
MILENA V. NIKOLOVA

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PROFESSIONAL CAREER

Employment

Research Associate, Institute for the Study of Labor (IZA), Bonn, Germany September 2014 - present
Nonresident Intern and Researcher, Global Economy and Development Program, The Brookings Institution, Washington, DC August 2012 - May 2014
Emerging Scholar, Center on Nonprofits and Philanthropy, The Urban Institute, Washington, DC January 2010 - May 2011
Policy Analyst, Applied Public Policy Research Institute for Study and Evaluation, Princeton, NJ June 2008 - May 2009

Consulting

Short-term Consultant, Global Economy and Development Program, The Brookings Institution, Washington, DC July - August 2013
Short-term Consultant, Illicit Financial Flows Project, The World Bank, Washington, DC May - June 2013

Research Affiliations

Nonresident Fellow, Global Economy and Development Program, The Brookings Institution, Washington, DC June 2014 - present
Research Affiliate, Happiness Research Organization, Düsseldorf, Germany March 2016 - present
Research Affiliate, Central European Labour Studies Institute (CELSI), Bratislava, Slovakia March 2016 - present

Teaching Experience

Lecturer, The Business Environment in Transition Countries, Summer Course, European Business School, Wiesbaden June 30, 2016
Teaching Assistant, Development Challenges, University of Maryland, College Park Spring 2014
Teaching Assistant, Center for Philanthropy and Nonprofit Leadership, University of Maryland, College Park Fall 2011-Spring 2012
Teaching Assistant, Economics Department, Gettysburg College Fall 2006, Fall 2007
Grader, Mathematics Department (Multivariate Calculus), Gettysburg College Fall 2006
Teaching Assistant, Mathematics Department (Pre-Calculus), Gettysburg College Fall 2005

EDUCATION

University of Maryland, School of Public Policy, College Park, MD August 2014
Ph.D. in Policy Studies/International Development
Dissertation: "Goodbye Lenin, Hello Europe? An Empirical Investigation of Subjective Well-being in Transition and Post-transition Economies." *Chair*: Carol Graham
The American University, School of Public Policy, Washington, DC May 2011
Master of Public Policy
Gettysburg College, Gettysburg, PA May 2008
B.A. in Economics (with honors) and minors in Mathematics and Political Science (*summa cum laude*)
Denmark's International Study Program (DIS), Copenhagen, Denmark Spring 2007

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-reviewed

Nikolova, M. and Nikolaev, B. Does Joining the EU Make You Happy? Evidence from Central and Eastern Europe. *Accepted w. minor revision. Journal of Happiness Studies.*

Nikolova, M., Roman, M., and Zimmermann, K.F. (2016, in press). Left Behind but Doing Good? Civic Engagement and the Left Behind in Two Post-Socialist Countries. *Journal of Comparative Economics*.

Nikolova, M. Migrant well-being after leaving transition economies. *IZA World of Labor* 2015: 195 doi: 10.15185/izawol.195

Nikolova, M., & Graham, C. (2015). In transit: The Well-being of Migrants from Transition and Post-transition Countries. *Journal of Economic Behavior & Organization*, 112, 164-186.

Graham, C. and **Nikolova, M.** (2015). Bentham or Aristotle in the Development Process? An Empirical Investigation of Capabilities and Subjective Well-being. *World Development*, 68(0), 163-179.

Nikolova, M. (2015). Government Funding of Private Voluntary Organizations Is There a Crowding-Out Effect?. *Nonprofit and Voluntary Sector Quarterly*, 44(3), 487-509.

Nikolova, M. and Graham, C. (2014). Employment, Late-Life Work, Retirement, and Well-being in Europe and the United States. *IZA Journal of European Labor Studies*, 3(5), 1-30.

Nikolova, M. (2014). Principals and Agents: An Investigation of Executive Compensation in Human Service Nonprofits. *VOLUNTAS: International Journal of Voluntary and Nonprofit Organizations*, 25(3), 679-706.

Graham, C., and **Nikolova, M.** (2013). Does Access to Information Technology Make People Happier? Insights from Well-Being Surveys from around the World. *The Journal of Socio-Economics*, 44, 126-139.

Book Chapters

Nikolova, M. Happiness and Development. Book Chapter in the International Handbook of Development Ethics (Drydyk, J. and Keleher, L., Eds.)

DeVita, C., **Nikolova, M.**, and Roeger, K. L. (2014). Nonprofit Advocacy in the Nation's Capital. In *Nonprofits and Advocacy*, Pekkanen, R. and Smith, S. R. (eds.). Baltimore, MD: The Johns Hopkins University Press.

Boris, E. T., Marronick, M. and **Nikolova, M.** (2014). Shaping the Government-Nonprofit Partnership: Direct and Indirect Advocacy. In *Nonprofits and Advocacy*, Pekkanen, R. and Smith, S. R. (eds.). Baltimore, MD: The Johns Hopkins University Press.

Research Reports and Briefs

Boris, E. T., Leon, E., Roeger, K. L., and **Nikolova, M.** (2010). Human Service Nonprofits and Government Collaboration: Findings from the 2010 National Survey of Nonprofit Government Contracting and Grants. (Research Report). Washington, DC: The Urban Institute Press.

Boris, E. T., Leon, E., Roeger, K. L., and **Nikolova, M.** (2010). National Study of Nonprofit-Government Contracting: State Profiles. (Research Report). Washington, DC: The Urban Institute Press.

Boris, E. T., Leon, E., Roeger, K. L., and **Nikolova, M.** (2010). Contracts and Grants between Human Service Nonprofits and Governments. (Research Brief). Washington, DC: The Urban Institute Press.

Working Papers and Work in Progress

Nikolova, M. Minding the Happiness Gap: Political Institutions and Perceived Quality of Life in Transition. *Revise and Resubmit*.

Ivlevs, T., **Nikolova, M.**, and Graham, C. Emigration, remittances, and psychological well-being of those staying behind: Evidence from the Gallup World Poll. *Revise and Resubmit*.

Nikolova, E. and **Nikolova, M.** Unexpected lessons: The political economy of the franchise in colonial Virginia. *Revise and Resubmit*.

Nikolova, M. and Popova, O. The Bulgarian happiness (in)efficiency.

Nikolova, M. and Ayhan, S. Does your spouse's unemployment make you unhappy?

Nikolova, M. and Graham, C. Well-being and Migration Intentions: New Evidence from the Gallup World Poll.

Nikolaev, B. and **Nikolova, M.** Subjective Well-being, Borrowing, and Saving.

Blogs

Nikolova, M. Two solutions to the challenges of population aging. (May 2, 2016). The Brookings Institution's UP FRONT blog. Note: Also an IZA Newsroom Article.

Nikolova, M., Roman, M., and Zimmermann, K.F. Migration May Benefit Those at Home in Bulgaria, Romania (January 7, 2016). The Gallup Blog.

Nikolova, M. and Graham, C. Can Migration Boost Incomes, Happiness, and Freedom Satisfaction? (October 17, 2014). The Brookings Institution's UP FRONT blog. Note: Also an IZA Newsroom Article.

Graham, C. and **Nikolova, M.** Why Aging and Working Makes us Happy in 4 Charts. (March 28, 2014). The Brookings Institution. Note: Also an IZA Newsroom Article.

PRESENTATIONS AND INVITED LECTURES

- 2016:** EACES Conference (September 8-10), Regensburg, Germany; IOS Summer Academy (June 15-17), Tutzing, Germany; Brookings Institution Well-being Workshop (May 19-20), Washington, DC; Happiness Conference (March 15-16), Rome; Seminar at the Tinbergen Institute, Erasmus University Rotterdam (February 1); Seminar at the Institute for East and Southeast European Studies (IOS) (January 26), Regensburg.
- 2015:** Human Dignity and Human Development Conference (October 22-24), Notre Dame, Indiana; 13th ISQOLS Conference (15-17 October), Phoenix, Arizona; 14th IZA/SOLE Transatlantic Meeting (July 2-5), Buch/Ammersee, Germany; Temple University Department of Economics (March 20); Oxford College of Emory University (March 17); 52nd Annual Meetings of the Public Choice Society (12-15 March), San Antonio, Texas.
- 2014:** EUBORDERREGIONS Conference, (27-28 November), Tartu, Estonia; Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management (APPAM) 2014 International Conference, (September 28-30), Segovia, Spain; 2nd NEUJOBS Validation Event, (April 9-11), Bonn, Germany (*Poster*); D.C. Political Economy Seminar Series, (March 28), Inter-American Development Bank, Washington, DC (with Carol Graham, Soumya Chattopadhyay, and Len Goff).
- 2013:** Brookings-IZA Roundtable Discussion for the Launch of "International Handbook on the Economics of Migration," (November 20), Washington, DC; Development Circle, (October 23), College Park, MD.
- 2012:** Association for Research on Nonprofit Organizations and Voluntary Action (ARNOVA) Annual Conference, (November 15-17), Indianapolis, IN; Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management (APPAM) Annual Conference, (November 10), Baltimore, MD.
- 2011:** Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management (APPAM) Annual Conference, (November 5), Washington, DC (*Poster*).
- 2010:** Association for Research on Nonprofit Organizations and Voluntary Action (ARNOVA) Annual Conference, (November 20), Alexandria, VA.
- 2008:** 10th Annual Conference for Undergraduate Women in Math, (February 7-8), Lincoln, NE.

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Managing Editor: Journal of Population Economics (September 2014 – April 2016).

Reviewer: Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization (*Certificate in Excellence in Reviewing, 2014*); Journal of

Population Economics; Nonprofit and Voluntary Sector Quarterly; IZA Journal of Migration; IZA World Of Labor; International Review of Economics; Journal of Economic and Social Geography; Journal of Happiness Studies; Applied Economics; Psychology of Well-Being: Theory, Research, and Practice; Social Policy and Society.

Session Chair: Association for Research on Nonprofit Organizations and Voluntary Action (ARNOVA) Annual Conference, (November 15-17, 2012), Indianapolis, IN. Session: “Bequests and Intergenerational Transfers.”

HONORS AND AWARDS

Honorable Mention, Ruut Veenhoven Award (for demonstrating innovation and excellence in happiness studies), 2015.

Graduate Assistantship, School of Public Policy, University of Maryland, 2013 - 2014.

Dean’s Fellowship, School of Public Policy, University of Maryland, 2011 - 2013.

The Hayek Fund for Scholars Award, Institute for Humane Studies, 2012.

Emerging Scholar Award, Association for Research on Nonprofit Organizations and Voluntary Action (ARNOVA), 2012.

Merit Honor Award, School of Public Affairs, American University, 2009 - 2011.

Full Academic Scholarship, Room and Board, Gettysburg College, 2004 - 2008.

Economics Department Graduation Banner Carrier, Gettysburg College, 2008.

Outstanding Honors Thesis Award, Gettysburg College, 2008.

Eisenhower Society/R.M. Hoffman Family Memorial Prize in Economics, Gettysburg College, 2008.

Outstanding Student Award, Financial Executives International, PA Chapter, 2007.

Railing Fellow, Department of Economics, Gettysburg College, 2007.

Phi Beta Kappa, 2007.

James Boyd Hartzell Memorial Award in Economics, Gettysburg College, 2006.

SKILLS

Languages

Bulgarian (native), *English* (fluent), *Russian* (good), *German* (good and getting better - level B2/C1).

Software

Stata, LaTeX, CheckBox, SAS (basic), ArcGIS (basic), SQL (basic), MS Project (basic).