**2012 Course description**

**Albanian Culture and Society in Ethnographic and Anthropological Analysis: A Critical Perspective**

**Dr. Nebi Bardhoshi, Olsi Lelaj**

The overall aim of this course is to bring and draw the students’ attention to the ways Albanian culture and society was read, explored and portrayed ethnographically and anthropologically either by foreign or Albanian researchers before, during and after communism. Firstly, we will shortly assess and critically analyze the pre-WWII literature which made Albanian society and culture an object of anthropological and ethnographical inquiry. Secondly, the course will narrow its purpose and it will explore the way how Albanian society and culture was read ethnographically in the post-WWII period during ‘real socialism’ by Albanian scholars. We will critically examine the ‘epistemological’ foundations of Albania ethnography as well as the ‘ontological’ aspects of how both society and culture were conceptualized in these studies during the given period. By reading these ethnographic studies as ‘texts’, and defining the context within which they were articulated as ‘dictatorial situation’, this course attempts to understand the aims and functionality of the ethnographical knowledge during the period under investigation and in what way it related to state ideology and power. In general terms, it seems that Albanian ethnography during communism was born and raised between two conflicting ideologies of ‘modernity’ –‘nationalism’ and ‘communism’. The conflict between these ideologies was reflected in the ambiguous relation that the Albanian researchers cultivated in their conceptualization of both culture and society. The course will elaborate on several case studies drawn from Albania ethnography that vary from Kanun law to ‘state agricultural cooperatives’ in order to portray the schizophrenic attitude that the Albanian researchers cultivated towards their culture and society while carrying out their research in a highly political and ideological context. Finally, by taking a close look to the themes, issues and scholars, the course will map out the post-socialist ‘rediscovery’ of Albania society and culture as a field of interest in ethnographical and anthropological discourses.

***Nebi Bardhoshi*** (*nedeba@yahoo.com*) is author of the book “Border’s Stones”: Customary Law, Ownership, Social Structuration”. Since 2002, he is a researcher at Institute of Cultural Anthropology and Studies of Art, in Tirana. He is also the founder of the Research Centre called “Law, Norms, Tradition” Part of the Faculty of Law, at European University of Tirana. Dr. Bardhoshi is a Lecturer of Anthropology & Justice at New York University of Tirana. Dr. Bardhoshi is author and co-author of several scientific publishing in field of social and legal anthropology dealing mainly with themes related to legal plurality, legitimacy, collective identity, customary law, post-socialism etc. His fields of interest include also the theoretical analysis of Albanian ethnographic thought especially in the field of the legal ethnography and how it relates to modernity.

***Mr. Olsi Lelaj*** (*olsilelaj@gmail.com*) is a researcher at the Albania’s Institute of Cultural Anthropology and Arts Studies in Tirana. Currently, he is working on his Phd project at the Institute of Cultural Anthropology in Tirana that focuses in an ethnographic exploration of Albanian’s working class condition during and after the fall of communism.  He has served as Lecturer of Sociology and Social Anthropology in a number of public and private universities in Albania. His areas of interest includes: anthropology of labor and working class, anthropology of state, politics of identity, socialism and post-socialism, Albanian ethnographic thought during state socialism.

**Rituals, Symbols and Identities in Rural and Urban Contexts: Approaches from Folklore and Anthropology**

**Dr. Vassiliki Chryssanthopoulou, Dr. Maria Androulaki, Dr. Ljupco Risteski**

The first part of this course (by V. Chryssanthopoulou) examines theoretical approaches to the study of rituals, symbols and identities in their interrelationships, as they have developed in folklore and anthropology.  We attempt to apply these theoretical perspectives and methods of analysis to look at specific ethnographic case studies from the islands of Castellorizo, Karpathos and Kythera, and from their respective diasporas in Australia. We focus on gender, age, class and local ideologies to explore local and ethnic identities, as expressed in the rituals and through the symbols employed by the groups investigated.  In this way we investigate continuities and discontinuities, as well as novel and hybrid identities, in today’s globalised communities and their transnational and transregional cultures.

The second part of the course (by M. Androulaki) examines the roles of music rituals, singing and dancing on the islands of Karpathos and Rhodes, Dodecanese, based on systematic fieldwork. More specifically, we discuss the roles of music ritual, singing and dancing in the production of communal life in these communities in everyday and in celebratory contexts.  We also look at their implications in the politics of identity with reference to the music and singing practices of a regional Karpathian association in Piraeus, Greece.

The course will also include a lecture offered by Dr. Ljupco Risteski with a specific focus on discussions on the phenomenology and the essence of the meaning of the ritual (obrjad – in Slavic languages in different variants) with examples from the Slavic and Balkan cultures. The title of the lecture is “Phenomenology of the ritual (obrjad). Its contextualization in folk cultures among Balkan Slavic cultures”.

***Dr. Vassiliki Chryssanthopoulou*** (*chryssanthopoulou@yahoo.co.uk*) holds a D.Phil. in Social Anthropology from the University of Oxford, U.K.  She is a Lecturer in Folklore and Society in the Department of Greek Literature of the Faculty of Philosophy, National University of Athens.  Her research interests include the study of the Greek diaspora, ritual and symbolism, local identities, narrative and oral history, folk song, and the study of local identities on the internet.  She has worked as a researcher in the Hellenic Folklore Research Centre of the Academy of Athens and has taught various courses in folklore and anthropology at the Universities of the Aegean, Ioannina and Athens, and at the Greek Open University.  She is a member of various scholarly societies, has participated in local and international conferences and has published in Greek and international academic journals, collective volumes and Conference Proceedings in Greek and in English, on topics relating to her scholarly interests.

***Dr. Maria Androulaki*** ( *mandrou@academyofathens.gr*) studied Classics and Folklore at the University of Athens and holds several degrees in European and Byzantine Music and a Ph.D. in Folklore from the University of Thessaly, Greece. Her doctoral thesis deals with the music culture of the island of Rhodes, Dodecanese.  She is a member of the Hellenic Folklore Society and since 1985 she has been working as a researcher in Musicology at the Hellenic Folklore Research Centre of the Academy of Athens. Her research interests include the study of Greek customs and folk songs, ritual, performance, music folklore and anthropology of music. She has participated in many conferences and published in academic journals, conference proceedings and edited collections of essays.

***Dr. Ljupco Risteski*** ( *risteski@iunona.pmf.ukim.edu.mk*) is associate Professor at the Institute of Ethnology and Anthropology, University of Sts. Cyril and Methodius – Skopje. He received an MA (1997) in Social - Cultural Anthropology from the Faculty of Philosophy, University of Belgrade and a Ph.D. (2002) in Ethnology from the  University "Sts. Cyril and Methodius" - Skopje. His research interests include Balkan ethnology and anthropology, especially the fields of mythology and folk religion of Balkan Slavic people.

**Doing Fieldwork: Theory, Method and the Production of Anthropological Knowledge**

**Dr. Vassilis Dalkavoukis, Dr. Vassiliki Kravva, Dr.** [**Paraskevas Potiropoulos**](http://www.kentrolaografias.gr/default.asp?V_DOC_ID=2227)**, Dr. Ioannis Manos**

The aim of this course is to provide basic outlines on epistemological, methodological and practical matters to those engaged in ethnographic research. More concretely, it intends to develop an understanding of the relationship between methodological practice, data analysis and the writing of ethnography. The course is linked to the fieldwork exercise in Albania and Greece that will follow. In this view, participants will be able to reflect on and discuss their ideas and research strategies about the projects that are expected to conduct.

The course will encourage an appreciation of the problems of anthropological fieldwork and address issues such as access to the field, norms and conventions in applying research techniques in particular cultural contexts, the processual nature of fieldwork, ethical concerns, and the personal and emotional commitment of the researcher. It will also concentrate on the process of recording ethnographic data through fieldnotes and reflect on the process of turning fieldwork data into a narrative account of fieldwork. Among the topics that will be addressed are:

Theory and method in the anthropological fieldwork

Defining the ‘field’ – ways of doing fieldwork – the experience of fieldwork – Critical encounters in ethnographic practice

Research methods and the production of data: Addressing epistemological and methodological issues

Field notes in ethnographic research and the writing of ethnography

***Dr. Vassilis Dalkavoukis*** (*vdalkavo@he.duth.gr*) is a Lecturer of Ethnography of Greece at the University of Thrace. His research interests include issues of local and ethnic identities in Northern Greece.

***Dr. Vassiliki Kravva*** (*valia01@otenet.gr*) studied history and archaeology at the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki and social anthropology at the University of London and University of Cagliari (Italy). She has participated in a number of conferences and seminars in Greece and Europe and counts some publications on the issues of food, identity, the body, embodied memory, religious identity and minority issues. She has taught “Social Anthropology” at the University of London and also “Food and Anthropology” and “Political Anthropology” at several Greek Universities. For two years she has been a researcher working for the CENTROPA research project (European project). Dr. Kravva has been for some years now an active member of the Border Crossings network and has co-organised a number of student conferences throughout the Balkans. Her book on food and Jewish identities has been recently published by the German Publishing house VDM. Dr Kravva is a reviewer of the Journal of Anthropology and Sociology. She is currently lecturing anthropology at the Democritus University of Thrace, Department of History and Ethnology.

***Dr.*** [***Paraskevas Potiropoulos***](http://www.kentrolaografias.gr/default.asp?V_DOC_ID=2227) (*potpari@academyofathens.gr*) is a Researcher at the Hellenic Folklore Research Centre of the Academy of Athens. His fieldwork has been focused in the mountainous areas of Northern and Central Greece and the Ionian Islands, the refugees and the border areas. His academic interests include material culture, local identity, the symbolic construction of place and space.

***Dr. Ioannis Manos*** ( *ioannis.manos@gmail.com*) is an Assist. Professor in Social Anthropology in the Department of Balkan Studies at the University of Western Macedonia, Florina, Greece. His research interests include identity formation processes, nationalism and ethnicity, dance and music, borders and the epistemology and methodology of research.

**Ethnographic Research in Border Areas: Field Practice in both Sides of the Greek-Albanian Border**

**Prof. Vassilis Nitsiakos, Dr. Christina Veikou, Dr. Vassilis Dalkavoukis, Dr. Aliki Angelidou, Dr.** [**Paraskevas Potiropoulos**](http://www.kentrolaografias.gr/default.asp?V_DOC_ID=2227)**, Mr. Kostas Mantzos, Dr. Vassiliki Kravva, Dr. Ioannis Manos**

This course is an introduction to ethnographic fieldwork and will be conducted in both Greek and English. It focuses on issues such as re-thinking “participant observation”; from realist ethnography to modern paradigms; fieldwork and the understanding of the “other”; Identity and “otherness”; applied ethnography in border areas; national borders and ethnic groups and boundaries. Oral histories and biographies are also examined as valuable theoretical and methodological tools that enrich qualitative social analysis and deepen our understanding of concepts such as “boundaries”, “transition” and “memory”. The course examines the case of the Greek- Albanian border zone with fieldwork practice in the area of Konitsa (Greece) and Permet (Albania).

***Prof. Vassilis Nitsiakos*** (*bnitsiak@cc.uoi.gr*) holds an MA in Folklife studies (University of Leeds) and a PhD in Social Anthropology (university of Cambridge). He is teaching courses on Ethnic and National identities in the Balkans.  His current research interests involve issues of migration, identities and the Ethnography of borders in the Greek-Albanian border.

***Dr. Christina Veikou*** (*chrveikou@yahoo.gr*) has been Lecturer in Social Anthropology in the Department of History and Ethnology at the University of Thrace and Counselor at the Greek Pedagogical Institute. She has conducted fieldwork in Northern Greece and her research interests focus on Symbolic Anthropology, Anthropology of Education and Intercultural Teaching Practices.

***Kostas Mantzos*** ( *kmantzos@hotmail.com*) holds an MA degree in Social Anthropology of UCL and is currently completing his Phd thesis on the Greek minority of Albania.

For ***Dr. Vassilis Dalkavoukis, Dr. Vassiliki Kravva, Dr.*** [***Paraskevas Potiropoulos***](http://www.kentrolaografias.gr/default.asp?V_DOC_ID=2227) ***and Dr. Ioannis Manos*** see the information included in the course “Doing fieldwork”. For Dr. Aliki Angelidou, see the information included in the course “The political anthropology of crisis”.

**The Political Anthropology of the ‘Crisis’**

**Prof. Rajko Mursic, Dr. Georgios Agelopoulos, Dr. Aliki Angelidou, Dr. Dimitris Dalakoglou, Dr. Penelope Papailias**

The neoliberal ‘adjustment’ in Europe created impressive social developments evident in everyday practices and collective action. Drawing from ethnographic examples from Greece, the UK and Slovenia we will question the idea of ‘the crisis’, we will discuss the various forms of individual survival strategies and collective action in the urban milieu and we will analyze the emerging subjects, identities and collectivities related to such processes. Special attention will be given to violence as a social event and often even a means of communication. We will also focus on communication and networking in the context of phenomena like citizen-journalism or 'netizen' activism as crucial sites for the re-imagining of the political and of citizenship itself.

***Rajko Mursic*** (*rajko.mursic@ff.uni-lj.si*) is a Professor of Cultural Anthropology at the Department of Ethnology and Cultural Anthropology, University of Ljubljana. His research fields include epistemology and methodology; anthropology in Europe; theory of culture; popular music and popular culture; urban anthropology; anthropology of space and place; identification processes.

***Dr Georgios Agelopoulos*** (*avgiagel@gmail.com*) is an Assist. Professor at the Department of Balkan, Slavic and Oriental Studies, Univ. of Macedonia, Thessaloniki. His work focuses on political anthropology, ethnicity and nationalism in the Balkans and the history of Balkan ethnology.

***Dr Aliki Angelidou*** (*aliki.angelidou@gmail.com*) is a Lecturer at the Department of Social Anthropology, Panteion University Athens. Main fields of interest: Economic Anthropology, post-socialist transformations, Balkan ethnography, migration.

***Dr Dimitris Dalakoglou*** (*purityanddanger@gmail.com*) is a Lecturer at the Sussex University Department of Anthropology. His interest is in the material and spatial aspects of social change in Greece, Albania, SE Europe and post-socialist Europe.

***Dr Penelope Papailias*** (*nyni@hol.gr*) is an Assist. Professor of Historical Anthropology at the Department of History, Archaeology and Social Anthropology of the University of Thessaly, Greece. Main fields of research: the history and theory of anthropology, historical anthropology and the politics of memory, media and technology.

**Soundscapes of the Balkans: Flocks and local feasts, rock-bands and radio waves**

**Prof. Rajko Mursic, Dr. Panagiotis Panopoulos**

Based on our several research projects on the anthropology of music and sound in Greece, Slovenia and ex-Yugoslavia, we will present, in this course-seminar-workshop, aspects of our sonic environments. Taking a soundwalk around Konitsa and its surroundings, we will hear, discuss and think about our everyday sensory experiences, our bodily involvement and our emotional reverb as we get immersed into a sonic world. Get ready to record, process, discuss and reflect on your listening paths and habits. Get ready to experience and comment on soothing and disturbing sounds, noise, rumble, din, tumult, bustle, hubbub, commotion; and, of course, silence and the sounds of the Epirus mountains.

***Dr. Panayotis Panopoulos*** (*ppanopou@sa.aegean.gr*) was born in Athens in 1967. He received his University Degree in Education from the University of Athens (1989). Both his Post-graduate Degree and his Ph.D. on Social Anthropology were received from the Department of Social Anthropology of the University of the Aegean, Mytilene, in 1991 and 1998 respectively. He has taught anthropology at the Democretian University of Thrace, the University of Crete and Panteion University, Athens. He is currently Permanent Assisstant Professor of Anthropology of Music and Dance at the Department of Social Anthropology and History, University of the Aegean. His research interests concern the anthropology of sound and performance. His ethnographic publications concern the symbolism of sound and hearing in modern Greece (e.g. “Animal Bells as Symbols: Sound and Hearing in a Greek Island Village”, Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute 9: 639-56, 2003); another part of his research concerns the study of local associations and the role of musical performaces in the construction of place (e.g. “Retour au village natal: Associations locales et renouveau culturel”. Ethnologie Francaise XXXV, 2: 243-53, 2005). He has recently embarked on a new research project concerning the culture of the Deaf community in Greece. He has also been a Research Visiting Scholar at Princeton University and the University of California, Berkeley. He is a member of the European Association of Social Anthropologists and the Greek Society for Acoustic Ecology.

For ***Prof. Rajko Mursic***, see the information included in the course “The political anthropology of crisis”.

**The anthropology of Dance**

The aim of the course is to provide theoretical perspectives on dance – specifically the anthropology of dance. We will look at the historical development of the field and the different strands of dance studies. With special emphasis on identity, politics and power we critically approach ethnographic cases through the analytical lens of dance.

**Prof. Magda Zografou,  Dr. Stavroula Pipyrou**

***Magda Zografou*** (*zografou@phed.uoa.gr*) is Professor of Greek Traditional Dance – Ethnochoreology, in the Department of Physical Education and Sports Science at the University of Athens where she is also a member of the coordination committee for the Masters programme. She is a coordinator and tutor at the Greek Open University in Greek Culture: Arts II / Review of Greek Music and Dance. She has published extensively and has participated in Greek and international conferences. She has also translated and edited foreign volumes on dance. Her research interests are focused on Greek dance, specifically among Pontians and Asia Minor refugees.

***Stavroula Pipyrou*** (*stavroula.pipyrou@durham.ac.uk*) is a teaching fellow in the Department of Anthropology, Durham University. She has conducted extensive fieldwork among the Greek linguistic minority (Grecanici) in Reggio Calabria, South Italy, focusing on issues of politics and governance, civil society, mafia, and relatedness. Stavroula has also conducted research among Pontian communities in Northern Greece addressing issues of dance, identity formation and nationalism. She has published on language commensurability, civil society, rural-urban migration, and dance and nationalism.