.1080/14683857.2023.2170720>
- Fiket, I., Draško, G. P., & Urošević, M. (2022). Anti-politics as 'culture of rejection': The case of Serbia. *Patterns of Prejudice*, 56(4–5), 279–296. <https://doi.org/10.1080/0031322X.2023.2228575>
- Fiket, I., Ilić, V., & Pudar-Draško, G. (2022). Failed expectations: Can deliberative innovations produce democratic effects in hybrid regimes? *Filozofija i društvo*, 33(1), 50–71. <https://doi.org/10.2298/fid2201050f>
- Fiket, I., & Đorđević, B. (2022). Promises and challenges of deliberative and participatory innovations in hybrid regimes: The case of two citizens' assemblies in Serbia. *Filozofija i društvo*, 33(1), 3–25. <https://doi.org/10.2298/fid2201003f>
- Opratko, B., Bojadžijev, M., Bojanić, S. M., Fiket, I., Harder, A., Jonsson, S., Nećak, M., Neegaard, A., Ortega Soto, C., Pudar Draško, G., Sauer, B., & Stojanović Čehajić, K. (2021). Cultures of rejection in the Covid-19 crisis. *Ethnic and Racial Studies*, 44(5), 893–905. <https://doi.org/10.1080/01419870.2020.1859575>
- Fiket, I., & Pudar Draško, G. (2021). Possibility of non-institutional political participation within the non-responsive system of Serbia: The impact of (dis)trust and internal political efficiency. *Sociologija*, 63(2), 400–418. <https://doi.org/10.2298/SOC2102400F>
- Pudar Draško, G., Fiket, I., & Vasiljević, J. (2019). Big dreams and small steps: Comparative perspectives on the social movement struggle for democracy in Serbia and North Macedonia. *Southeast European and Black Sea Studies*. <https://doi.org/10.1080/14683857.2019.1654317>
- Fiket, I., Ivković, M., Pudar Draško, G., & Vasiljević, J. (2019). The discourse of anti-instrumentalism: Exploring a conceptual model through the case study of the We Won't Let Belgrade D(r)own initiative. *Partecipazione e Conflitto*, 12(3), 898–. <https://doi.org/10.1285/i20356609v12i3p898>
- Di Mauro, D., & Fiket, I. (2017). Debating Europe, transforming identities: assessing the impact of deliberative poll treatment on identity. *Italian Political Science Review/Rivista Italiana Di Scienza Politica*, 47(3), 267–289. <https://doi.org/10.1017/ipo.2016.26>.
- Fiket, I., Olsen, E. D. H., & Trenz, H. J. (2014). Confronting European Diversity: Deliberation in a Transnational and Pluri-Lingual Setting. *Javnost - The Public*, 21(2), 57–73. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13183222.2014.11009145>
- Gerber, M., Bächtiger, A., Fiket, I., Steenbergen, M., & Steiner, J. (2014). Deliberative and non-deliberative persuasion: Mechanisms of opinion formation in EuroPolis. *European Union Politics*, 15(3), 410–429. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1465116514528757>
- Fiket, I., & Braghiroli, S. (2012). Financing of political parties in Western Balkans: Closer to Europe, further from corruption? *La revue Transitions special issue: Le financement des partis politiques dans l'espace post-communiste*, 52(1), 109–126. ISSN: 0779-3812.
- Fiket, I., & Memoli, V. (2012). Supporting democracy in Austria and Europe: Improving democracy through popular deliberation. *Innovative Democracy – Working Paper Series*, Vol. 1 (Institutions), Issue 1 (pp. 1–24). Ur. R. Heinisch. Salzburg. <https://phaidra.univie.ac.at/o:106873>
- Isernia, P., Bobbio, L., Fiket, I., Manca, A. R., & Podestà, N. (2008). Democracy in a hostile environment: a deliberative quasi-experiment, on "Stato e mercato, Rivista quadrimestrale" 3/2008, pp. 443-474, <https://www.rivisteweb.it/doi/10.1425/28363>

Book Chapters

- Fiket, I., Draško, G. P., & Vasiljević, J. (2026). Navigating institutional (dis)trust. In *Political Trust and Distrust in Governance* (pp. 106–128). Routledge. <https://doi.org/10.4324/9781003584537-7>
- Fiket, I., Draško, G. P., & Vasiljević, J. (2024). Norming participatory practices of movement parties in Southeast Europe. In I. Fiket, Č. Markov, V. Ilić, & G. P. Draško (Eds.), *Participatory democratic innovations in Southeast Europe* (pp. 195–213). Routledge. <https://doi.org/10.4324/9781003426103-13>
- Fiket, I., Ilić, V., Markov, Č., & Pudar Draško, G. (2024). Why do we need participatory democratic innovations in Southeast Europe? In I. Fiket, Č. Markov, V. Ilić, & G. P. Draško (Eds.), *Participatory democratic innovations in Southeast Europe* (pp. 1–7). Routledge. <https://doi.org/10.4324/9781003426103-1>
- Fiket, I. (2023). Citizens' assemblies at supranational level: Addressing the EU and global democratic deficit. In M. Reuchamps, J. Vrydagh, & Y. Welp (Eds.), *De Gruyter Handbook of Citizens' Assemblies* (pp. 197–210). De Gruyter. <https://doi.org/10.1515/9783110758269-017>
- Fiket, I., & Spasojevic, D. (2023). Opposition in Serbia: oppression, delegitimization and extra-institutional engagement, in *The legal and political conditions of opposition parties in Central and Eastern Europe. An overview*, edited by Baldin, Serena, and Angela Di Gregorio. Trieste: Edizioni Università di Trieste, 205–226, 217. ISBN: 978-88-5511-441-7 <https://www.openstarts.units.it/handle/10077/35391>
- Fiket I. and Ceriman J. (2020). *Intra-family Engagement? A Study of Female Academic Staff at the University of Belgrade*, NAUČNICE U DRUŠTVU, Urednice: Lada Stevanović, Mladena Prelić, Miroslava Lukić Krstanović, Etnografski institut SANU, Beograd 2020. ISBN 978-86-7587-106-4
- Fiket I. and Ceriman J. (2019), *Razumevanje koncepta rodne ravnopravnosti u normativnom okviru visokog obrazovanja u Srbiji u Rodna ravnopravnost u visokom obrazovanju: Koncepti, prakse i izazovi* (ur. Dragica Vujadinović i Zorana Antonijević), Akademska knjiga, ISBN: 978-86-6263-279-1
- Fiket, I. (2018). (I dalje) dupli teret na leđima (akademske) radnice? In J. Čeriman, I. Fiket, & K. Rácz (Eds.), *Žongliranje između patrijarshata i prekarijata. Institut za filozofiju i društvenu teoriju / Centar za etiku, pravo i primenjenu filozofiju*. ISBN: 978-86-80484-21-1
- Fiket I., B. Delibašić and Pudar Draško G., (2018), “Preko granica rodne neravnopravnosti u akademiji”, u *Univerziteti između meritokratije i patrijarhata: žene i moć delanja* sa Balša Delibašić, Gazela Pudar Draško, Beograd: Univerzitet, Institut za filozofiju i društvenu teoriju (IFDT), ISBN: 978-86-80484-30-3
- Fiket I. and B. Delibašić, (2018), “Rodna ravnopravnost u oblasti akademskog rada: normativni okvir”, u *Univerziteti između meritokratije i patrijarhata: žene i moć delanja* sa Balša Delibašić, Gazela Pudar Draško, Beograd: Univerzitet, Institut za filozofiju i društvenu teoriju (IFDT), ISBN: 978-86-80484-30-3
- Fiket I and Trajković Dj., (2018), “Nema veze, mogu sve sama: usklađivanje poslovnih i porodičnih obaveza akademskih radnica i radnika i raspodela poslova u njihovim domaćinstvima”, u *Univerziteti između meritokratije i patrijarhata: žene i moć delanja* sa Balša Delibašić, Gazela Pudar Draško, Beograd : Univerzitet, Institut za filozofiju i društvenu teoriju (IFDT), ISBN: 978-86-80484-30-3
- Fiket, I., Bojanić, P., Hrnjez, S., & Scalmani, D. (2018). Introduction. In I. Fiket, P. Bojanić, S. Hrnjez, & D. Scalmani (Eds.), *Culture in traduzione / Cultures in translation: A paradigm for Europe*. Mimesis International. ISBN: 978-88-5755-434-1.
- Fiket, I. (2017). Formiranje aktivnog i tolerantnog građanstva: Potencijal i ograničenja deliberativnog modela demokratije. In *Angažman: uvod u studije angažovanosti* (pp. 84–92). Akademska knjiga.

Fiket, I., & Di Mauro, D. (2014). Discovering Europe? Identity of the migrants in the EU. In I. Tarrósy, Á. Tuka, Z. Vörös, & A. Schmidt (Eds.), *European Integration: Perspectives and Challenges. How 'Borderless' is Europe?* ISBN: 978-615-5457-24-1.

Fiket, I., Čurković, V., & Mijačić, D. (2014). Application of the participatory model of democracy in public land management: Advantages and challenges. In B. Lukić, Z. Radosavljević, A. Đorđević, & M. Marić (Eds.), *Local self-government in spatial and settlement planning* (pp. 475–483). Belgrade: Association of Spatial Planners of Serbia; Faculty of Geography. ISBN: 978-86-6283-013-5

Fiket, I., Olmastroni, F., & Isernia, P. (2013). Qualità della deliberazione e capacità deliberativa: un'analisi comparata delle esperienze italiane. In L. Bobbio (Ed.), *Le qualità della deliberazione* (pp. 323–363). Carocci. ISBN: 978-88-430-6824-1.

Fiket, I., & Memoli, V. (2013). Improving the quality of democracy: The case of deliberative poll held in 2007 in Turin. In B. Geißel & M. Joas (Eds.), *Participatory Democratic Innovations in Europe: Improving the Quality of Democracy?* (pp. 123–142). Barbara Budrich Publishers.

Isernia, P., Fiket, I., Serricchio, F., & Westle, B. (2012). But still it does not move: Functional and identity-based determinants of European identity. In *Citizens and the European Polity* (pp. 110–133). Oxford University Press. <https://doi.org/10.1093/acprof:oso/9780199602339.003.0006>

Books

Fiket, I. (2019). *Deliberativno građanstvo [Deliberative Citizenship]*. Akademski knjiga / Institut za filozofiju i društvenu teoriju. ISBN: 978-86-80484-46-4.

Fiket, I., & Pavlović, Z., & Pudar Draško, G. (2017). *Političke orijentacije građana Srbije: Kartografija nemoći*. Friedrich Ebert Stiftung.

Edited volumes (books and special issues)

Fiket, I., Allegretti, G., & Pudar Draško, G. (Eds.). (2006). *Towards an innovative democracy: Institutionalizing participation in challenging times. Politics and Governance*. <https://doi.org/10.17645/pag.i479>

Fiket, I., Markov, Č., Ilić, V., & Pudar Draško, G. (Eds.). (2024). *Participatory democratic innovations in Southeast Europe*. Routledge. <https://doi.org/10.4324/9781003426103>

Fiket, I. (Ed.). (2022). *Participatory innovations in hybrid regimes. Filozofija i društvo / Philosophy and Society*, 33(1), doi.org/10.2298/FID2201003F

Fiket, I., Čeriman, J., & Rácz, K. (Eds.). (2018). *Žongliranje između patrijarshata i prekarijata: Usklađivanje porodičnih i profesionalnih obaveza akademskih radnica*. Institut za filozofiju i društvenu teoriju / Centar za etiku, pravo i primenjenu filozofiju. ISBN: 978-86-80484-21-1

Fiket, I., Bojanić, P., Hrnjez, S., & Scalmani, D. (Eds.). (2018). *Culture in traduzione / Cultures in translation: A paradigm for Europe*. Mimesis International. ISBN: 978-88-5755-434-1.

Fiket I., B. Delibašić and Pudar Draško G., (Eds.). (2018), “Univerziteti između meritokratije i patrijarhata : žene i moć delanja”, uređivanje zbornika radova, Beograd: Univerzitet, Institut za filozofiju i društvenu teoriju, ISBN: 978-86-80484-30-3

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Doctoral-level teaching

PhD Research Design Seminar, Faculty of Political Science, University of Belgrade, Serbia
2024–ongoing

Practices of Democratic Deliberation: From Experiment to Institutionalization, Doctoral Programme in Political and Sociological Research, Faculty of Political Science, University of Belgrade, Serbia
2024–ongoing

Master 's-Level Teaching

Practices of Democracy (Concepts that Matter: Debating Democracy), University of Oslo, Norway — Erasmus+ Teaching Mobility
2024–ongoing

Deliberative Processes, Master Programme Design and Management of Participatory Processes (joint programme of Tuscan Universities in collaboration with the Tuscany Region), Italy
2012–2013

Advanced Programmes

Summer School of Social Engagement and Democracy (ANDEM), University of Belgrade, Serbia

MEMBERSHIPS

- Founder and member of the Open Society University Network (OSUN) Working Group on Participatory Democratic Innovations and Sortition
- Governance council Member, Democracy R&D international network, <https://democracyrd.org/our-team/#governance>
- ECPR Standing group on Democratic Innovation <http://democraticinnovations.net/organisation>
- Member of Italian Political Science Association (SISP) <http://www.sisp.it/>

Awards

The Giovanni Sartori Prize for the best scientific paper in the Italian Political Science Review, Cambridge Journals, paper "Debating Europe, Transforming Identities: Assessing the impact of Deliberative Poll treatment on identity" (with Danilo Di Mauro)
www.cambridge.org/core/journals/italian-political-science-review-rivista-italiana-di-scienzapolitica/ipsr-giovanni-sartori-prize

LANGUAGES

Serbian (native) | Italian (fluent) | English (fluent)