

Milena Nikolova

Curriculum Vitae

University of Groningen
Faculty of Economics and Business
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Current Employment

2020–present **Rosalind Franklin Fellow/Associate Professor (with tenure)**, *University of Groningen, Faculty of Economics and Business, Global Economics & Management, The Netherlands.*

Research Affiliations

2020–present **Non-Resident Fellow**, *Bruegel.*
2018–present **Research Fellow**, *Institute of Labor Economics (IZA).*
2018–present **Fellow**, *Global Labor Organization (GLO).*
2018–present **Research Fellow**, *SOM Research Institute, University of Groningen.*
2016–present **Research Affiliate**, *Happiness Research Organization.*
2016–present **Research Fellow**, *Central European Labour Studies Institute (CELSI).*
2014–present **Non-resident Fellow**, *Global Economy and Development Program, The Brookings Institution.*

Other Positions

2019–present **Member**, *Young Academy Groningen.*
2019–present **Policy and Research Cluster Leader, Economics of Happiness**, *Global Labor Organization (GLO).*

Editorial Service

2019–present **Co-Editor**, *Journal of Happiness Studies (Economics).*
2019–present **Associate Editor**, *Journal of Population Economics.*
2019–present **Associate Editor**, *International Review of Economics.*
2019–present **Section Editor**, *Welfare, Well-Being and Happiness*, Springer Handbook of Labor, Human Resources and Population Economics, Editor: K. F. Zimmermann.
2014–2016 **Managing Editor**, *Journal of Population Economics.*

Education

2014 **Ph.D. in Public Policy (International Development)**, *University of Maryland, College Park, MD, USA.*
2011 **M.A. in Public Policy**, *The American University, Washington, DC, USA.*
2008 **B.A. in Economics**, *Gettysburg College, Gettysburg, PA, USA, summa cum laude.*

Past Positions

Jan. 2018–Nov. 2020 **Rosalind Franklin Fellow/Assistant Professor (tenure-track)**, *University of Groningen, Faculty of Economics and Business, Global Economics & Management, The Netherlands.*

- Sept. 2014–Dec. 2017 **Research Associate**, *Institute of Labor Economics (IZA)*, Bonn, Germany.
- Sept. 2012–May 2014 **Nonresident Researcher**, *Global Economy and Development Program, The Brookings Institution*, Washington, DC, USA.
- Jan. 2010–May 2011 **Emerging Scholar**, *Center on Nonprofits and Philanthropy, The Urban Institute*, Washington, DC, USA.
- Jun. 2008–May 2009 **Policy Analyst**, *Applied Public Policy Research Institute for Study and Evaluation*, Princeton, NJ, USA.

Publications

Refereed Journal Articles: 18

- 2021 Family Matters: Involuntary Parental Unemployment During Childhood and Subjective Well-being Later in Life. *Journal of Economic Behavior & Organization*, 18, 312-331 (with B. Nikolaev)
- Sometimes Your Best Just Ain't Good Enough: The Worldwide Evidence on Subjective Well-being Efficiency. *The B.E. Journal of Economic Analysis & Policy* 21(1), 83-114 (with O. Popova)
- 2020 What Makes Work Meaningful And Why Economists Should Care About It. *Labour Economics* forthcoming, DOI:10.1016/j.labeco.2020.101847 (w. F. Cnossen)
- Communist Party Membership and Entrepreneurship. *Small Business Economics* forthcoming, DOI:10.1007/s11187-020-00364-6 (with A. Ivlevs and O. Popova)
- The Perceived Well-being and Health Costs of Exiting Self-Employment. *Small Business Economics* forthcoming, DOI:10.1007/s11187-020-00374-4 (with B. Nikolaev and O. Popova)
- 2019 Switching to Self-employment Can Be Good for Your Health. *Journal of Business Venturing*, 34(4), 664-691
- Emigration, Remittances, and the Subjective Well-being of Those Staying Behind. *Journal of Population Economics*, 32(1), 113-151 (with A. Ivlevs and C. Graham)
- Your Spouse Is Fired! How Much Do You Care? *Journal of Population Economics*, 32(3), 799-844, (with S. Ayhan)
- 2017 Suffrage, Labour Markets and Coalitions in Colonial Virginia. *European Journal of Political Economy*, 49, 108-122 (with E. Nikolova)
- Left Behind but Doing Good? Civic Engagement in Two Post-socialist Countries. *Journal of Comparative Economics*, 45(3), 658-684 (with M. Roman and K.F. Zimmermann)
- Does Joining the EU Make You Happy? Evidence from Central and Eastern Europe. *Journal of Happiness Studies*, 18(6), 1593-1623 (with B. Nikolaev)
- 2016 Minding the Happiness Gap: Political Institutions and Perceived Quality of Life in Transition. *European Journal of Political Economy*, 45, 129-148
- 2015 In transit: The Well-being of Migrants from Transition and Post-transition Countries. *Journal of Economic Behavior & Organization*, 112, 164-186 (with C. Graham)
- Bentham or Aristotle in the Development Process? An Empirical Investigation of Capabilities and Subjective Well-being. *World Development*, 68, 163-179 (with C. Graham)
- Government Funding of Private Voluntary Organizations: Is There a Crowding-Out Effect? *Nonprofit and Voluntary Sector Quarterly*, 44(3), 487-509
- 2014 Employment, Late-Life Work, Retirement, and Well-being in Europe and the United States. *IZA Journal of European Labor Studies*, 3(5), 1-30 (with C. Graham)

Principals and Agents: An Investigation of Executive Compensation in Human Service Nonprofits. *VOLUNTAS: International Journal of Voluntary and Nonprofit Organizations*, 25(3), 679-706

- 2013 Does Access to Information Technology Make People Happier? Insights from Well-Being Surveys from around the World. *The Journal of Socio-Economics*, 44, 126-139 (with C. Graham)

Book Chapters: 5

- 2020 The Economics of Happiness. In K.F. Zimmermann (Ed.), *Springer Handbook of Labor, Human Resources and Population Economics*. Cham: Springer International Publishing, (with C. Graham), DOI : https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-319-57365-6_177-1
- 2018 Happiness and International Migration in Latin America. In J. F. Helliwell, R. Layard, & J. Sachs (Eds.), *World Happiness Report 2018* (pp. 88-113). New York, NY: Sustainable Development Solutions Network (with C. Graham)
- 2018 Happiness: Using Subjective Well-being Metrics to Gauge Development. In *Routledge Handbook of Development Ethics*, (Drydyk, J. and Keleher, L., Eds.), (pp. 84-92). New York, NY: Routledge, Available as a working paper as: IZA DP 10088.
- 2014 Nonprofit Advocacy in the Nation's Capital. In *Nonprofits and Advocacy*, (In Pekkanen, R., Smith, S. R., & Tsujinaka, Y., Eds.), (pp. 66-84). Baltimore, MD: The Johns Hopkins University Press (with C. DeVita and K.L. Roeger)
- 2014 Shaping the Government-Nonprofit Partnership: Direct and Indirect Advocacy. In *Nonprofits and Advocacy*, (In Pekkanen, R., Smith, S. R., & Tsujinaka, Y., Eds.), (pp. 66-84). Baltimore, MD: The Johns Hopkins University Press (with E.T. Boris and M. Marronick)

Research Reports & Policy Papers

- 2017 Chapter 1.2 Migration. What Will Move Talent? in Randstad Report "People to Jobs, Jobs to People"
- 2015 Migrant Well-being after Leaving Transition Economies. *IZA World of Labor*: 195, DOI:10.15185/izawol.195
- 2010 Human Service Nonprofits and Government Collaboration: Findings from the 2010 National Survey of Nonprofit Government Contracting and Grants. Washington, DC: The Urban Institute Press (with E.T. Boris, E. Leon, and K.L. Roeger)
- 2010 National Study of Nonprofit-Government Contracting: State Profiles. Washington, DC: The Urban Institute Press (with E.T. Boris, E. Leon, and K.L. Roeger)
- 2010 Contracts and Grants between Human Service Nonprofits and Governments. Washington, DC: The Urban Institute Press (with E.T. Boris, E. Leon, and K.L. Roeger)

Work in Progress

Stalin and the Origins of Mistrust (with O. Popova and V. Otrachshenko), GLO and IZA Discussion Paper, Revisions Requested (second round): *Journal of Public Economics*

Being your boss and bossing others: The moderating effect of supervising others on meaning and autonomy for self-employed and employed people (with B. Nikolaev and C. Boudreaux), Revisions Requested: *Small Business Economics*

Double-Edged Sword: Persistent Effects of Communism on Life Satisfaction in Eastern Europe (with O. Popova and V. Otrachshenko), Under Review

Beyond Labour as Disutility: A Model of Meaning and Effort (with F. Cnossen and F. Martela)

Work meaningfulness and automation (with F. Cnossen and B. Nikolaev)

The impact of COVID-19 on the entrepreneurship entry and exit decisions in Russia (with O. Popova and V. Otrachshenko)

The Entrepreneurial Happiness Premium Across Countries (with J. Kleinhempel)

Blogs

- 2021 Self-employment, COVID-19, and the future of work for knowledge workers. Bruegel Blog
- 2020 Losing your own business is worse than losing a salaried job. The Brookings Institution's UP FRONT blog (with B. Nikolaev & O. Popova)
- What makes a job meaningful? The Brookings Institution's UP FRONT blog (with F. Cnossen)
- Former Communist Party membership and present-day entrepreneurship. VOXEU (with A. Ivlevs & O. Popova)
- 2019 Self-employment Can Be Good for Your Health. The Brookings Institution's UP FRONT blog
- 2018 International Migration: What Happens to Those Left Behind? The Brookings Institution's Future Development blog (with C. Graham & A. Ivlevs)
- How Having Unemployed Parents Affects Children's Future Well-being. The Brookings Institution's UP FRONT blog (with B. Nikolaev)
- How Much Will Your Spouse Suffer If You Become Unemployed? The Brookings Institution's Future Development blog (with S. Ayhan)
- 2016 Can European Integration Increase People's Life Satisfaction? The Brookings Institution's UP FRONT blog (with B. Nikolaev)
- Two Solutions to the Challenges of Population Aging. The Brookings Institution's UP FRONT blog and IZA Newsroom
- Migration May Benefit Those at Home in Bulgaria, Romania. The Gallup blog (with M. Roman and K.F. Zimmermann)
- 2014 Can Migration Boost Incomes, Happiness, and Freedom Satisfaction? The Brookings Institution's UP FRONT blog and IZA Newsroom (with C. Graham)
- Why Aging and Working Makes us Happy in 4 Charts. The Brookings Institution's UP FRONT blog and IZA Newsroom (with C. Graham)

Awards and Grants

- 2021 Research Fellow Award, International Society for Quality of Life Studies
- 2020 Participant in H2020 Project "Growing Inequality: a Novel Integration of technological, globalization and migration transformations research (GI-NI)", 2021-2024, Total budget: 3 million EUR, RUG funding: 380,000 EUR
- Funding from the Young Academy Groningen for an Interdisciplinary Ph.D. student position (joint with Lukas Linsi), 2020-2024
- Visiting Professorship, University of Johannesburg, starting in February 2021, remotely, due to COVID-19
- Nominated for the Outstanding Junior Researcher Award, SOM, RUG
- 2019 Nominated for the Outstanding Junior Researcher Award, SOM, RUG
- 2019 Erasmus+ Staff Mobility Grant, approx. 500 EUR
- 2019 Nominated for the Ruut Veenhoven Award
- 2018 Rosalind Franklin Fellowship, University of Groningen
- 2018 Visiting Fellowship, IOS Regensburg, 1,500 EUR + accommodation

- 2015 Nominated for the Ruut Veenhoven Award
- 2014 Certificate in Excellence in Reviewing, *Journal of Economic Behavior & Organization*
- 2013–2014 Graduate Assistantship, School of Public Policy, University of Maryland
- 2012 The Hayek Fund for Scholars Award, Institute for Humane Studies, 250 USD
- 2012 Emerging Scholar Award, Association for Research on Nonprofit Organizations and Voluntary Action, 1,400 USD
- 2011–2013 Dean's Fellowship, School of Public Policy, University of Maryland, Full tuition remission + 40,000 USD living stipend (20,000 USD for 2 years)
- 2009–2011 Merit Honor Award, School of Public Affairs, American University, Full tuition remission + 20,000 USD living stipend (10,000 USD for 2 years)
- 2004–2008 Full Academic Scholarship, Gettysburg College, Full tuition remission + all living expenses covered
- 2008 Economics Department Graduation Banner Carrier, Gettysburg College
- 2008 Outstanding Honors Thesis Award, Gettysburg College
- 2008 Eisenhower Society/R.M. Hoffman Family Memorial Prize in Economics, Gettysburg College
- 2007 Outstanding Student Award, Financial Executives International, PA Chapter
- 2007 Phi Beta Kappa
- 2007 Railing Fellow, Department of Economics, Gettysburg College
- 2006 James Boyd Hartzell Memorial Award in Economics, Gettysburg College

Selected Research Visits

- 2021 Visiting Professorship, University of Johannesburg, February-March, 2021
- 2020 The Brookings Institution, March, 2020, Cancelled due to COVID-19
- 2020 IZA Bonn, March, 2020, Cancelled due to COVID-19
- 2019 Visiting Fellowship, IOS Regensburg, July 2019

Invited Talks

- 2021 School of Slavonic and East European Studies, UCL (February 5), LISER (October 19), Humboldt University Berlin (December 1)
- 2020 International Political Economy Colloquium, University of Groningen (March 10); Brookings Institution (April 2, cancelled due to COVID-19), UWE Bristol (December 9)
- 2019 Corvinus University (February 19); Bucharest University of Economic Studies (keynote speech) (June 7); University of Groningen Centre of Entrepreneurship (June 24); Leibnitz Institute for East and Southeast European Studies (IOS), Regensburg, Germany (July 23); University of Groningen, Exploring Entrepreneurship Summer School (August 22); University of Groningen PEGDECH Seminar (September 11); Free University Berlin (November 14)
- 2018 Friedrich Ebert Stiftung, Meeting of Fellowship Recipients, Würzburg, Germany (March 20); European Business School, Wiesbaden, Germany (April 11); University of Groningen (June 21); Leibnitz Institute for East and Southeast European Studies (IOS), Regensburg, Germany (July 17); Centraal Planbureau, The Netherlands (September 18); Leeds University Business School (November 7), Erasmus University Rotterdam, The Netherlands (November 14)
- 2017 Max Planck Institute for Research on Collective Goods, Bonn, Germany (March 22); Stockholm Institute of Transition Economics (SITE) (October 10)

- 2016 Leibnitz Institute for East and Southeast European Studies (IOS), Regensburg, Germany (January 26), Tinbergen Institute, Erasmus University Rotterdam, The Netherlands (February 1)
- 2015 Oxford College of Emory University, Convington, GA (March 17); Temple University Department of Economics, Philadelphia, PA (March 20)
- 2014 DC Political Economy Seminar Series, Inter-American Development Bank, Washington, DC (with C. Graham, S. Chattopadhyay and L. Goff) (March 28)
- 2013 Development Circle, University of Maryland, College Park, MD (October 23); Brookings-IZA Roundtable Discussion for the Launch of "International Handbook on the Economics of Migration," Washington, DC (November 20)

Conference & Workshop Participation

- 2021 International Society for Quality of Life Studies (ISQOLS), virtual (August 23-27); European Society for Population Economics (ESPE), virtual (June 17-19); European Public Choice Society (EPCS), virtual (April 21-22); Markets and Institutions in Eastern & Central Europe, WEast Conference, virtual (March 12-13); American Economic Association Annual Meeting (ASSA), virtual (January 3-5)
- 2020 International Society for Quality of Life Studies (ISQOLS), GLO/EHERO Special Sessions, virtual (September 25); European Economic Association Annual Meeting, virtual (August 24-27)
- 2019 Psychological Perspectives on Entrepreneurship, University of Groningen (October 30-31); International Society for Quality of Life Studies (ISQOLS) Annual Conference, Granada, Spain (September 4-8); European Society for Population Economics (ESPE) Annual Conference, Bath UK (June 20-22)
- 2018 EBES Conference, Berlin, Germany (May 23-25)
- 2017 European Happiness Days, Rotterdam, The Netherlands (March 20-22); Entrepreneurship & Well-being Workshop, Steninge, Sweden (June 1-4); EALE 2017, St. Gallen, Switzerland (September 21-23)
Well-being Workshop, The Brookings Institution, Washington, DC (May 25-26)
- 2016 Happiness Conference, Rome, Italy (March 15-16)
Well-being Workshop, The Brookings Institution, Washington, DC (May 19-20)
IOS Summer Academy, Tutzing, Germany (June 15-17)
EACES Conference, Regensburg, Germany (September 8-10)
Workshop on Subjective Survey Data in Labour Market Research, Trier, Germany (October 7-8)
- 2015 Annual Meetings of the Public Choice Society, San Antonio, TX (March 12-15)
IZA/SOLE Transatlantic Meeting Buch/Ammersee, Germany (July 2-5)
ISQOLS Annual Conference, Phoenix, Arizona (October 15-17)
Human Dignity and Human Development Conference, Notre Dame, IN (October 22-24)
- 2014 2nd NEUJOBS Validation Event, Bonn, Germany (April 9-11)
APPAM International Conference, Segovia, Spain (September 28-30)
EUBORDERREGIONS Conference, Tartu, Estonia (November 27-28)
- 2012 ARNOVA Annual Conference, Indianapolis, IN (November 27-28)
APPAM Annual Conference, Baltimore, MD (November 8-10)
- 2011 APPAM Annual Conference, Washington, DC (November 3-5)
- 2010 ARNOVA Annual Conference, Alexandria, VA (November 18-20)

2008 Annual Conference for Undergraduate Women in Math, Lincoln, NE (February 7-8)

Professional & Academic Service

- University of Groningen Member of the Steering Committee Centre for Public Health in Economics and Business (since 2021); Member of the Honours Bachelor Programme Committee (2019-2021); Hiring Committee, Tenure Track Assistant Professorship, Global Economics and Management (Fall 2019); Academic Coordinator, Double Degree Master Central-East European Economies with Corvinus University (Hungary) (since 2018), Honors Bachelor Program Co-Coordinator (since 2021)
- Co-organizer GLO/EHERO Special Sessions on Well-being, ISQOLS Annual Conference (2019, 2020, 2021); Groningen Growth and Development Center Conference Session (2020)
- Scientific Committee Member 18th ISQOLS Annual Conference, (25-28, August 2020)
- Seminar Organizer IZA Internal Seminar (Sept. 2016-Dec. 2017)
- 101 peer reviews since 2013 Journal of Economic Behavior & Organization; Journal of Population Economics; Journal of Regional Science; Nonprofit & Voluntary Sector Quarterly; IZA Journal of Migration; IZA World Of Labor; International Review of Economics; Journal of Economic Psychology; PLOS One; Review of Income and Wealth; Labour Economics; Journal of Business Venturing; Journal of the Economics of the Ageing; Journal of Economic and Social Geography; Journal of Happiness Studies ; International Migration; Applied Economics; Nonprofit Management & Leadership; Public Administration Review; Psychology of Well-Being: Theory, Research, and Practice; Social Policy & Society; Oxford Economic Papers; Journal of Economics Psychology, VOLUNTAS
- The International Journal of Human Resource Management; Comparative Migration Studies; Journal of Behavioral and Experimental Economics; Applied Economics; Regional Science Policy & Practice; European Journal of Political Economy; International Review of Economics; The B.E. Journal of Economic Analysis and Policy; Journal of Entrepreneurship and Public Policy; Palgrave Macmillan; Springer Books; National Science Centre, Poland

Ph.D. Student Supervision & Committees

- start year: 2021 Daniele Marchesi, University of Groningen, co-supervised with Viola Angelini
- start year: 2020 Stefan Sliwa, University of Groningen, co-supervised with Lukas Linsi & Viola Angelini
- start year: 2019 Robin Konietzny, University of Groningen, co-supervised with Bart Los
- start year: 2017 Femke Cnossen, University of Groningen, co-supervised with Robert Inklaar & Steven Brakman
- external committee member Tiffany Ford, University of Maryland, College Park
- member of the Ph.D. corona Johannes Kleinhempel (2019) and Aobo Jiang (2020), University of Groningen
- external examiner Ujjwal Das, University of Leeds, Defence Date: October 11, 2019; Nasir Rajah, University of Leeds, Defence Date: January 23, 2020, Henrik Schwabe, University of Oslo, Defence Date: December 18, 2020

Supervision of (Research) Master and Bachelor Theses

- 2020-2021 Castor Compoj, Research Master, University of Groningen
- 2019-2020 Robin Konietzny, Research Master, University of Groningen

- 2018-2021 Main Supervisor, 13 Master students, Economic Development & Globalization, University of Groningen
- 2018-2021 Main Supervisor, 62 Bachelor students, International Business, University of Groningen

Teaching

- teaching certificate University Teaching Qualification (UTQ), 2019
- Economics & Business Course Coordinator/ Lecturer, Instructor, Global Political Economy, The University of Groningen (Semester 2b, 2018-2019; Semester 2b, 2019-2020, Semester 2b, 2020-2021)
- Lecturer/Instructor, and Course Coordinator since 2021, Globalization Debates (Master-level), The University of Groningen (Semester 1a, 2019-2020, Semester 1a 2020-2021, Semester 1a 2021-2022)
- Instructor, Research Paper for Economics and Business Economics, The University of Groningen (Semester 2a, 2018-2019)
- Instructor, Honours College Research Seminar II, The University of Groningen (Semester 1b, 2018-2019; Semester 1b, 2019-2020, Semester 1b, 2020-2021)
- Guest Lecturer, Honours College Winter School, The University of Groningen (2020)
- Teaching Assistant (Instructor), Economics Department, Gettysburg College (Fall 2006; Fall 2007)
- Statistics Lecturer, Online Master of Public Administration and Policy, American University, Washington, DC (Spring 2017)
- Development Economics Lecturer, Introduction to Development Economics, University of Bonn Summer School in Development Policy (August 3, 2017)
- Lecturer, The Business Environment in Transition Countries, Summer Course, European Business School, Wiesbaden (June 30, 2016)
- Teaching Assistant (Instructor), Development Challenges, University of Maryland, College Park (Spring 2014)
- Philanthropy Teaching Assistant (Instructor), Center for Philanthropy and Nonprofit Leadership, University of Maryland, College Park (Fall 2011, Spring 2012)
- Mathematics Grader for Multivariate Calculus, Mathematics Department, Gettysburg College (Fall 2006)
- Teaching Assistant (Instructor), Mathematics Department, Gettysburg College (Fall 2005)

Selected Media Coverage

- 2021 France 24, People and Profit TV Interview (April 8)
- 2018 Econ050 Podcast (December 6)
- Forbes Magazine (September 30)
- 2016 MarketWatch (5 August)
- 2015 IZA Newsroom (9 December)
- 2014 The Washington Post (December 7)
- The Atlantic (December 2014)

Skills

Languages

Bulgarian (native), English (fluent), German (Level C1, Goethe Institute Certificate), Russian (basic), Dutch (B1)

Software

Stata, L^AT_EX, SPSS (basic)