

Curriculum Vitae

Personal Details

First name and Last name: Ariana Bytyci Katanolli
Date of birth: 19 March 1985
Address: Mati 1, Banesat e Tregetise
h.8, nr. 36, Prishtina
Kosovo
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Education

2019 – 2023
Basel, Switzerland

PhD in Epidemiology and Public Health (Cum Laude)

University of Basel, Faculty of Medicine

Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute (Swiss TPH)
Department of Epidemiology and Public Health
Chronic Disease Epidemiology Unit

Scholarships/Fellowships:

- Swiss Government Excellence Scholarships for Foreign Scholars and Artists. Basel, Switzerland (2019-2023)
- SSPH+ Global PhD Fellowship Program in Public Health Sciences funded by Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions. Basel, Switzerland (2019-2023)

PhD thesis mentors: Prof. Nicole Probst Hensch, Prof. Kaspar Wyss (University of Basel/Swiss TPH); Prof. Naim Jerliu (University of Prishtina)

2015 – 2016
Prishtina, Kosovo

Master of Public Health

University of Prishtina (UP)

Scholarships: Tempus Programme of the European Union (EU)

Master's thesis mentor: Prof. Naim Jerliu (University of Prishtina)

2009 – 2011
New York, New York, USA

Associate in Applied Science in Dental Hygiene (Honours)

New York University (NYU)

Scholarships: New York University Dental Hygiene Scholarship

Research mentors: Prof. Ananda Dasanayake and Prof. Stefanie Russell (Department of Epidemiology and Health Promotion, NYU)

2003 – 2007
Lamoni, Iowa, USA

Bachelor of Science (Honours- Cum Laude)

Graceland University (GU)

Scholarships: Madeline Albright Scholarship; Honors Program Scholarship- Graceland University; Graceland University Academic Scholarship; Intercultural Grant; Women's Tennis Grant.

Work Experience

04/2023 – present Prishtina, Kosovo	<p>Scientific Research Consultant National Institute of Public Health of Kosovo Accessible Quality Healthcare (AQH) project SDC-funded project implemented by Swiss TPH</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Scientific Manager of the Kosovo Non-Communicable Disease Cohort (KOSCO) research study in Kosovo - Conduct data analysis and write scientific publications and policy briefs based on findings of the KOSCO study - Monitor, supervise and support data collectors (study nurses and students) in the field during data collection - Served as a Commission Member to oversee and select the PhD candidates to be involved in the KOSCO research study - Support the National Institute of Public Health of Kosovo with the development process of Clinical Guidelines and Protocols - Conducted data analysis and scientific publication writing of the 'Quality of Care (QoC) study' in 20 Municipalities of Kosovo: Cross-sectional study - Conducted data analysis, interpretation of the findings, and publication writing of the 'Social Inclusion in healthcare in Kosovo': Qualitative study
10/2023 – present Prishtina, Kosovo	<p>Assistant Professor Heimerer College</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Master level module: 'Evidence-based practice in digital health' (Fall semester) - Master level module: 'Disasters management in public health' (Master level, Fall semester) - Master level module: 'Remote services in hybrid healthcare systems' (Spring semester) - Supervisor/Mentor of thesis projects for master students in digital health and health management
06/2025 – 07/2025	<p>Innovation and Training Park (ITP) Prizren Funded by GIZ</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Consultancy services regarding potential effects of 5G antennas on public health - Review of Public Health Standards and Literature - Analysis of Environmental Health Report - Public Health Impact Assessment - Recommendations and Public Communication Strategy
07/2024 – 08/2024 Prishtina, Kosovo	<p>Consultant for the Development of an Informational Booklet on Breastfeeding Support Action for Mother and Children (AMC), financed by UNICEF</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Developed an informational booklet on breastfeeding to provide evidence-based breastfeeding support to parents - The booklet was developed based on WHO and international standards and recommendations on breastfeeding
10/2023 – 06/2024 Prishtina, Kosovo	<p>Consultant, Expert in Public Health The German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Support the Digital Transformation Unit under the Office of the Prime Minister in Kosovo, to develop childbirth life event information on the e-kosova platform - Map and develop crucial information and services related to maternal and child health - Conduct consultative meetings with relevant stakeholders to identify available information and services related to childbirth life event - Conduct interviews of expecting parents (future users of the platform) to identify the specific information and service requirements and conduct user research to understand their preferences and challenges - Develop the content for the e-kosova platform, specifically information on the maternal and child health - Collaborate closely with web designers to place the content on the e-kosova platform

08/2023 – 11/2023 Prishtina, Kosovo	<p>Consultant, Team leader of technical needs assessment for immunization services in Kosovo Managed by UBO Consulting and Action for Mother and Children (AMC) and financed by UNICEF</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Developed the methodology and work plan for the needs assessment of immunization services in Kosovo - Conducted the desk review on characteristics of vaccination centers, the infrastructure against national and global standards, the vaccination process, and human resources - Developed the data collection tools for the qualitative study on evaluating the vaccination services in all the municipalities of Kosovo - Conducted data analysis and interpreted the findings which were consolidated in the manuscript - Provided recommendations for improving the vaccination services in Primary Healthcare Centers
04/2016 – 09/2019 Prishtina, Kosovo	<p>Project Officer, Accessible Quality Healthcare (AQH) project SDC-funded project implemented by Swiss TPH</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Supported the design and implementation of the WHO Service Packages and Integrated Care interventions - Developed materials (flyers, information booklets etc) for healthcare providers related to control and management of Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) - Supported the design and implementation of outreach activities related to NCDs - Developed health education and health promotion materials related to control and prevention of NCDs - Developed the content for the project website and social media channels - Drafted technical briefs for the donors and other relevant stakeholders - Involved in scientific research studies implemented by Swiss TPH - Conducted training sessions for primary healthcare providers - Conducted Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) and reporting of activities as per M&E Plan
05/2012 – 04/2019 Prishtina, Kosovo	<p>Dental Hygienist, Dental Clinic "Qeshu-Smile" (Part-time)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Delivered preventive dental treatments (remove tartar, stains, and plaque from teeth) - Apply sealants and fluorides to help protect teeth - Take dental x-rays - Educated patients on proper oral hygiene measures - Assess patients' oral health and report findings to dentists - Document patient care and treatment plans
05/2014 – 04/2016 Prishtina, Kosovo	<p>Office Manager EU-funded project implemented by CA17 International</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Managed the local team on a development project at the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, and Rural Development - Monitored project budget for activities in line with EU procedures and delivered budget monitoring reports to the headquarters - Prepared project reports on periodic basis - Organized and implemented project meetings, trainings, workshops, and international study visits
09/2012 – 05/2014 Prishtina, Kosovo	<p>Consultant, Trainer UNDP-funded project implemented by Novus Consulting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Held analysis, implementation, and evaluation of a project in the field of public health and environmental protection - Developed the materials for the teachers in primary schools in Mitrovica - Prepared training modules and conducted training on lead poisoning and prevention methods for teachers in primary schools in Mitrovica

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Developed flyers and educational materials for the population on the reduction of health risks from exposure to lead - Conducted focus groups with key stakeholders involved in the project - Involved in implementing the public awareness campaign funded by UNDP on reducing the health risks from exposure to lead
02/2012 – 03/2012 Prishtina, Kosovo	Project Coordinator, University Dental Clinical Centre of Kosovo
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Involved in organizing and facilitating training modules conducted by a visiting professor from McGill University, Canada - Participated in a caries examination training using the International Caries Detection and Assessment System (ICDAS)
04/2011 – 05/2011 New York, USA	Clinical Researcher, New York University College of Dentistry Department of Periodontology
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Title: "A Novel Intra-Oral Diabetes Screening Approach in Periodontal Patients" - Recruited patients in the Department of Periodontology to determine their eligibility for the research, including administration of informed consent - Collected gingival crevicular blood from patients with periodontal disease to determine blood glucose level using a haemoglobin A1C testing kit
06/2010 – 07/2010 New York, USA	Researcher, New York University Department of Epidemiology and Health Promotion
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Title: "The Oral Health of Pregnant Women: A Survey of Knowledge, Attitudes, Behaviour and Practices and a Chart Review of a Successful OB Clinic/Dental Office Referral Program" - Involved in data collection of study participants that were receiving prenatal care - Reviewed dental charts of patients using chart abstraction form - Involved in entering and cross-checking data in SPSS statistical software

Scientific Publications

Bytyçi-Katanolli A, Obas KA, Ramadani Q, Fota N, Jerliu N, Merten S, Gerold J, Zahorka M, Kwiatkowski M, Probst-Hensch N. Effectiveness of behavioural change interventions on physical activity, diet and body mass index of public primary healthcare users in Kosovo: the KOSCO cohort. *BMJ open*. 2023 Oct 1;13(10):e071100.

Bytyci Katanolli A, Probst-Hensch N, Ann Obas K, Gerold J, Zahorka M, Jerliu N, Ramadani Q, Fota N, Merten S. Perceived barriers to physical activity behaviour among patients with diabetes and hypertension in Kosovo: a qualitative study. *BMC Primary Care*. 2022 Sep 30;23(1):257.

Bytyci-Katanolli A, Merten S, Kwiatkowski M, Obas K, Gerold J, Zahorka M, Jerliu N, Ramadani Q, Fota N, Probst-Hensch N. Non-communicable disease prevention in Kosovo: quantitative and qualitative assessment of uptake and barriers of an intervention for healthier lifestyles in primary healthcare. *BMC Health Services Research*. 2022 Dec;22(1):1-7.

Bytyci, A., Ymerhalili, G., Dorner, T.E. *et al.* Pilot study of an integrated care model using the geriatric assessment tool. *Wien Klin Wochenschr* **131**, 273–277 (2019).

Knoblauch A, Rajkumar S, Canavan R, Ramadani Q, **Katanolli AB**, Bahtiri S, Stevenson D, Mustafa MS, Fota N, Gerold J. Assessing the Quality of Care in primary health care facilities in all municipalities in Kosovo 2016-2023. *Frontiers in Public Health*.;13:1596249.

Zahorka M, Fota N, Marcu L, Dnestrean T, Gerold J, Bahriti Sh, **Katanolli AB**, Reshetnyak E, Dovgopol M, Prytherch H. Integrated Community Care—A Last Mile Approach: Case Studies from Eastern Europe and the Balkans. *Handbook Integrated Care* 2025. Springer, Cham https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-25376-8_59-1

Hoxha I, Basha-Berisha V, Selmani E, Bahtiri S, **Bytyci-Katanolli A**, Imeti A, Valentine P, Gerold J. Social participation in health—case studies from primary health care in Kosovo. BMC Public Health. 2024 Dec 19;24(1):3537.

Rajkumar S, Knoblauch AM, Ramadan Q, **Bytyci-Katanolli A**, Fota N, Shehu M, Gerold J. Quality of Care Study 2023. Summary Report of AQH Phase I and II. Project Municipalities. Accessible Quality Healthcare Project, Basel: Swiss Centre for International Health, 2023.

Obas KA, Kwiatkowski M, **Bytyci-Katanolli A**, Statovci S, Jerliu N, Ramadan Q, Fota N, Gerold J, Zahorka M, Probst-Hensch N. Prospective association between depressive symptoms and blood-pressure related outcomes in Kosovo. PLOS Global Public Health. 2023 Apr 7;3(4):e0000851.

Obas KA, **Bytyci-Katanolli A**, Kwiatkowski M, Ramadan Q, Fota N, Jerliu N, Statovci S, Gerold J, Zahorka M, Probst-Hensch N. Strengthening Primary Healthcare in Kosovo Requires Tailoring Primary, Secondary and Tertiary Prevention Interventions and Consideration of Mental Health. Frontiers in public health. 2022;10

Zahorka M, Fota N, Furtunescu F, Dnestrean T, **Katanolli AB**. Integrated Community Care—A Last Mile Approach: Case Studies from Eastern Europe and the Balkans. Handbook Integrated Care 2021 (pp. 1001-1026). Springer, Cham.

Obas KA, Gerold J, **Bytyci-Katanolli A**, Jerliu N, Kwiatkowski M, Ramadan Q, Statovci S, Zahorka M, Probst-Hensch N. Study protocol: a prospective cohort on non-communicable diseases among primary healthcare users living in Kosovo (KOSCO). BMJ open. 2020 Sep 1;10(9):e038889.

Latifi-Xhemajli B, Véronneau J, Begzati A, **Bytyci A**, Kutllavci T, Rexhepi A. Association between salivary level of infection with Streptococcus mutans/Lactobacilli and caries-risk factors in mothers. European Journal of Paediatric Dentistry. 2016 Mar 1;17(1):70-4.

Pustina-Krasniqi, T. , **Bytyci, A.** , Bicaj, T. , Ahmedi, E. , Dula, L. , Lila, Z. , Dragusha, A. and Ajeti, N. The Color of Natural Teeth Investigated by Visual Perception and Spectrophotometer. Open Journal of Stomatology. 2015; 5, 26-35.

Begzati A, **Bytyci A**, Meqa K, Latifi-Xhemajli B, Berisha M. Mothers' behaviours and knowledge related to caries experience of their children. Oral Health Prev Dent. 2014 Jan 1;12(2):133-40.

Strauss SM, Singh G, Tuthill J, Brodsky A, Rosedale M, **Bytyci A**, Drayluk I, Llambiri A, Savice K, Russell S. Diabetes-related knowledge and sources of information among periodontal patients: is there a role for dental hygienists? American Dental Hygienists' Association. 2013 Apr 1;87(2):82-9.

Participation in Conferences and Symposiums

Active Participation:

Conference/Symposium	Abstract	Date and Location
Swiss TPH Symposium <i>"Integrated People-Centred Care Finding solutions to chronic conditions"</i> https://www.swis-stph.ch/en/about/events/ipcc-symposium-2025	Invited and confirmed participation in a panel for a breakout session on: Coordination and Research: Kosovo Cohort Study Ariana Bytyci Katanolli, National Institute of Public Health Kosovo and Swiss TPH	2 September 2025 Swiss TPH, Basel, Switzerland

Conference/Symposium	Abstract	Date and Location
4th Regional Conference on Health Promotion and Education <i>"Strengthening healthy communities – achievements and challenges in health promotion"</i>	Oral Presentation: Ariana Bytyci Katanolli, Naim Jerliu, Jana Gerold, Valbona Zhjeqi, Nicu Fota, Iliriana Miftari, Emmanuel Schaffner, Diellza Thaci Bacaj, Nicole Probst Hensch. <i>Assessment of Behaviour Change Interventions through Kosovo Non-Communicable Disease Cohort Study</i>	4 June 2025 Prishtina, Kosovo
9th Edition of the International Conference on Family Medicine <i>"Family Medicine: Challenges and Innovations"</i>	Oral Presentation: Ariana Bytyci Katanolli, Naim Jerliu, Jana Gerold, Valbona Zhjeqi, Nicu Fota, Iliriana Miftari, Diellza Thaci Bacaj, Nicole Probst Hensch. <i>Non-communicable disease prevention in Kosovo: Assessment of motivational counselling intervention in primary healthcare for healthier lifestyles</i>	14-15 May 2025, Prishtina, Kosovo
International Symposium on Non-communicable Diseases (NCDs)	Oral Presentation Bytyci-Katanolli Ariana, Kwiatkowski Marek, Obas Katrina Ann, Gerold Jana, Zahorka Manfred, Jerliu Naim, Ramadani Qamile, Nicu Fota, Probst-Hensch Nicole. <i>Effectiveness of behavioural change interventions: the KOSCO cohort</i>	27 - 28 September 2023 Pristina, Kosovo
14th International Health Sciences Conference	Oral Presentation Bytyci-Katanolli Ariana, Sonja Merten, Kwiatkowski Marek, Obas Katrina Ann, Gerold Jana, Zahorka Manfred, Jerliu Naim, Radani Qamile, Nicu Fota, Probst-Hensch Nicole. <i>Kosovo Non-communicable Disease Cohort (KOSCO) study</i>	23 September 2023 Pristina, Kosovo
15th European Public Health Conference 2022	Oral Presentation Bytyci-Katanolli Ariana, Merten Sonja, Kwiatkowski Marek, Obas Katrina Ann, Gerold Jana, Zahorka Manfred, Jerliu Naim, Ramadani Qamile, Nicu Fota, Probst-Hensch Nicole. <i>Non-communicable disease prevention in Kosovo: mixed-methods study to assess and scale-up an intervention for healthier lifestyles in primary healthcare</i>	9–12 November 2022, Berlin, Germany
3rd Congress of Medicine, COVID-19 Pandemic – Challenges and Experiences	Oral Presentation Bytyci-Katanolli Ariana, Obas Katrina, Jerliu Naim, Kwiatkowski Marek, Merten Sonja, Gerold Jana, Zahorka Manfred, Ramadani Qamile, Fota Nicu, Probst-Hensch Nicole. <i>Preventive behaviors and vaccine uptake against COVID-19 among primary healthcare users in Kosovo</i>	2–4 June 2022 Pristina, Kosovo
Swiss Public Health Conference 2021	Oral Presentation Bytyci-Katanolli Ariana, Merten Sonja, Obas Katrina, Gerold Jana, Zahorka Manfred, Jerliu Naim, Ramadani Qamile, Nicu Fota, Probst-Hensch Nicole. <i>Mixed-methods study on primary healthcare (PHC) services to improve health behaviors among PHC users in Kosovo</i>	25–26 August 2021 Bern, Switzerland

Conference/Symposium	Abstract	Date and Location
European Implementation Event 2021	Poster Presentation Bytyci-Katanolli Ariana, Merten Sonja, Obas Katrina, Kwiatkowski Marek, Gerold Jana, Zahorka Manfred, Jerliu Naim, Ramadani Qamile, Nicu Fota, Probst-Hensch Nicole. <i>Non-communicable disease prevention in Kosovo: mixed-methods study to assess and improve motivational counseling for healthier lifestyles in primary healthcare</i>	27 - 28 May 2021, Virtual (Zoom)
8th International Conference on Integrated Care	Poster Presentation Ariana Bytyci, Genc Ymerhalili, Viktoria Stein, Osman Maxhera. <i>Piloting an Integrated Care Model for Elderly Diabetic Patients</i>	23–25 May 2018 Utrecht, Netherlands
6th International Public Health Conference	Oral Presentation Ariana Bytyci, Naim Jerliu, Naser Ramadani, Adelina Ahmeti, Mimoza Shahini, Pranvera Krasniqi. <i>Oral health knowledge, attitudes, practices, and behavior of parents who have children with special needs</i>	8 May 2018, Tirana, Albania
5th International Public Health Conference	Oral Presentation Ariana Bytyci, Qamile Ramadani, Elvira Rasimi. <i>Knowledge, Attitudes, Practices and Behavior on Non-Communicable Diseases, Kosovo 2016</i>	9 May 2017, Tirana, Albania
International Association for Dental Research (IADR)	Poster Presentation Russell Stefanie, Kerpen S, Rabin J, Chawla A, Bytyci A, Northridge J, Lee G, Guzman R, Burakoff R. <i>A Successful Dental Care Referral/Treatment Program for Low-Income Pregnant Women</i>	11 October 2013 Budapest, Hungary
101st FDI Annual World Dental Congress	Poster Presentation Blerta Latifi Xhemajli, Agim Begzati, Teuta Ademaj Kutllavci, Aida Namani Rexhepi, Blerta Musliu Krasniqi, Ariana Bytyci. <i>The Dental Caries Experience in 3–5-Year-Old Children Expressed by ICDAS Index</i>	28–31 August 2013, Istanbul, Turkey

Passive Participation

Conference	Date and Location
World Congress on Public Health	12–17 October 2020 Virtual (Zoom)
24th WONCA Europe Conference	26–29 June 2019 Bratislava, Slovakia
Regional Conference on Geriatrics & Gerontology	9–10 February 2019 Tirana, Albania
International Conference “Healthcare provider–patient and their rights”	13 October 2018 Prishtina, Kosovo
Spring Conference “Advanced Dentistry” with International Attendance	28–29 April 2018 Prishtina, Kosovo

Conference	Date and Location
2nd Regional Conference on Health Promotion and Education	26–28 October 2017 Prishtina, Kosovo
1st Conference of Kosovo Association of Paediatric and Preventive Dentistry with International Participants	8–9 October 2017 Prishtina, Kosovo
International Conference “Moving Towards Integrated Care in Kosovo”	15 February 2017 Prishtina, Kosovo
17th Congress of Balkan Stomatological Society ‘Developing Dentistry’	3–6 May 2012 Tirana, Albania
International Conference on Family Medicine	19–20 October 2012 Prishtina, Kosovo

Specialized Trainings

Institution	Trainings	Date and Location
Utrecht Summer School – Utrecht University	Implementation Science in Global Health	4–6 July 2023 Utrecht, Netherlands
SSPH+ Lugano Summer School in Public Health Policy, Economics and Management	Promoting healthy behaviors through multi-level approaches	25–27 August 2022 Lugano, Switzerland
Swiss Epidemiology Winter School – University of Bern	1) Causal Inference in Observational Epidemiology 2) Statistical analysis with missing data using multiple imputation and inverse probability weighting	28 March – 2 April 2022 Wengen, Switzerland
European Educational Programme in Epidemiology (EEPE) – Summer Programme in Epidemiology	1) Epidemiological Methods 2) Statistical Models in Epidemiology 3) Data Analysis Exercises 4) Advanced Topics in Statistics 5) How to deal with missing data and unmeasured confounding	14 June – 2 July 2021, Virtual (Zoom)
University of Milan	1) Biostatistics 2) Epidemiology 3) Public Health/One Health	18 June – 2 July 2016 Milan, Italy
Institute for Entrepreneurship and Small Business	Applied Statistics with SPSS	29–30 October 2016 Prishtina, Kosovo
European Forum Alpbach	1) The Human Microbiome 2) Feeding the World	13–19 August 2014 Alpbach, Austria
Democracy for Development (D4D)	Advanced Level Statistics and STATA Course	13 December 2012 – 2 February 2013, Prishtina, Kosovo
American Councils for International Education (SOROS)	Project Management	April 2012 Prishtina, Kosovo
New York University – College of Dentistry	Summer Research Program 2010	July 2010 New York, USA
West Virginia University School of Dentistry	Dental Summer Summit 2007	9–20 July 2007 West Virginia, USA
5th International Prishtina Summer University – University of Prishtina	Drugs and the Impact of Drugs on the Human Body	11–29 July 2005 Prishtina, Kosovo

Awards

- Long Island Odontology Award, New York, USA (2011)
- Leadership Accomplishment Award, Graceland University Lead Program, Iowa, USA (2007)
- Certificate of Achievement- Athletic Department, Graceland University, Iowa, USA (2007)
- Honorable Mention for Best Jr. Honors Seminar Paper, Graceland University, Iowa, USA (2007)
- Dean's List of Honor Students, Graceland University, Iowa, USA (2006)

Academic Scholarships

- SSPH+ Global PhD Fellowship Program in Public Health Sciences funded by Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions. Basel, Switzerland (2019-2023)
- Swiss Government Excellence Scholarships for Foreign Scholars and Artists. Basel, Switzerland (2019-2023)
- New York University Dental Hygiene Scholarship. New York, USA (2009-2011)
- Appreciation Award for volunteer efforts on behalf of Special Olympics Athletes. New York, USA (May 23rd, 2010)
- Madeline Albright Scholarship. Prishtina, Kosovo (2004)
- Honors Program Scholarship, Graceland University. Iowa, USA (2003-2007)
- Graceland University Academic Scholarship. Iowa, USA (2003-2007)
- Intercultural Grant. Iowa, USA (2003-2007)
- Women's Tennis Grant. Iowa, USA (2003-2007)

Languages

- Albanian (native)
- English (fluent)
- Serbian (fluent)
- French (conversational)

Hobbies

- Hiking, Yoga, Arts, Tennis