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ABOUT ME

Researcher, PhD candidate and analyst using network analysis, econometrics and mixed methods to investigate the economics, politics, and societies of South- and Central-Eastern Europe as well as the Former Soviet Union.

ABOUT ME

Scholarships and awards

Scholarships

- 2023-2027 | Merit-based tuition waiver from Faculty of Social Sciences at the University of Ljubljana;
- 2022 | Merit-based scholarship from Faculty of Social Sciences at the University of Graz;
- 2021 | Conference-fee waiver from the Ministry of Science and Education of Republika Srpska (Bosnia and Herzegovina);
- 2021 | Merit-based scholarship from Faculty of Social Sciences at the University of Graz;
- 2021 | Merit-based scholarship from the Danube Rectors' Conference;
- 2021 | Empowerment scholarship from the OeAD;
- 2021 | Merit-based scholarship from the *Watson Institute* (Boulder, CO);
- 2018 | Merit-based scholarship from the *Bulgarian Ministry of Culture and Science*;
- 2017 | Scholarship from the *American Field Service*;
- 2017 | Second prize at National Literary Contest "Gaetano Balzano" Award.
- 2017 | Honourable mention at the Certame Vichiano
- 2016 | Honourable mention at the National Literary Contest "Gaetano Balzano" Award.
- 2016 | Honourable mention at the Certame Vichiano

WORK EXPERIENCE

UNIVERSITY RESEARCHER – FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES (FDV) AT THE UNIVERSITY OF LJUBLJANA – 10/2021 –
Current – LJUBLJANA, SLOVENIA

Business or Sector: Professional, scientific and technical activities |

Department: Faculty of Social Sciences (FDV) at the University of Ljubljana |

Address: Kardeljeva ploščad 5, 1000, Ljubljana, Slovenia | **Website:** <https://www.fdv.uni-lj.si> |

Links : <https://www.fdv.uni-lj.si/en/news-and-information/contacts/expert-services/info/fabio-ashtar-telarico> | <https://www.fdv.uni-lj.si/obvestila-in-informacije/imenik-sodelavcev/strokovne-sluzbe/kartica/fabio-ashtar-telarico/> | <https://web.archive.org/web/20210819183850/https://www.fdv.uni-lj.si/en/research/institute-of-social-science/national-research-projects/J5-2557>

The Faculty of Social Sciences (FDV) is well known for its interdisciplinary research activities and builds its academic excellence through outstanding theoretical and empirical research, extensive scholarly publishing, and a successful transfer of research results in curricula as well as the industries.

Career progression:

1. Student Research Assistant (Nov. 2021 - Apr. 2022, 5 months)
2. Researcher (Apr. 2022 - Jan. 2023, 9 months)
3. Research Assistant (Feb. 2023 - Sept. 2023, 8 months)
4. Young Researcher (Oct. 2023 -)

Current activities and responsibilities:

- Researching blockmodeling methods for complex network, especially temporal/dynamic ones with the mentorship of Prof. PhD Aleš Žiberna;

- Publishing research outputs as journal paper;
- Presenting in-progress research at international conferences;
- Acquiring enhanced knowledge of
 - probability theory,
 - data analysis,
 - statistical programming,
 - network analysis,
 - use of AI and LLMs in research
 - contemporary developments in statistics.
- Carrying out independent research in econometrics, statistical programming and computational statistics

Past activities and responsibilities:

- Designing and implementing research activities in the context of the National Research project *Comparison and evaluation of different approaches to blockmodeling dynamic networks by simulations with application to Slovenian coauthorship networks*;
- Advancing network theory and blockmodeling with Prof. Aleš Žiberna;
- Using networks to analyse the dynamics of knowledge production with Prof. Aleš Žiberna, Prof. Franc Mali, and Assistant Prof. Luka Kronegger;
- Carrying out independent research in econometrics, statistical programming and computational statistics

NON-RESIDENT FELLOW – ZAVOD 14 – 07/2022 – Current – LJUBLJANA, SLOVENIA

Business or Sector: Professional, scientific and technical activities | **Address:** Ljubljanska cesta 16, 3000, Ljubljana, Slovenia | **Email:** info@zavod14.si | **Website:** <https://zavod14.si/>

Zavod 14 is the leading economic think tank in Slovenia, observing, analysing, and contributing to the debate on European public policy issues and the process of European integration through research, training, and the promotion of active citizenship. Through its membership in the European Liberal Forum (ELF), it provides the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe Party (ALDE) with scientific inputs on policy.

Main activities and responsibilities:

- Performing macroeconomic researches and analyses using statistical data and econometric models in order to formulate concrete, result-oriented advice to the Bulgarian governments on tax policies.
- Compiling the results of this work in chapter-length papers and one-page policy briefs.
- Presenting the results at conferences for policymakers and round-table discussions with other experts organised by the European Liberal Forum (ELF).

● EDUCATION AND TRAINING

2023 – CURRENT Ljubljana, Slovenia

INTERDISCIPLINARY DOCTORAL DEGREE PROGRAMME IN STATISTICS (CURRICULUM: SOCIAL-SCIENCE STATISTICS) University of Ljubljana

The main goal of the interdisciplinary doctoral programme in Statistics is to further educate experts who have some fundamental knowledge in statistical theory, some experience in the field or some general statistical knowledge that is specific to an individual scientific field. The programme was organized and is carried out by experts from different faculties.

Dissertation's topic: Network analysis, Blockmodeling, Epistemology, Sociology of Science.

Mentor: Prof. PhD Aleš Žiberna

Courses taken:

- Methodology of Statistical Research (Prof. M. Permann and Prof. M. Pohar-Perme)
- Statistical Computing (Prof. N. Kejžar)
- Network Analysis (Prof. V. Batagelj);
- ChatGPT for researchers (Prof. B. Zupan);
- New Developments in Statistics (Prof. A. Žiberna).

Website <https://www.uni-lj.si/study/doctoral/statistics/> |

Field of study Inter-disciplinary programmes and qualifications involving social sciences, journalism and information , Statistics , Inter-disciplinary programmes and qualifications involving natural sciences, mathematics and statistics

Level in EQF EQF level 8 | **Type of credits** ECTS | **Number of credits** 240

GPA: 1/1

The Interdisciplinary Joint MA in South-Eastern European Studies was developed as a part of the EU Commission's Tempus project to provide a master's programme in social sciences and humanities of the highest quality. Graduates understand the interrelationship between law, politics, economics and culture with strong emphasis on the regional dimension of South-Eastern Europe. The MA promotes inter- and trans-disciplinary analysis which includes areas of legal, political, economic and cultural studies. The master's programme prepares students for further PhD studies and professional life in a variety of fields.

Thesis's topics

Political economy, Econometrics, Economic policymaking, Statistical modeling.

About the curriculum

Majors:

- Socio-economic development;
- Statistics and Econometrics;
- Comparative politics.

Minors:

- Bulgarian language;
- Public policy evaluation
- Intercultural negotiation.

Address Universitätsplatz 3, 8010, Graz, Austria | **Website** <https://www.uni-graz.at/> |

Field of study Inter-disciplinary programmes and qualifications involving social sciences, journalism and information , Economics |

Final grade 1 | **Level in EQF** EQF level 7 | **Type of credits** ECTS | **Number of credits** 120 |

Thesis Reforming taxation to remedy inequalities and revive FDIs in Bulgaria: Models and policies for new PIT and CIT tax regimes

● LANGUAGE SKILLS

Mother tongue(s): **NEAPOLITAN** | **ITALIAN**

Other language(s):

	UNDERSTANDING		SPEAKING		WRITING
	Listening	Reading	Spoken production	Spoken interaction	
ENGLISH	C2	C2	C2	C2	C2
FRENCH	B2	C1			

Levels: A1 and A2: Basic user; B1 and B2: Independent user; C1 and C2: Proficient user

● COURSE

02/11/2021 – 29/11/2021

Tableau for Teaching (TFT)

Participation in the Tableau for Teaching program, which provides academics at accredited institutions worldwide with software and resources to teach Tableau. The course covered how to teach the following courses for graduate students:

- **Data Literacy I:** Ten modules are designed to provide students with an introduction to data literacy and quantitative skills. This course covers data fundamentals, statistical thinking, and how to communicate with data. The course content includes lectures, discussions, in-class activities, Tableau practice, test bank, and homework assignments.
- **Data Literacy II:** Ten modules will provide students with the data literacy skills of visualizing and communicating data stories. The course covers visualization best practices, design fundamentals, presenting data stories, and data culture. This course content includes lectures, discussions, in-class activities, Tableau practice, test bank, and a class project.
- **Tableau Online:** Tableau Online is a cloud platform where students can share their work and collaborate by uploading workbooks to a site managed by instructors. Tableau Online can help transition courses to a virtual environment. A single Tableau Online site can be used to manage multiple courses, multiple team projects,

enable peer review, and can also be used to help evaluate student progress. The document guides instructors through setting up and using a Tableau Online Site.

- **Data Visualization:** A 10 week curriculum to cover the fundamentals and best practices of data visualization analysis. This course covers a broad range of topics with specific lectures on color, dashboard design, typography, and mapping data.
- **Tableau Desktop Training:** This modular curriculum is designed to teach basic and advanced Tableau functionality in any field of study. Topics include connecting to data, calculated fields, maps, and dashboards and stories.
- **Introduction to Data Journalism with Tableau:** This course is designed to teach an Introduction to Data Journalism with Tableau over a 10-week term. The modules are designed to be taught in a sequential order.
- **Social Media Analytics with Tableau:** A module outlining steps to analyze Twitter and Facebook data.

01/2021 – 06/2021

Univesity of Lisbon, Portugal - Língua e Cultura Búlgaras IV [Bulgarian Language and Literature IV]

Advanced course in Bulgarian:

- approaching the level of an educated native speaker
- Language for practical communication purposes
- Developing a higher degree of fluency and spontaneity
- Distinguishing dialects, idioms and jargon
- Broadened vocabulary and finding ways to express something without knowing the exact word
- advanced understanding of grammar and pragmatics
- Sophisticated insights into the culture, history and civilisation of the country

● CONFERENCES AND SEMINARS

26/10/2022 Faculty of Mathematics and Physics (FMF) at the University of Ljubljana (Ljubljana, Slovenia)

Wednesday Seminar at the Faculty of Mathematics and Physics № 1325

Speaker on the topic: 'Approaches to dynamic (temporal) SBM: The case of Slovene co-authorship networks (1991-2020)'.

Links <https://www.fmf.uni-lj.si/en/news/event/752/1325-sredin-seminar-fabio-ashtar-telarico-approaches-to-dynamic-temporal-sbm-the-case-of-slovene-co-authorship-networks-1991-2020/> | <https://web.archive.org/web/2022122214358/https://www.fmf.uni-lj.si/en/news/event/752/1325-sredin-seminar-fabio-ashtar-telarico-approaches-to-dynamic-temporal-sbm-the-case-of-slovene-co-authorship-networks-1991-2020/>

19/09/2022 – 21/09/2022 Faculty of Social Sciences (FDV) at the University of Ljubljana (Slovenia)

Applied statistics 2022 International Conference

Link <https://web.archive.org/web/20221221131211/https://akastrin.si/as/as-book-2022.pdf#page=44>

● PUBLICATIONS

Monographic works

Books

- 2022 *Bulgarians' fight against inflation A case study in economics' (poor) understanding of post-socialism*. Chisinau: Lambert Academic Publishing, pp. 172. With a preface by Prof. PhD. Antonio Lopes. ISBN: 978-6204737850 ([Amazon](#))

Reports

- 2024. "The harmfulness of misplaced comparisons: A Euro-pragmatic approach to the Israel-Hamas and Russo-Ukrainian wars". [Policy paper]. *EST*. [URL](#).
- 2023. "Patterns of post-socialist unionism: Bulgarian labour unions after 1991". [Working paper]. *Global Labour Research Centre at the Univeristy of York*, pp. 1-15. [URL](#).
- 2021. "Demythologising the 'Russification' of Bulgarian media's treatment of civil society: Analysis of the transfer of Russian mainstream news media's cliches and rhetoric on CSOs upholding human rights and environmentalism to Bulgaria". [Research Report] *BlueLink Foundation*, pp. 1-72, [URL](#). DOI: [10.5281/zenodo.5903390](https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.5903390); HAL: [03527926](#).

- with Franc Mali and Aleš Žiberna, 'Revealing dynamic co-authorship structure in the social sciences through blockmodeling: the Slovenian case (1991–2020)', *Scientometrics*, 2024, 129, 5635–5672, DOI: [10.1007/s11192-024-05130-z](https://doi.org/10.1007/s11192-024-05130-z); URL: [SpringerNature](https://www.springer.com/nature).
- 'Scaling up Archival Text Analysis with the Blockmodeling of N-gram Networks: A Case Study of Bulgaria's Representation in the "Osservatore Romano"', *Bulgarski ezik i literatura [Bulgarian Language and Literature]*, 2024, 66 (3) DOI: [10.53656/bel2024-3-7](https://doi.org/10.53656/bel2024-3-7); arXiv: [2405.20156](https://arxiv.org/abs/2405.20156)
- 'The EU and Geo-Economic Competition: The Role of Wealth Redistribution and Solidarity'. *European Studies Review* 3, no. 18 (31 October 2023): 36–42. DOI: [10.5281/zenodo.10444487](https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.10444487). URL
- 'Are sanctions for losers? A network study of trade sanctions', *Novi Ekonomist*, 2023, 17(1): 4–11. DOI: [10.7251/NOEEN2333004T](https://doi.org/10.7251/NOEEN2333004T); ResearGate: [374025461](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/374025461); ArXiv: TBA; HAL: [04238902](https://hal.archives-ouvertes.fr/hal-04238902).
- with Argyro Lykaki. 2022. 'Ripensare il "nuovo approccio" alia condizionalità nei Balcani occidentali: lezioni dalla Croazia [Rethinking the "new approach" to conditionality in the Western Balkans: lessons from Croatia]'. *European studies review* 3 (11): 18–23. DOI: [10.5281/zenodo.7415338](https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.7415338); URL, Research Gate: 369542746.
- 'Simplifying and Improving: Revisiting Bulgaria's Revenue Forecasting Models'. *Economic Thought*, 2023, 20 (6), DOI: [10.56497/etj2367601](https://doi.org/10.56497/etj2367601); HAL: [03989969](https://hal.archives-ouvertes.fr/hal-03989969); ideasREPEC: [y2022i6p633-654](https://ideas.repec.org/p/y2022i6p633-654); ArXiv: [2303.09405](https://arxiv.org/abs/2303.09405)
- "Forecasting pandemic tax revenues in a small, open economy: The case of Bulgaria". *Novi Ekonomist*, 2021, 15(29), URL ([10.7251/NOEEN2129018T](https://doi.org/10.7251/NOEEN2129018T)). ([hal-03500128](https://hal.archives-ouvertes.fr/hal-03500128)) [Also in Serbian: "Predviđanje Pandemijskog Prihoda od Poreza u Maloj, Otvorenoj Ekonomiji: Slučaj Bugarske" URL ([10.7251/NOESR2129006T](https://doi.org/10.7251/NOESR2129006T)).]

Contributions in collective works

- 2024. 'Back to the future: Can Bulgaria become Europe's AI hub?'. In Aristovnik, Ravšelj, and Tomažević (eds), *Artificial Intelligence for human-centric society: The future is here*, Brussels: European Liberal Forum, pp. 156-181. URL.
- 2022. 'Back to the drawing board: Guidelines for rethinking Bulgaria's tax competitiveness'. In Aristovnik, Ravšelj, and Tomažević (eds), *Policy briefs on tax competitiveness in the EU*, Brussels: European Liberal Forum, p. 8. URL.
- 2022. 'Back to the drawing board: Guidelines for rethinking Bulgaria's tax competitiveness'. In Aristovnik, Ravšelj, and Tomažević (eds), *Tax competitiveness in the EU: A comparison between 'new' and 'old' member states*, Brussels: European Liberal Forum, pp. 148-169. URL.
- 2021. 'CEE Regional Think Tank Mapping'. In James McGann (ed.), *Central Eastern Europe Think Thank Landscape: Issues, Characteristics, and Opportunities*. Philadelphia:University of Pennsylvania Lauder Institute, 123-178 [10.5281/zenodo.5874873](https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.5874873) ([hal-03500121](https://hal.archives-ouvertes.fr/hal-03500121))
- In James McGann (ed.), *Central Eastern Europe Think Thank Landscape: Issues, Characteristics, and Opportunities*. 2021. Philadelphia:University of Pennsylvania Lauder Institute:
 - 'Bosnia and Herzegovina', pp. 269-279. [10.5281/zenodo.5906958](https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.5906958)
 - 'Montenegro', pp. 296-303. [10.5281/zenodo.5906979](https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.5906979)
 - 'North Macedonia', pp. 304-311. [10.5281/zenodo.5906983](https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.5906983)
 - 'Bulgaria', pp. 355-367 [10.5281/zenodo.5906975](https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.5906975).
- 2021. 'Digital Civic Cultures in Post-socialist South Eastern Europe: Lessons, Prospects and Obstacles After Thirty Years of Media (Il)literacy in the Region'. In Despina Vasileva (ed.), *Дигитална гражданска компетентност и медийни стереотипи [Digital civic competence and media stereotypes]*, Montana (Bulgaria): Polymona, pp.95-108, 978-619-7190-79-3. URL; doi [10.5281/zenodo.5831592](https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.5831592). ([hal-03500087](https://hal.archives-ouvertes.fr/hal-03500087)).

Edited volumes

- With Maya Padeshka and Guentcho Banev (eds.), *Рак Европаеа: Гневът и мирът в европейската цивилизация. Български рефлексии [Rax Europaеа: Wrath and Peace in European Civilization. Bulgarian Reflections]*, 2023. Sofia: National publishing house for education and science „Az-buki“.
- With Maya Padeshka and Mladen Vlashki (eds.), *Измерения на свободата: исторически и културни проекции [Dimensions of Freedom: Historical and Cultural Projections]*, 2022. Sofia: National publishing house for education and science „Az-buki“.
- With Maya Padeshka and Mladen Vlashki (eds.), *Изоляция и глобализация: в отговор на текущата световна ситуация [Isolation and globalization: responding to the current world situation]*, 2021. Sofia: National publishing house for education and science „Az-buki“.

Contributions to conference proceedings

- TBP. 'Putting your mouth were your wallet is: Network approach to the study of the military-industrial-media complex in Bulgaria'. *Рак Европаеа: Гневът и мирът в европейската цивилизация. Български рефлексии [Rax Europaеа: Wrath and Peace in European Civilization. Bulgarian Reflections]*, TBP. Sofia: National publishing house for education and science „Az-buki“.
- 2022. 'From Ethnic Conflict to Ethnic Peace... and How not to Backslide: Lessons to Learn from Bulgaria's History of Inter-Ethnic Relations'. *Българският език, литература и култура: пътища през мултикултурния свят [Bulgarian language, literature and culture: pathways through the multicultural world]*, University of Naples "l'Orientale", Nov 2022, Naples, Italy, pp. 267-277, URL.

- 2021. 'Bulgaria in the OECD corporate tax reform: Assessing the opportunity for a 3.0 tax reform'. *Perspectives of Business and Entrepreneurship Development: Digital Transformation for Business Model Innovation*, University of Brno - Faculty of Business and Management, Sep 2021, Brno, Czech Republic. pp.70-71, [URL \(10.5281/zenodo.5874854\)](https://zenodo.org/record/5874854). ([hal-03533724](https://hal.archives-ouvertes.fr/hal-03533724))
- 2021. 'The General and the Scientist Who Saved the Republic'. In Изолация и глобализация: в отговор на текущата световна ситуация [Isolation and globalization: In response to the current world situation]. Sofia: National publishing house for education and scientific "Az-buki". ([10.5281/zenodo.5903556](https://zenodo.org/record/5903556))
- 2020. 'Proactive Ally, Passive Partner or Spoiler? Bulgarian Defence Policy from the Warsaw Pact to NATO'. In Трансформации: Посветена На 30-Та Годишнина От Падането На Берлинската Стена [Transformations: Dedicated to the 30th Anniversary of the Fall of the Berlin Wall]. Sofia: National publishing house for education and scientific "Az-buki". ([10.5281/zenodo.5903538](https://zenodo.org/record/5903538))

Software

- *FinNet: Quickly Build and Manipulate Financial Networks*. 0.2.1, 31 Oct. 2024. R-Packages, <https://CRAN.R-project.org/package=FinNet>.
- with Roger Lafosse, *BMconcor*. 2.0.0, 2 May 2024. R-Packages, <https://CRAN.R-project.org/package=BMconcor>.
- *morestopwords: All Stop Words in One Place*. 0.2.0, 12 Jun. 2023. R-Packages, <https://cran.r-project.org/package=morestopwords>.
- with Aleš Žiberna. *StochBlock: Stochastic Blockmodeling of One-Mode and Linked Networks*. 0.1.2, 24 Jan. 2023. R-Packages, <https://cran.r-project.org/package=StochBlock>.
- *SPB: Simple Progress Bars for Procedural Coding*. 1.0, 14 Aug. 2022. R-Packages, <https://CRAN.R-project.org/package=SPB>.
- with Aleš Žiberna. *BlockmodelingGUI: GUI for the Generalised Blockmodeling of Valued Networks*. 1.8.3, University of Ljubljana - FDV, 31 May 2022. R-Packages, <https://CRAN.R-project.org/package=BlockmodelingGUI>, doi: [10.5281/zenodo.6554608](https://zenodo.org/record/6554608). ([GitHub](https://github.com)) (For more information, see Prof. PhD [Aleš Žiberna's website](https://alez.ziberna.net))
- 2022. "Transcripts (MS Word and RData versions) for 'A nationalist-conservative grammar of change?'" Dataset, January 22. DOI: [10.5281/ZENODO.5893556](https://zenodo.org/record/5893556).
- 2021. *The Gendered Politics of Food: Women and Food Chains* (version 2.0.0). Harlowe. Ljubljana. [10.5281/ZENODO.5831554](https://zenodo.org/record/5831554).
- 2021. R Code Associated to the Article: "An Election, Another One, and yet Another One: Will Bulgaria Finally Have a Functioning Government?" (version 1.0.0). R. Ljubljana, 2021.DOI: [10.5281/ZENODO.5831549](https://zenodo.org/record/5831549).