

International Workshop

FRAMING MATURING AND AGEING ACROSS THE IRON CURTAIN:

Health-Narratives at the Intersection
of Knowledge Production, Aesthetics and Governance

22-23 October 2026
14:30 EEST

IEFSEM – BAS, Art Conference Hall
and online

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Therapeutic Physical Culture with Madlen M. Velikova, 1983

Programme

[click here to join online](#)

22 October

14:30 Welcome by **Mila Maeva** (Director of the IEFSEM, BAS) and **Anelia Kassabova** (Principal Investigator of the Leviathan project)

Moderator: Denitsa Nenchewa (IEFSEM, BAS)

14:40 – 15:20 Inxhi Brisku (IEFSEM, BAS): Development of Old Age Pensions in Socialist Albania (Online)

15:20 – 16:00 Alissa Klots (University of Pittsburgh): Labor and Aging in the Discourse on Nikita Khrushchev's Pension Reform (Online)

16:00 – 16:10 Coffee Break

16:10 – 16:50 Alexander Langstaff (New York University): 'Respect for the Elderly': Media, Expertise, and the Moral Economy of Aging in Late Socialist Czechoslovakia (Online)

16:50 – 17:30 Denitsa Nenchewa (IEFSEM, BAS): The Matter of Caring: Debating Geriatric Services in Late Socialist Bulgaria (In Person)

17:30 – 18:00 Interim discussion

19:00 Dinner (Straight Bar & Diner)

23 October

Morning: Free time (participants are welcome to explore the city independently)

Moderator: Denitsa Nenchewa (IEFSEM, BAS)

14:30 – 15:10 Alexander Gogun (Freie Universität Berlin): A Biological Resource for a Future War. The Ideological Rejuvenation of Soviet Society through the Militarized Upbringing of Youth in the Late 1940s and Early 1950s (In Person)

15:10 – 15:50 Suchismita Ghoshal (Indira Gandhi National Open University): Growing Older Beautifully? Women's Magazines, Health Advice, and Socialist Femininity in Bulgaria and Poland (1960–1989) (Online)

15:50 – 16:00 Coffee Break

16:00 – 16:40 Nani Manvelishvili (Sulkhan-Saba Orbeliani University): Between Moscow and Tbilisi: Representations of Women in Soviet Wartime Posters (1941– 1945) (Online)

16:40 – 17:20 Nevena Dimitrova (IEFSEM, BAS): Managing the Female Body: The Female Life Course in *Woman Today* (Жената днес) in Socialist Bulgaria (In Person)

17:20 – 18:00 Final discussion and closing remarks