


PERSONAL INFORMATION



Nataša Simić

 Kralja Petra 79, 11000 Belgrade, Serbia

 +381641697818

 nsimic@f.bg.ac.rs

 <https://www.linkedin.com/in/natasa-simic-37577b2b/>

https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Natasa_Simic3

Date of birth 24/4/1986 | Nationality Serbian

WORK EXPERIENCE

May 2010 – present

Senior Research Associate and Associate Professor

Institute of Psychology and Department of Psychology, Faculty of Philosophy, University of Belgrade

- Doing scientific research and publishing papers within the fields of inclusive education, migrants' identity and needs, teacher professional development and motivation, dropout prevention, students' motivation, wellbeing, identity and careers, women in science, etc; organizing conferences, training and summer schools; reviewing scientific papers for scientific journals.
- Holding lectures at the courses: Psychology for Teachers, Didactics of Psychology, Evaluation in teaching, Fundamentals of pedagogical teacher education, Teacher as a researcher, Educational psychology; continuous support to pre- and in-service teachers

Reference: Zora Krmjačić, zkrnjaic@f.bg.ac.rs

Reference: Olja Jovanović Milanović, olja.jovanovic@f.bg.ac.rs

November 2024 – present

Coordinator of the Erasmus+ KA2 project *Computer-Supportive Collaborative Learning for Inclusive Education, Co-CREATE*

University of Belgrade

- Designing procedures and coordinating partners' activities across all work packages; guiding the development and evaluation of CSCL lesson plans in four countries; conducting data analysis and disseminating research results; planning and facilitating webinars and multiplier events; documenting processes and reporting outcomes

Reference: Tamara Topalović, tamara.topalovic@rect.bg.ac.rs

October 2024 – present

Coordinator of the project *TEACHEMPOWER: Building Communities of Practice to Strengthen Teacher Identity and Foster a Better School Environment*, supported by UniCredit Foundation

Faculty of Philosophy

- Designing research; contributing to the development of a teacher professional development program; facilitating program implementation; coordinating activities with schools and facilitators; documenting processes; disseminating results; and reporting

Reference: Pietro Berte, pietro.berte@unicredit.eu

October 2011 – present

Psychotherapist

Private practice, Belgrade

- Individual counselling and psychotherapy, couples counselling, psychological assessment of children and adults, career guidance, diploma obtained from Serbian Constructivist Association

Reference: Dušan Stojnov, duda.stojnov@gmail.com

April 2020 – June 2025

M&E Consultant within projects: *Akelius Learning Initiative, Bridging Digital Divide in Serbia for Most Vulnerable Children and Enhanced Equal Access to and Completion of Pre-University Education for Children in Need of Additional Support in Education*
UNICEF Serbia

- Creating Theory of Change, designing M&E Framework, designing M&E instruments (questionnaires, interview and focus group discussion guides, observation forms, journals), data collection and analysis, QA, report writing and dissemination

Reference: Tanja Ranković, trankovic@unicef.org

April 2023 – June 2025

Principal Investigator – Coordinator of the project *Narrativisation of ethnic identities of adolescents from culturally dominant and minority backgrounds, and the role of the school context (NIdEA)*

Science Fund of the Republic of Serbia

- Designing research, coordinating data collection, data analysis and publication writing; wider dissemination (conferences, policy briefs, social media posts) empowering schools: administrative and organizational tasks, quality assurance

Reference: Milana Todorović, identiteti-reporting@fondzanauku.gov.rs

March 2022 – December 2023

Expert for contextual analysis and desining the campaign on migration and migrants/ refugees within the *E-Mindful* project
OSCE & ILO

- Preparing contextual analysis (overview of scientific research on representation of migrants/ refugees in Serbia and public polls on attitudes towards migrants/ refugees; participating in discussion with other academicians and artists about the most effective campaign and desining the storyboard; conducting focus groups for collecting feedback about the camapign and writing reports

Reference: Amra Selesković, seleskovic@ilo.org

December 2020 – July 2023

National coordinator of the Erasmus+ project *Illumine – A community for exploring and sharing uses of evidence-based teaching strategies*
University of Belgrade

- Coordinating WPs Research and QA, contibuting to designing workshops, handbook and digital learning platform for teachers, cooperating with schools, coordination and dissemination activities; writing reports and research papers

Reference: Marc Yoshimi Beardsley, marc.beardsley@upf.edu

December 2020 – May 2021

International consultant for additional evidence collection in relation to Torino process reports
European Training Foundation

- Qualitative content analysis of reports, interviews and focus group discussions; designing reports, contribution to preparation of final reports including conclusions and recommendations related to vocational education and training

Reference: Mihaylo Milovanovich, Mihaylo.Milovanovitch@etf.europa.eu

January 2019 – April 2020

Coordinator of the project *Monitoring and evaluation of transitional model for inclusion of children older than seven and a half years into regular elementary schools*, supported by UNICEF Serbia

Institute of Psychology, Belgrade

- Development of the ToC, indicators and research instruments; conducting research in schools; data analysis and report writing; managerial, coordination and dissemination activities; defining recommendations for policy makers

Reference: Anne Maria Ćuković, acukovic@unicef.org

October 2017 – July 2019

Academic coach and online courses facilitator

Nobel Coaching & Tutoring, international virtual company

- Online psychological coaching; designing online STEAM courses grounded in the project-based learning approach (design of the activities, writing guidelines for instructors and facilitators, preparing educational materials on soft skills improvement, facilitating groups of students online, evaluating the courses)

Reference: Andrew Sachs, andrews@nobelcoaching.com

September 2018 – June 2019

Researcher and evaluator of the activities conducted in preschool institutions within the project *Roma ECDE Initiative in Serbia*, realized by CIP-Center
Open Society Foundation, Belgrade, Serbia

- Planning research methodology, conducting research in preschool institutions and primary schools, data analysis and case studies preparation.

Reference: Milena Mihajlović, milena@cipcentar.org

January 2018 – June 2018

External evaluator of Erasmus+ project applications
Foundation Tempus.

- Evaluation of the project applications in the field of education, training and youth (Erasmus KA1 and KA2 projects)

Reference: Sofija Dukić, sofija@tempus.ac.rs

August 2017 – May 2018

Researcher at the project *Inclusion of refugee and migrant children and their parents – needs assessment and parent support*, supported by Save the Children Center for Interactive Pedagogy (CIP), Belgrade

- Designing a qualitative study on challenges and good practices in the inclusion of refugee children in regular education; desk research; conducting interviews and focus groups; creating recommendations for policy makers and other stakeholders; writing the report and dissemination of the results

Reference: Boris Spasić, boris@cipcentar.org

June 2015 – September 2017

Researcher at the project *Romani Champions*, supported by FXB Center for Health and Human rights, Harvard University Center for Interactive Pedagogy (CIP), Belgrade

- Designing a mixed-method study on Romani college students' experiences during schooling and studying; desk research, data analysis, writing reports and dissemination; conducting trainings for Romani students

Reference: Boris Spasić, boris@cipcentar.org

July 2016 – June 2017

Coordinator of the activities delivered within the project *Making a Difference for Refugee Children in Europe*, supported by International Rescue Committee (IRC) and DFID Psychosocial Innovation Network (PIN), Belgrade

- Designing educational programme for refugee youth, conducting educational and psychological workshops; creating and organizing awareness raising events in the local communities, advocacy activities; supporting children's enrolment in regular schools; coordinating and supervising field workers

Reference: Vesna Banović, Vesna.Banovic@rescue.org

June 2014 – December 2016

Curriculum Analyst and **Moodle materials developer** at *eSchool4S*, project within the framework of the EU program Lifelong Learning Programme (LLP), Comenius-Multilateral Networks, dealing with promotion of e-learning and sustainable development. University of Belgrade, Belgrade

- Analysing national curricula, writing national reports on education for sustainable development and e-learning, creating educational material and Moodle courses for secondary school students on social inclusion

Reference: Danijela Petrović, dspetrovic65@gmail.com

January 2015 – June 2015

Research assistant at the project *Monitoring and Evaluation of Inclusive Education* World Bank Group, Belgrade

- Desk research, writing national report on the state of inclusive education in the Republic of Serbia; designing methodological framework for the research of relevant stakeholders' perceptions of the implementation of inclusive education in Serbia, participating at the regional meetings with relevant stakeholders

Reference: Eben Friedman, eben.friedman@gmail.com

January 2011–September 2012

Researcher at the project *Images of intercultural education and their implications for teacher training*

Institute of Psychology, Belgrade, and PHZ Zug, Zug (Switzerland)

- Designing a qualitative study on pre-service teachers' notions of intercultural education, desk research, conducting interviews and data analysis, reports and scientific papers writing and presentation

Reference: Danijela Petrović, dspetrovic65@gmail.com

October 2010 – October 2014

Curriculum developer at *Tempus IV MASTS511170 project*, aiming at creating a Master programme for subject teachers University of Belgrade, Belgrade

- Creating courses within the Master programme for subject teachers and preparation of learning materials; selection of the students; advocacy and dissemination activities

Reference: Lidija Radulović, liradulo@f.bg.ac.rs

August – November 2009

School psychologist

Elementary school "Stevan Sindelić", Belgrade

- Testing and psychological assessment of children; psychological counselling (children, teachers and parents); workshops and events organization, career guidance

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

October 2009 –
September 2014

Ph.D. in Psychology

Faculty of Philosophy, University of Belgrade

- Theses title: *Teacher professional concerns and coping mechanisms*

October 2004 –
September 2009

Graduate psychologist

Faculty of Philosophy, University of Belgrade

- Final paper's title: *Relationship between high school students' and teachers' epistemological beliefs and motivational orientation*

PERSONAL SKILLS

Mother tongue(s)

Serbian (including other languages from former Yugoslavia)

Other language(s)

	UNDERSTANDING		SPEAKING		WRITING
	Listening	Reading	Spoken interaction	Spoken production	
English	C1	C2	C1	C1	C2
German	B2	C1	B2	B2	B2
Spanish	A2	B1	A1	A1	A1
French	A1	A2	A1	A1	A1

Job-related skills

Excellent teamwork, organizational and time management skills, with high ability to handle multiple tasks simultaneously; excellent communication and presentation skills; a good listener and proficient in embracing diverse perspectives; insights focused and self-directed; combining analytical skills and creativity

Digital competence

SELF-ASSESSMENT				
Information processing	Communication	Content creation	Safety	Problem solving
Independent user	Proficient user	Independent user	Basic user	Independent user

- Proficient user of Office suite (word processor, spread sheet, presentation software)
- Proficient user of data analysis software (SPSS, MAXQDA, Atlas.ti, NVivo)
- Good command of the learning platform Moodle and web service Google Classroom
- Proficient user of team communication tools (Slack, Trello)

Other skills

Latino and ballroom dances, creative writing

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Publications (selected)

- Jovčić, N., & Simić, N. (2024). Beyond the Edge of Exhaustion: Redefining the Concept of School Burnout Syndrome Through Qualitative Reexamination of Secondary School Students' Experiences. *School Mental Health*, <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12310-024-09654-w>
- Simić, N., & Vukelić, M. (2023). The Transition to Vocational Secondary School in Serbia: A Two-Wave Moderated Mediation Study on School Climate, Teacher Support, Engagement and School Adjustment. *SAGE Open*, 13(1). <https://doi.org/10.1177/21582440231164899>
- Simić, N., Mojović Zdravković, K. & Ignjatović, N. (2022). Student engagement in online and face-to-face classes in times of pandemic. *Nastava i vaspitanje*. 71(3), 347-362 <https://doi.org/10.5937/nasvas2203347S>
- Simić, N., Marušić Jablanović, M. & Grbić, S. (2021) Why teaching? A validation of the fit-choice scale in the Serbian context, *Journal of Education for Teaching*, 48 (1), <https://doi.org/10.1080/02607476.2021.1958655>
- Simić, N., Stančić, M. & Vranješević, J. (2019). Roma in Higher Education – Psychological and Social Capital as Factors of Academic Success. *Andragoške studije* 11(2), 127–148. doi:10.5937/AndStud1902127S

- **Simić, N.**, Vranješević, J. & Ilić, I. (2019). Muslim Refugees in Serbia –Narrating Gender Role Identity Change. *Etnoantropološki problemi*, 14(4), 1273–1293. <https://doi.org/10.21301/eap.v14i4.10>.
- **Simić, N.** (2019). *Teacher professional concerns*. Belgrade: Institute of psychology.
- Orlović-Lovren, V., Petrović, D., & **Simić, N.** (2019). Sustainable development: Between Global Policy and Teachers' Conceptions, In V.Orlović-Lovren, Peeters, J. & Matović, N. (Eds.) *Quality of Education: Global Development Goals and Local Strategies* (pp. 99–116). Belgrade: University of Belgrade and Ghent University.
- **Simić, N.** & Vranješević, J. (2019). Refugee Children in Formal Education in Serbia – Multi-Perspective Views on Challenges and Good Practices, In Gorak-Sosnowska, K., Pachocka, M. & Misulina, J. (Eds.), *Muslim Minorities and the Refugee Crisis in Europe* (pp.135–148). Warsaw: SGH Warsaw School of Economics
- **Simić, N.**, Purić, D., Stančić, M. (2018). Motivation for the Teaching Profession: Evaluation of the Orientation for Teaching Survey on In-service Teachers. *Psihologija*, 51(3), 309–331. <https://doi.org/10.2298/PSI170327012S>.
- Pavlović-Babić, D., **Simić, N.** & Friedman, E. (2017). School-level facilitators of inclusive education: the case of Serbia. *European Journal of Special Needs Education*, 33(4), 449–465, DOI: 10.1080/08856257.2017.1342419.
- **Simić, N.**, Jokić, T. & Vukelić, M. (2017). Personal Construct Psychology in Pre-Service Teacher Education: The Path Toward Reflexivity. *Journal of Constructivist Psychology*, 1–17. DOI: 10.1080/10720537.2017.1336137.
- **Simić, N.** & Krstić, K. (2017). School factors related to dropout from primary and secondary education in Serbia – a qualitative research. *Psihološka istraživanja*, 20(1), 51–70.
- Stepanović-Ilić, I., Lazarević, Lj. i **Simić, N.** (2017). Social factors outside of family and school related to student dropout, *Psihološka istraživanja*, 20(1), 89–105.
- **Simić, N.** & Đorđević, V. (2016). Work satisfaction and challenges in scientific career – women's perspective, in Maksimović, Ostrouch-Kaminska, Popović & Bulajić (Eds.). *Contemporary Issues and Perspectives on Gender Research in Adult Education*. Belgrade: ESREA.
- **Simić, N.** (2015). Motivacija za izbor profesije nastavnika – perspektiva budućih nastavnika, pripravnika i iskusnih predmetnih nastavnika [Motivation for the teaching profession – student teachers', novices' and experienced teachers' perspective]. *Zbornik Instituta za pedagoška istraživanja*, 47(2), 199–221.
- Jovanović, O., **Simić, N.** & Rajović, V. (2014). Students at risk: Perceptions of Serbian teachers and implications for teacher education. *European Journal of Teacher Education*, 37(2), 220–236. DOI: 10.1080/02619768.2013.858693
- **Simić, N.**, Bachmann, G. & Stančić, M. (2013). Comparison of Teacher Education Reforms in Serbia and Austria, in Despotović, M., Hebib, E. & Nemeth, B. (Eds.) *Contemporary issues of education quality*. Belgrade: University of Belgrade, Faculty of Philosophy, Institute for Pedagogy and Andragogy; Pécs: University of Pécs, Faculty of Adult Education and HRD

Conferences Participation at many national and international conferences with more than 70 scientific papers

Seminars (created)

- *Healthy Lifestyles – The Imperative in Education* (co-author with Nevena Živković and Emina Nikochević), Institute for Improvement of Quality of Education of the Republic of Serbia, since 2022

Seminars (attended)

- *Results-Based Project Management: Monitoring and Evaluation* (edX, November 2020)
- GYA-IAP Science *Collective Leadership Workshop* at the World Science Forum (Budapest, November 2019)
- *Body in psychotherapy* (TP Center, Belgrade, April 2019)
- *Couples counselling* (Harmonija, Novi Sad, February 2018)
- *Child Safeguarding Investigations Management Training Workshop* (Keeping Children Safe, December 2016)
- *Psychological First Aid* (Save the Children, Belgrade, June 2016)
- *Stress management for staff* (Save the Children, Belgrade, June 2016)
- *Analysing qualitative data with MAXQDA* (Marburg's Research Group on Methods & Evaluation, Berlin, March 2014)

Memberships

- Serbian Constructivist Association
- Serbian Psychologists Society
- Educational Research Association of Serbia
- Board of Directors of CIP-Center
- MAXQDA Research Network and Professional Trainers Network

Honours and awards

Certificate of appreciation for the best *Psihologija* journal's reviewers in 2016

Scholarships

(involving international experience)

- DAAD Scholarship Forschungsstipendien für Doktoranden und Nachwuchswissenschaftler für bis zu 6 Monate, realized at the Institute of Psychology at Ruprecht-Karls University in Heidelberg, Germany (July 2014)
- One-Month Visits Scholarship (OeAD, WUS Austria und Universität in Graz), realized at the Institute of Education at the Karl-Franzens University of Graz, Austria (July 2013)
- BAYHOST Scholarship for a language course, Augsburg, Germany (July 2007)