

This PhD thesis discusses the ethnic revitalization movement of a small minority group of Aromanians in Bulgaria. Based on long-term ethnographic research, it describes and analyzes the processes of mobilization of Bulgarian Aromanians, framed by the actors in terms of ethnicity. The main focus is on their identity politics and revitalization strategies, shaped and negotiated in transnational activist networks and contexts. Epistemologically and methodologically this work adheres to the tradition of ethnography (Atkinson, Coffey, Delamont, Lofland & Lofland 2001); theoretically it works primarily with the concepts of politics of memory, identity and framing (Benford & Snow, 2000; Vermeersch 2006, 2011).

Theoretical and methodological background, presented at the beginning of the thesis, is followed by a critical outline of the history and historiography of the Aromanians in Southeast Europe, which represent an important meaning-making context of the revitalization process. The core of the analysis focuses on the key issues identified in the (ethno)mobilization project of the Bulgarian Aromanians: actors and their representations of "the Aromanianness"; revitalization strategies; international networks; intersection of lay and expert knowledge. The conclusion outlines potential answers to the question of likely motivations of the actors to participate in the ethnic revitalization and also indicates the limits of the revitalization efforts as a whole.