



ERC Synergy Grant Project Leviathan, Horizon 2020; GA 854503

**INSTITUTE OF ETHNOLOGY AND FOLKLORE STUDIES WITH ETHNOGRAPHIC  
MUSEUM – BULGARIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES,**

**TEMPORARY SCIENTIFIC UNIT ‘MEDICAL ANTHROPOLOGY’**

*in the framework of the ERC Synergy Grant Project "Taming the European Leviathan:*

*The Legacy of Post-War Medicine and the Common Good"*

*[H2020 ERC-2019-SyG; GAID: 854503]*

*and*

*the seminar "The European Leviathan – Medical Anthropology"*

**INVITATION**

**Seminar 9 (in English):**

**3 November 2022**

**Program**

**14.00 – 15.00** – *Mental Health and Culture: The Roots of a Contemporary Debate* –

Tiago Pires, PhD

**15.00 – 16.00** – *Palaces of Health: Taming a Natural Resource for the Common Good* –

Slava Savova

*The presentation time for each topic is 30 min.  
Each presentation is followed by a discussion for 30 min.*



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### Annotations:

**Tiago Pires, PhD. *Mental Health and Culture: The Roots of a Contemporary Debate.***

The connection between mental health and culture belongs to an intense contemporary debate. After all, what is the origin of mental disorders? Are they biological consequences of brain/neurological dysfunctions or do they belong to the social and symbolical field? Although it is a current debate in the psycho-medical sciences, in this presentation we will introduce the concept of "decolonization of mental health" and how it is linked to the beginning of this discussion about culture and mental health during the Cold War. To do so, we will use a global historical approach, focusing on the interconnections between Eastern and Western Europe as well as Global South/North.



An operation for stone in the head. Oil painting by a follower of Jan Sanders van Hemessen, approximately 1500 – approximately 1563



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**Slava Savova. *Palaces of Health: Taming a Natural Resource for the Common Good.***

In the decades following the Second World War an unprecedented number of healthcare projects were planned and erected across Bulgaria. Within the hierarchy of these new facilities, the balneosanatorium developed as a major category, growing into a network of balneological resorts operating at the crossing between therapy, prophylaxis, and recreation. The emergence of these public care institutions was preconditioned by an abundance of thermal waters the exploitation of which expanded significantly after 1944. The balneosanatorium infrastructures are a complex nexus that reveals the relations between labor, healthcare, and recreation within the broader framework of the biopolitics of the socialist state.



The unfinished building of the balneosanatorium at the resort of Sliven Mineral Baths (1986)  
Image: Slava Savova, 2021

**The seminar is part of the European Researchers' Night - SEARCH 2022 at IEFSEM – BAS**

**To join the seminar, please follow this link:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88378315409?pwd=eWlsNDZwSEVld01xTURsbnp3MjlUQT09>