

## ABSTRACTS OF PUBLICATIONS BY VENETA KRASTEVA

### **Books:**

**Krasteva, V. (2019). *Youth Employment and Precarious Jobs: The Case of Bulgaria*. Sofia: Prof. Marin Drinov Publishing House of Bulgarian Academy of Sciences.**

The book explores the conditions of vulnerable young people in the labor market in Bulgaria in the period from 2008 until present day. Drawing upon available statistics, secondary analysis of previous empirical studies on the topic, comparative studies, and assessments of quantitative and qualitative data, the book looks at the impact of unemployment on youth and society as a whole. The discussion is complemented by results from in-depth interviews with young people who find themselves in a situation of job insecurity – unemployed, in temporary positions, working in the gray sector, in positions below their qualification and/or receiving low pay. This empirical information does not claim to be representative. Nevertheless, the interviews of the young people create a more detailed picture of the research problem and illustrate hypotheses about the specifics of youth employment in Bulgaria based on quantitative data.

The book has four chapters. The first chapter discusses young people as a specific social group. The notion of youth as designating a separate period in human life emerges with the onset of modernization; as a social construct, youth has historical and spatial dimensions, bound to different societies and cultures, times and history. In the book, youth years are considered as a period in which certain life transitions take place - from school to work, from the parents' home to one's own and starting a family. To-day, youth have to make these transitions in much more dynamic environments than before, with the result being a delay in social maturity. At the same time, biological maturity is attained earlier. Thus, the period defined as „youth“ is expanding and the transition from one stage to another becomes more uncertain. Whether and to what extent these transitions will be achieved depends on the context in which young people live, and the family background and resources available to the parents. Consequently, there is an increasing fragmentation among young people, caused by the different access they have to resources, education, and the labor market.

In the second part of the first chapter additional data in support of the claim that young people today are more vulnerable in the labor market are presented. Some researches show that young people from Eastern Europe whose work paths are linked to unemployment or a job below their education level, without a contract or in uncertain conditions, encounter particular difficulties later in their life. New forms of employment are also emerging, which further increases labor insecurity. The changes are brought about by forces operating long before the financial crisis of 2008. These are, on the one hand, deindustrialization, technological change, globalization and demographic transformations and, on the other hand, policy-making, country-specific demand and supply of labor and the (non)functioning of established institutional structures. There are a number of factors in Bulgaria which warrant a claim that the precarious situation of vulnerable young people is not the result of technological development and lack of digital skills among job-seekers, but rather the socio-economic context, structural problems of the labor market, changes in labor regulations and the declining role of the welfare state. The emerging trend points to a

polarization of jobs (good and bad) and risk individualization, which exacerbates the problem of precarious jobs not only among the low-skilled (those most vulnerable to change) but also among more highly skilled people.

Part three of Chapter One deals with the concept of precarity or precariousness, against which the analysis of youth employment in the book is laid out. The understanding of precarity and precarious jobs is given special emphasis in the discussion. The notion of precarity encompasses the questions of job insecurity and low quality jobs and denotes the results of a series of labor market changes which began in the 1970s, related to the declining role of the welfare state and the growing opportunities for new forms of atypical, informal, unusual employment, with, however, a deteriorating quality for more and more people. Precariousness is seen as one of the main outcomes of these changes. It does not only concern the lack of permanent work but the quality of the job itself. Therefore, in this part of the first chapter we are also looking at the effects of applying the idea of market flexibility, the emergence of the concept of flexicurity, the relationship between insecurity and quality of jobs. A number of studies in various sectors of the Bulgarian economy show that the changes subsumed under the idea of increasing “labor flexibility” are used to transfer economic risk from the employer to the worker, which augments labor insecurity especially for the most vulnerable groups.

The book draws upon numerous data to delineate the problem of precarious labour in Bulgaria and its impact on the employment of vulnerable young people. Although the number of temporary employment contracts in the country is much lower than the EU average, these contracts are associated with much higher uncertainty and likelihood of transition to unemployment than in European countries. Employment in Bulgaria is characterized by low levels of autonomy and high levels of the working poor; since 2008, for all ages there has been an increase in the working poor. For young people aged 15-24, the numbers in 2017 are twice as high as those at the peak of the financial and economic crisis in 2010 – respectively, 14.6% compared to 7.5%. The interviews conducted with vulnerable young people in the labor market show an array of differences in their situation. Some of them can be defined as labor market “drop-outs”, that is, long-term unemployed, without any work experience and qualifications. Others are “poorly integrated”– young people who often change their jobs, who work below their education level, take low-paid jobs and part-time contracts, in the grey economy. A smaller third group was identified – “integrated participants” in the labor market – youths who are in a safe working environment (having a permanent employment contract), but who have at the beginning of their career experienced periods of unemployment and insecurity.

Chapter Two analyzes the main determinants of precariousness. The main features of the economic context in Bulgaria are discussed, which are important for the employment of vulnerable young people and which create conditions for rising job insecurity. From the end of 2008 to 2013, Bulgaria experienced a decline in economic development (measured by GDP) and an increase in unemployment, especially among young people. This period is followed by constant economic growth. However, there is no significant employment growth or improvement in the quality of jobs, especially for vulnerable groups in the labor market. One explanation links

the high levels of job insecurity after 2013 not so much to the severity of the crisis but to the slow recovery of the economy in the country. Further determinants include the political decisions for deindustrialization made before the 2008 crisis, the large share of small enterprises, low foreign direct investment, and the high levels of corruption and shadow economy in the country. Furthermore, factors like structural labor market problems and policies to reduce social protection while shifting the focus on activating the inactive unemployed despite the unfavorable context and high rates of poverty in the country exacerbate the situation. Drawing from various statistics supported by in-depth interviews with young people, the chapter identifies key factors that lead to an increase in precarity: the lack of sufficient job openings; poor quality of the jobs offered (low pay, lack of security and autonomy); undeclared income from work or bogus employment contracts; unfair practices on the part of employers.

The chapter also discusses the institutional framework as conditioning the rising labor insecurity for the youth, in particular, the labor regulations and labor market policies. Since the end of the twentieth century, Bulgaria has seen constant changes both in regulation and in the main concepts of labor market policies. Rooted in the neo-liberal paradigm, these reforms have reduced the state's responsibility while further expanding the active nature of employment policies. Their focus was placed on individual shortcomings and employability, the assumption that workers would take any job instead of looking for a quality one, deregulation and flexibility of labor relations (without providing the necessary security). Disregarding the fact that young people are defined as one of the vulnerable groups in the labor market, the number of initiatives and measures targeting youth alone and the labor market actors have been drastically cut since 2008. In terms of costs by type of measure, the pursuit of active labor market policies (ALMPs) is the creation of subsidized employment, while training and qualifications are a priority in most EU Member States. Another criticism leveled against the ALMPs, and in particular the measures implemented after 2014 under the Youth Guarantee, is that they target primarily young people with secondary and tertiary education, that is, those who are "easy to activate," and thus have a limited impact on the more vulnerable groups of young people with low or no qualifications and education. The effectiveness of the active labor market measures varies – the more educated the target groups are, the more successful the measures are. This is a consequence of ineffective policy making, especially in the field of education, the result of which are significant deficits in terms of socialization and training for groups of young people, which cannot be compensated by the ALMPs. In addition, the access of young people to unemployment benefits and social assistance is very limited, which further complicates their situation, increases poverty and the risk of social exclusion. In effect, nearly 39% of the country's population in 2017 faces the risk of poverty and social exclusion, the highest percentage in the EU.

The second chapter delves further into the topic and argues that the combination of worsening economic conditions, structural problems of the labor market, and short-term measures are not adequately addressed; the initiatives for subsidized employment and the activation approach fail to achieve a sustainable increase in the employment rate among young people. Moreover, coupled with the restricted social protection measures, labor market policies add to employment

insecurity, especially for people in vulnerable and disadvantaged positions in the labor market. Applied to social policies in the socio-economic context in Bulgaria, the adopted activation approach and the neo-liberal idea of pursuing economic efficiency at any cost not only failed to reach the desired outcomes, but made the situation for the most vulnerable groups even worse, deepening social inequalities and expanding poverty rates. Moreover, the unemployed are regarded as solely responsible for their situation, and the individual is liable for all consequent risks. Placing the burden on the individual, however, shifts the attention away from the importance of (not) making opportunities available, enabled by the institutional framework and the socio-economic conditions in the country.

Chapter Three concentrates on the subjective perceptions and individual repercussions of unemployment and job insecurity, drawing upon in-depth interviews with Bulgarian youth. The analysis looks at the outcomes of vulnerable youth employment (typically characterized as uncertain, short-term, low-paid) at three levels: impact on young people themselves, at group level and society as a whole. At an individual level, most pronounced is the negative impact of precarity on material wellbeing; health and access to health services; personal autonomy and planning one's future life. The identified effects significantly transcend the financial aspects (that is, lack of funds) but have an overall impact on young people's wellbeing and health and on their ability to make important life transitions. A variety of factors determine the impact scope: family environment, education, formal support, gender, ethnicity. Making the individual accountable for all risks, the lack of state support and the failure of public policies to mitigate disparities and the (negative) effects of social background bring about deeper differentiations within the youth group. The lack of adequate integration into the labor market increase the social distances between young people, so that it is hardly possible to define today's youth as a homogeneous group. The main lines of division among the young people are the socio-economic status of the family, the location (place of residence) and the resulting opportunities for access to quality education and quality work; these are conditions over which young people have no control and can hardly change. Precarious jobs, unemployment and the circumstances from which they arise also have negative effects at the macro level. Most prominent at this level are the growing inequalities and poverty rates of large groups of people, deteriorating demographic characteristics and changes in young people's political behavior, and the rise of xenophobic and nationalist attitudes. The high levels of inequality in society derive from the unequal access to quality education, poor health, and limited access to healthcare and the labor market. The socio-economic changes brought forth by the public policies over the last three decades have led to the emergence of large groups of vulnerable people whose lives are trapped in repeated cycles of poverty and social exclusion. The data presented in the third chapter and the new research results indicate that despite the increase in average incomes and the employment rates as a whole and among young people after 2016, poverty levels and the risk of social exclusion continue to grow. In such circumstances, many young people prefer to look for work abroad instead of staying in their home country and delay starting a family, which means negative population growth and a shrinking number of working-age people. The GDP-generating workforce continuously

decreases, social security contributions are dwindling, while more retired people are in line for pensions and healthcare services. A further consequence of precariousness, the deteriorating quality of jobs and, above all, the associated poverty and growing inequalities, are the mass perception of lack of justice and equal opportunities, a growing sense of frustration and mistrust in the state institutions among large groups of young Bulgarians. Frustration and a weakened ability to actively search for jobs diminish young people's chances for decent work, for starting a family, for personal development – and, altogether, for good living – in Bulgaria. Inefficient social policy-making and the widespread public belief that state institutions do not perform are a fertile ground for the emergence of populist discourse in the country and the increased influence of nationalist political formations. Hate speech has deeply penetrated all social strata. While grave social problems such as poverty, inequality, unemployment and poor education are attributed to individuals and / or their belonging to a particular group, the political context, the policies and opportunities that they (fail to) create are not put to scrutiny.

Chapter Four deals with the main strategies that vulnerable young people in Bulgaria adopt to deal with labor insecurity and unemployment. Strategies are understood to mean not a clear plan of action, but rather the efforts that the respondents have made or are doing to improve their own well-being. In the analysis of the factors contributing to the success (or failure) of the young Bulgarians, the capability approach developed by Amartya Sen is used. The approach emphasizes the importance and genuine appreciation of freedom, understood as the capability of people to achieve different desired outcomes or states. To better grasp the complex relationship between factors at different levels (micro, meso, macro) affecting the (quality of) inclusion of young people in the labor market, the opportunities for realization of the respondents are assessed in the perspective of function and interaction of different conversion factors. The first part of the analysis focuses on the overall impact of the conversion factors on three groups of young people involved in the study; the second part describes concrete examples and life stories of young people (one man and one woman) from each category. The active agency of young people is essential in a situation of precariousness. However, it also depends to a large extent on the environment (informal and formal) that offers opportunities for young people to realize their abilities. Again, the important role of the family as a factor for realization is highlighted. The family and its support capacities (through financial and social capital) are in fact the main buffer to compensate for the insufficient institutional support, especially for the most vulnerable young people. Next, labor migration, not so much to big cities in the country, but abroad, is one of the main strategies that young people are willing to take.

The book concludes with recommendations for expanding the capacities and opportunities for realization of vulnerable young people in the labor market. Stepping on the analysis of the conversion factors and their effects, various possibilities are considered for improving the access to resources and services for vulnerable young people, in order to enhance their choices. Attention is drawn to the need for a comprehensive approach to youth employment as well as differentiated actions, targeted at specific groups of young people. The efforts to improve the situation of young people in Bulgaria require improving the functioning of each element in the

complex relationship between the education system, the labor market and the welfare state. It is not surprising that over the last few years in Europe, more and more voices are heard defending the social investment paradigm – a concept according to which the state, through its policies, must respond to the drastic changes in the economy and the social order affecting the most vulnerable groups. This can be achieved through state interventions in early childhood development, building opportunities for training and development of human capital, providing access to health and social services, supporting the creation of quality jobs. From this perspective, it is of particular importance for future research in the field of sociology of youth to study the factors for successful realization of young people from different social groups; the mechanisms enabling or hindering the transition to adulthood; the support that young people need for accomplishing what they value most in their lives. In this regard, significant efforts should be made to channel support mechanisms to youth with fewer resources.

**Krasteva, V. (2014). *The orthodox clergy in a market economy in Bulgaria. A study in the field of sociology of religion*. Saarbrücken, Germany: Scholar`s Press, ISBN: 978-3-639-66111-8**

The object of interest in the present book is the Orthodox Christianity and more specifically the Orthodox Church - both as a holy place and as an institution. The modern conditions in which we live, insert into the sacred religious space the daily requirements with special force. Although the Orthodox Church is a sacred union of all believers, it needs material means for its existing, which necessities in conditions of a market economy increase more and more. By the means of an empirical research, this book, therefore, explores the Bulgarian Orthodox Church in conditions of a market economy through analyzing the ways, which are used by the Bulgarian orthodox clerics in order to provide material existence of the religious institution. This problem is put in a wider context with the question how religious values and norms correlate with the requirements of the market. This analysis helps to see the challenges faced by the Orthodox religious institutions today and will be particularly useful for the students and researchers of religion, who are interested in the way how these institutions work, and for every person concerned about the role of religious values in the modern world.

**Papers published in peer-reviewed journals or in collective volumes:**

**Krasteva, V. (2019). Experiencing unemployment and job insecurity: a study of social exclusion of young people in Bulgaria. In: Jeliaskova, M. & Petrunov, G. (eds.). *the Science in benefit of the Society*. Sofia: Academic publishing "Marin Drinov", pp. 296-317 (in Bulgarian), ISBN: 978-954-322-985-7.**

Focus of this text is the social exclusion and its aspects in different spheres of life experienced by young people in Bulgaria as a result of unemployment and job insecurity. The empirical data is collected through in-depth life course interviews with young Bulgarians. The theoretical framework used is capability approach. The dimensions of social exclusion revealed in the interviewees' stories are: low education and professional qualification; material deprivation and

limited social capital; financial dependency; poor mental and physical health; limited institutional support.

**Krasteva, V. (2018). An Interview Study of Consequences of Early-Career Unemployment in Bulgaria. Journal of Innovative Business and Management, 2. DOBA Fakulteta Maribor, Slovenia, ISSN-1855-6175, DOI 10.32015/JIMB/2018-10-2-5.**

The article explores the consequences of prolonged unemployment experienced in the beginning of the career in Bulgaria from a subjective point of view. The analysis is based on information obtained from in-depth interviews with people from three age groups who have entered the labour market in periods with high levels of unemployment. The negative consequences pointed out by the interviewed people include material deprivation, limited access to health services, low self-esteem, interruption of social contacts, postponement of creating a family and living in a home of one's own, loss of hope for a better future. Along with the negative consequences, some positive ones were also identified, such as strengthening family ties, people's enhanced motivation to deal with the arising difficulties and their striving for personal development.

**Krasteva, V. (2018). Job insecurity and youth unemployment in Bulgaria: subjective perceptions and coping strategies. In: Boyadjieva, P., Kanushev, M., & Ivanov, M. (Eds.). Inequalities and (Dis)Integration: in search of togetherness. Sofia: East-West, pp.291-311, ISBN: 978-619-01-0188-8 (in Bulgarian).**

Based on interviews with young people in Bulgaria, the paper presents the subjective experience of job insecurity and unemployment, as well as the coping strategies of youths in order to handle with the difficulties facing in labour market. In the first part the education and working trajectories of the interviewees and their connections with the labour market are presented. The next part of the text reveals how the young people perceive the job insecurity and what are the main activities that they undertake in order to overcome the situation of job insecurity and unemployment. The analysis shows that the successful path of the youths and their resilience depend on combination of diverse factors at micro, meso and macro levels. At the end of the text main structural and individual mechanisms for overcoming (or not) the difficulties related to the job insecurity and unemployment are summarized.

**Krasteva, V. (2017). The role of employers on the labour market in Bulgaria. Sociological problems, Special Issue, coauthor with Stoilova, R. & G. Yordanova, pp. 36-59, ISSN: 0324-1572.**

The article offers a comparison between young persons' assessments of the difficulties encountered when seeking employment and employers' assessments of the difficulty to find suitable employees. The authors use a mixed methods approach, which involves interpreting quantitative data obtained from online questionnaires for employers, and a qualitative method, consisting in interviews with young people, conducted in 2016 in the framework of the international project Negotiate. The study registers a shortage of staff in five sectors of employment in Bulgaria, together with the presence of attitudes among those selecting people for

recruitment, which limit the potential circle of candidates for job openings on the basis of ethnic origin. Frequent change of jobs is assessed by young employment candidates as being a possibility for obtaining additional experience, but is seen by employers as a scaring signal that has greater weight than periods of unemployment in the candidate's biography. Establishing a greater congruity between the expectations of employers and of young candidates for jobs provides a significant possibility for reducing youth unemployment and compensating for the shortage of staff. This congruity is connected with the young persons' level and profile of education attained when leaving high school and university, to the specific actions they undertake in the transition from education to employment (where it is better to avoid frequent changes of jobs), to a rejection of negative ethnicity-based or age-based stereotypes on the part of employers, and to wage levels, offered by employers, that will meet the expectations of young people.

**Jeliazkova, M., Minev, D., Draganov, D., Krasteva, V. & Stoilov, A. (2017). An overview of good practices on youth labour market inclusion in Bulgaria, Estonia, Germany, Greece, Italy, Poland, Sweden, the UK, and Ukraine. Tallinn: Tallinn University, ISBN 978-9949-29-344-5.**

The text includes information about 22 good practices on youth labour market inclusion from 9 countries - Bulgaria, Estonia, Germany, Greece, Italy, Portugal, Sweden, the UK and Ukraine. The policy interventions have been reviewed against the criteria used for the purposes of the European Commission's Database of labour market practices under the European Employment Strategy. These criteria are: (1) policy relevance, (2) scope; (3) evidence-base; (4) timescale; (5) effectiveness; (6) potential for learning and replication<sup>1</sup>. The review shows that the selected policy interventions vary in their form, target group, types of undertaken actions, level of implementation, source of funding and EU relevance. The main factors contributing to the success of the selected good practices are: early intervention, individualized support, providing an integrated approach, focus on human capital development, widening of opportunities of young people and correcting market failures. The review depicts as well some weaknesses, especially insufficient coverage, inadequate stimuli provided to the young participants and the fact that the most vulnerable young people are not prioritized. It could be argued that these weaknesses are not so much a result of the selected policy interventions themselves, but of the wider labour and social context. Thus the question about the necessity of two levels of evaluations is raised: interventions assessed on their own and an assessment of the cumulative effect of different interventions. Focusing on the first level of assessment, the review selected 16 policy interventions that meet the required criteria.

#### **Articles and reports published in per-reviewed journals or collective volumes**

**Krasteva, V. (2018). Institutional support for youth employment in time of crisis. In: Contemporary societal challenges and the education in sociology. Sofia: UNWE (in Bulgarian).**

The report examines the role of labor market policies in boosting youth employment during the economic crisis in Bulgaria. In the first part the situation of Bulgarian youth in the period after 2008 is presented – high levels of unemployment and NEETs. In the second part based on quantitative indicators like public policies expenditures, number of participants in LM initiatives, it is shown that the state applies “the work first approach”, significantly reducing training initiatives. At the same time, there is significant decrease in the scope of active policies as a whole. This means that ALMPs fail to achieve a sustainable increase in the employment rate especially among disadvantaged young people with low education.

**Krasteva, V. (2017). Entering labour market in time of crisis: the vision of job-seekers. In: Economics & Management: Globalization challenges. ISBN 978-86-80194-06-6.**

The text presents the difficulties that first job-seekers meet in hard economic times in Bulgaria. For this purpose we are focusing on the experiences and meanings of people from two birth cohorts (1970-75 and 1990-95) who entering labour market during significant political and economic changes in the country – the transition to market economy after 1989 for the first group and the Grand recession from 2008-2009 for the second group. The analysis is based on information from semi-structured life course interviews. In the first part the national context and labour market situation of youth in Bulgaria are presented. In the second section based on information from interviews we show the main ways for searching for a job, summarize the difficulties the interviewees reveal they face in entering the labour market. From the narratives of the interviewees we identify several scaring signals for the employers that according the job-seekers hamper their employment early in the career – low education, lack of experience, women with little children, ethnic minority. Main findings indicate that these difficulties not only hamper the labour market entry of young people but also enhance the risk of their marginalization and labour market exclusion.

**Krasteva, V. (2017). Early job insecurity and unemployment: a thematic analysis of interviews with two generations in Bulgaria. In: Knowledge Based Sustainable Economic Development. ISBN 978-86-80194-07-3.**

In this paper we present the subjective experience of unemployment and job insecurity of interviewed people from two birth cohorts in Bulgaria. Through thematic analysis of the information we identify five themes revealing the interviewee`s perceptions of their capabilities for action and choice when entering labour market - challenges associated with economic crisis; the role of different level and type of education; the role of employers; the importance of gender; source of support. The paper concludes with summary of results and discussion of directions for future researches.

**Krasteva, V. (2016). About the usage of religious feelings of believers. In: Penov, S (Ed.) Religious Worldviews and Values of XXI Century. ISBN:978-954-392-412-7 (in Bulgarian).**

When used for personal interests each religion can become a destructive power. The article presents various examples how the intimate feelings of believers are used for goals that have

nothing to do with religious values and norms. In the first part of the text some of main reasons religion to take an important place in people's lives are presented. The article continues with concrete examples how politicians, rulers and religious leaders turn the religion into an instrument of control and manipulation of believers.

**Krasteva, V. 2015. The link between social networks and labour market. In: *The social sciences and the development of society – theoretical and practical dimensions*. Svishtov: Academic publishing „Tsenov”. ISBN: 978-954-23-1093-8 (in Bulgarian).**

The report presents various ways for using the innermost feelings of believers for aims that have nothing to do with religious values and norms. In the first part of the text the significant role of religion in human life is described. Concrete examples for turning out religion into a tool for control and manipulation are discussed.

**Krasteva, V. 2014. Pre-school and school education – problems and challenges. *Announcements of Union of scientists-Sliven*. ISSN 13112864 (in Bulgarian).**

The text focuses on the preschool and primary school education. In the first part some basic problems identified in the transition from preschool to school education are presented. In the second part some difficulties encountered in the early stage of education are considered. In conclusion recommendations that could lead to improving the quality of education that children receive in the Bulgarian school are made.

**Krasteva, V. 2014. The church in the collision between profane and sacred. In: Penov, S. (Ed.). *Religion, Values, Orthodoxy: The religion and the science in XXI century*. Sofia. ISBN: 978-954-392-284-0 (in Bulgarian).**

The complex relationships between the sacred and profane are described. In this framework the text focuses on the difficult situation of the Bulgarian Orthodox Church – placed in an environment of deep social changes to which it has to give an answer following simultaneously the sacred and the profane requirements.

**Krasteva, V. 2013. Orthodox Christian values as part of personal development. In: Penov, S. (Ed.). *Religion, Values, Orthodoxy*. Sofia. ISBN: 978-954-392-216-1 (in Bulgarian).**

The research questions posed in the text is: What is the relation between Christian values and emotional and social intelligence? Whether these values can facilitate the learning and implementation of basic principles of emotional and social intelligence?

**Krasteva, V. 2012. About the place of emotional and social intelligence in the reforms of Bulgarian education. In: Ognenska, N. (Ed.). *Science-education-art in XXI century*. Vol. VI, Bulgarian Union of Scientists (in Bulgarian).**

Based on the idea that the general intelligence contains of erudition, emotional and social intelligence, the paper states that the pupils in pre-school and school age receive too few skills to form high emotional and social intelligence. Public policies in education system and the need of programs for developing such skills are discussed.

**Krasteva, V. (2012). Public policies in the field of education - reforms based on unsuccessfully identified problems. *Science*, 5, pp. 44-50 (in Bulgarian).**

The article supports the thesis that the reforms made in the field of education are a result of lack of knowledge - inability to identify the main problem in education. Namely, a deformation in the structure of knowledge that leads to a change in the overall intelligence of the pupils. The importance of emotional and social intelligence for building of children as a future active part of society is highlighted. The text ends with an emphasis on the importance of both interdisciplinary scientific research in this field and active civil position of the parents.

**Krasteva, V. (2012). A different motive of action in the modern-day life. In Kelian, M. (Ed.). *Humanism - science – religion in benefit of the society*. Sofia: ISSK-BAS. ISBN: 978-954-8765-11-4 (in Bulgarian).**

Based on two cases the text shows how the representatives of the Bulgarian Orthodox clergy combine christian values with the requirements of market economy, which sets different and often conflicting with the religious views norms. Thus it reveals another side of modern life, another way of thinking and action which is led by spiritual not just material values.

**Krasteva, V. (2011). Religious institutions and the process of secularization. In: Haralampiev, M. et al. (Eds.). *Days of Science 2010*. Veliko Tarnovo: Bulgarian Union of Scientists (in Bulgarian).**

The text describes the major changes that the religious institutions undergo, placing them before the heavy task to perform their sacred duties in conditions which are often inconsistent with their religious values. Attention is drawn to the difficulties that the Orthodox Church is faced with in meeting the requirements of the day and its sacred functions. The religious institutions are forced to meet the new needs of the modern man, as well as to uphold God's messages despite those needs.

**Krasteva, V. 2010. For the need of faith in sacred. In: *Twentieth Anniversary International Scientific Conference*. Vol. VI, Social Sciences. Stara Zagora: Union of Scientists (in Bulgarian).**

The place of religion in modern world is becoming more and more complicated: on the one hand, it is no longer a leading authority on people and their actions, on the other there are frequently occurring events that can be precisely explained by religious values and motives. The article raises the question of the need for faith in something supernatural, in something sacred. It also infers that the sacred with which the religious objects and rituals are associated, evokes a strong respect in people and religion has a place in their lives, even though its role is different. This poses new research questions in the field of sociology of religion.

**Krasteva, V. 2010. Social policies and discriminations. In: Jeliazkova, M. & D. Minev (Eds.). *Paths for active involvement at local level*. Sofia (in Bulgarian).**

The ways of diffusion of negative stereotypes, prejudices and exclusion of specific groups of people (due to ethnicity, race, religion, disability) in the Bulgarian society are discussed. Attention is paid to the role of social politics in the process of social inclusion. This brings to a conclusion that the lack of adequate state intervention and effective measures against vulnerable groups create a favorable environment for flourishing of discrimination.

### **Chapters in books:**

**Böhler, K., Krasteva, V., O'Reilly, J., Vedeler, J. S., Tolgensbakk, I. & Stoilova, R. (2019). Four Narratives of overcoming early job-insecurity in Europe: A capability approach. In: Hvinden, B., O'Reilly, J., Schoyen, M. A., & C. Hyggen (Eds). *Negotiating Early Job Insecurity: Scarring, Resilience and Well-being of European Youth*. Cheltenham: Edward Elgar Publishing. ISBN: 978 1 78811 878 1.**

Narrative is one of the main ways we as humans organize our experiences and create meaning to our lives. Studying narratives among young unemployed adults gives in-depth insight into what they view as legitimate, normal and desirable solutions during periods of crisis, and how they cope with less-than-desirable circumstances. By drawing on qualitative data from 211 in-depth life course interviews, covering three cohorts (1950-55, 1970-75 and 1990-95) from seven European countries, the chapter identifies the main narratives among European citizens who have experienced unemployment or job insecurity as young adults. We discuss the extent to which these narratives are shaped by individual and structural conditions, and whether we find differences in gender, ethnicity or on the level of cohorts. Intersectional analysis will investigate age, gender, ethnicity and class as covariant causes for exclusion. A narrative perspective on life story interviews offer a way of capturing subjective richness and nuances, relationships and patterns often overlooked in macro studies as well as insights into the patterns that shape hindered or active agency. We identify four main forms of narratives dominating the life course interviews – what we have named a Stumbler narrative, a Messy Life narrative, a Precariat narrative and a Great Crisis narrative. Using Tannen's (2008) three-tiered notion of narrative, we focus on how big-N narratives – the meso-level narratives visible through our four categories of unemployment stories – not only bring the voices of unemployed individuals to life, but also are of relevance for the capability approach, research and policy practice.

**Krasteva, V., Jeliazkova, M. & Draganov, D. (2018). Youth in Bulgaria: Setting the context and methodology. In: *Young adults in insecure labour market positions in Bulgaria – The results from a qualitative study*. Tallinn: Tallinn University. ISBN 978-9949-29-369-8.**

The first chapter of the book presents the main features of the Bulgarian labour market and the institutional context in the country that affect the young people's life. More precisely, the labor incomes and some main characteristics of employment in Bulgaria are described. In this section description of active and passive labour market in the country is also included with an emphasis

on their influences on the living conditions of young Bulgarians. In addition we discuss the level of development of family and autonomy policies as well as the education system in Bulgaria as significant factors affecting youth situation. In the second part the methodology of the study is presented. Here the sampling strategy is described and details about the challenges faced during the process of data collection are given.

**Krasteva, V., Jeliaskova, M. & Draganov, D. (2018). Educational and work trajectories. In: Young adults in insecure labour market positions in Bulgaria – The results from a qualitative study. Tallinn: Tallinn University. ISBN 978-9949-29-369-8.**

In this chapter based on thematic analysis of 43 in-depth interviews we present the working and educational trajectories of vulnerable on labour market young people. The meaning of work for the young people is presented as well as the strategies of the youth for overcoming the difficulties they face in the labor market.

**Krasteva, V., Jeliaskova, M. & Draganov, D. (2018). Autonomy. In: Young adults in insecure labour market positions in Bulgaria – The results from a qualitative study. Tallinn: Tallinn University. ISBN 978-9949-29-369-8.**

The chapter includes the perceptions of the young people about their autonomy. The analysis focuses on housing, economic and psychological autonomy and on the strategies that young people use in order to improve their situation in regard to economic dependence and leaving parental home. The interviews reveal that many of the interviewees are economically dependent upon their parents and postpone creation of own family.

**Krasteva, V., Jeliaskova, M. & Draganov, D. (2018). Well-being and health. In: *Young adults in insecure labour market positions in Bulgaria – The results from a qualitative study.* Tallinn: Tallinn University. ISBN 978-9949-29-369-8.**

This chapter is about the interviewees' self-perception of health and well-being in general and as a result of unemployment. In this part discuss the micro, meso and macro risk factors affecting the young people's life are discussed. The results show that the unemployment is related with low self-esteem, depression and restriction of social contacts. The efforts of the participants to cope with worsened well-being and health are also presented here.

**Krasteva, V., Jeliaskova, M. & Draganov, D. (2018). Socio-economic consequences. In: *Young adults in insecure labour market positions in Bulgaria – The results from a qualitative study.* Tallinn: Tallinn University. ISBN 978-9949-29-369-8.**

The focus of this chapter is on the way interviewees understand their economic and social situation as a result of unemployment, precarious and temporary employment. Giving voice to the young people we identified the main aspects of labour market exclusion from subjective point of view. The narratives revealed material deprivation and poverty, lack of access to quality

health services and education, lack of strategy for the future. All these aspects create a vicious circle - low positions in one aspect lead to similarly low positioning in others.

**Krasteva, V., Jeliaskova, M. & Draganov, D. (2018). Social exclusion. In: Young adults in insecure labour market positions in Bulgaria – The results from a qualitative study. Tallinn: Tallinn University. ISBN 978-9949-29-369-8.**

In this chapter we try to highlight the interrelations between labour market exclusion and other dimensions – work and education trajectories, autonomy, wellbeing and socioeconomic consequences. We classified the 43 Bulgarian interviews into three categories – participants at high risk; at increased risk and at low risk of social exclusion. The narratives of interviewed young Bulgarians reveal a number of difficulties faced by the youths. At the end of the book, we propose some recommendations for policy implementations that could improve the economic and social situation of vulnerable young people in Bulgaria.

**Jeliaskova, M., Minev, D., Draganov, D., Krasteva, V. & Stoilov, A. (2018). Youth employment policies in Bulgaria. Tallinn: Tallinn University. ISBN 978-9949-29-396-4.**

The aim of this book is to provide a general overview of labour market developments in Bulgaria during last two decades with particular focus on youth situation and youth labour market policy. The first part of the book presents the broader context of the labour market developments since the mid-1990s, the youth (un)employment situation and the main risk groups. The following several chapters present analysis of the main trends in active and passive labour market policies, focuses on youth employment policies and describes in details 12 selected interventions. The diffusion of the EU youth employment initiatives is considered as well. The last part discusses the coherence of youth employment policies with other policies (educational policy; social policy, etc.) and the synergy generated. On the basis of this coherence and relevance with the (un)employment drivers, youth employment policies are evaluated and policy recommendations are proposed.

**Krasteva, V. & Petrunov, G. (2014). Institutional structure of the process of absorption of the Structural and Cohesion Funds. In: Ivkov, B. (Ed.). Study of the possibilities for a more efficient use of EU funds. Omda. ISBN: 978-954-9719-68-0.**

The chapter presents in comprehensive manner the institutional structure of absorption of the Structural and Cohesion Funds. Main schemes, risks and assessments of management of this process are described. The chapter ends with summary of problems related to the institutional structure for allocation of European funds in Bulgaria.