

Ljiljana Pantović, PhD

Academic Curriculum Vitae

Institute for Philosophy and Social Theory, University of Belgrade

ljiljana.pantovic@ifdt.bg.ac.rs

Professional Profile

Ljiljana Pantović, PhD, is a medical anthropologist and Research Fellow at the Institute for Philosophy and Social Theory, University of Belgrade. Her scholarship centers on medical anthropology, gender, and the political economy of health, focusing on maternal and reproductive health, healthcare access, and marginalized groups in Serbia and the region. She has extensive experience in qualitative research and policy analysis, with publications in leading peer-reviewed journals and contributions to projects supported by international organizations, including the EU, UNICEF, and the World Bank.

Research Interests

- Medical anthropology and anthropology of health
- Maternal and reproductive health
- Care, gender, and social reproduction
- Political economy of health and post-socialist transformations
- Access to care in underserved and Roma communities
- Gender-based violence and institutional responses

Appointments and Professional Experience

Research Fellow, Institute for Philosophy and Social Theory, University of Belgrade | 2019 – current
Belgrade, Serbia

- *Maternity leave: September 2024-November 2025.*

Member of the Laboratory for Solidarity, Philanthropy and Care Studies, Laboratory for Gender Research and the Laboratory for Socialism and (Post)Yugoslav Studies

- Lead on Projects on reproductive care, elder care, and public health institutions in Serbia and the region.

Previous appointments

Researcher and external expert, SeConS Development Initiative | 2020-2025

Belgrade, Serbia

- Applied qualitative research, monitoring and evaluation, and policy analysis.
- Projects on sexual violence support services, Roma health, immunization, and public sector responses.

Postdoctoral Fellow, Eastern European Team, Geography of Philosophy Project | 2019-2020.

Bratislava, Slovakia/Pittsburgh, USA

- Worked on a Templeton Foundation supported cross-cultural research project exploring concepts of knowledge, wisdom, and understanding.

Education

PhD in Anthropology, University of Pittsburgh

2019

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA

- Dissertation: Private within the Public: Negotiating Birth in Serbia.

MA in Gender Studies, Central European University

2013

Budapest, Hungary

MA in Ethnology and Anthropology, University of Belgrade

2012

Belgrade, Serbia

Selected Current and Recent Research Projects

- **Promoting gender equality through access to reproductive care and education on gender stereotypes, OSCE Mission to Serbia.** Lead Researcher, IFDT, Sep-Dec 2025.
- **Breastfeeding and vaccine promotion behavior among health workers in Montenegro and Serbia, National Consultant, UNICEF,** Oct-Dec 2025.
- **Career and Mama: Work-life balance policy in Bosnia and Herzegovina, EU/CERV.** Researcher, IFDT, Jan-Dec 2025.
- **Road to Recovery: Improving services for victims of sexual violence in Vojvodina, UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women.** Lead M&E Specialist, SeConS, 2022-2025.
- **In the Frictions of Social(ised) Medicine: Collaborative ethnography of public health institutions in Croatia and Serbia, Volkswagen Foundation.** Lead Qualitative Researcher, IFDT, Jan-Dec 2024.
- **A Step Forward: Improving support for victims of sexual violence in Vojvodina, EIDHR.** Lead Qualitative Researcher, SeConS, Apr-Oct 2024.
- **Women's perceptions of maternal healthcare quality and childbirth experience in Serbia, UNFPA Serbia.** Lead Researcher (Consultant), 2023-2024.
- **Qualitative impact analysis: immunization, health and well-being of children in Roma settlements, UNICEF Serbia.** Lead Qualitative Researcher (Consultant), Feb-Oct 2023.
- **Behavioral insights on MMR1 immunization, UNICEF Serbia.** Qualitative Researcher (Consultant), May-Jul 2023.
- **Serbia Emergency COVID-19 Response, Torlak BSL-3 subproject, World Bank Group / Ministry of Health.** Researcher, SeConS/EnActa, Apr-Jun 2023.
- **Serbia COVID-19 vaccine rollout: behavioral insights, WHO Serbia.** Qualitative Researcher, 2022.
- **Closeness and Care: Elder care in Serbia during the pandemic, OSUN.** Lead Researcher, IFDT, 2022.
- **Gender Rapid Needs Assessment after the 2014 floods in Serbia, UN Women.** Individual Research Consultant, 2014.

Complete Bibliography

Journal articles

- Kupsjak, Jelena; **Pantović, Ljiljana.** (2026). Between Bureaucracy and Community: Thinking With Public Health Collaboration in Serbia and Croatia. *Svetovi: revija za etnologiju, antropologiju in folkloristiko*, 4(1), 28-44.
- Ćeriman, Jelena; **Pantovic, Ljiljana;** Radovanovic, Marija. (2025). Barriers to Work-Family Balance in Bosnia and Herzegovina: Gender Implications. *Stanovništvo*, 63(2), 273-294.
- Pantović, Ljiljana; Radovanović, Bojana; Sekulović, Milica. (2025). Briga o starijim osobama u Srbiji tijekom pandemije COVID-19: Što se događa kada bliskost postane prepreka za skrb? *Revija za socijalnu politiku*, 32(2), 149-165.
- Pantović, Ljiljana; Radovanović, Bojana; Sekulović, Milica. (2025). Elder Care in Serbia During the COVID-19 Pandemic: What Happens When Closeness Becomes an Impediment to Care? *Revija za socijalnu politiku*, 32(2), 149-165.
- Pantović, Ljiljana; Đorđević, Ivan. (2024). Barriers and trust: Perceptions of the healthcare system among Roma mothers in Serbia. *Glasnik Etnografskog instituta SANU*, 72(3), 11-29.
- Radovanovic, Bojana; Kupsjak, Jelena; **Pantovic, Ljiljana.** (2024). Crowdfunding for health care expenses: Concerns and implications. *Sociologija*, 66(2), 268-284.
- Pantović, Ljiljana; Đorđević, Ivan. (2024). Препреке и поверење: перцепције здравственог система међу ромским мајкама у Србији. *Гласник Етнографског института САНУ / Bulletin of the Institute of Ethnography SASA*, 72(3), 11-29.
- Pantovic, Ljiljana; Zaric, Zona. (2022). Care in the Anthropocene: Acting with Compassion. *Philosophy and Society*, 33(4), 881-894.

- Pantović, Ljiljana. (2022). Providing a service or seeking a favor? The role of private prenatal care on the continuity of care in Serbian public maternity hospitals. *Birth*, 49(3), 506-513.
- Bašić, Aleksandra; Maćešić-Petrović, Dragana; **Pantović, Ljiljana**; Zdravković Parezanović, Ružica; Gajić, Anja; Arsić, Bojana; Nikolić, Jovana. (2021). Sensory integration and activities that promote sensory integration in children with autism spectrum disorders. *Human Research in Rehabilitation*, 11(1), 28-38.
- Pantović, Ljiljana. (2021). Нечија или „општенародна“ пацијенткиња: значај друштвеног положаја и неформалних односа приликом порођаја у Србији. *Гласник Етнографског института САНУ*, 69.
- Pantović, Ljiljana. (2018). Not-so-informal relationships. Selective unbundling of maternal care and the reconfigurations of patient-provider relations in Serbia. *Comparative Southeast European Studies*, 66(3), 371-391.
- Pantovic, Ljiljana. (2016). Buying a connection. Private practice in public health care - the case of a Serbian maternity hospital. *Anthropology of East Europe Review*, 34(1), 25-37.
- Pantović, Ljiljana. (2013). Medicalization of Masturbation Travels East: A Serbian Case Study. *Pulse: the Journal of Science and Culture*, 1(1), 66-77.

Journal publications from large international collaborations

- Rudnev, Maksim; Barrett, H. Clark; Buckwalter, Wesley; Machery, Edouard; Stich, Stephen; ... **Pantović, Ljiljana**; ... Grossmann, Igor. (2024). *Dimensions of wisdom perception across twelve countries on five continents*. *Nature Communications*, 15(1), 6375.
- Grossmann, Igor; Rudnev, Maksim; Dorfman, Anna; Atari, Mohammad; Barr, Kelli; ... **Pantović, Ljiljana**; ... Machery, Edouard. (2025). *Decision-making preferences for intuition, deliberation, friends or crowds in independent and interdependent societies*. *Proceedings of the Royal Society B: Biological Sciences*, 292(2052), 20251355.
- Porter, Brian; Barr, Kelli; Bencherifa, Abdellatif; Buckwalter, Wesley; Deguchi, Yasuo; Fabiano, Emanuele; Hashimoto, Takaaki; ... **Pantović, Ljiljana**; ... Machery, Edouard. (2025). *A puzzle about knowledge ascriptions*. *Noûs*, 59(2), 392-408

Book chapters and reference entries

- Zarić, Zona; **Pantović, Ljiljana**. (2025). Šta medicina čini ženskom telu? Antropološko i filozofsko istraživanje koncepta akušerskog nasilja. In *Svi se plaše roda: aktuelna osporavanja i upotrebe pojma u Srbiji* (pp. 322-355). Beograd: Institut za filozofiju i društvenu teoriju.
- Pantović, Ljiljana; Radovanović, Bojana; Zaharijević, Adriana. (2024). Caregiving for older adults in times of the COVID-19 pandemic in Serbia: A gendered perspective. In *Politicising and gendering care for older people: Multidisciplinary perspectives from Europe*. Manchester: Manchester University Press.
- Pantovic, Ljiljana. (2024). Informality: Beyond Blurring the Lines between Favors and Clientelism in Eastern Europe. *Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Anthropology*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Pantovic, Ljiljana; Ćeriman, Jelena. (2024). The Business of Umbilical Cord Biobanking in Serbia: Biocapital(ism) and Symbolic Geographies of Health. In *Navigating the Digital Age: An In-Depth Exploration into the Intersection of Modern Technologies and Societal Transformation* (pp. 267-301). Belgrade: Institute for Philosophy and Social Theory.
- Pantović, Ljiljana. (2022). Baby (Not So) Friendly: Implementation of the Baby-Friendly Hospital Initiative in Serbia. In *Anthropologies of Global Maternal and Reproductive Health*. Cham: Springer.
- Pantović, Ljiljana. (2014). For the Better Life of Every Man and Giraffe. In *Studies in Biopolitics*. Budapest: CELAB, CEU.

Dissertation and policy reports

- Babović, Marija; **Pantović, Ljiljana**; Živojinović, Anđelka; Stević, Milica; Vuković, Olivera. (2025). Mapiranje dostupnosti usluga podrške žrtvama seksualnog nasilja i iskustvo žena u korišćenju usluga u Republici Srbiji: studija. Kikinda: Centar za podršku ženama.
- Pantovic, Ljiljana; Stanković, Biljana; Ćeriman, Jelena. (2024). Iskustva žena u porodilištima u Srbiji tokom i nakon pandemije kovida-19. UNFPA.

Pantović, Ljiljana. (2019). *Private within the Public: Negotiating Birth in Serbia*. Doctoral dissertation, University of Pittsburgh.

Pantović, Ljiljana. (2013). *Eugenics and the «Nation» in the Writings of a Turn of the Century Serbian Physician: the Case of Milan Jovanović Batut*. Budapest.

Grants, Fellowships, and Awards

- Scientific Excellence Award, Ministry of Science, Technological Development and Innovation of the Republic of Serbia (2024–2026).
- Đoka Vlačković Foundation award for the best scientific work by a young scientist at the University of Belgrade, for the article published in *Birth* (2023).
- Volkswagen Foundation and University of Regensburg seed funding (2023-2024).
- OSUN and Bard College Engaged Research Grant (2021-2022).
- Social Sciences Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship (2016-2017).
- Klinzing Grant for Dissertation Research (2016-2017).
- Andrew Mellon Pre-doctoral Fellowship (2015-2016).

Selected Conference Presentations

- *Between Bureaucracy and Community: Reflecting with Collaboration in the Field of Public Health in Serbia and Croatia*. Medical Anthropology from the Region of the Former Yugoslavia, Ljubljana: University of Ljubljana, 2024.
- *Collaborative Research of Public Health in Croatia and Serbia*. EASST-4S 2024, Amsterdam: Making and Doing Transformations, 2024.
- *Collective (Ir)responsibility: How is maternal care provided within the Serbian healthcare system?* Radiant Maternity, Slavic and East European Maternal Studies Network, online, 2022.
- *In search of continuity of care: Consumerism and privatization of maternal health care in Serbia*. Care and Volunteering Transformation, HAIT at TU Dresden, online, 2020.
- *Nečija ili opštenarodna: Pregovaranje porođaja u Srbiji. Manjinski identiteti i društvena integracija*, University of Novi Sad, online, 2020.
- *Who can be entrepreneurial? Gender dimensions of the Balkan entrepreneurial subject*. Anthropology of Gender in the Balkans, Göttingen, 2019.
- *Not so informal relations: Birth in Post-Socialist Serbia. Corruption in Eastern/Southeastern Europe: Comparative Perspectives*, Regensburg, 2017.
- *Negotiating Birth in a Serbian Maternity Ward*. AAA Annual Meeting, Washington, D.C., 2014.

Professional Service

- Editorial Board member for *Comparative Southeast European Studies* (COMPSEES) 2026- current
- Reviewer for Medical Anthropology, Economic Anthropology, Frontiers in Public Health, Bulletin of the Institute of Ethnography SASA, Narodna Umjetnost, and BMJ Open.
- Grant reviewer for the Open Society Foundation.
- External expert for SeConS Development Initiative.

Methods, Software, and Languages

- Qualitative methods: ethnographic fieldwork, semi-structured interviews, focus groups, collaborative and rapid qualitative research, impact analysis, and monitoring and evaluation design.
- Software: NVivo, MAXQDA, Atlas.ti.
- Languages: English (C2), French (B2), Serbian (native)

Public engagement, media, and speaking (selected)

Podcast appearances

- Pantović, Ljiljana. Guest, “Medical Anthropology.” Zvuk misli (The Sound of Thought), 18 September 2022.
- Pantović, Ljiljana. Guest, “Obstetric Violence: Ljiljana Pantović, Doctor of Anthropology.” Tampon Zona (Tampon Zone), 7 November 2022.
- Pantović, Ljiljana. Guest, “What Is the Situation in Maternity Hospitals?” Zdrava priča (Healthy Story), episode 50, 26 June 2025.
- Pantović, Ljiljana, and Jelena Kupsjak. Guests, “Ep. 24 – Social Medicine and Healthcare in Croatia and Serbia.” Balkans Calling – Voices from the Region, 11 February 2026.

Media appearances, interviews, and public-facing writing

- Quoted in *Drastično povećano nasilje nad ženama u javnom i političkom životu*. **Danas**, 12 December 2022. Expert commentary on obstetric violence and women’s rights in Serbia.
- *Ljiljana Pantović: Politizacija brige o starijima za vreme pandemije COVID-19*. **CPE (Centar za politike emancipacije)**, 22 March 2023. Public-facing commentary based on research on elder care during the COVID-19 pandemic in Serbia.
- Quoted in *Brojni slučajevi akušerskog nasilja tapkaju u mestu - da li novi vodič za trudnoću i porođaj može da promeni nešto?* **N1**, 16 June 2025. Expert commentary on obstetric violence, maternity care, and proposed national guidance for pregnancy and childbirth

References

Robert M. Hayden, JD, PhD

Professor Emeritus, Department of Anthropology, University of Pittsburgh

- rhayden@pitt.edu

Čarna Brković, PhD

Professor of Cultural Anthropology and European Ethnology, University of Mainz

- brkovicc@uni-mainz.de