



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]

ROUND TABLE

SOURCES AND APPROACHES: (RE)THINKING KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTION ON THE COLD WAR

28 May 2026, 9 am – 6 pm EET

Hybrid format – 6A Moskovska Str., Art Conference Hall, and online

The forum is intended for dialogue and critical exchange on how histories of the Cold War and the European recent past are produced, framed, and challenged. Rather than assuming shared premises or stable narratives, it explicitly invites discussion on the epistemic assumptions that underpin the use of various sources, methodological choices, and interpretative approaches in Cold War historiography.

Organised as a one-day event with three two-hour sessions, the round table presents part of the recent knowledge production of the [“European Leviathan”](#) project bringing into conversation three thematic journal issues:

[Medical History](#) (*Therapies Crossing Borders in European State Socialism, 1950–1990*);

[Bulgarian Historical Review](#) (vol. 53, no. 3, 2025);

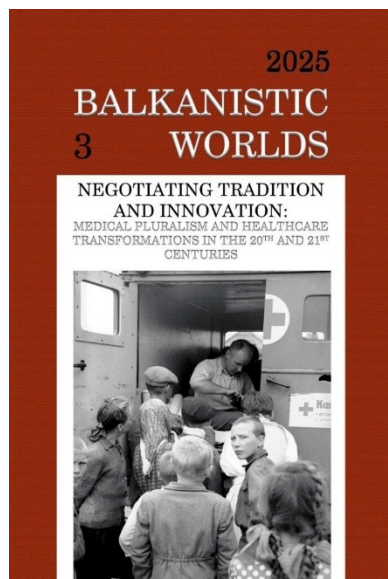
and [Balkanistic Worlds](#) (*Negotiating Tradition and Innovation: Medical Pluralism and Healthcare Transformations in the 20th and 21st Centuries*).

Each session focuses on one of the issues, using it as a starting point for dialogue rather than as a closed body of interpretation.



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Across the three sessions, participants are invited to address shared questions: How do different source bases and approaches shape what becomes visible or marginal in Cold War histories? How do comparative, interdisciplinary, transnational research and case studies contribute to the problematisation of the recent past? Where do narratives of entanglement or contestation open new perspectives, and where do they risk reproducing inherited hierarchies or epistemic closures? How do pre-socialist legacies, socialist experiences, and post-Cold War interpretive frameworks intersect in the production of historical knowledge?



The round table aims to create a space for informed disagreement, comparative reflection, and collective rethinking, treating debate as a productive force in historical scholarship.

The programme and link will follow.

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>