

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Sofiya Zahova



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<https://hi.academia.edu/SofiyaZahova>

Sex Female | Date of birth 07/08/1978 | Nationality Bulgarian

WORK EXPERIENCE

September 2018 – Present

Research Fellow

School of History, University of St Andrews

(St Katharine's Lodge, The Scores 14, St Andrews, Fife KY16 9AR, Scotland, UK, room 2.29)

Research project **Roma Civic Emancipation between the two World Wars** (ERC Advanced Grant 2015, Principal Investigator Elena Marushiakova)

Academic Research

Global History

August 2016 – Present

Postdoctoral Researcher

Vigdís Finnbogadóttir Institute of Foreign Languages

University of Iceland

(Veröld – hús Vigdísar, Brynjólfsgötu 1, Reykjavík 107, Iceland, <http://vigdis.hi.is/>)

Research project **Romane lila. The entangled history of Romani publications and Romani identity politics** supported by the Icelandic Research Fund (RANNIS)

Academic Research

Literature and Languages

Nov 2012 – July 2016

Assistant Professor

Institute of Ethnology and Folklore Studies with Ethnographic Museum

Bulgarian Academy of Sciences

(6a, Moskovska street, Sofia 1000, Bulgaria)

Academic research in the field of Ethnology, Romani Studies, South East European History, Migrations.

Feb 2011 – Oct 2012

Social Anthropology Specialist

Institute of Ethnology and Folklore Studies with Ethnographic Museum

Bulgarian Academy of Sciences

(6a, Moskovska street, Sofia 1000, Bulgaria)

Academic research in the field of Ethnology, Romani Studies, South East European History

Jan 2008 – Dec 2010

PhD student

Institute of Ethnology and Folklore Studies with Ethnographic Museum  
Bulgarian Academy of Sciences

Research on PhD topic *Dynamics of Identity in Montenegro*, field research, participation in scientific events for presentation of the research, participation in research projects

March 2002 – Dec 2007

**Project manager**

Next Page Foundation

(www.npage.org/)

Management of programmes for funding publishing projects for Romani literature, monitoring of projects, organization of seminars and conference, preparation of narrative and financial reports

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Jan 2008 – Dec 2010

**PhD in Ethnology (awarded July 2011)**

Bulgarian Academy of Sciences (Bulgaria)

- Subjects covered: Ethnology, South East European History, Nationalism Studies, Romani Studies.
- PhD thesis topic ***Dynamics of Identity in Montenegro***

April 1 – June 30, 2010

**ERASMUS programme PhD student specialization**

University of Ljubljana (Slovenia)

- Subjects covered: Ethnology, South East European History, Nationalism Studies, Romani Studies.
- PhD thesis topic *Dynamics of Identity in Montenegro*

Oct 2004 – May 2005

**Certificate on Cultural Management and Policies**

University of Belgrade (Serbia) / University Lyon 2 (France) / University Pierre Mendes (France)

- Management of project, theory and practice of cultural policies and management of cultural organizations

1997 - 2007

**MA in Cultural Studies**

Theory and History of Culture Department, Sofia University St. Kliment Ochridski (Bulgaria)

- Subject covered: Cultural Anthropology, Philosophy, History of Culture, Cultural management
- MA thesis ***Cultural Policies towards the Roma in Bulgaria within the period 1989 – 2006***

PERSONAL SKILLS

Mother tongue(s)

Bulgarian

Other language(s)

	UNDERSTANDING		SPEAKING		WRITING
	Listening	Reading	Spoken interaction	Spoken production	
English	C2	C2	C2	C2	C2
Serbian/Montenegrin/ Bosnian/Croatian	C2	C2	C2	C2	C2
Romani language (Balkan dialects, Vlach dialects)	C2	C2	C2	C2	C2
Italian	B1	B1	A2	A2	B1
Russian	C1	C1	B1	B1	C1
Icelandic	A2	B1	A2	A2	B1

Levels: A1/A2: Basic user - B1/B2: Independent user - C1/C2 Proficient user  
[Common European Framework of Reference for Languages](http://www.cedefop.europa.eu)

**Communication skills** Excellent communication and team work abilities acquired through research work and interactions with different ethnic communities and countries within Europe, and as result of my participation in number of international research projects and initiatives.

**Organisational / managerial skills** More than 15-year experience on:

- Implementation of EU project including application, reporting and management;
- Evaluation of projects related to practical issues among Roma communities;
- Coordination and activities on working with institutions at both national and international level, coordination activities.

**Digital skills**

SELF-ASSESSMENT				
Information processing	Communication	Content creation	Safety	Problem solving
Proficient user	Proficient user	Independent user	Independent user	Independent user

Levels: Basic user - Independent user - Proficient user  
[Digital competences - Self-assessment grid](#)

**Driving licence** Category B

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**
**Memberships**

Organization	Position	Period
National Civil Forum <i>Culture</i>	Member, coordinator	2002 – 2006
Minority Studies Society <i>Studii Romani</i>	Member	2008 – at present
URBA-Rom, Observatory of Policies for Roma/Gypsies in European Towns	Member	2010 – at present
Gypsy Lore Society	Member Member of Board of directors	Jan 2011 – at present Jan 2012 – at present
European Academic Network on Romani Studies	Member	2011 – at present
Association for the Studies of Nationalities	Member	2017 – at present
Icelandic Association of Women in Science	Member	2017 – at present
Editorial Board of <i>Romani Studies</i> Journal	Member	2017 – at present

**Research projects**

Country	Period	Short description of project and leading institution
Bulgaria	2002 – 2003	<i>Research on cultural organizations with national-wide activities and networks and their influence on cultural policies in Bulgaria.</i> Technology Park <i>Culture</i> and History and Theory of Culture Department of Sofia University <i>St. Kliment Ohridski</i> , with support of the European Cultural Foundation
Bulgaria, Serbia, Macedonia	2005 – 2006	<i>Young Roma Literature Talents. Research on Romani literature in three Balkan countries.</i> Next Page Foundation with support of Open Society Institute – Budapest
Austria, Bulgaria, Romania, Hungary	2006 – 2007	<i>Literature of Roma Authors: research on poetry, novels and short stories.</i> Romani Library project
Montenegro, Serbia	2008 – 2010	<i>Dynamics of Identities in Montenegro. Ethnographic research on ethnic groups and national identity.</i> PhD research under the supervision of Assoc. Prof. Veselin Popov
Montenegro, Macedonia, Serbia, Albania	May 2009 – Dec 2010	<i>Effective Participation of Ethnic Communities Vulnerable to Racial Discrimination in the Public Life of Western Balkans</i> Union of Balkan's Egyptians with the support of European Commission

Bulgaria, Italy	May 2009 – June 2012	Research on contemporary Bulgarian migrations in Italy Project <i>Cultural heritage and national identity in terms of pan-European labor mobility</i> funded by National Science Fund – Bulgaria
Bulgaria	June 2011 – June 2012	<i>Documentation of the Pre-industrial Elements in Bulgarian Minorities' Culture during 20 century</i> Supported by the Endangered Archive Programme (UK)
Bulgaria	July 2011 – July 2012	<i>Documenting Varna Bugurdži Romani Dialect through Oral Folklore and Life Stories</i> Supported by the Endangered Language Fund (USA)
Bulgaria	Jan 2012 – 2014	Research on return migrants in Bulgaria & project coordinator Project <i>Dynamics of the processes of return migration and integration of the Bulgarian migrants</i> Supported by the National Sciences Fund (Bulgaria)
Bulgaria	April – Sept 2013	Research on <i>Bugurdži</i> dialect from Dulgopol Romani Linguistics Team at the University of Manchester Supported by University of Manchester & 7 <sup>th</sup> Framework programme
Latvia	June – Dec 2013	Research on Romani communities and dialects in Latvia Project <i>Finnish Romani and Other Northern Romani Dialects in the Baltic Sea Area</i> Supported by Kone Foundation (Finland)
Bulgaria, Latvia	Jan 2012 – July 2016	Research on dimensions of national identity among Roma groups in Latvia and Bulgaria Project <i>National and religious identity in Bulgaria and Latvia – traditions and innovations</i> Funded by the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences and the Latvian Academy of Sciences and Arts
Bulgaria	Jan – Dec 2015	<i>Documentation of the Pre-industrial Elements in Bulgarian Minorities' Culture during 20 century, part II</i> Supported by Endangered Archive Programme (UK)
Europe	2013 – 2015	<i>History of the Romani Literature in Europe – book and multimedia publishing</i> In the framework of campUSCulturae project funded by EC
Bulgaria, Iceland	June 2014	<i>Educational publications for Roma Children: from folktales to the Romani Holocaust</i> Supported by BG09 „EEA Scholarships Fund“ under the EEA Grants
Europe	August 2016 – July 2019	<i>Romane lila. The entangled history of Romani publications and Romani identity politics</i> Supported with RANNIS (Icelandic Research Fund) postdoctoral grant University of Iceland
South Eastern Europe	2018-2021	<i>Roma Civic Emancipation between the two World Wars</i> ERC Advanced Grant 2015, Principal Investigator Elena Marushiakova University of St Andrews

### Lecturing

Graduate course *Calendar Customs of the Balkan Nations* at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences (2010-2015)  
Erasmus visiting lectured in Czech Republic, Sweden, Finland and Germany on the topic *Romani Literature in Europe* (2013-2017)  
Graduate course *Culture and Language* at the University of Iceland (Spring semester 2016)

### Publishing and digitalization activities

Country	Period	Short description of the project
Europe	2003 – 2007	<i>Romani Publications Project</i> for support of print and electronic publications <i>in Romani in over 10 countries in Europe</i>
Europe	2006 – 2007	<i>Romani Digital Collection – digitalization of books in small online library.</i> VORBA project of Next Page Foundation
Bulgaria, Romania, Macedonia	2006 – 2008	<i>Multi-cultural books for children: publication and promotion of books for Roma youth</i> Supported by the European Cultural Foundation
Europe	2007 – 2008	<i>Romani Digital Collection at TEL (the European Library): digitalization and access to catalogs and metadata of Romani publications in 44 libraries in Europe.</i> National Library of Serbia, Next Page Foundation and the European Library
Europe	2011 – 2016	Research on publications for Romani Children <i>CampUSCulturae</i> project Funded by the “Culture 2007-2013” programme of the EC
South Eastern Europe	2017-2018	Development of Balkan Romani Literature and Romani Children Literature as part of RomArchive – the Digital Archive of the Roma project

### Consultancy and evaluation

Country	Period	Short description of activity
Bulgaria	2002 – 2003	Evaluation of <i>Translation Project</i> of Open Society Foundation in Bulgaria

Albania	May – June 2005	Preparation of assessment report <i>Cultural institutions and cultural policies in Albania</i>
Bulgaria	2003 – 2007	Monitoring projects of Romani Baht Foundation <i>Desegregation of Roma schools in Sofia; Securing Equality in Education – access to Roma in kindergarten and school; Enhancing Institutional Capacity of Central and Eastern European Roma Organizations to Provide Services to Roma Communities</i>
Albania, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Macedonia, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia	2004 – 2007	Internal evaluation of over 20 projects for publishing and promotion of books in Romani, including assessment of the project management and implementation, monitoring of the books distribution and impact on the audience and readers
Bulgaria, Macedonia, Serbia	April – May 2009	Member of the team for external evaluation of three projects in Bulgaria supported by Roma Education Fund: development of the methodology and writing the report
Macedonia, Albania, Serbia, Kosovo	May 2009 – Jan 2011	Evaluator in selection, training and supervising of local mediators working with vulnerable ethnic groups within the project <i>Effective Participation of Ethnic Communities Vulnerable to Racial Discrimination in the Public Life of Western Balkans</i> , supported by EU
Bulgaria	Sept 2011 – Dec 2013	Evaluation of the impact of funding programme 33.05-2009, 33.10-2012, 33.11-2012 of the Center for Educational Integration of the Children and Students of the Ethnic Minorities at the Bulgarian Ministry of Education and Science
Montenegro, Bulgaria	June – August 2012	Report on the Current Political Situation in Montenegro in Regard to the Country's Integration into NATO and EC Commissioned by the Ministry of Defence (Bulgaria)
Europe	May 2011 – May 2013	Assessment report of good practices for project <i>Adult Education Strategies to Overcome Group-Focused Hostility in Europe</i> . Funded by the "Gruntvig" Lifelong Learning Programme of the EC
Bulgaria	2013 – 2014	Consultancy for the short animated about a Roma girl Produced by Talking Animals Animation Studio with the support of Robert Bosch Stiftung
Bulgaria	Sept 2014 – June 2015	<i>Social norms of Roma communities that prevent Roma girls from their right to education</i> Commissioned by UNICEF – Bulgaria
Iceland	Sept 2017	Consultancy for the ISADOPT – Icelandic Association for Adoption
Iceland	August – October 2018	Consultancy for Reykjavík City Department of Education and Youth

### Civil society activities

Country	Period	Short description of the activity
Bulgaria	2002 – 2003	<i>Cooperation between the National Civil Forum Culture and the public authorities. Observations of the Commission on Culture meetings at the Bulgarian Parliament</i>
Europe	2004	<i>Training and consultations of organizations dealing with publishing of Romani books</i>
Bulgaria, Macedonia, Rumania	2006 – 2007	<i>Our Stories project: books and reading promotion among Romani children</i> With the support of the European Cultural Foundation

### Awards, grants, scholarships

Student Society for Development of Inter-Ethnic Dialog (2008)  
 Young Scholar's Fund of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences (2009)  
 Endangered Languages Fund – US (2011)  
 European Academic Network of Romani Studies (2013, 2014)  
 American Folklore Society (2013)  
 EEA Scholarships Fund (2014)

### Publications

Zahova, Sofiya. 2010. Refugee Migrations of Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptians to Montenegro and their Impact on the Communities' Social and Cultural Development, in: Sigona, Nando, ed. *Proceedings of International Conference "Romani Mobilities in Europe: Multidisciplinary Perspectives"*, 251-256.

Захова, Софија. 2012. Две тези за черногорският национален костюм [Two thesis about the Montenegrin national costume], *Българска етнология* (1), 74-93.

Zahova, Sofiya. 2012. Rewriting the Past in the Present: Politics of Identity in the Montenegrin Historiography, *Adam*

*Akademi*, vol. 2 (1), 43-60.

Zahova, Sofiya. 2012. Migracije zarobkove dwóch grup cygańskich w kontekście migracji bułgarskich obywateli do Włoch [Labour migrations of two Gypsy groups in the context of Bulgarian citizens' migrations towards Italy], *Studia Romologica* (Tarnów), No. 5, 169-192.

Zahova, Sofiya. 2013. Gypsy/Roma in Montenegro: Group Identity and the Role of Language, Schrammel-Leber, Barbara and Tiefenbacher, Barbara (eds.) *Grazer Romani Publikationen 02: Romani V. Papers from the Annual Meeting of the Gypsy Lore Society*, 81-96.

Zahova, Sofiya. 2013. The Language Issue in the Context of Minorities' and Identity Policies in Montenegro, *European Yearbook of Minority Issues*, Vol. 10, 667-700.

Захова, София. 2013. *Черна гора след Югославия: Динамика на идентичностите* [Montenegro after Yugoslavia – dynamics of identity]. София: Парадигма.

Захова, София и Мила Маева (ред.). 2013. *Етнография на миграциите. Българите в Средиземноморието* [Ethnography of migrations. Bulgarians in the Mediterranean]. София: Парадигма.

Захова, София. 2013. Формални и неформални мрежи на българи в Италия [Formal and informal networks of Bulgarians in Italy]. – В: Маева, Мила и София Захова (ред.). *Етнография на миграциите. Българите в Средиземноморието*. София: Парадигма, 101-136.

Zahova, Sofiya. 2013. The Role of Scholars' Texts in (Re-)constructing the Montenegrin National Identity after 1992, in: Breskaya, Olda (ed.) *Social Sciences, Humanities and Higher Education in Eastern Europe after 1991*. Cambridge: Cambridge Scholar Publishing, 129-149.

Zahova, Sofiya. 2013. Formal and informal networks of Bulgarians in Italy and their impact on the migrant's social life, in: Dimitrova, Tanya and Thede Kahl. (Eds.) *Migration from and towards Bulgaria*. Berlin: Frank and Timme, 107-128.

Zahova, Sofiya. 2013. Slavic-speaking Muslims in Montenegro: One Community in between Bošnjak, Muslim, Montenegrin and post-Yugoslav Identity, *Études balkaniques* (2-3), 5-37.

Zahova, Sofiya. 2014. *History of Romani Literature with Multi-media on Romani kids' Publications*. Sofia: Paradigma.

Zahova, Sofiya. 2015. Literature in Romani Language in Balkan countries in the new socio-political context, in: Kyuchukov, Hristo, ed. *Roma Culture in Different Social Contexts*. Praha: Slovo, 68-75. (available at [http://www.slovo21.cz/images/dokumenty/publikace/Roma%20culture\\_proceedings\\_Khamoro%202015.pdf](http://www.slovo21.cz/images/dokumenty/publikace/Roma%20culture_proceedings_Khamoro%202015.pdf))

Захова, София. 2016. *Изследване на социални норми, които възпрепятстват достъпа на ромските момичета до образование* [Research on the social norms which prevent Roma girls from access to education]. София: УНИЦЕФ (достъпен на [https://www.unicef.bg/assets/PDFs/2016/Report\\_on\\_Social\\_Norms\\_Bul.pdf](https://www.unicef.bg/assets/PDFs/2016/Report_on_Social_Norms_Bul.pdf)).

Zahova, Sofiya. 2016. *Research on the social norms which prevent Roma girls from access to education*. Full report. Sofia: UNICEF (available at [https://www.unicef.bg/assets/PDFs/2016/Social\\_Norms\\_report\\_ENG.pdf](https://www.unicef.bg/assets/PDFs/2016/Social_Norms_report_ENG.pdf)).

Zahova, Sofiya. 2016. Marriage age and early marriages among Romani girls in Bulgaria, in: Kyuchukov, Hristo; Elena Marushiakova; and Vesselin Popov (eds.). *Roma: Past, present, future*, 150-172.

Zahova, Sofiya. 2016. Romani Literature: Historical Developments and Challenges of Internationalization, in: Elena Marushiakova, and Vesselin Popov, eds. *Roma Culture: Myths and realities*. Munich: Lincom Academic Publisher, 81-126.



Захова, Софиya. 2017. Пътят на ромската литература в Източна Европа [The road of Romani literature in Eastern Europe], *Българска етнология* (1), 24-44.

Zahova, Sofiya. 2017. 'The Romani people' narratives in books for Roma children, in: Hristo Kyuchukov, and Willian New, eds. *Languages of Resistance: Ian Hancock's contribution to Romani Studies*, Munich: Lincom Academic Publisher, 374-389.

Zahova, Sofiya. 2017. Ethnographic Studies on the Montenegrin Festive Costume as a National Symbol, in: Anastasova, Ekaterina and Kõiva, Mare (eds). *Balkan and Balticum. Current Studies in the Postsocialist Space* (Sator 18). Tartu: ELM Scholarly Press, 11-41.

Zahova, Sofiya. 2017. Dětství v životopisných textech švédských Romů - tendence a proměny [Childhood in life narrative writings by Swedish Roma: Tendencies and changes], *Romano Dzaniben* 24 (2), 45-69.

Zahova, Sofiya, 2018. Romani Writers and the Legacies of Yugoslavia, *Baltic Worlds*, Vol. XI (2-3), 25-33.

Zahova, Sofiya. 2018. Romani Language Literature, in: Matras, Yaron, and Anton Tenser, eds. *Handbook of Romani Linguistics*. Houndmills: Palgrave Macmillan (forthcoming)

### Book Reviews

2016 Romani writing: Literacy, literature and identity politics by Paola Toninato, *Romani Studies* 26 (2), 191-195.

2018 Roma voices in the German-speaking world by Lorely French, *Romani Studies* 28 (1), 141-145.