

Nataša Simić

Senior Research Associate

Institute of Psychology

Faculty of Philosophy, University of Belgrade

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Education and Training

October 2009 – **Ph.D. in Psychology**

September 2014 **Faculty of Philosophy, University of Belgrade**

- Theses title: Teacher professional concerns and coping mechanisms

October 2004 – **Graduate psychologist**

September 2009 **Faculty of Philosophy, University of Belgrade**

- Final paper's title: Relationship between high school students' and teachers' epistemological beliefs and motivational orientation

Work Experience

May 2010 – **Senior Research Associate**

present **Institute of Psychology, Faculty of Philosophy, University of Belgrade**

- Doing scientific research (research design, collecting data, qualitative and quantitative data analysis) and publishing papers within the fields of inclusive education, migrants' identity and needs, teacher professional development and motivation, dropout prevention, students' motivation, women in science, etc; organizing conferences and trainings; reviewing scientific papers for scientific journals

Reference: Zora Krnjaić, zkrnjaic@f.bg.ac.rs

October 2010 – **Assistant in teaching**

present **Centre for Teacher Education, Faculty of Philosophy, Belgrade**

- Holding lectures at the courses: Psychology for Teachers, Didactics of Psychology, Evaluation in teaching, Fundamentals of pedagogical teacher education, Teacher as a researcher, Educational psychology; continuous support to pre- and in-service teachers; organization of entrance exam

Reference: Olja Jovanović Milanović, olja.jovanovic@f.bg.ac.rs

October 2011 – Psychotherapist

present

Serbian Constructivist Association, Belgrade

- Individual counselling and psychotherapy, couples counselling, psychological assessment of children and adults, career guidance

Reference: Dušan Stojnov, duda.stojnov@gmail.com

April 2020 – M&E Consultant within projects: Akelius Learning Initiative, Bridging Digital Divide in Serbia for Most Vulnerable Children and Enhanced Equal Access to and Completion of Pre-University Education for Children in Need of Additional Support in Education UNICEF Serbia

- Creating Theory of Change, designing M&E Framework, designing M&E instruments (questionnaires, interview and focus group discussion guides, observation forms, journals), data collection and analysis, QA, report writing and dissemination

Reference: Tanja Ranković, trankovic@unicef.org

December 2020 – present National coordinator of the Erasmus+ project Illumine – A community for exploring and sharing uses of evidence-based teaching strategies University of Belgrade

- Designing documentation, procedures and activities related to work packages Research and Quality assurance, contributing to designing workshops, handbook and digital learning platform for teachers, cooperating with schools, coordination and dissemination activities; writing reports and research papers

Reference: Marc Yoshimi Beardsley: marc.beardsley@upf.edu

December 2020 – present **International consultant for additional evidence collection in relation to Torino process reports**

European Training Foundation

- Qualitative content analysis of reports, interviews and focus group discussions; designing reports, contribution to preparation of final reports including conclusions and recommendations related to vocational education and training and education system in general

Reference: Mihaylo Milovanovich

Mihaylo.Milovanovitch@etf.europa.eu

January 2019 – April 2020 **Coordinator of the project Monitoring and evaluation of transitional model for inclusion of children older than seven and a half years into regular elementary schools, supported by UNICEF Serbia**

Institute of Psychology, Belgrade

- Development of the Theory of Change, indicators and research instruments; conducting research in schools; data analysis and report writing; managerial, coordination and dissemination activities; defining recommendations for policy makers

Reference: Anne Maria Ćuković, acukovic@unicef.org

October 2017 – July 2019 **Academic coach and online courses facilitator**

Nobel Coaching & Tutoring, international virtual company

- Online psychological coaching; designing online STEAM courses grounded in the project-based learning approach (design of the activities, writing guidelines for instructors and facilitators, preparing educational materials on soft skills improvement, facilitating groups of students online, evaluating the courses)

Reference: Andrew Sachs, andrews@nobelcoaching.com

September 2018 – June 2019 **Researcher and evaluator of the activities conducted in preschool institutions within the project Roma ECDE Initiative in Serbia, realized by CIP-Center**

Open Society Foundation, Belgrade, Serbia

- Planning research methodology, conducting research in preschool institutions and primary schools, data analysis and case studies preparation

Reference: Milena Mihajlović, milena@cipcentar.org

January 2018 – External evaluator of Erasmus+ project applications

June 2018 Foundation Tempus.

- Evaluation of the project applications in the field of education, training and youth (Erasmus KA1 and KA2 projects)

Reference: Sofija Dukić, sofija@tempus.ac.rs

**August 2017 – Researcher at the project Inclusion of refugee and migrant children
May 2018 and their parents – needs assessment and parent support, supported
by Save the Children**

Center for Interactive Pedagogy (CIP), Belgrade

- Designing a qualitative study on challenges and good practices in the inclusion of refugee children in regular education; desk research; conducting interviews and focus groups; creating recommendations for policy makers and other stakeholders; writing the report and dissemination of the results

Reference: Boris Spasić, boris@cipcentar.org

June 2015 – Researcher at the project Romani Champions, supported by FXB

September Center for Health and Human rights, Harvard University

2017 Center for Interactive Pedagogy (CIP), Belgrade

- Designing a mixed-method study on Romani college students' experiences during schooling and studying; desk research, data analysis, writing reports and dissemination; conducting trainings for Romani students

Referenca: Boris Spasić, boris@cipcentar.org

July 2016 – June 2017 – **Coordinator of the activities delivered within the project Making a Difference for Refugee Children in Europe, supported by International Rescue Committee (IRC) and DFID Psychosocial Innovation Network (PIN), Belgrade**

- Designing educational programme for refugee youth, conducting educational and psychological workshops; creating and organizing awareness raising events in the local communities, advocacy activities; supporting children's enrolment in regular schools; coordinating and supervising field workers, writing reports and communication with the donor

Reference: Vesna Banović, Vesna.Banovic@rescue.org

June 2014 – December 2016 – **Curriculum Analyst and Moodle materials developer at eSchool4S, project within the framework of the EU program Lifelong Learning Programme (LLP), Comenius-Multilateral Networks, dealing with promotion of e-learning and sustainable development. University of Belgrade, Belgrade**

- Analysing national curricula, writing national reports on education for sustainable development and e-learning, creating educational material and Moodle courses for secondary school students on social inclusion

Reference: Danijela Petrović, dspetrovic65@gmail.com

January 2015 – June 2015 – **Research assistant at the project Monitoring and Evaluation of Inclusive Education World Bank Group, Belgrade**

- Desk research, writing national report on the state of inclusive education in the Republic of Serbia; designing methodological framework for the research of relevant stakeholders' perceptions of the implementation of inclusive education in Serbia, participating at the regional meetings with relevant stakeholders

Reference: Eben Friedman, eben.friedman@gmail.com

**May 2012 – Psychological support program developer at Tempus EQUI-ED SM
October 2014 516851-2011 project, aiming at supporting marginalized students’
access to higher education**

University of Belgrade, Belgrade

- Creating psychological support programme for secondary school students from marginalized groups (career guidance, workshops on effective learning strategies, entrance exam preparation), monitoring of their progress during studies, mentoring and advocacy activities; dissemination of the project results; defining recommendations or policy makers

Reference: Slobodan Cvejić, scvejic@sbb.rs

September 2012–February 2014 **Researcher at the project Research and analysis study of school, individual and social factors influencing primary and secondary school drop-out and identification of innovative approaches for dropout prevention in school and through community services, supported by UNICEF**

Institute of Psychology, Belgrade

- Designing methodological approach and research instruments, conducting focus groups and interviews with the students and school staff, writing reports and scientific papers

Reference: Ksenija Krstić, kkrstic@f.bg.ac.rs

January 2011–September 2012 **Researcher at the project Images of intercultural education and their implications for teacher training**

Institute of Psychology, Belgrade, and PHZ Zug, Zug (Switzerland)

- Designing a qualitative study on pre-service teachers’ notions of intercultural education, desk research, conducting interviews and data analysis, reports and scientific papers writing and presentation

Reference: Danijela Petrović, dspetrovic65@gmail.com

October 2010 – Curriculum developer at Tempus IV MASTS511170 project, aiming at creating a Master programme for subject teachers

University of Belgrade, Belgrade

- Creating courses within the Master programme for subject teachers and preparation of learning materials; selection of the students; advocacy activities; lecturing; participation at the study visits, conferences and national meetings; writing reports

Reference: Lidija Radulović, liradulo@f.bg.ac.rs

August – School psychologist

November 2009 Elementary school “Stevan Sindelić“, Belgrade

- Testing and psychological assessment of children; psychological counselling (children, teachers and parents); workshops and events organization, career guidance

Languages

Mother tongue(s) Serbian

Other language(s)	UNDERSTANDING		SPEAKING		WRITING
	Listening	Reading	Spoken interaction	Spoken production	
English	C1	C2	C1	C1	C2
German	B2	C1	B2	B2	B2
Spanish	A2	B1	A1	A1	A1
French	A1	A2	A1	A1	A1

Personal skills

Communication skills Excellent communication and presentation skills gained through education in psychotherapy, engagement in teaching and engagement within various international projects

- Organisational/ managerial skills** Excellent organizational and managerial skills, gained through engagement within different project, and particularly within the project Making a Difference for Refugee Children in Europe (responsible for a team of four people) and Erasmus Illumine project (responsible for a team of four people), and through participation in Master programme development and realization.
- Job-related skills** Excellent teamwork, analytical and time management skills, with high ability to multi-task; high degree of accuracy; insights focused and self-directed

Memberships

- Serbian Constructivist Association
- Serbian Psychologists Society
- Educational Research Association of Serbia
- Board of Directors of CIP-Center
- MAXQDA Research Network and Professional Trainers Network

Honors and awards

- Certificate of appreciation for the best Psihologija journal's reviewers in 2016

Scholarships (involving international experience)

- DAAD Scholarship Forschungsstipendien für Doktoranden und Nachwuchswissenschaftler für Bis zu 6 Monate, realized at the Institute of Psychology at Ruprecht-Karls University in Heidelberg, Germany (July 2014)
- One-Month Visits Scholarship (OeAD, WUS Austria und Universität in Graz), realized at the Institute of Education at the Karl-Franzens University of Graz, Austria (July 2013)
- BAYHOST Scholarship for a language course, Augsburg, Germany (July 2007)

Publications (selected)

- Simić, N., Marušić Jablanović, M. & Grbić, S. (2021) Why teaching? A validation of the fit-choice scale in the Serbian context, Journal of Education for Teaching, 48 (1) , <https://doi.org/10.1080/02607476.2021.1958655>
- Simić, N., Stančić, M. & Vranješević, J. (2019). Roma in Higher Education – Psychological and Social Capital as Factors of Academic Success. Andragoške studije 11(2), 127–148. doi:10.5937/AndStud1902127S

- Simić, N., Vranješević, J. & Ilić, I. (2019). Muslim Refugees in Serbia –Narrating Gender Role Identity Change. *Etnoantropološki problemi*, 14(4), 1273–1293. <https://doi.org/10.21301/eap.v14i4.10>.
- Simić, N. (2019). *Teacher professional concerns*. Belgrade: Institute of psychology.
- Orlović-Lovren, V., Petrović, D., & Simić, N. (2019). Sustainable development: Between Global Policy and Teachers’ Conceptions, In V.Orlović-Lovren, Peeters, J. & Matović, N. (Eds.) *Quality of Education: Global Development Goals and Local Strategies* (pp. 99–116). Belgrade: Institute for Pedagogy and Andragogy, Faculty of Philosophy, University of Belgrade and Department of Social Work and Social Pedagogy, Centre for Innovation in the Early Years, Ghent University.
- Simić, N. & Vranješević, J. (2019). Refugee Children in Formal Education in Serbia – Multi- Perspective Views on Challenges and Good Practices, In Gorak-Sosnowska, K., Pachocka, M. & Misuina, J. (Eds.), *Muslim Minorities and the Refugee Crisis in Europe* (pp.135–148). Warsaw: SGH Warsaw School of Economics
- Simić, N., Purić, D., Stančić, M. (2018). Motivation for the Teaching Profession: Evaluation of the Orientation for Teaching Survey on In-service Teachers. *Psihologija*, 51(3), 309–331. <https://doi.org/10.2298/PSI170327012S>.
- Simić, N., Vukelić, M. i Marković Rosić, O. (2018). Uticaj upisa u (ne)željene srednje škole na školsko angažovanje, dobrobit, očekivanja od škole i opšte zadovoljstvo učenika [Impact of enrolment in (un)desired secondary school on students’ school engagement, wellbeing, school expectations and satisfaction]. u Pavlović Babić, D., Jovanović, O. i Simić, N. (Ur.). *Dijalozi u obrazovanju 2017*. Zbornik radova, 60–83. Društvo istraživača u obrazovanju u Srbiji, Beograd
- Pavlović-Babić, D., Simić, N. & Friedman, E. (2017). School-level facilitators of inclusive education: the case of Serbia. *European Journal of Special Needs Education*, 33(4), 449–465, DOI: 10.1080/08856257.2017.1342419.
- Simić, N., Jokić, T. & Vukelić, M. (2017). Personal Construct Psychology in Pre-Service Teacher Education: The Path Toward Reflexivity. *Journal of Constructivist Psychology*, 1–17. DOI: 10.1080/10720537.2017.1336137.
- Simić, N. & Krstić, K. (2017). School factors related to dropout from primary and secondary education in Serbia – a qualitative research. *Psihološka istraživanja*, 20(1), 51–70.
- Stepanović-Ilić, I., Lazarević, Lj. i Simić, N. (2017). Social factors outside of family and school related to student dropout, *Psihološka istraživanja*, 20(1), 89–105.

- Simić, N. & Đorđević, V. (2016). Work satisfaction and challenges in scientific career – women’s perspective, in Maksimović, Ostrouch-Kaminska, Popović & Bulajić (Eds.). Contemporary Issues and Perspectives on Gender Research in Adult Education. Belgrade: ESREA.
- Simić, N. (2015). Motivacija za izbor profesije nastavnika – perspektiva budućih nastavnika, pripravnika i iskusnih predmetnih nastavnika [Motivation for the teaching profession – student teachers’; novices’; and experienced teachers’; perspective]. Zbornik Instituta za pedagoška istraživanja, 47(2), 199-221.
- Jovanović, O., Simić, N. & Rajović, V. (2014). Students at risk: Perceptions of Serbian teachers and implications for teacher education. European Journal of Teacher Education, 37(2), 220-236. DOI: 10.1080/02619768.2013.858693
- Simić, N., Bachmann, G. & Stančić, M. (2013). Comparison of Teacher Education Reforms in Serbia and Austria, in Despotović, M., Hebib, E. & Nemeth, B. (Eds.) Contemporary issues of education quality. Belgrade: University of Belgrade, Faculty of Philosophy, Institute for Pedagogy and Andragogy; Pécs: University of Pécs, Faculty of Adult Education and HRD

Conferences

- Participation at many national and international conferences with more than 65 scientific papers

Seminars

- Results-Based Project Management: Monitoring and Evaluation (edX, November 2020)
- GYA-IAP Science Collective Leadership Workshop at the World Science Forum (Budapest, November 2019)
- Child Safeguarding Investigations Management Training Workshop (Keeping Children Safe, December 2016)
- Psychological First Aid (Save the Children, Belgrade, June 2016)
- Stress management for staff (Save the Children, Belgrade, June 2016)
- Analysing qualitative data with MAXQDA (Marburg’s Research Group on Methods & Evaluation, Berlin, March 2014)