

**BSA Annual Scientific Conference, 25 November, 2022**

**Sofia University, Rectorate, Hall 2, 14.00 - 17.00h.**

### **MOBILITIES, MIGRATIONS, MOBILISATIONS**

**Mobility** of people, the movement of goods, capital and ideas - even in a moment of closing geopolitical borders and global restriction of movement, as it was the case during the COVID-19 pandemic, remains a persistent characteristic of the global world we live in. Specific policies have begun to develop in various EU countries to attract so-called 'digital nomads'. These mobilities - dispersed, multidirectional, at different paces and with varying motivations - do not abolish but construct new boundaries: geographical, political, symbolic, set new horizons for our mutual coexistence, continuously restructure society and challenge the social sciences. All this leads to the research question: does sociology have the tools to understand mobile socialities?

**Migration** as a focus of sociological interest in the framework of the BSA Annual Research Conference 2022 is also directly related to the war Russia is waging with Ukraine and the new wave of migration in our country. Migration is contextualized differently across Europe, embedding itself in already existing public discourses on refugees and economic migrants, constructed in previous migrant flows. In Bulgaria, human migration has long been a contested issue in political battles as well as the target of a powerful propaganda media discourse. Can we, as sociologists, propose interpretative approaches, able to comprehend migration and fulfill our role towards the production of publicly engaged knowledge and contributing towards the rationalization of the public debate, overcoming fears and transforming them into understanding and acceptance of the other, of those who are different from us?

**Mobilization** of citizens, expressions of empathy and volunteer initiatives in support of refugees from Ukraine, Syria and Afghanistan are in the wide range of material-physical support, but are in the field of maintaining digital platforms, seeking to connect and provide opportunities in coping with life in an unfamiliar country. At the same time, opposing mobilizations, expressions of rejection and fear of newcomers have emerged. What are the social groups behind the expressions of hostility and defiance?

Share your research findings and interpretive approaches at the BSA Annual Conference on **November 25, 2022**. Please send submissions - title and abstract (up to 150 words) - to the BSA email ([sociology.bsa@gmail.com](mailto:sociology.bsa@gmail.com)) by **14 November, 2022**.

**Organizing Committee:**

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