

# Curriculum Vitae

Dona Kostadinova Pickard

## Personal information

E-mail dona.pickard@gmail.com

Nationality Bulgarian

## Work experience

### July 2012 – current

Occupation or position held  
Main activities and responsibilities

#### “Urban Agriculture Europe” - COST network research project

Early-stage researcher; Management committee substitute member

Preparing scientific reports, theory building and research into the concept and practices of urban agriculture in Europe

Name and address of employer

RWTH Aachen University, Templergraben 55 52062 Aachen, Germany

Type of business or sector

Science and Research

### December 2011 - current

Occupation or position held  
Main activities and responsibilities

#### Inter-institutional research project “Dynamics of homecoming and reintegration of Bulgarian emigrants”

Researcher

Independent theoretical analysis and methodological design of the phenomenon of return to the homecountry, but settling in a village and taking up farming without any previous background in agriculture.

Name and address of employer

Institute for the study of societies and knowledge at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences  
13A Moskovska str., Sofia 1000, Bulgaria

Type of business or sector

Science and Research

### November 2011 - current

Occupation or position held  
Main activities and responsibilities  
Name and address of employer  
Type of business or sector

#### Research Associate

Initiating and realizing own research projects, as well as participating in institutional scientific activities

Institute for the study of societies and knowledge at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences

Science and Research

### June 2008 - April 2011

Occupation or position held  
Main activities and responsibilities

#### International Research Project EUROIDENTITIES – The Evolution of European Identity: Using biographical methods to study the development of European identity

Research Assistant

Organising, taking and analysing autobiographical narrative interviews with farmers and building theoretical concepts and testing them to address the question of formation and evolution of farmers' European-oriented identity. Authoring reports and publications on the results of the research.

Name and address of employer

Institute for the study of societies and knowledge at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences  
13A Moskovska str., Sofia 1000, Bulgaria

Type of business or sector

Science and Research

## Education and training

### September 2008 - current

Institute for the study of societies and knowledge at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences

Doctoral candidate

Dissertation thesis' topic: Social capital as a factor for development of Bulgarian rural communities  
The work on the dissertation is completed and awaiting defence

### October 2004 – May 2007

Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski”

Masters degree in Philosophy, Global studies

Masters thesis on the topic “Challenges in front of Bulgarian rural regions in the process of Eurointegration”

### October 2004 - September 2005

Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski”

Postgraduate Certificate in Education and Teaching

### September 2001 - May 2004

Richmond – The International American University in London

Bachelors degree in Sociology – 1<sup>st</sup> Class Honours

Certificate in Psychology and Counselling

## Participation in academic fora

**05.2013** – Presented paper “Trajectories of return migrants towards the villages” at the Annual conference on the problems of rural communities, co-organized by the “Communities and Identities department” of the Institute for the Study of Societies and Knowledge

**06. 2012** – Presented paper “The cooperative movement as an epitome of the specific social capital of rural communities” at the Annual conference on the problems of rural communities, co-organized by the “Communities and Identities department” of the Institute for the Study of Societies and Knowledge

**09. 2011** – Presented a paper “Social capital as a factor for development of Bulgarian rural communities” at the XVII international conference on Rural Sociology “Vlasinski meetings”, Vlasotince, Serbia

**08. 2010** - Presented a paper “The diversity of European identities, seen in autobiographical narrative interviews with farmers” at the 73-rd Congress of the Rural Sociology Society in Atlanta, USA

**06. 2010** – Co-presented a paper “Barriers and bridges in identity building, as seen in biographical interviews with farmers” with R. Jeleva, M. Draganova, N. Dimova, S. Karakusheva at a conference “National identity – contemporary social context and ethical frames”, organized by the Institute for the study of societies and knowledge at the BAS.

**06. 2010** - Co-presented a paper “Diversity of identities in biographical interviews with European farmers” with M. Draganova at the Annual conference on the problems of rural communities, organized by the “Communities and Identities department” of the Institute for the Study of Societies and Knowledge

**08. 2009** – Participation in the XXIII Congress of the European Society for Rural Sociology in Vaasa, Finland

## Academic interests

Rural sociology, sociology of education, social capital, social inequalities

## Publications

Пикард, Д. 2013. Кооперативното движение в българските села като проявление на специфичния им социален капитал, в Кожухарова-Живкова (ред.) *Кооперацията в българското село – светло минало и неясно бъдеще. Bulgaria Rusticana*, Аля, Троян, стр. 137 – 143

Пикард, Д. 2013. За движението срещу прилагането на технологията хидравлично разбиване в България, в *Критика и Хуманизъм* | 41 | 2013 | *Народът и гражданското общество като ресурси на демокрацията*, стр. 267-272

Пикард, Д. 2012. Предизвикателствата пред селското училище – четири истории от България, в Кожухарова-Живкова (ред.) *Образователни въпросителни пред българското село. Bulgaria Rusticana*, Аля, Троян

Pickard, D. 2011. Social Capital as a Non-utilized Resource for Development in Rural Communities in Bulgaria, in Kozhuharova-Jivkova, V. (Ed.) *Diversity and Inequality in Rural Europe - The Bulgarian Case*, Аля, Троян.

Draganova, M., R. Jeleva, D. Pickard, S. Karakusheva. 2012. Farmers: more and less Europeans. In: *The Evolution of European Identity: Biographical approaches*. edited by Robert Miller and Graham Day, Palgrave Macmillan, p.102-114.

Jeleva, R., M. Draganova, D. Pickard, S. Karakusheva. 2012. ‘Europe’ As Hope: a Farmer’s Viewpoint from Bulgaria. In: *The Evolution of European Identity: Biographical approaches*. edited by Robert Miller and Graham Day, Palgrave Macmillan, p. 115-128.

Domecka, M. M. Eichsteller, S. Karakusheva, P. Musella, L.Ojamäe, E.Perone, D.Pickard, A.Schröder-Wildhagen, K.Siilak & K.Waniek 2012. Method in Practice: Autobiographical Narrative Interviews in Search of European Phenomena, in Miller, R. (Ed.) *The Evolution of European Identities: Biographical Approaches*, Palgrave Macmillan, Basingstoke.

Желева, Р., М. Драганова, Д. Пикард, Н. Димова, С. Каракушева. 2011. Изграждане и трансформация на идентичности в биографии на фермери. В: Т. Неделчева и Е. Маринова (съст.) *Българската национална идентичност – съвременен социален контекст и етични рамки*. Изд. „Фабер”, София

Draganova, M., D. Pickard. 2010. Images of Europe and “Europeanness” in Biographical Interviews with Farmers. In *Sociological Problems*, XLII-II, p. 86-103

**Personal skills and competences**

Mother tongue  
Other language  
Self-assessment  
*European level*

Bulgarian  
English

**Understanding**  
C2

**Speaking**  
C2

**Writing**  
C2

*Computer skills and competences*

HTML: Basic  
Microsoft Word, Excel, Visio, PowerPoint: Excellent