

**Jelena Jankovic-Rankovic, Ph.D.**  
**Curriculum Vitae**

University of South Carolina  
Department of Anthropology  
410 Gambrell Hall  
Columbia, SC 29208  
Email: jjankovic@sc.edu

**EDUCATION**

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University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, Indiana USA Anthropology	Ph.D. 2021
University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, Indiana USA Anthropology	M.A 2019
University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, Indiana USA International Peace Studies	M.A. 2015
University of Belgrade, Belgrade, Serbia Strategies and methods of nonviolent social change	M.A. Professional 2011
University of Belgrade, Belgrade, Serbia Faculty of Special Education and Rehabilitation	B.A. 2006

**RESEARCH INTERESTS**

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Biocultural Anthropology; Medical Anthropology; Biological Anthropology; Environmental Anthropology; Cultural Anthropology; Global Migration; Displacement; Resettlement; Water Insecurity; Ethnography; Qualitative and Quantitative Methods; Community-based participatory research; Neuroendocrine, Immune, and Inflammatory Stress Physiology; Mental Health; Lived Experiences; Social Practices; Humanitarian Relief and Development; Gender; Social and Environmental Inequality; Resource Insecurity; Climate Change.

**APPOINTMENTS**

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Assistant Professor, Department of Anthropology  
University of South Carolina, 2023 -

Visiting Researcher, School of Human Evolution and Social Change (SHESC),  
Arizona State University, 2023 -

Postdoctoral Research Scholar, Center for Global Health & Global Institute of Sustainability and  
Innovation  
Arizona State University, 2022 - 2023

Research Coordinator, Hormones, Health, and Human Behavior Laboratory, Department of Anthropology  
University of Notre Dame, 2022 -2022

Postdoctoral Fellow, Department of Anthropology  
University of Notre Dame, 2021- 2022

### **Additional affiliations at USC**

Faculty affiliate:

Walker Institute of International and Area Studies  
Migration Lab  
Population, Health & Armed Conflict Network

### **AWARDS & CERTIFICATES**

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- 2024 Career Influencer, Career Center, University of South Carolina.
- 2024 Certified Peer Reviewer. Research Academy. Elsevier.
- 2019 The Phyllis B. Eveleth Graduate Student Award, Human Biology Association Meeting, Cleveland, OH, USA.
- 2018 The Katie Murphy McMahon Award for Russian and East-Central European Studies  
Nanovic Institute for European Studies, University of Notre Dame.

### **PEER REVIEWED JOURNAL ARTICLES**

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Wutich, A., Nelson, R., DuBois, L. Z., Astorino, C., Knudson, K., Reynolds, A., Riley, E., Smith, R., Vansickle, C., Carroll, S., Connors, C., **Jankovic-Rankovic, J.**, Mitchell, C., Roque, A., Tsosie, K. 2025. Rigorous and Systematic Qualitative Data Analysis in Biological Anthropology. *Yearbook of Biological Anthropology*. January 2025.

**Jankovic-Rankovic, J.**, Roque, A., Rosinger, A., Adams, E., Pearson, A., Lloréns, H., Garcia-Quijano, C., Stoler, J., Harris, L., Wutich, A., & Brewis, A. 2024. Water Sharing: Implications for Disaster Relief and Water Policy. *Water Security* 23, p.100178.

**Jankovic-Rankovic, J.** & Panter-Brick, C. 2024. Human epigenetics and physiology in war and forced displacement: A comprehensive literature review and future directions. *PNEC* 166, 107084, pp. 1–39. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.psyneuen.2024.107084>. (*Editor's Choice Award article for vol. 166*).

Gettler, LT, **Jankovic-Rankovic, J.**, Gengo, R., Eick, GN, Pfaff Nash, M., Arumah, EN, Boru, AM, Ali, SA, Urlacher, SS, Meyer, JS, Snodgrass, JJ, Oka, RC. 2024. Refugee health and physiological profiles in transitional settlements in Serbia and Kenya: Comparative evidence for effects of gender and social support. *PNEC* 107024.

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.psyneuen.2024.107024>. (Editor's Choice Award article for vol. 165).

Castro-Diaz, L., Roque, A., Wutich, A., Landes, L., Li, W.W., Larson, R., Westerhoff, P., Zheng, M., Marcos Hernández, M., Hossain, M., Tsai, Y., Lucero, R., Todd, G. White, D. Hanemann, M., & Consortium, Action for Water Equity. 2024. Participatory Convergence: A process framework for action research. *Minerva*. \*Authorship credit as a consortium member

**Jankovic-Rankovic, J.**, Oka, R., Meyer, J., Snodgrass, J., Eick, G., Meyer, J & Gettler, L.T. 2022. Transient refugees' social support, mental health, and physiological markers: Evidence from Serbian asylum centers. *American Journal of Human Biology*, e23747, DOI: 10.1002/AJHB.23747.

**Jankovic-Rankovic, J.**, Oka, R., Meyer, J., & Gettler, LT. 2020. Forced migration experiences, mental well-being, and nail cortisol among recently settled refugees in Serbia. *Soc Sci Med* 258, 113070.

### Under review

Castro-Diaz, L., Roque, A., Landes, L., Lucero, R., **Jankovic-Rankovic, J.**, Marcos Hernandez, M., Beresford, M., Brewis, A., Jepson, W., Westerhoff, P., Wutich, A., Action for Water Equity Consortium. Water injustices in U.S. colonias along the Mexico border. *Society & Natural Resources*. Submitted August 8, 2024.

### **OTHER SCHOLARLY PUBLICATIONS**

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Shirtcliff, B., **Jankovic-Rankovic, J.**, Gettler, L.T. 2023. A call for action with a call for papers: PNEC announces a special issue for "Biology, conflict, and mental health: Understanding the physiology and trauma of forced migration." *Psychoneuroendocrinology*.

### **JOURNAL SPECIAL ISSUES (Editorial roles)**

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Gettler, L.T., Shirtcliff, B., & **Jankovic-Rankovic, J.** (eds). 2023-2024. Mental health, war trauma, and migration. *Psychoneuroendocrinology*.

### **RESEARCH REPORTS**

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Oka, R., **Jankovic-Rankovic, J.**, Gengo, R., Fink, K., Hare, T., & Mulemi, B. 2019. Understanding stakeholders' interpretations and use of voucher-based refugee relief assistance. *Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration*, U.S. Department of State.

Beteul, A. & **Jankovic, J.** 2015. Strength through diversity: Five cases of local and state level coalition success. *Institute for Social Policy and Understanding*.

## **RESEARCH SUPPORT & FUNDING**

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- 2019 NSF Doctoral Dissertation Research Award: Project title: A biocultural approach to evaluating psychosocial stress mediators in vulnerable communities (DDRIG#1948653). National Science Foundation, (\$25,153).
- 2019 Civil Society Scholar Awards 2019-2020: A biocultural approach to routinized social practices (RSPs) in refugee temporary settlements (CSSA#IN2019-53489). Open Society Foundations, (\$14,968).
- 2016-2021 Pulte Institute for Global Development - Graduate Research Fellowship, \$25,000
- 2016-2021 Kellogg Institute for International Studies - Graduate Research Fellow
- 2020 Institute for Scholarship in the Liberal Arts - Graduate Research Grant, \$2,500
- 2019 Institute for Scholarship in the Liberal Arts - Graduate Research Grant, \$2,750
- 2019 Nanovic Institute for European Studies - Graduate Research Fellowship, \$1,000
- 2018 Nanovic Institute for European Studies - Graduate Research Grant, \$2,800
- 2018 Kellogg Institute for International Studies - Graduate Research Grant, \$7,000
- 2017 Institute for Scholarship in the Liberal Arts - Graduate Research Grant, \$3,000
- 2017 Nanovic Institute for European Studies - Graduate Research Grant, \$2,500
- 2017 Nanovic Institute for European Studies - Graduate Professional Development Grant, \$750
- 2017 Kellogg Institute for International Studies - Graduate Professional Development Grant, \$1,250
- 2013 University of Notre Dame, Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies - Graduate Research Fellowship, \$36,000
- 2010 Center for Applied Nonviolent Action and Strategies - Graduate Research Fellowship, *SRB 150,000*

## **COURSES & TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

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- 2025 Anthropology 591 & 591. H01: Anthropology of Migration: Displacement, Borders, and Health. University of South Carolina. Spring semester.
- Anthropology 762: Biological Anthropology Principles & Theory. Spring semester.
- 2024 Anthropology 161: Human Origins: An Introduction to Biological Anthropology. University of South Carolina. Fall semester.
- 2024 Anthropology 591. H01: Anthropology of Migration: Displacement, Borders, and Health. University of South Carolina. Spring semester.
- Anthropology 350: Anthropology & Development: Converging Realities: Disaster, Relief, Development, and Health. Spring semester.
- 2023 Anthropology 260: Human Variation., Carolina Core Integrative Course for Anthropology Majors. University of South Carolina.
- 2022 Anthropology 20203.01: Global Cultural World: Fundamentals of Social and Cultural Anthropology. University of Notre Dame.

- 2021 Anthropology 30304.01: Anthropology of Migration: Displacement, Borders, and Health. University of Notre Dame.
- 2018 Anthropology 33211.01: Sherds for Nerds-Pottery in Archaeology. Spring semester. Teaching Assistant. University of Notre Dame.
- 2017 Anthropology 20105.01: Human Ethology. Teaching Assistant. University of Notre Dame.

## CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS AND ABSTRACTS

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**Jankovic-Rankovic, J.** and Panter-Brick, C. Biological signatures of war and displacement: A literature review with future directions for research and practice. The Society for Research in Child Development (SRCD) 2025 Biennial Meeting, Minneapolis, Minnesota, USA. May 3-5, 2025.

**Jankovic-Rankovic, J.** Sociality, Routine Practices, and Well-Being Among Refugees in Transition: Perspectives from Asylum Centers in Serbia. Carolinas Migration Conference. UNC Charlotte, North Carolina, January 2025.

**Jankovic-Rankovic, J.,** Oka, R.C, Meyer, J.S. Geeta N., Snodgrass, J. J Urlacher, S.S, Gettler, L.T. Gender differences in nail cortisol, EBV antibody titers, and blood pressure among refugees in Serbia. Annual Meetings of the Human Biology Association, Baltimore, MD. March 2025.

**Jankovic-Rankovic, J.** Oka, RC, Meyer, JS, Gettler, LT. 2024. Association between the asylum process, blood pressure, and cortisol levels among refugees in Serbia. Annual Meetings of the Human Biology Association, Los Angeles, CA.

Gettler, L.T., **Jankovic-Rankovic, J.,** Gengo, R., G., E., Geeta N., Pfaff N., Arumah, M., Newton, E., Boru, A.M., Said, A.M, Urlacher, S.S, Meyer, J.S., Snodgrass, J. J, Oka, R.C. 2024 Refugee health and physiological profiles in transitional settlements in Serbia and Kenya: Comparative evidence for effects of gender and social support. Annual Meetings of the Human Biology Association, Los Angeles, CA.

**Jankovic-Rankovic, J.** 2024. The interrelationship of social dynamics, lived realities, and well-being among transient refugee populations in Serbia. 2024 SEISA Annual Meeting, Wofford College, Spartanburg, SC (April 19-20, 2024).

**Jankovic-Rankovic, J.** Oka, RC, Meyer, JS, Gettler, LT. 2023. Mental health, blood pressure, and nail cortisol among refugees in Serbia. Annual Meetings of the Human Biology Association, Reno, NV.

**Jelena Jankovic-Rankovic,** Oka, RC, Meyer, JS, Gettler, LT. 2022. Work-related stress, mental health, and nail cortisol: A pilot study among aid and non-aid workers in Serbia. Annual Meetings of the Human Biology Association, Denver, CO.

**Jankovic-Rankovic, J.** 2022. Grasping the realm of lived experiences and daily practices in transient refugee spaces in Serbia. 28<sup>th</sup> Conference for Europeanists, Council for European Studies, Virtual conference, Lisbon, Portugal.

**Jelena Jankovic-Rankovic,** Oka, RC, Meyer, JS, Gettler, LT. 2021. Perceived social isolation, mental health, and nail cortisol: A study of refugees in Serbia. Annual Meetings of the Human Biology Association, Virtual conference.

**Jankovic-Rankovic, J.** 2021. Refugees in Europe: Social and cultural challenges facing contemporary Serbia. 27<sup>th</sup> Conference for Europeanists, Council for European Studies, Virtual conference.

**Jankovic-Rankovic, J.** 2020. Refugees in Europe: Social and cultural challenges facing contemporary Serbia. 27<sup>th</sup> Conference for Europeanists, Reykjavik, Iceland. (*Conference canceled*).

**Jankovic-Rankovic, J.** Oka, RC, Eick, GN, Snodgrass, JJ, T Gettler. LT. 2020. Evaluation of mental well-being, inflammation, and cell-mediated immune function following forced migration: A study of refugees in Serbia. Annual Meetings of the Human Biology Association, Los Angeles, CA. (*Conference canceled*)

**Jankovic-Rankovic,** Oka, RC, Meyer, JS, Gettler, LT. 2019. Forced migration and chronic stress: A study of traumatic experiences, mental health, and cortisol among refugees in Serbia. Annual Meetings of the Human Biology Association, Cleveland, OH.

**Jankovic-Rankovic, J.** 2019. Displacement, struggle, and everyday life in asylum centers in Serbia. 5<sup>th</sup> regional Conference for Refugees and Migration, Serbia, Tara.

**Jankovic-Rankovic, J.** 2019. Is it a choice or coercion? A dichotomy or spectrum? The dynamics of exclusion and inclusion in the realm of human mobility and displacement. DGSKA-GAA Conference, Konstanz, Germany.

**Jankovic-Rankovic, J.** 2019. The impact of routinized social practices on well-being: Documenting the everyday experiences of encamped refugees in Belgrade. Royal Geographical Society International Annual Conference, London, UK.

**Jankovic-Rankovic, J.** 2019. Challenges for a new beginning: Life of asylum seekers in Serbia. 26<sup>th</sup> Conference for Europeanists, Madrid, Spain.

**Jankovic-Rankovic, J.** 2019. Co-organizer. Nanovic Institute for European Studies Student Conference, University of Notre Dame.

**Jankovic Rankovic, J.** 2018. An integrative anthropological perspective on forced migration. Student Anthropology Research Forum, University of Notre Dame, South Bend.

**Jankovic-Rankovic, J.** 2018. A conceivable transformation of Serbia: From a country of emigration to a country of (im)migration. 25<sup>th</sup> Conference for Europeanists, Chicago.

**Jankovic-Rankovic, J.** 2017. Refugee crisis in the media: Is Serbia the exception to the rule? Panel title: Migration, Media, and the Politics of Representation. 116th Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, Washington, DC.

**Jankovic-Rankovic, J.** 2017. Displaced people: Forced migratory movement in the modern world. Student Anthropology Research Forum, South Bend, University of Notre Dame.

**Jankovic, J.** 2015. Manufacturing bigotry. Institute for Social Policy and Understanding, Washington, DC.

**Jankovic, J.** 2011. Transforming of residential institutions of children and developing sustainable alternatives. United Nations Children's Funds (UNICEF), Serbia, Belgrade.

**Jankovic, J.** 2010. Founding the Truth and Reconciliation Commission in the former Yugoslavia. 6th Regional Forum RECOM- Regional commission for establishing facts about war crimes and other gross violations of human rights committed on the territory of the former Yugoslavia, Serbia, *Facilitator*.

## **INVITED LECTURES & TALKS**

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**Jankovic-Rankovic, J.** 2024. Navigating Uncertainty in an Increasingly Unpredictable World: A Biocultural Understanding of Psychosocial Stress, Vulnerability, and Health. Hazards Vulnerability and Resilience Institute. University of South Carolina. April 19.

**Jankovic-Rankovic, J.** 2023. Migration, lived experiences, and health: A critical biocultural perspective. The Migration Lab. University of South Carolina. September 22.

**Jankovic-Rankovic, J.** 2022. The experiences of marginalization and vulnerability to psychosocial stress among refugee and asylum seekers in Serbia. The World Bank Group. February 28.

**Jankovic-Rankovic, J.** 2021. A biocultural approach to displacement." Human Evolutionary Biology & Health Lab. Baylor University. April 8.

**Jankovic-Rankovic, J.** 2020. An integrative anthropological perspective on forced migration: A study of refugees in Serbia. ANTH 30103: Critical Refugee Studies. University of Notre Dame. 28 October.

**Jankovic-Rankovic, J.** 2020. A war in Yugoslavia, displacement, and refugees. ANTH 43302: Anthropology of War & Peace. University of Notre Dame. 16 October.

## **PROFESSIONAL SERVICES (external to USC)**

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2024	The Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute. Reviewer.
2024	Scientific Report. Reviewer.
2024	International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health. Reviewer.
2024	Journal of Immigration & Refugee Studies. Reviewer.
2024	Heliyon. Reviewer.
2024	Journal of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics. Reviewer.
2023	American Journal of Human Biology. Reviewer.
2023	Social Science & Medicine, Population Health. Reviewer.
2023	Water Security Journal. Reviewer.
2023	External Reviewer for GWIS National Fellowship Program. Graduate Women in Science (GWIS) National Fellowship Program.
2022	National Science Foundation, Human-Environment and Geographical Sciences Program. Senior grant reviewer.
2022	External Reviewer for GWIS National Fellowship Program. Graduate Women in Science (GWIS) National Fellowship Program.
2021	External Reviewer for GWIS National Fellowship Program. Graduate Women in Science (GWIS) National Fellowship Program.
2021	The Royal Society Journals. External Reviewer.
2020-21	Search Committee member, Assistant Professor in medical anthropology (tenure-track), Department of Anthropology, University of Notre Dame.
2020-21	Assistant Professor in cultural anthropology (tenure-track), Department of Anthropology, University of Notre Dame. Search Committee member.
2019-22	Anti-racism working group, Department of Anthropology, University of Notre Dame. Group Member.
2017-18	Department of Anthropology. Graduate Student Union (GSU), University of Notre Dame. Graduate Student Representatives.
2015	Sustained Dialogue Chapter. Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies, University of Notre Dame. Group Leader.
2014-15	Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies, University of Notre Dame. ROTC-Peace Student Dialogue Co-organizer.

## **PROFESSIONAL SERVICES (internal to USC)**

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2024	Member of the <i>Ad hoc</i> Graduate Studies Planning Committee. Department of Anthropology. University of South Carolina.
2024 -	Co-chair of the Colloquia Series. Department of Anthropology. University of South Carolina.
2024	Member of the Kingsolver Student Achievement Award Committee. Department of Anthropology. University of South Carolina.



- 2023 - Member of Academic Planning and Curriculum Committee. College of Arts and Sciences. University of South Carolina.
- 2023 Member of the Kingsolver Student Achievement Award Committee. Department of Anthropology. University of South Carolina.

## **POPULAR MEDIA & SOCIAL OUTREACH**

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- 2022 Interview for Voice of America. “Anthropologist Jelena Jankovic-Rankovic: Psychosocial support is key for migrants.” 05 March 2022.
- 2022 Interview for K1 TV, morning show “Uranak,” Serbia. “The effects of transnational migration and displacement of displaced people health and well-being.” 24 February 2022.
- 2022 Interview for an online portal Objektiv.rs. Serbia. “Serbian scientist conquers America: Cooperation between Notre Dame and the Commissariat for Refugees begins.” 20 February 2022
- 2021 Interview for Notre Dame Majors Night social media campaign (Instagram) “Exploration Week (Majors Night).” 8 October 2021.
- 2021 Interview for an online portal: “The first Serbian woman to receive a Ph.D. scholarship in anthropology at the University of Notre Dame,” *Srbijadanas.com*. 25 January 2021.
- 2018 Podcast interview: “A chat with Phyllis Eveleth Award Winner Jelena Jankovic,” *Sausage of Science* podcast, Human Biology Association. 17 September 2019.

## **RESEARCH AND FIELDWORK**

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- 2023- Arizona Water for All, part of the Arizona Water Innovation Initiative supported by the State of Arizona  
Action for Water Equity, National Science Foundation Growing Convergence Research program (GCR #2021147)  
The Engineering with Nature program in the US Army Corps of Engineers (#W912HZ-21-2-0040)
- 2022- Action for Water Equity, National Science Foundation Growing Convergence Research program (GCR #2021147)  
The Engineering with Nature program in the US Army Corps of Engineers (#W912HZ-21-2-0040)

- 2020 Chronic stress and mental well-being: A pilot study of aid workers in an asylum center in Serbia, Belgrade, Serbia.
- 2020 A biocultural approach to evaluating psychosocial stress mediators in vulnerable communities, Kakuma Refugee Camp, Kenya.
- 2019-20 A biocultural approach to routinized social practices (RSPs) in refugee temporary settlements, Asylum Centers ‘Krnjaca,’ and ‘Banja Koviljaca,’ Serbia.
- 2016-19 Understanding stakeholders’ interpretations and use of voucher-based relief assistance. US State Department Bureau of Population Refugees and Migration Project.
- 2018 The case of the Middle Eastern and African Refugees ‘transiting’ through Serbia Project, Asylum Centers ‘Krnjaca,’ and ‘Bogovadja,’ Serbia.
- 2017-18 The case of the Middle Eastern and African Refugees ‘transiting’ through Serbia, Asylum Center ‘Krnjaca,’ Belgrade, Serbia.
- 2016-18 Understanding stakeholders’ interpretations and use of voucher-based relief assistance, asylum centers ‘Krnjaca,’ and ‘Bogovadja, Serbia and Nairobi, Kenya. Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (PRM), United States Department of State (S-PRMCO-16-CA-1073). (\$199,999).
- 2016-17 The case of the Middle Eastern and African Refugees ‘transiting’ through Serbia, Asylum Center ‘Krnjaca,’ Belgrade, Serbia.
- 2015-16 Social impact assessment project, World Bank/UNHCR.
- 2010 Social mobilization for members of local youth teams. UNHCR Serbia.

## **PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

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American Anthropological Association (AAA)  
 Society for Anthropology of Europe  
 Human Biology Association  
 Council for European Studies (CES)  
 European Association of Social Anthropologists (EASA)  
 American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS)

## **LANGUAGE & SKILLS**

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Serbian (native); Croatian; Bosnian; English; Microsoft Office; STATA; MAXQDA