



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; GA ID: 854503] and

the seminar “The European Leviathan – Medical Anthropology”

INVITATION

Seminar 29 (in English):

ASSIST. PROF. PHD MARIYA SLAVCHEVA

THE NON-SEEING BODY: SENSORY EXPERIENCE AND CULTURE

27 February 2025

14.00-16.00, hall 204, “Moskovska” street 6A

Annotation: This lecture presents the key arguments developed in the book *The Non-Seeing Body: Sensory Experience and Culture* (2024), analyzing the medical, social, and cultural narratives that shape the understanding of blindness across various social, technological, and cultural contexts. The lecture offers an interdisciplinary perspective on conceptualizations of blindness in both historical and contemporary settings, as well as on the processes of social and institutional formation of the *non-seeing body* in contrast to the medicalized notion of the *blind body*.

It will examine the mechanisms through which institutions, policies, and educational programs construct narratives of blindness and integrate them into broader debates on normality,



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care, and social inclusion. The lecture will explore the intersections between medical and socialist models of disability governance and, through an analysis of literary examples (e.g., H.G. Wells' *The Country of the Blind*), will highlight socialist-era perspectives and policies on disability, as well as practical aspects of the adaptation of visually impaired individuals in contemporary society.

Special attention will be given to the training programs at the National Rehabilitation Center for the Blind in Plovdiv, as well as to modern technologies that support the mobility and integration of visually impaired individuals.



Link for online participation:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84395846963?pwd=GVmoNjX2ZW7MD2dW7jYMemUcJx0VQN.1>

Meeting ID: 843 9584 6963

Passcode: 920180

If you wish to find out more about the activities of the Leviathan project team, visit the following websites:

<https://leviathan-europe.eu/>

<https://medicalanthropologybg.com/>