

**Summary of the Archival Work Accomplished with the Support of the AAHN H-21
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I was awarded the AAHN H-21 Eleanor Crowder Bjoring Research Grant in 2019 for exploring social history of nursing in Southeast Europe from the late 19th century until WW II. COVID-19 and the subsequent lockdown interrupted my sabbatical arrangements. Yet due to generous extensions, I was able to complete my archival research in June 2022.

My research project, envisioned as book, is tentatively entitled, *Dutiful Nurses: War, Public Health, and Gender in Southeast Europe (1878-1941)*. This is a comparative study of the establishment of public health structures and the construction of gendered national healthcare system. It is largely focused on the gradual professionalization of nursing in Bulgaria and Serbia/Kingdom of Yugoslavia. This project offers insights into the social history of non-elite groups and examines how neglected local actors collaborated with international institutions, such as the American Red Cross, the League of Red Cross Societies, the Rockefeller Foundation, and the Near East Foundation. Integrating the nursing profession and gender as categories of analysis, I expand the notion of state-led modernization, the role of non-governmental associations, and the emergence of diverse claims to national allegiance. Within this framework, I explore how new and older representations of gender, class, religion, and ethnicity were merged and reconstituted. Nursing serves as a window to study larger issues of building nation-states, expanding militarization, establishing capitalist economic order, and increasing social and political divisions during time of war and peace.

Below is a summary of my archival work:

I spent three weeks collecting unpublished archival sources (and photos) in three archives (Arhiv Srbije, Arhiv Jugoslavije, Arhiv Istorije Beograda) and the National Library. I was fortunate to find a treasure of valuable documents in the collections of the Ministry of Social Policy and Public Health; the Ministry of War; the School of Medical Sisters in Belgrade, and Kolo srpskih sestara (Circle of Serbian Sisters, a women's non-profit association). In addition, materials on the Serbian Red Cross revealed its management of the School of Nursing. Moreover, I copied secondary sources, such as journals, memoirs, travelogues, newspapers, and reference texts, published in Serbian, which are difficult to locate in American libraries.

I plan on submitting two peer-reviewed articles in journals with high citation impact, and presenting a paper in the Leibniz-Institut für Ost- und Südosteuropaforschung (IOS) in Regensburg (Germany) in the Fall of 2022.

In summary, to the best of my knowledge, there is no comprehensive and/or comparative study of the social history of nursing within Bulgarian and Serbian national as well as Southeast regional frameworks. Thus, my book project seeks to redress such lacuna by offering critical insights into the social history of nurses through an analysis that intertwines gender, class, and nationality within larger international contexts. The broader impact of this project pertains to various inter-Balkan relations and parallels, especially between Bulgaria and Serbia, as well as the participation of several international organizations in establishing modern nursing institutions.

I would like to emphasize that in spite of the COVID-19 delay, this research in combination with a Faculty Development Grant at my home institution – Portland State University, was very productive. Three major objectives were fulfilled: I was able to collect valuable archival materials for my book project; to establish professional contacts with colleagues in Serbia; and to further my international expertise in the field of social history of medical professions and gender in Southeast Europe.