

SOCIAL SCIENTIFIC SEMINAR

22 April 2026, A01, UVT

The Social Scientific Seminar is a collaborative forum for researchers from the Faculty of Sociology and Social Work, where PhD students, young researchers, alumni, and professionals in social science research present their current work and engage in reflective activities.

The seminar's activities focus on constructive discussion of the research presented, provision of knowledge resources and scientific references, and methodological and technological solutions that support the investigative approach.

Participants generate ideas about societal dynamics from the perspective of the research topic presented, propose solutions for conceptual analysis, research questions, and the methodological plan of the investigation, and contribute to critical and responsible reflections that help young researchers mature their sociological thinking and scientific research skills.

Today's speakers:

Alina Milos

PhD student in Sociology, FSAS, UVT

Social Integration of Immigrants in Romania

Linsey Disney

School of Social Work
George State University, USA

Refugees and Immigrants Crisis Intervention and Mental Health

Aygyun Erytyurk-Mincheva

Faculty of Economics and Social Sciences
Paisii Hilendarski University of Plovdiv, Bulgaria

Behavioural Economics in the Context of the Green Economy

Alina Milos

Alina Miloș is Head of the Community Development Department at Timișoara City Hall, where she manages initiatives focusing on community revitalisation, social inclusion, and equal access to local resources. Her current work is on translating community demands into responsive public action, with particular attention to vulnerable communities and inclusive urban development. This work devotion has naturally influenced her academic interests, leading her to pursue doctoral study on the social integration of migrants in Romania. Her work draws together public administration, community development, and sociology, with an emphasis on how institutions can better foster belonging, participation, and access for different populations.

The presentation discusses her PhD project on immigrant social integration in Romania, focusing on access to labour, healthcare, and education. The study examines Romania's changing migration profile, which is both a source and a destination for migrants. It explores the gap between rights and migrants' experiences with institutions, drawing on a literature review that draws on structural and socio-cultural perspectives. The research applies Dual Labour Market Theory to explain migrant demand in segmented sectors and Acculturation Theory to assess adaptability and community influence. A qualitative approach captures migrants' experiences, offering insights for migration research and policy in Romania.

Lindsey Disney

Lindsey Disney is an Assistant Professor in the School of Social Work at Georgia State University, where she focuses on refugee and immigrant well-being, culturally informed mental health practices, and community-engaged research.

Her work has been published in journals such as *Social Work*, *Clinical Social Work*, and the *Journal of Refugee Studies*, and she is currently engaged in a CDC-funded research collaboration on promoting social connectedness in refugee communities through mindfulness-based groups.

Dr Disney has over 15 years of experience in clinical social work and mental health research and is committed to advancing ethical, inclusive education and evidence-based practices that centre on cultural humility and equity. Her emerging interests include the intersections of artificial intelligence and crisis intervention.

Aygyun Ertyurk-Mincheva Schieken

Aygyun Ertyurk-Mincheva, Chief Assistant, PhD, at the Faculty of Economics and Social Sciences, Paisii Hilendarski University of Plovdiv, Bulgaria. Her research interests include the history of economic thought, institutional economics, and particularly behavioural economics, offering a comprehensive and interdisciplinary perspective on economic processes and policy development. Her lecture, "Behavioural Economics in the Context of the Green Economy," is tailored for young scholars and professionals interested in interdisciplinary approaches to contemporary economic challenges. It introduces key theoretical frameworks and empirical research methods in behavioural economics, covering core concepts such as heuristics, cognitive biases, and decision-making under uncertainty, with a specific focus on their real-world application within the green economy.

Particular emphasis is placed on behavioural policy instruments, especially the nudge approach, and their role in encouraging environmentally sustainable behaviour. Participants develop the ability to analyse human decision-making, interpret economic outcomes, and apply behavioural insights in research, policy-making, and practice, contributing to more effective and sustainable economic solutions.