

Milena Nikolova

Curriculum Vitae

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University of Groningen
Faculty of Economics and Business
Nettelbosje 2, 9747AE Groningen, The Netherlands
✉ m.v.nikolova@rug.nl
🌐 www.milena-nikolova.com

Personal

Date of Birth: June 28, 1985, Place of Birth: Varna, Bulgaria

Citizenship: Bulgarian

Current Employment

Jan. 2018–present **Assistant Professor and Rosalind Franklin Fellow**, *University of Groningen, Faculty of Economics and Business, Global Economics & Management*, Groningen, The Netherlands.

Research Affiliations

2014–present **Nonresident Fellow**, *Global Economy and Development Program, The Brookings Institution*, Washington, DC.

2018–present **Research Fellow**, *Institute of Labor Economics (IZA)*, Bonn, Germany.

2018–present **Fellow**, *Global Labor Organization (GLO)*.

2016–present **Research Affiliate**, *Happiness Research Organization*, Düsseldorf, Germany.

2016–present **Research Fellow**, *Central European Labour Studies Institute (CELSI)*, Bratislava, Slovakia.

Education

2014 **Ph.D. in Public Policy**, *University of Maryland*, College Park.

2011 **M.A. in Public Policy**, *The American University*, Washington, DC.

2008 **B.A. in Economics**, *Gettysburg College*, Gettysburg, PA, *summa cum laude*.

Past Positions

Sept. 2014–Dec. 2017 **Research Associate**, *Institute of Labor Economics (IZA)*, Bonn, Germany.

Sept. 2012–May 2014 **Nonresident Researcher**, *Global Economy and Development Program, The Brookings Institution*, Washington, DC.

Jan. 2010–May 2011 **Emerging Scholar**, *Center on Nonprofits and Philanthropy, The Urban Institute*, Washington, DC.

Jun. 2008–May 2009 **Policy Analyst**, *Applied Public Policy Research Institute for Study and Evaluation*, Princeton, NJ.

Publications

Refereed Journal Articles

- 2018 Your Spouse Is Fired! How Much Do You Care? *Journal of Population Economics*, forthcoming, (with S. Ayhan)
- 2017 Suffrage, Labour Markets and Coalitions in Colonial Virginia. *European Journal of Political Economy*, 49, 108-122 (with E. Nikolova)
- Left Behind but Doing Good? Civic Engagement in Two Post-socialist Countries. *Journal of Comparative Economics*, 45(3), 658-684 (with M. Roman and K.F. Zimmermann)
- Does Joining the EU Make You Happy? Evidence from Central and Eastern Europe. *Journal of Happiness Studies*, 18(6), 1593-1623 (with B. Nikolaev)
- 2016 Minding the Happiness Gap: Political Institutions and Perceived Quality of Life in Transition. *European Journal of Political Economy*, 45, Supplement, 129-148
- 2015 Migrant Well-being after Leaving Transition Economies. *IZA World of Labor*: 195, DOI: 10.15185/izawol.195
- In transit: The Well-being of Migrants from Transition and Post-transition Countries. *Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization*, 112, 164-186 (with C. Graham)
- Bentham or Aristotle in the Development Process? An Empirical Investigation of Capabilities and Subjective Well-being. *World Development*, 68, 163-179 (with C. Graham)
- Government Funding of Private Voluntary Organizations: Is There a Crowding-Out Effect? *Nonprofit and Voluntary Sector Quarterly*, 44(3), 487-509
- 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 (with C. Graham)
- Principals and Agents: An Investigation of Executive Compensation in Human Service Nonprofits. *VOLUNTAS: International Journal of Voluntary and Nonprofit Organizations*, 25(3), 679-706
- 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 (with C. Graham)

Book Chapters

- 2018 Happiness and Development. In *International Handbook of Development Ethics*, (Drydyk, J. and Keleher, L., Eds.). Available as a working paper as: IZA DP 10088.
- 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 (with C. DeVita and K.L. Roeger)
- 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 (with E.T. Boris and M. Marronick)

Working Papers

Family Matters: Involuntary Parental Unemployment During Childhood and Subjective Well-being Later in Life (with B. Nikolaev)

Can Entrepreneurship Be Good For Your Health?

Emigration, Remittances and the Subjective Well-Being of Those Staying Behind: Evidence from the Gallup World Poll (with A. Ivlevs and C. Graham)

Sometimes Your Best Just Ain't Good Enough: The Worldwide Evidence on Well-being Efficiency IZA DP 10774 (with O. Popova)

Well-being and Emigration Intentions: New Evidence from the Gallup World Poll (with C. Graham)

Research Reports

2017 Chapter 1.2 Migration. What Will Move Talent? in Randstad Report "People to Jobs, Jobs to People"

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

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

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

Blogs

2016 Can European Integration Increase People's Life Satisfaction? The Brookings Institution's UP FRONT blog (with B. Nikolaev)

Two Solutions to the Challenges of Population Aging. The Brookings Institution's UP FRONT blog and IZA Newsroom

Migration May Benefit Those at Home in Bulgaria, Romania. The Gallup blog (with M. Roman and K.F. Zimmermann)

2014 Can Migration Boost Incomes, Happiness, and Freedom Satisfaction? The Brookings Institution's UP FRONT blog and IZA Newsroom) (with C. Graham)

Why Aging and Working Makes us Happy in 4 Charts. The Brookings Institution's UP FRONT blog and IZA Newsroom (with C. Graham)

Awards

2015 Honorable Mention, Ruut Veenhoven Award

2014 Certificate in Excellence in Reviewing, Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization

2013–2014 Graduate Assistantship, School of Public Policy, University of Maryland

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

2012 Emerging Scholar Award, Association for Research on Nonprofit Organizations and Voluntary Action

2011–2013 Dean's Fellowship, School of Public Policy, University of Maryland

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

- 2004–2008 Full Academic Scholarship, Room and Board, Gettysburg College
- 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
- 2007 Outstanding Student Award, Financial Executives International, PA Chapter
- 2007 Phi Beta Kappa
- 2007 Railing Fellow, Department of Economics, Gettysburg College
- 2006 James Boyd Hartzell Memorial Award in Economics, Gettysburg College

Invited Talks

- 2018 Friedrich Ebert Stiftung, Meeting of Fellowship Recipients, Würzburg, Germany (March 20); European Business School, Wiesbaden, Germany (April 11); Institute for East and Southeast European Studies (IOS), Regensburg, Germany (July 17)
- 2017 Max Planck Institute for Research on Collective Goods, Bonn, Germany (March 22); Stockholm Institute of Transition Economics (SITE) (October 10)
- 2016 Tinbergen Institute, Erasmus University Rotterdam, The Netherlands (February 1); Institute for East and Southeast European Studies (IOS), Regensburg, Germany (January 26)
- 2015 Human Dignity and Human Development Conference, Notre Dame, IN (October 22-24); Temple University Department of Economics, Philadelphia, PA (March 20); Oxford College of Emory University, Convington, GA (March 17)
- 2014 DC Political Economy Seminar Series, Inter-American Development Bank, Washington, DC (with C. Graham, S. Chattopadhyay and L. Goff) (March 28)
- 2013 Brookings-IZA Roundtable Discussion for the Launch of "International Handbook on the Economics of Migration," Washington, DC (November 20); Development Circle, University of Maryland, College Park, MD (October 23)

Conference Participation

- 2017 EALE 2017, St. Gallen, Switzerland (September 21-23); European Happiness Days, Rotterdam, The Netherlands (March 20-22); Entrepreneurship & Well-being Workshop, Steninge, Sweden (June 1-4)
Well-being Workshop, The Brookings Institution, Washington, DC (May 25-26)
- 2016 Workshop on Subjective Survey Data in Labour Market Research, Trier, Germany (October 7-8)
EACES Conference, Regensburg, Germany (September 8-10)
IOS Summer Academy, Tutzing, Germany (June 15-17)
Well-being Workshop, The Brookings Institution, Washington, DC (May 19-20)
Happiness Conference, Rome, Italy (March 15-16)
- 2015 ISQOLS Conference, Phoenix, Arizona (October 15-17)
IZA/SOLE Transatlantic Meeting Buch/Ammersee, Germany (July 2-5)
Annual Meetings of the Public Choice Society, San Antonio, TX (March 12-15)
- 2014 EUBORDERREGIONS Conference, Tartu, Estonia (November 27-28)

- APPAM International Conference, Segovia, Spain (September 28-30)
 2nd NEUJOBS Validation Event, Bonn, Germany (April 9-11)
 2012 ARNOVA Annual Conference, Indianapolis, IN (November 27-28)
 APPAM Annual Conference, Baltimore, MD (November 8-10)
 2011 APPAM Annual Conference, Washington, DC (November 3-5)
 2010 ARNOVA Annual Conference, Alexandria, VA (November 18-20)
 2008 Annual Conference for Undergraduate Women in Math, Lincoln, NE (February 7-8)

Teaching and Student Supervision

- Theses Supervision 3 MA Students in International Business and Economics, The University of Groningen, The Netherlands (January-June, 2018)
- Theses Supervision 32 BA Students in International Business, The University of Groningen, The Netherlands (January-June, 2018)
- Statistics Lecturer, Online Master of Public Administration and Policy, American University, Washington, DC (Spring 2017)
- Development Economics Lecturer, Introduction to Development Economics, Bonn Summer School in Development Policy, University of Bonn, Germany (August 3, 2017)
- 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)
- Philanthropy Teaching Assistant, Center for Philanthropy and Nonprofit Leadership, University of Maryland, College Park (Fall 2011, Spring 2012)
- Economics Teaching Assistant, Economics Department, Gettysburg College (Fall 2006, Fall 2007)
- Mathematics Grader for Multivariate Calculus, Mathematics Department, Gettysburg College (Fall 2006)
- Teaching Assistant, Mathematics Department, Gettysburg College (Fall 2005)

Professional Service

- Organizer IZA Internal Seminar (2016–2017)
- Managing Editor Journal of Population Economics (2014–2016)
- Reviewer Labour Economics; Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization (x14); Journal of Population Economics (x6); Nonprofit and Voluntary Sector Quarterly (x4); IZA Journal of Migration (x2); IZA World Of Labor(x6); International Review of Economics (x2); Journal of Economic and Social Geography; Journal of Happiness Studies (x2); Applied Economics; Public Administration Review; Psychology of Well-Being: Theory, Research, and Practice; Social Policy and Society; Oxford Economic Papers; Journal of Economics Psychology, VOLUNTAS; Comparative Migration Studies; Journal of Behavioral and Experimental Economics; Journal of Entrepreneurship and Public Policy; Springer Books

Media Coverage

- 2017 Get comfy in those office chairs, folks...you're going to be there a while by Melissa Howell, NewsOK (November 29)
- 2016 4 Things Tony Bennett Can Teach Boomers about Happiness by C. Hill, Market-Watch (5 August)
- 2015 Life satisfaction gap between transition countries and the West is closing, IZA Newsroom (9 December); Implications of Human Dignity for International Development Theory and Practice, IZA Newsroom (October 28); Happiness Requires Opportunity, Not Just Contentment by C. Graham, Brookings Social Mobility Memos (January 5)
- 2014 The happiness curve by R.J. Samuelson, The Washington Post (December 7); The Real Roots of Midlife Crisis by J. Rauch, The Atlantic (December 2014); Secret to Retiree Happiness: Part-time Work by M. Heimer, MarketWatch (April 11); The Data Are In: Life under Putin Is a Continuous Downward Spiral into Despair by C. Ingraham, The Washington Post Wonkblog (April 1)
- 2013 Pursuing Happiness: Social Mobility and Well-Being by C. Graham, Brookings Social Mobility Memos (October 24); A New Social Contract to Protect against Shocks by K. Derviş, World Economic Forum (July 22); The Next Social Contract by K. Derviş, Project Syndicate (July 18); Jobs Lost Hit 5 Million With Rigged Currencies: Cutting Research by S. Kennedy, Bloomberg (January 4)

Skills

Languages

Bulgarian (native), English (fluent), German (advanced - C1, Goethe Institute Certificate), Russian (basic), Dutch (A1-A2)

Software

Stata, L^AT_EX, CheckBox, SAS (basic), ArcGIS (basic), SQL (basic), MS Project (basic)