

# e-BCN

Newsletter of the Border Crossings Network

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Issue 1 / May 2020





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## **Cover page photo**

Lampros Raptis

Photographer, Konitsa

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# IN COMMEMORATION OF PROFESSOR VINTILA MIHAILESCU

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**Professor Vintila Mihailescu** passed away on March 22, 2020.

Vintila has been a member of the coordinating committee of the BCN and a member of the international advisory board of our publication series. He taught for many years in the Konitsa Summer School.

We, at the Border Crossings Network, are very grateful for the many contributions that he made to our cause. We deeply appreciate the honor he brought to our institution. His commitment to our community leaves a wonderful legacy.

He has been a true intellectual, a phenomenal personality, a shining example to follow and a beloved friend.

We express our deepest condolences to his family.

## Who we are

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Since 2003, academics and students from various university departments in the Balkans have established the **BORDER CROSSINGS NETWORK**. The Network encourages the development of university cooperation mainly in the areas of Social and Cultural Anthropology, Folklore, Balkan Studies and History. It aims at promoting closer relationships between Universities, academics and students in the region by regularly organizing various forms of academic exchange.

Such cooperation is an important missing element in the process of cross-cultural and cross-border understanding, inter-ethnic tolerance and economic and political prosperity in the region. The BORDER CROSSINGS network's activities counter fears, mistrust and prejudices. Students come out of these activities with a better understanding of their common heritage and the benefits, and how to use it to the advantage of the region. In addition, they build capacity within the participating Higher Education Institutions and enable further common research activities.



### The Network has, since 2003, institutionalized

- An annual student conference based on round tables with a common agenda where students present their papers in English.
- The annual “Konitsa International Summer School in Anthropology, Ethnography and Comparative Folklore of the Balkans”, in collaboration with the University of Ioannina and the Municipality of Konitsa at the Greek-Albanian border.
- Three publication series:
  - “Balkan Border Crossings: Proceedings from the Konitsa Summer School”,
  - “Balkan Border Crossings: Ethnographic Research in Border Areas”.
  - “Balkan Border Crossings: Contributions to Balkan Ethnography”

## Staff members and associates

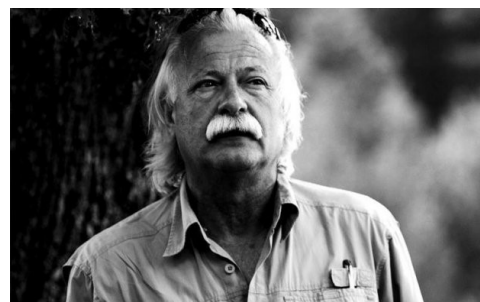
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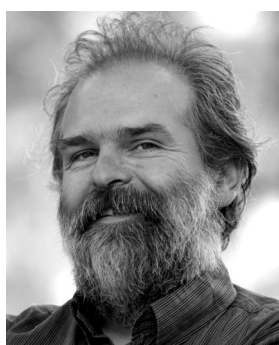
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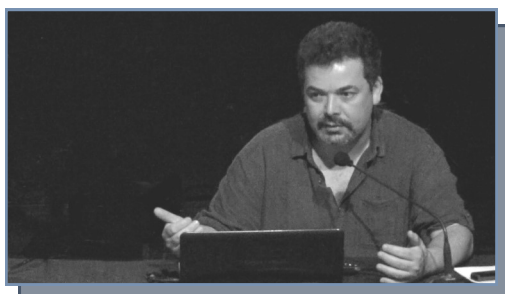
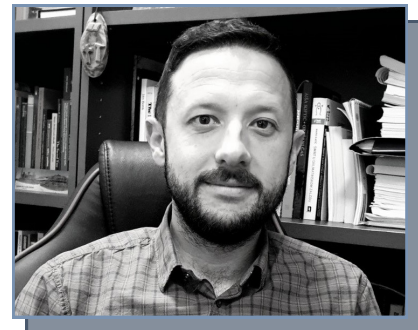
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## **Student Conferences 2003-2019**

### **1) Skopje, North Macedonia, 21-24 November 2003**

The Balkans: Perceptions and images of the Balkan "other" possibilities for cooperation and exchange

### **2) Florina, Greece, 20-23 May 2004**

Border crossings: Perceptions and views from the Southern Balkans

### **3) Ioannina, Greece, 12-15 May 2005**

The past in the present: Local cultures, national practices and cross border cooperation

### **4) Struga, North Macedonia, 14-17 May 2006**

The Balkans in new contexts

### **5) Šalovci, Slovenia, 26– 29 April 2007**

Crossroads and boundaries: Challenges for anthropology in South-East Europe

### **6) Korca, Albania, 22 - 25 May 2008**

Rethinking Balkan identities: The dynamics of space and time

### **7) Plovdiv, Bulgaria, 9–12 April 2009**

Balkans: The local, the national and the global - anthropological perspectives

### **8) Zadar, Croatia, 22-25 April 2010**

Exploring everyday life in SE Europe: Identity, culture and representation



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**9) Komotini, Greece, 12-15 May 2011**

"Betwixt and between": Boundaries, negotiations and transitions in SE Europe

**10) Istanbul, Turkey, 26- 29 April 2012**

(Re) Searching Europe: Narrating the past, making the present and imagining the future

**11) Bucharest, Romania, 25- 28 April 2013**

Border crossings and experiencing transitions: On border anthropology and anthropological nomadism

**12) Belgrade, Serbia, 1 - 4 May 2014**

A world in flux: Globalising flows, local and regional responses and anthropological reflections

**13) Sarajevo, Bosnia & Herzegovina, 23 - 26 April 2015**

Balkan worlds, Balkan lives: Experiencing, sensing and imagining the "realities"

**14) Zagreb, Croatia, 21 – 24 April, 2016**

Ethnographies of (un) certainty, (in) equality and hope (lessness): Challenges and possibilities for anthropology today

**15) Veliko Tarnovo, Bulgaria, 6-9 April, 2017**

Tangible and intangible borders

**16) Skopje, North Macedonia, 26 – 29 April, 2018**

Balkan cultural heritage: Borders, boundaries, images, interpretations, protection practices and tourist perspectives

**17) Bucharest, Romania, 11 – 14 April, 2019**

Im (mobilities): Place-making, boundaries, interconnectedness

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## **Konitsa Summer School 2006-2019**



### **Invited Speakers**

#### **2006**

**Prof. Maurice Godelier**

EHESS

“Which relationship makes a society”

**Prof. Jane Cowan**

Dep. of Anthropology, University of Sussex

“The league of nations minorities treaties supervision (1919-1933) as site of encounter: Anthropological reflections on international bureaucrats, states, minorities and advocates negotiating petitions and projects in relation to Macedonia”

**Prof. Rajko Mursic**

Dep. of Ethnology and Cultural Anthropology, University of Ljubljana

“Ambivalences of identification and alterity: From laibach to sutka”

**Prof. Dimitra Gefou-Madianou**

Dep. of Social Anthropology, Panteion University, Athens

“Culture and ethnography”

**Prof. Eftichia Voutira**

Dep. of Balkan, Slavic and Oriental Studies, University of Macedonia, Thessaloniki

“Cultural construction of refugees in Greece”

**Prof. Fotini Tsimbiridou**

Dep. of Balkan, Slavic and Oriental Studies, University of Macedonia, Thessaloniki

“Gender, ethnography and Islam”

#### **2007**

**Prof. Thomas Hylland Eriksen**

Dep. of Social Anthropology, University of Oslo

“The future of anthropology in the 21st century”

**Prof Kirsten Hastrup**

Dep. of Anthropology, University of Copenhagen

“Siting culture” “Culture and space in anthropological perspectives”





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## 2008

### **Prof. Dzemat Sokolovic**

Dep. of Sociology, University of Sarajevo“

The Balkans: Between nationalism and tolerance, respect and enjoyment in others”

## 2009

### **Prof. Michael Herzfeld**

Dep. of Anthropology, Harvard University, USA

“Practicing theory in anthropology: From social to cultural intimacy”

“Theoretical practice in anthropology: Language, embodiment, knowledge”

### **Prof. Sarah Green**

Dep. of Social and Cultural Anthropology, University of Helsinki

“Border memories and speculations: interweaving past and future in Epirus and the Aegean”

“Money, gender and borders: a workshop on how borders locate moral and material differences and exchanges”

## 2010

### **Prof. Chris Hann**

Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology, Halle (Germany)

“One capitalism or many? Perspectives from economic anthropology”

“Competing paradigms at the interface between anthropology and economics: the eternal recurrence of the Methodenstreit”

### **Prof. Neni Panourgia**

Dep. of Anthropology, Columbia University, Department of Anthropology and Program in Narrative Medicine

"The Improbable worlds and lives of things: Stones, papers, humans"

"From village to hospital to courtroom, From malaria shots to protection of human subjects, to security clearance: New fieldwork sites and their challenges".

## 2011

### **Prof. Michael Stewart**

University College London

“The rise of radical anti Roma politics - An EU phenomenon”

A digital Doomsday book? My street and its roots in mass observation.

### **Prof. Cesare Poppi**

Universities of Lugano (CH) and Trento (I)

“Surva! Balkan winter masquerades in cross-cultural perspective”

“Carnival king of Europe” (film projection and discussion)

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## 2012

### **Prof. Keith Hart**

Anthropology Emeritus at Goldsmiths College, University of London

"Building the human economy at a time of world crisis"

"The anthropological roots of the human economy project"

## 2013

### **Prof. David Kideckel**

Professor of Anthropology and Director of International Studies at Central Connecticut State University, USA

"Economic crisis in Europe and the US: What we can learn (and avoid learning) from development practices in Kerala state, southwest India"

"Using field Schools like Konitsa for addressing crisis"

## 2014

### **Prof. Stathis Gourgouris**

Institute of Comparative Literature and Society, Columbia University , USA

"Democracy's troubles: Sovereignty, immigration, secularity"

"The nation form in the era of globalization"

## 2015

### **Prof. Susana Narotsky**

Professor of Social Anthropology at the University of Barcelona, Spain

"Grassroots economies and grassroots economics: Living with austerity in Southern Europe"

"The methodological articulation of political economy, moral economy and the feminist economics in the anthropological analysis of the Southern European crisis"

## 2016

### **Prof. Jonathan Parry**

Professor Emeritus, Department of Anthropology, LSE

"Classes of labour in a central Indian steel town (and beyond)"





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## 2017

### Prof. Thomas Wilson

Binghamton University State, University of New York, USA, School of Politics, International Studies and Philosophy in Queens University, Belfast, Northern Ireland

Brexit on the border: Hard and soft borders and the new and old nationalisms"

"Ethnography at the margins: Normative and pragmatic in planning and implementing field research"

## 2018

### Prof. Robert Hayden

Professor of Anthropology, Law and Public & International Affairs at the University of Pittsburgh, USA

"Borders and the limits of authority"

"Developing insights from comparative research: Sharing & contesting sacred sites from India through The Balkans"

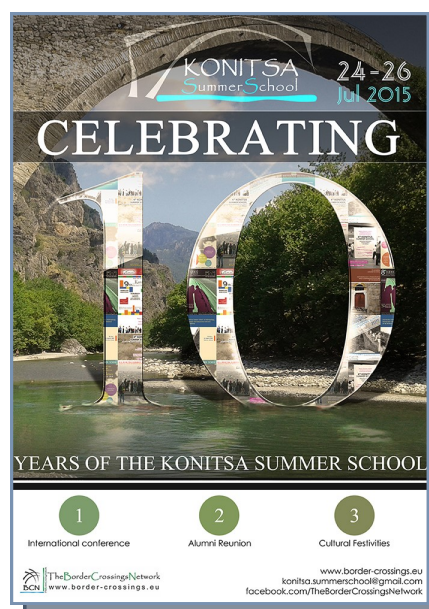
## 2019

### Prof. James Carrier

Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology, Germany - Department of Anthropology, Indiana University, USA

"Moral economic anthropology"

## International Conference: “Celebrating 10 Years of the Konitsa Summer School”, 24-26 July 2015





### **Announcement**

In light of the latest developments with regard to the spread of the Covid-19, the restrictions imposed by national governments, universities and regional and local authorities, the coordinating team of the Border Crossings Network has decided to cancel the 2020 International Student Conference and the 2020 Konitsa Summer School.

Our primary concern is the safety of all participants in the BCN activities. We remain committed to our goals and look forward to organizing the 2021 events.

*The BCN Coordinating Committee*

### **Board of Reviewing Editors**

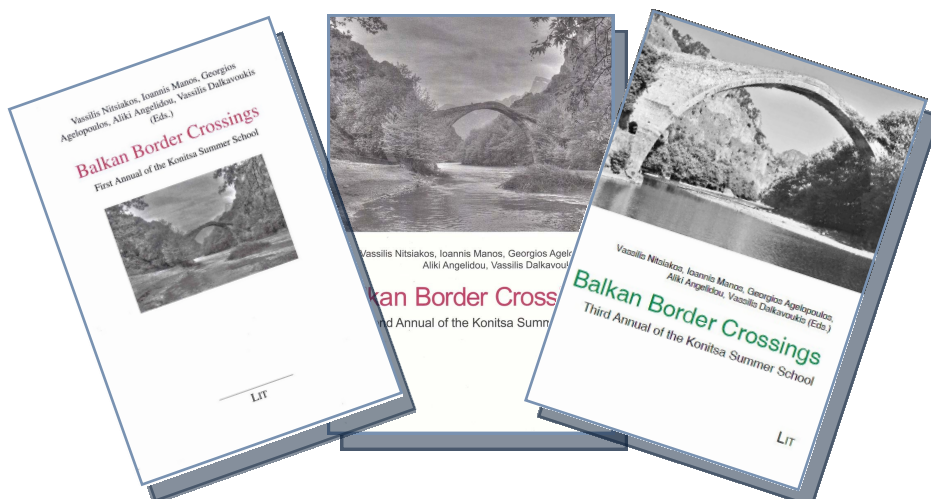
The Border Crossings publication series function as a forum for academic dialogue concerning the anthropology, ethnology and folklore of the Balkans and the Balkans themselves. The series is guided by a five-member Board of Reviewing Editors and a seven-member Editorial/Advisory Board.

**2008-2018:** Vassilis Nitsiakos, Ioannis Manos, Georgios Agelopoulos, Aiki Angelidou, Vassilis Dalkavoukis.

**2018-today:** Vassilis Nitsiakos, Ioannis Manos, Paraskevas Potiropoulos, Zeliha Nilüfer Nahya, Monica Stroe.

### **Editorial/Advisory Board**

Vassilis Nitsiakos, Vintila Mihailescu, Rajko Muršić, Hande Birkalan-Gedik, Ljupco Risteski, Slobodan Naumovic, Ioannis Manos.



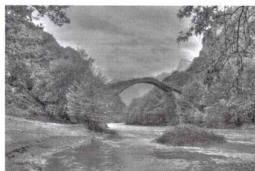


# Konitsa Summer School Proceedings

Vassilis Nitsiakos, Ioannis Manos, Georgios Agelopoulos, Aiki Angelidou, Vassilis Dalkavoukis (Eds.)

## Balkan Border Crossings

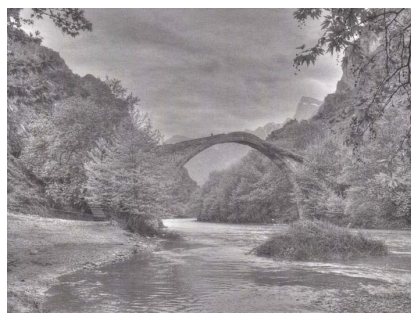
First Annual of the Konitsa Summer School



LIT

### Balkan Border Crossings: First Annual of the Konitsa Summer School

This volume is the first Annual of the Konitsa Summer School in Anthropology, Ethnography and Comparative Folklore of the Balkans, containing the proceedings of two years, 2006.



Vassilis Nitsiakos, Ioannis Manos, Georgios Agelopoulos, Aiki Angelidou, Vassilis Dalkavoukis (Eds.)

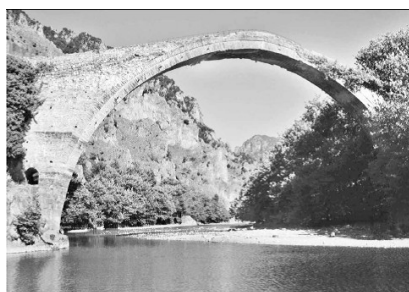
## Balkan Border Crossings

Second Annual of the Konitsa Summer School

LIT

### Balkan Border Crossings: Second Annual of the Konitsa Summer School

This volume is the second Annual of the Konitsa Summer School in Anthropology, Ethnography and Comparative Folklore of the Balkans containing the proceedings of two years, 2007 and 2008.



Vassilis Nitsiakos, Ioannis Manos, Georgios Agelopoulos, Aiki Angelidou, Vassilis Dalkavoukis (Eds.)

## Balkan Border Crossings

Third Annual of the Konitsa Summer School

LIT

### Balkan Border Crossings: Third Annual of the Konitsa Summer School

This volume is the third Annual of the Konitsa Summer School in Anthropology, Ethnography and Comparative Folklore of the Balkans containing the proceedings of two years, 2009 and 2010.

# Ethnographic Research in Border Areas

Vassilis Nitsiakos, Ioannis Manos, Georgios Aggelopoulos, Aliki Angelidou,  
Vassilis Dalkavoukis, Vasiliki Kravva (Eds.)

## **Ethnographic Research in Border Areas**

CS

Contributions to the Study of International  
Frontiers in Southeast Europe



2016

## **Ethnographic Research in Border Areas**

It has become common knowledge, when we talk about borders, to assert, firstly, that we live in a borderless and de-territorialized world where the significance of geopolitical borders has changed through the processes of globalization, the formation of supranational organizations, regional integration, and the power of cyberspace (the advancement and spread of information technology), and secondly, that borders have become more permeable via the constant movement of people, capital, goods and information. Some recurrent depictions of the above mentioned two views are the metaphorical depictions of borders as a membrane or a bridge. This represents a vision of the world that has been shaped by a capitalist, neo-liberal perspective according to which the permeability of borders is a current project

Βασίλης Νιτσιάκος, Ιωάννης Μάνος, Βασίλης Δαλκαβούκης,  
Αλίκη Αγγελίδου, Γιώργος Αγγελόπουλος (επιμέλεια)

## **ΤΑ ΠΟΛΛΑΠΛΑ ΣΥΝΟΡΑ ΕΝΟΣ ΜΕΤΑΒΑΛΛΟΜΕΝΟΥ ΚΟΣΜΟΥ**

Θεωρητικές προσεγγίσεις και εθνογραφικές δοκιμές  
στη Νοτιοανατολική Ευρώπη



ΕΡΕΥΝΑ  
ΚΡΙΤΙΚΗ

## **The Multiple Borders of a Changing World (Edited Volume in Greek)**

The visible frontiers may be permeable, but new mechanisms and techniques of symbolic boundaries are created on the basis of which new classifications and hierarchies arise, accompanied by new restrictions and exclusions that are more effective than fences or walls...

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# Contributions to Balkan Ethnography



Vassilis Nitsiakos

## Peklari

Social economy  
in a Greek village

LIT

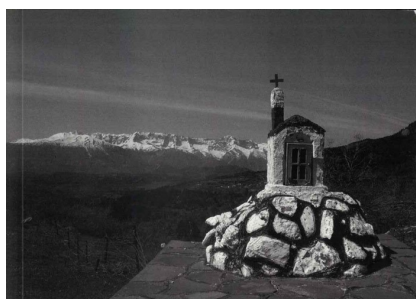


Eftihia Voutira

## The 'Right to Return' and the meaning of 'Home'

A post Soviet Greek diaspora becoming European?

LIT



Vassilis Nitsiakos

## On the Border

Transborder Mobility,  
Ethnic Groups and Boundaries  
on the Albanian-Greek Frontier

LIT

### Peklari: Social economy in a Greek village

Peklari is characterised by a kind of “experiential sustainability” combined with social egalitarianism. The whole system ensures the possibility of self-sufficiency as well as security through the alternative possibilities of production, as the household does not depend on just one crop. Local societies adapt to the elements of the natural environment on which they depend but they also adapt it to their needs in such a way as to ensure that the available resources do not run out. Moreover, in time, ways out of economic and demographic difficulties are found, so that the equilibrium in local systems is not put at risk. Technical specialisation, mobility or even migration provide such solutions.

### The "Right to Return" and the meaning of "Home": A post Soviet Greek diaspora becoming European?

How do people who were part of an extant socioeconomic and political system adapt in another world order? This book ethnographically addresses the two complementary processes of Pontic Greeks' ethnic displacement over a century: diaspora and repatriation. Longitudinal data is employed to argue that the concept of 'repatriation' should be construed as 'affinal', in the sense of 'return to each other', rather than 'return to a place'. The book documents the impact of multiple persecutions under Stalinism on the formation of a Soviet Greek collective identity. It explores the meaning of 'repatriation' and the emergence of a European identity as an option. The acquisition of this novel identity becomes a privilege entailing the right to move across and within the borders of Europe.

### On the Border: Transborder Mobility, Ethnic Groups and Boundaries on the Albanian-Greek Frontier

The flow of emigrants from Albania to Greece, Being one-sided, indicates a relation of inequality between the two countries. Indeed, the violence with which the collapse of the regime is effected and the subsequent opening of the border and the, as a rule, undocumented way of entering Greece, makes this relation even more asymmetrical and places the moving ones in a much more powerless position, as they live and work illegally: their “Outlaw” status deprives them of all rights. Legalisation improves their position but does not cancel the structural inequality that characterises the phenomenon of immigration any way, as well as the quality of the immigrant. In any case, the effort of the immigrants to prevent aspects of identity that would facilitate their position and residence (proofs of Greek roots or Christian faith, changes of names, etc) demonstrates, precisely, how they experience this unequal relationship, which is further aggravated by factors pertaining to their otherness.



## Publications alert

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Balkan Border Crossings: Fourth Annual of the Konitsa Summer School, edited by V. Nitsiakos, I. Manos, G. Agelopoulos, A. Angelidou, V. Dalkavoukis (forthcoming 2020), Lit Verlag.

## Photo gallery









# Contact us

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