


Institute of Social Sciences  
and Humanities - Skopje

GRADUATE STUDY PROGRAMS





About **ISSHS**



The Institute of Social Sciences and Humanities, Skopje (ISSHS) is a nonprofit research organization in applied social and humanities studies focusing mainly on multi-issue policy studies. It holds the status of a scientific institution in the fields of social sciences and humanities accorded by the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Macedonia (Decision nr. 30). It is also an accredited graduate school offering MA level programs in multi-issue policy studies, cultural studies and gender studies. The Institute holds an Erasmus+ charter of Higher Education Institutions in Europe. Its core activities consist in multi-issue policy studies and policy related advocacy and training, coupled with basic research in the social sciences and humanities. Making findings visible and putting them into function that can contribute to positive changes in society is attached to that of policy research: data driven advocacy and awareness raising are part of every policy research activity we undertake. We also provide consultancy and act as multi-issue policy studies think tank.

About the MA PROGRAMS

The Institute of Social Sciences and Humanities from Skopje is committed to the long terms goals of the EU Modernisation and Internationalisation Agenda for Higher Education, and to the philosophy and the overarching aims of the Erasmus Charter for Higher Education. We believe that higher education serves to critically reflect upon our social and economic realities and to reinvent their possibilities by way of forging new horizons of scientific, theoretical and academic vision. The transformative relationship to the current social and economic realities should be grounded in scientific rigor, applied research and reliable data. In other words, scientific innovation in the social sciences and humanities and the applied and policy oriented research are integrally linked with the higher education. This is the philosophy and the core policy statement of the Institute of Social Sciences and Humanities, Skopje. We are committed to international excellence which is fostered through fora such as summers schools (in political sciences, philosophy, and other, primarily interdisciplinary areas), numerous academic internships of young researchers from throughout Europe, symposiums, international publications including the journal “Identities,” and other forms of collaboration. Our international partnerships are also endorsing the main value pillars of the Erasmus program, namely staff and student mobility, innovation in teaching and learning, research and innovation combined with advanced capacity-building for the faculty and staff.

The Institute holds an Erasmus Charter Award of European Higher Education Institutions (Erasmus Charter Award of European Higher Education Institutions). Also, the Institute is member of of the European Consortium for Humanities Institutes and Centers ( European Consortium for Humanities Institutes and Centers).



## MA Program in POLICY STUDIES

Policy Studies is an interdisciplinary area that falls within the area of Social Sciences and Humanities. Its interdisciplinary nature simultaneously mobilizes approaches from various fields: Sociology with its cultural aspects, Political Economy, Law, International Relations Studies, Development Studies, Gender Studies, Philosophy and Social Psychology. What unites all the mentioned approaches, like all interdisciplinary areas, is the unique epistemological framework that is the basis of the justified study of the multilayer character of the problem that requires combining analytical approaches from several fields in the same area. Policy Studies is defined as applied social science, through which the empirical approach is an unavoidable element of methodological and substantive standpoint. The empirical approach on which these studies are based on is not reduced only to quantitative analysis and insights. Rather, the inventive and innovative solutions in the area of policy, it is necessary to interpret, among other things, the cultural preconditions and mechanisms of psychological internalization of social situations. This means that the application of qualitative research methods and discursive analysis is crucial for truly applicable analysis of the society and its policies.

Professional opportunities :

The labour market also needs specialists in this field as in Macedonia there is a lack of a specialist degree program in this field. Employees in public administration, civil society, NGOs and the private sector in the administration are constantly involved in the creation of new policies.

These processes usually boil down to taking ready-made solutions from the West and making minimal adaptation based on common sense, and not science grounded insights and methodological consistency. In practice, processes mainly arise from a constant reworking of laws or calls to change the laws (by the civil society) instead of creating decisive organizational mechanisms prescribed by laws or other internal decision making and prescribing criteria, values and procedures of specific institutions and organizations.

The interdisciplinary approach is crucial for understanding of the multi-layered character of the question of applicable policies, tailored to the specific social context and issues.

Expertise in this area are required from the employees in the administration (both public and private), non-governmental organizations from all areas of activity and from the entrepreneurs.

The Scientific degree gained from the Policy Studies:  
After graduation and a successful defence of a thesis the student obtains the scientific degree: Master of Arts (MA) in Policy Studies.

The candidates that gain 300 credits from the first and the second cycle will gain the relevant scientific degree.





## MA Program in GENDER STUDIES

Gender studies are an interdisciplinary area in the fields of social sciences and humanities. Its interdisciplinarity mobilizes many approaches: psychological, philosophical, historical, sociological, cultural, communications and others. Gender studies seeks to understand, interpret and offer alternatives to the models of patriarchy and gender asymmetry. It is engaged in achieving bigger gender equality, rather than just a simple interpretation of gender relations. Our study program covers philosophy, sociology, cultural studies, political studies, psychoanalytic theory, poststructuralist theories of identity and semiotics, focusing on structuralism, Marxism and applied social research.

Academic title after finishing the study program:

After completing the studies (of 300 ECTS earned in the first and the second cycle of studies) and upon a successful defense of the master thesis, the student will earn an MA degree in gender studies. Requirements for enrollment: Degree (certificate) for completed bachelor studies of 240 ECTS (or four years of study in the first cycle) in the fields of social sciences and humanities.



## MA Program in CULTURAL STUDIES

Cultural studies is an interdisciplinary area in the social sciences and humanities. It includes the fields of philosophy, sociology, literature, political sciences, linguistics, history, psychoanalysis and others.

The unifying element of all these approaches is the shared epistemological framework in the tackling of issues concerning societal structure, political legitimacy in the functioning of state institutions, administrative systems and the establishment. Namely, cultural studies investigates what it means to be a subject (regardless of whether collective or individual) to the norms of society, materialized as either institutional policies and laws or as culture. Moreover, it focuses on the fact that the underlying cultural paradigm is always already reflected in the written and in the unwritten norms of numerous social, political and economic phenomena, traditionally studied within specific disciplines.

The mechanic separation of the specific aspects of social phenomena according to specific disciplines, their reduction to static objects of analysis aims to provide stability for the separate disciplines. It does not allow interpreting the complexity of the object of investigation. Thus, we get a fragmented picture of a unique, complex and dynamic social phenomenon. At ISSHS, through the interdisciplinary training we offer, we aim to do precisely the opposite and address the subjects of study in their aspect of complexity which requires political, sociological, psychoanalytic, ethnological, economic approaches.

Professional opportunities: The research community in Macedonia (scientists and analysts in numerous think-tank centers and NGOs) is in need of scientific and skill



## MA Program in CULTURAL STUDIES

oriented training of the analysis of the cultural aspects of socio-economic, political and gendered phenomena. On the other hand, in today's era of engaged cultural (art) practices, artists, cultural managers, professionals and activists in NGO's in the area of culture, are in need of training that will enable them to understand the functioning of the institutions of the state, political and economic trends from aspect of "organic integrity" prof-fered by the underlying cultural paradigm.

Academic title to be earned upon graduation:

After completing the studies (of 300 ECTS earned in the first and the second cycle of studies) and upon a successful defense of the master thesis, the student will earn an MA degree in Cultural Studies.

Terms of **ENROLLMENT**



## Terms of ENROLLMENT

– For one year study programs: 4-year undergraduate degree (or acquired 240 ECTS credits) in the field of social sciences and humanities. High grades from BA studies are not required, although can be an advantage.

– Two-year program: 3-year undergraduate degree (or acquired 180 ECTS credits) in the fields of social sciences and humanities. High grades from BA studies are not required, although can be an advantage.

### **Documents required:**

– Diploma certificate for completed studies of first cycle (4 years or 240 ECTS credits for one year studies / 3 years or 180 ECTS for two year studies) in the field of social sciences and humanities.

– Notarized copy of diploma / certificate of graduation may be submitted in addition, before signing the contract no later than the beginning of the school year, after the submission of electronic copy in case of electronic filing.

– Completed application form, which can be downloaded from the website of the Institute: [www.isshs.edu.mk](http://www.isshs.edu.mk) (under “Study Programs”).

### **Costs of study:**

– The tuition of one-year study program is 550 Euros in MKD. This amount includes all costs of studying and study materials while the defense of the thesis is paid separately (250 Euros).

– The tuition of two-year study program is 800 Euros in MKD. This amount includes all costs of studying and study materials while the defense of the thesis is paid separately (250 Euros).

Please note that the Institute allows paying in installments.

Meet Our PROFESSORS



## Meet our PROFESSORS

### [KATERINA KOLOZOVA]

Katerina (Katarina) Kolozova, PhD. is the director of the Institute in Social Sciences and Humanities-Skopje and a professor of philosophy, epistemology and gender studies at ISSHS and also at the University American College-Skopje. She is also visiting professor at several universities in Southeastern Europe. In 2009, Kolozova was a visiting scholar at the Department of Rhetoric (Program of Critical Theory) at the University of California-Berkeley, under peer supervision of prof. Judith Butler. Kolozova is the author of "The Cut of the Real: Subjectivity in Poststructuralist Philosophy," NY: Columbia University Press: 2014, "Toward a Radical Metaphysics of Socialism: Marx and Laruelle," (Brooklyn NY: Punctum Books, 2015), "After the 'Speculative Turn:' Realism, Philosophy and Feminism," co-edited with Eileen Joy (Brooklyn NY: Punctum Books 2015). She is also the author of numerous interdisciplinary policy studies dedicated to the issues of "illiberal democracy," partocratic mechanisms of state-capture in "hybrid regimes," policy critique of repressive technocracy in the legislation of the authoritarian neoliberal post-socialist states in Europe.

### [DONA KOLAR-PANOV]

Dona Kolar-Panov is professor of communications and new media. She is also visiting professor at a number of national and international universities, such as Murdoch University (Perth, Australia). Her academic interests are numerous and her interdisciplinary scope encompasses cyberculture, communications, theories of new media and television studies. She is the author of Video, War and the Diasporic Imagination in 2001 by Routledge. The book has had 11 editions since.



## Meet our PROFESSORS

### [GORDAN GEORGIEV]

Gordan Georgiev has been active in the civil sector for 20 years. Georgiev was Executive Director of Forum-CSRD, one of the leading think tanks in Macedonia, and Director of the Macedonian School of Politics, under the auspices of Council of Europe and part of the regional network of Schools of Politics comprising 15 countries from the Balkans, Russia and CIS. He was also engaged in projects at the Centre d'Etudes de Relations Internationales (CERI) in Paris and in the mission of Charles Leopold Mayer Foundation's projects in Congo-Brazzaville and Congo-Kinshasa. He is an expert for Westminster Foundation for Democracy (WFD) and has been working as an expert and independent consultant for Swiss Development Cooperation (SDC) and other international bodies.

His expertise includes research and field projects on democratic stabilization, reconciliation, inter-ethnic relations, political parties' reform and consolidation, regional political cooperation, international relations and regional security issues, reform of the parliamentary practices, decentralisation and reform of the local-self government. From 2009 to 2013, Georgiev was elected as MP in the Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia (SDSM), chairing the Committee on Culture.

He holds a BSc and MSc from the Institut d'Etudes Politiques de Paris, France, in Political Science and International Relations, and he obtained M.A. in European Studies from King's College London. In 2009 he accomplished the Harvard Executive Education programme. Georgiev obtained his PhD in political sciences in 2016, dealing with societal system theories and structures of power. Apart his contributions in many regional and international journals, Georgiev is a contributing author in "Problems of Representative Democracy in Europe" ed. by Jan Marius Wiersma (2014, Vangennep Amsterdam) and in "Reshaping the image of the political parties in SEE" ed. by Georgi Karasimeonov (2007).





## Meet our PROFESSORS

### **[BRANIMIR JOVANOVIC]**

Branimir Jovanovic is an economic researcher, currently engaged as an adviser to the Minister of Finance of the Republic of Macedonia. He is also an associate professor at the Institute of Social Sciences and Humanities. His research interests include fiscal policy, income inequality, poverty, labour rights, financial crises.

He has worked as a visiting researcher at the University of Turin, as a visiting professor at the University American College Skopje and as an analyst/researcher at the National Bank of the Republic of Macedonia.

He holds a PhD in economics from the University of Rome “Tor Vergata” and MSc from Staffordshire University, UK.

### **[MARIJAN PETRESKI]**

Marijan Petreski is Associate professor of the Post graduate studies of ISSHS and Vice-Dean for Research School of Business Economics and Management at the University American College – Skopje. He specialized in research and education of applied macro-economy. Petreski made his Phd in economy at Staffordshire University, Great Britain in 2011. His research is published in international journals like Journal of Monetary Economics and Finance и International Journal of Economics. He had presentation on international conferences in: Perugia, London, Barcelona, Luxembourg, Munich, Xiamen, Izmir, Chicago and Moscow. For his research he was awarded as young scientist in 2009 by the Macedonian Academy for Sciences and Arts and with Olga Radzyner award in 2010 by the Central Bank of Austria. His academic interest is in monetary politics and international finance.



## Meet our PROFESSORS

### [SENKA ANASTASOVA]

Dr. Senka Anastasova is associate professor at Institute of Social Sciences and Humanities-Skopje, director of Research Centre in Sciences and Arts, Skopje, philosopher, feminist, writer, author of theoretical books: Theory of Popular Culture. Cultural Studies (2012), Narrative Identities: Christa Wolf and Dubravka Ugresic (2007) and author of hybrid songs books: „Gala and Gala” (1997) and „Sketch Sequences” (2005).

She is member of American Political Science Association (United States), Political Science Association (PSA), Cultural Studies Association (United States). She teaches: Introduction to Cultural Studies, Post-colonialism, Visual Culture, Culture, Gender and Politics. Her domain of interests are: philosophy of social sciences, theories of culture/subculture, political philosophy, feminist political economy, aesthetics, phenomenology of film. For her scientific work she has received British Voya Kondic Prize (in 2006). She has been associate research fellow at University of Greenwich, University of London, Macquarie University (Sydney) at Macedonian Academy of Sciences and Arts.

From 2015 she constitutes academic collaboration with Art Institute in San Francisco (United States of America). Has been lecturing at Universities in America, Australia, Belgium, Netherlands, Finland, Greece, Spain, Italy, Germany. Currently she publishes for feminist political economy, postfeminist politics against capitalism, gender gaps, critical issues for world bank economics forum.



## Meet our PROFESSORS

### [VIKTORIJA BOROVSKA]

Viktorija Borovska is Ph.D. Researcher at Institute for Social Studies and Humanities- Skopje. She holds an Ph.D. in Sociology. She has worked on many projects in the area of social and humanity sciences, selection of the recent research projects and positions: Researcher “Independent Context Watch 2014”; Researcher: “Official Language Usage in Municipalities in the Republic of Macedonia”; Researcher: “Skopje 2014 Project and its Effects on the Perception of Macedonian Identity Among the Citizens of Skopje”; Researcher: “Ethnically and Gender Inclusive Grass-Root LGBT Movements in Macedonia”; Trainer of the training: “Gender equality as social value and creating policy for its implementation in practice of the institutions and society”;

Researcher : “Ethnically and Gender Inclusive Grass-Root LGBTI Movements in Macedonia”; Researcher of the studies for Broadcasting Council of the Republic of Macedonia regarding the gender representation and presence of gender issues in TV media (2012 and 2013); Researcher: “Improving the forcibility of mechanisms and instruments for judiciary’s independence in Macedonia”; Coordinator and Researcher of the research project “Index of Social Inclusion at Local Level: Creating an Instrument for Evaluation of the Equality of Access and Fair Allocation of Local Services” (2010-2011); Researcher of the project Gender, Migration, Intercultural Relations- Ge.M.I.C; founded under FP 7- Cooperation -.Socio-economic Sciences and Humanities (2008-2011).

She also has the methodological experience in designing quantitative/qualitative methodology of research projects, as well as practical experience in collecting qualitative and quantitative data, processing of data and its analysis.

She participated in seminars, workshops and courses, just to mention: ReSet Regional Seminar for Excellence in Teaching “Gender and Women’s studies in Southeastern Europe: Rethinking Ideologies and Strategies of Their European Integration”; “Gender issues and concepts of feminism”.



## Meet our PROFESSORS

### **[ANA BLAZEVA]**

Ana Blazheva, Ph.D., Program Coordinator, Researcher/ Assistant Professor the Institute of Social Sciences and Humanities – Skopje. She holds MA in sociology and gender studies. She hold a PhD in cultural studies.

As researcher she participated in various education and gender related researches both national and international. Recently she participated as Assistant-researcher of the research for Broadcasting Council of the Republic of Macedonia regarding the gender representation and presence of gender issues in TV media (2012);She was researcher in “Gender, migration and intercultural interaction – GeMIC” (2008 -2011) in the WP5 for Intercultural Education funded under FP7Program of the European Commission Research Directorate General.

Her experience in project management is in the area of education, violence reduction and youth projects. She was coordinator and trainer for National “Program for prevention of violence in schools in R. Macedonia” in partnership with Bureau for development of Education supported by UNICEF

She also participated in different projects as teacher trainer in collaboration with the Bureau for development of education and development of National policy for violence reduction in schools with Ministry of education and science.

She is author of articles, brochures and training manuals for teachers.



## Meet our PROFESSORS

### [KALINA LECHEVSKA]

Kalina Lechevska is a Senior Researcher and an Associate professor at the Institute of Social Sciences and Humanities-Skopje. She has a PhD in Sociology, from the Department for Sociology at the Institute for Sociological, Political and Legal Research, at the University "St.Cyril and Methodius".

Lechevska has worked on many projects organized by the ISSHS and co-authored the publications: "Freedom of Expression, Association and Entrepreneurship in a Captured State: Macedonia In 2015," "Technology of State Capture: Overregulation in Macedonian Media and Academia," "Legalizing Restrictions of the Freedom of the Press," "Ethnically and Gender Inclusive Grass-Root LGBTI Movement in Macedonia," "Who owns Alexander the Great?": A Question Upon Which EU Enlargement Relies"

### [MAJA MUHIC]

Prof. Dr. Maja Muhic studied philosophy, cultural anthropology and gender studies. Her interdisciplinary academic experience guides her interest in the field of feminist philosophy, theories of multiculturalism, postcolonial theory, and interpretative / symbolic anthropology. She writes about topics such as the formation and complexity of ethnic identities, multiculturalism, ritual symbolism, etc.



## Meet our PROFESSORS

### [ELIZABETA BAKOVSKA]

Elizabeta Bakovska (1969). She received her BA and MA from the Faculty of Philology “Blaze Koneski” in Skopje, from the English Language and Literature Department. She received her Ph.D. in gender studies from Euro-Balkan Institute. She is the editor-in-chief of Blesok, an electronic magazine for culture and literature ([www.blesok.mk](http://www.blesok.mk)). She translates, writes poetry and prose, as well as literary theory and criticism.

### [IRENA CVETKOVIC]

Irena Cvetkovic holds a PhD in gender studies. As a younger researcher she has worked on many research projects in the fields of sociology, gender studies, and media. She is the author behind the socially engaged blog Fem Guerilla, and afterwards was a columnist in the Dnevnik newspaper. She is an activist for the human rights of marginalized communities, and has a special focus on LGBT people’s rights, drug users and sex workers. She is active in several formal and informal activist associations. At the moment, she is the Executive Director of Coalition Margini.

### [ALEKSANDAR TAKOVSKI]

Aleksandar Takovski is an Assistant Professor in Discourse Analysis at SEEU and also a researcher and Assistant Professor at the Institute of Social Sciences and Humanities Skopje. His research interest spans across several areas like political discourse analysis, critical discourse analysis, social semiotics, landscape semiotics, multimodality, and pragmatics and interdiscursivity of political and ethnic humor. His research has been presented on several international conferences and published in internationally renown journals like Journal of Language and Politics, Language and Dialogue, HUMOR.



## Meet our PROFESSORS

### [DIMITAR BECHEV]



Dimitar Bechev is the director of the European Policy Institute, a think-tank based in Sofia, Bulgaria. Previously, he held research fellowships at Harvard University, University of Oxford and the London School of Economics, and headed the Sofia office of the European Council on Foreign Relations (ECFR). Dr. Bechev has written extensively on EU's external relations, the politics and modern history of Turkey and the Balkans, and Russia's foreign policy. His book *Rival Power* (Yale University Press, 2017) explores Russia's role in Southeast Europe (Balkans, Greece, Cyprus, and Turkey). He is a regular contributor to Al Jazeera, the American Interest, Politico, Foreign Policy, and openDemocracy. He holds a D.Phil. (PhD) from the University of Oxford.

Dr. Bechev's is also a fellow at The Center for Slavic, Eurasian and East European Studies at University of North Carolina, where his research project examines the foreign policy of hybrid regimes, looking at the cases of Russia and Turkey. It inquires into the impact of domestic politics and institutions on external relations.

### [RISTO KARAJKOV]



Risto Karajkov holds a PhD in international development from the University of Bologna where he specialized in foreign aid to the Balkans in the period of transition, and an MS from the University of Trento. He holds several fellowship among which with the Centre for Civil Society Studies from the Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, US, and UNU-WIDER in Helsinki. His fields of interest include foreign assistance and donor policies with particular focus on EU pre-accession aid, international civil society and NGOs, project development and evaluation, as well as Balkans affairs. He has taught at the Integrated Business Faculty in Skopje. He has contributed as journalist/analyst to a number of international media including but not limited to the Osservatorio Balcani, The International Herald Tribune, The New York Times, European Voice, Il Riformista. He is the founder and director of DeSo, a development & management consultancy based in Skopje.







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