



Hristina Cvetincanin Knezevic

Expert on Gender & Media

RESEARCHER, EDUCATOR & JOURNALIST

I am a researcher, journalist, and educator with over 15 years of experience in human rights, with a strong focus on women's rights and the rights of marginalized people.

My expertise lies at the intersection of gender and media, digital activism, and investigative journalism, particularly in addressing digital violence, misinformation, and unethical media practices. Beyond documenting harm, my work is grounded in the belief that digital spaces must be transformed into environments of care, agency, and resilience. Guided by the principles of Holistic Safety and Healing Justice, I aim to co-create ecosystems that not only resist systemic violence but also offer tools for recovery, self-determination, and joy. I see digital technologies as both a site of struggle and a space of possibility, especially for those whose voices have been systematically silenced.

I am the founder and editor of Feminizam iz teretane, an educational and activist feminist Instagram platform that merges social media dynamics with journalism, making feminist knowledge and critical analysis more accessible to broader audiences. Through this space, I produce content that counters harmful narratives, raises awareness about gender and digital rights, and fosters online feminist activism.

I am also a co-founder of the informal feminist collective Sestre, drugarice, which brings together artists, researchers, therapists, and activists around the values of sisterhood, memory, and feminist solidarity. The idea behind Sestre, drugarice is to first archive and narrate feminist and women's lived experiences in contemporary Belgrade, with a strong emphasis on the concepts of holistic safety and healing justice in public spaces.

In my research work, I have conducted multiple studies on digital violence, gender representation in media, and media ethics, in collaboration with international organizations such as UNFPA, OSCE, UN Women, and ILGA World. I have also contributed to investigative journalism projects for media outlets such as Balkan Insight, Media Diversity Institute, Mašina, and Elle, covering topics related to human rights, digital culture, and feminist movements.

My vision is to build a feminist ecosystem dedicated to advancing the digital human rights of marginalized people.

I am committed to challenging the ways in which digital infrastructures reproduce existing inequalities and violences, and to reimagining how technologies can instead support care, justice, and collective safety. Specifically, I focus on individual harms such as tech-facilitated gender-based violence and intimate image abuse, examining how these harms silence, disempower, and endanger. At the same time, I believe in the transformative potential of digital tools to enrich the everyday lives of women and marginalized communities beyond the screen, by enabling access, autonomy, connection, and joy. For me, feminist technology is not only about protection from harm, but about reconfiguring our relationships to each other and to the world we are building.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

RESEARCHER

- **Researcher** (*Policy Analysis on Institutional Response to Violence Against Women in Politics in Serbia*), Westminster Foundation for Democracy, 2025
- **Researcher** (*Institutional Misogyny in Practice: The Position of Women in Serbia's Political and Digital Public Sphere*), Westminster Foundation for Democracy, 2025
- **Researcher** (*Digital Shadows - Experiences of Digital Violence Against the LGBTQIA+ Community in Serbia*) Da se zna! And ILGA World, 2024
- **Researcher** (*Digital Superheroins - Women's Role in Digital Activism in Serbia and Montenegro*), FJS and WRC - Digital Empowerment Initiative, 2024
- **Researcher** (*The Civil Society Resilience Strengthening Activity in Serbia*), Civic Initiatives and USAID, 2024
- **Principal Researcher** (*Children, Youth, and the Internet: Real and Imagined Risks*), SHARE Foundation, 2023
- **Researcher** (*Hate Speech is not freedom of speech - analysis of hate speech in the public sphere directed towards queer individuals in Serbia*), Da se zna!, 2023
- **Principal Researcher and National Consultant** (*Glossary of gender-based violence through technology*), UNFPA, 2022
- **Coordinator of the Research program**, Center for Women's Studies (2019 - 2022)
- **Junior Researcher**, University of Belgrade, Faculty of Political Science (2019 - 2022)
- **Researcher** (*Revenge Porn: Comparative Analysis in South East Europe*), SHARE Foundation, 2022
- **Principal Researcher** (*Taking Back the Time: a Research-based Campaign for Equitable Housework Habits among Millennials & Zoomers*), Center for Women's Studies, Balkan Trust for Democracy & Crvena, 2021 - 2022
- **Expert Researcher for Media and Violence against Women** (*Reduce Risk - Increase Safety – Towards Ending SALW Misuse in Domestic Violence Context*), UNDP, 2021
- **Researcher** (*Gender Structure of Managerial and Chief Editorial Positions in the News Media Outlets*), OSCE, 2021
- **Principal Researcher for Digital Media** (*Global Media Monitoring Project*), Faculty of Political Science, 2020 - 2021
- **Principal Researcher** (*Economic Empowerment: Barriers and Challenges Facing Unemployed 45+ Women in the Labor Market*), Center for Women's Studies, UN Women & Women at a Turning Point, 2019 - 2020
- **Researcher** (*Gender Equality and the Culture of Civil Status: Historical and Theoretical Groundings in Serbia*), Faculty of Political Science, 2019 - 2020

- **Researcher** (*Socio-economic and Political Transformations in Serbia and the Issue of Gender-based Violence: Gender-based Digital Violence*), Center for Women Studies & Faculty of Political Science, 2017 - 2020
- **Researcher** (*In the name of (male) people – Research on prostitution in Serbia*), Autonomous Women's Center, 2017
- **Researcher** (*Blockade of the Faculty of Philosophy in 2014*), Faculty of Philosophy - Institute for Sociological Research & Sociological Association of Serbia and Montenegro, 2015 - 2017

EDUCATOR

- **Creator and editor of educational Instagram platform Feminizam iz tererane**, 2021 - present
- **Trainer and creator of Digital self-care for First Aid Providers**, SHARE, 2024
- **Trainer on Stories of Other/ness: Feminist Micro-interventions into the Politics of Friendship** (*Hope is a Discipline*), October Salon, 2024
- **Trainer and creator of In the Jaws of Media and Gender** (*Western Balkans Youth Partnership program*), USAID, 2023-2024
- **Trainer on Reporting on Gender-based Violence in Digital Media** (*Media training & Intercultural Dialogue - Media Voices*), Heartefact, 2021
- **Trainer on Gender Sensitive Media Reporting and Media Representation** (*Digital Feminist School*), Center for Women's Studies, 2021
- **Resident lecturer on Feminist Activism and Theory in the '70s** (*Digital Feminist School and Women Studies programme*), Center for Women's Studies, 2019 - 2021
- **Guest Lecturer on Cyberfeminism** (*MA programme, Political Sciences - Gender Studies*), Faculty of Political Sciences, 2019
- **Lecturer on Gender-based Digital Violence** (*elective course*), Faculty of Political Sciences, 2017
- **Trainer on Gender-based Violence and Digital Security** (*Digital Feminist School and Women Studies programme*), Center for Women's Studies, 2017 - 2021
- **Teaching Assistant on Gender Studies** (*BA and MA studies*), Faculty of Political Sciences, 2017 - 2018
- **Trainer on Social Media and (Feminist) Activism** (*School of Media Literacy*), Social Margin Center, 2017
- **Field worker on Inclusion of Roma Children in Education** (*Programme of Education*) Centre for Youth Integration, 2011 (*Volunteer*)

JOURNALIST

- *Novinarke protiv nasilja* (2021 - Present) - **Group member** and **an author of** *Guidelines for Media Reporting on Violence Against Women* and *Analysis of Media Reporting 2019 – 2021*
- *Media Diversity Institute, Balkan Insight, Masina, Libela, Elle* and others (2015 - Present) - **Freelance Journalist**
- *Press Center of XXV Summer Universiade* (2009) - **Journalist** (Volunteer)

PROJECT MANAGEMENT

- **Coordinator of the Research Program**, Center for Women's Studies, 2019 - 2022
- **Project Manager Assistant** (*Erasmus + Inclusive Digital Education Anti-discrimination AlternativeS (IDEAS)*), Center for Women's Studies, EU & The Foundation Tempus, 2020 - 2022
- **Project Coordinator Assistant** (*Development and Promotion of Gender-Sensitive Language*), Center for Women's Studies, UN Women & Coordination Body for Gender Equality of the Republic of Serbia, 2018 - 2019
- **Program Coordinator Assistant** (*Inforoom*), Youth Office, 2011 - 2012 (*Internship*)

TRAINING AND AWARDS

- **Digital Futures Gathering - Thriving Futures for All (Feminist Digital Justice and Collective Care)**, SUPERRR Lab in partnership with bff, Chayn, International Women Space & SHARE Foundation, Berlin, 2025
- **Human Rights Leadership Programme** (Grant & Fellowship), Heartefact & 8th of March Institute (Slovenia), 2025
- **Shaping a Realistic Narrative for Holistic Safety: Community, Resilience and Guerrilla Tactics**, Partners Serbia, Pen to Paper and Atina, 2025
- **Regional Academy for Future Leaders: Boot Camp (Media Freedom and Human Rights)**, Novi Sad School of Journalism & Mediacentar Sarajevo, Istanbul, 2024
- **Training Programme Emotional First Aid (EFA)**, COFEM Asia-Pacific, 2024
- **Training Programme Privacy protection in media - legal and ethical standards**, Partners Serbia, BIRN & SHARE Foundation, 2024
- **Brave Steps**, Jelena Santic Foundation, 2022 (*Award winner*)
- **Training Programme "From Personal Security to Surveillance Capitalism"**, BIRN, 2022
- **Reporting on Gender-Based Violence in the Balkans**, BIRN, 2021 (*Fellowship*)
- **Digital Rights Programme for Journalists**, BIRN, 2021, 2022 (*Fellowship*)
- **Online Training on Gender-Sensitive Reporting**, Atina & BIRN, 2021
- **Training for Trainers on Digital Security and Gender**, One World Platform, 2016 & 2017

- **Seminar "Women, Employment and Social Policy"**, Women's Network for Future of Europe & EU, 2016
- **Training for Peer educators "Peer Education" and "How to Design a Workshop"**, Youth Office, 2012

ACADEMIC BACKGROUND

The University of Belgrade, Faculty of Political Sciences, Belgrade — *PhD candidate in Cultural and Media Studies*

November 2017 - Present

The University of Belgrade, Faculty of Political Sciences, Belgrade — *MA in Political Sciences - Gender Studies ("Emancipation or Commodification? Case Study of Female Bodies on Social Networks", Summa Cum Laude)*

November 2015 - December 2016

The University of Belgrade, Faculty of Philosophy, Belgrade — *BA in Sociology ("Sexualization of the Childhood through Popular Culture: Analysis of the Reality Show 'Toddlers & Tiaras' "; grade average - 9.09)*

October 2009 - September 2015

PUBLICATIONS

ACADEMIC PAPERS AND PUBLICATIONS

Digital environment and gender-based violence – A contribution to the study, 2020

Characteristics of Neoliberal Patriarchy in the Modern Republic of Serbia with a Special Reference to the Male Violence Against Women in the Digital Environment, 2020

Žensko lice desnice: Studija slučaja Srpskog pokreta Dveri, 2018

Borba za prava i/ili nasilje: perspektiva aktera blokade (with Isidora Petrovic), 2017

EXPERT MEETINGS AND PAPERS PRESENTED AT THE SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCES

"Mechanisms for the Prevention and Protection Against Sexual Harassment Committed Using Information and Communication Technologies During the Covid19 Pandemic - a Case Study at the University of Belgrade", International Conference *Beyond Fear and Silence: Universities against Violence*, 2022.

"Gender-sensitive Language as a Tool for Achieving Gender Equality", *From gender-neutral upbringing to the full understanding of gender identity*, 2021.

"Gender-based Violence in Digital environment - legal jurisdiction", International Conference *Feminism and the Left*, 2019

NON-SCIENTIFIC PUBLICATIONS

Digital Shadows - Experiences of Digital Violence Against the LGBTQIA+ Community in Serbia, 2024

Digital Superheroines: The First Study on Digital Feminist Activism in Serbia and Montenegro, 2024

Children, Youth, and the Internet: Real and Imagined Risks, 2023

Hate Speech is not freedom of speech - analysis of hate speech in the public sphere directed towards queer individuals in Serbia (with Ana Petrović), 2023

Glossary of technology-facilitated gender-based violence, 2022

Revenge Porn - Comparative Analysis in South East Europe, (with Bojana Kostić & Jennifer Adams), 2022

Analysis of Media Reporting 2019 – 2021 (with Jovana Gligorijevic, Maja Cecen, Sanja Pavlovic et al.), 2022

Taking Back the Time: Research on the Distribution of Housework among Millennials and Zoomers (with Lara Koncar, Nadja Bobicic et al.), 2022

Guidelines for Media Reporting on Violence Against Women (with Jovana Gligorijevic and Sanja Pavlovic), 2021

Ekonomsko osnaživanje: Prepreke i izazovi sa kojima se suočavaju nezaposlene žene 45+ na tržištu rada (with Ivana Srdija), 2020

Priručnik za upotrebu rodno osetljivog jezika (with Jelena Lalatovic), 2019

U ime muškog naroda: Analiza osuđujućih presuda za prekršajno delo prostitucija (with Sanja Pavlovic), 2018

PROJECTS AND FEMINIST INITIATIVES

FOUNDER AND EDITOR - FEMINIZAM IZ TERETANE (2021–PRESENT)

Creator of an award-winning feminist Instagram page ([@feminizam_iz_teretane](https://www.instagram.com/feminizam_iz_teretane)) that blends digital feminism, visual storytelling, and journalistic writing. The platform addresses body image, mental health, and social injustice, and was awarded the Brave Steps Award in 2022.

CO-FOUNDER - NE PLAŠI SE MRAKA AND SESTRE, DRUGARICE (2024–PRESENT)

Member and co-founder of an informal feminist collective that works at the intersection of art, activism, and emotional care. The group develops collaborative projects that focus on collective memory, embodied knowledge, and feminist archiving.

LANGUAGES

BHSC - Native

English - Proficient

CONTACT

hristina@hristina.rs

hristina@feminizam.com