



"The real origins of the BORDER CROSSINGS network is one of the most well kept secrets in the Balkans... Experts reported that the network is a revived Balkan tribe or that the network is the last remaining of the "Seven Sacred Balkan Brotherhoods". It is not certainly accidental that the public conferences of the network took place in highland locations situated deep in the Balkan hinterland. This network is a deviant phenomenon which needs to be carefully monitored and investigated..."

From the 2006 World Report, pp. 234-235

Who we are

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, Ethnology, Folklore, Balkan Studies and, more broadly, Humanities and Social Sciences.

The BCN is comprised of university departments, academics and students from almost all countries of SE Europe. It aims at promoting closer relationships between Universities, academics and students in the region by regularly organizing various forms of academic exchange.



What we do

The Network has, since 2003, institutionalised

- An annual student conference 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.
- Two publication series entitled “Balkan Border Crossings: Proceedings from the Konitsa Summer School” and “Balkan Border Crossings: Contributions to Balkan Ethnography”.

Objectives

Academic 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.

International Border Crossings Student Conference

Since 2003, the BCN organises an annual international student conference where students present papers in English. The agenda of these conference follows, on the one hand, the common theoretical trends in the social sciences and humanities, but on the other, it reveals new topics, new problems and to some extent, new possible interpretations of our societies.

Paper presentations are organised in such a way so that the teaching staff is only involved in the opening and closing lectures and in chairing the sessions. In this manner teachers are incorporated into the wider audience while students are afforded the invaluable opportunity to act as both the primary producers and transmitters of knowledge.

Thirteen (13) conferences have taken place so far. More than 600 papers have been presented and more than 1400 students participated.



The Konitsa International Summer School



Since 2006, the BCN annually organises the Konitsa International Summer School in the Anthropology, Ethnography and Comparative Folklore of the Balkans. The School takes place at the Greek – Albanian border town of Konitsa, in Greece.



It was within the academic context of the student conferences that the idea of organising a Summer School first developed. Accordingly, it was only with the enthusiastic support of the University of Ioannina, and the authorities and municipality of the town of Konitsa that such an initiative has been able to achieve noteworthy success and international recognition through its successive iterations.



KSS emphasis and possibilities

The Konitsa Summer School offers a full academic programme with an emphasis on theoretical and methodological issues in Sociocultural Anthropology. Various lecturers hailing from the Balkans, the rest of Europe, and the USA join forces to facilitate a rich collaborative learning environment of a methodically interdisciplinary character.



Nine (9) Summer Schools have taken place since 2006. More than 640 students, more than 80 staff members and 18 invited speakers have participated.

This includes courses discussing the current political and economic conditions in SE Europe as well as the study of borderlands, border crossings and boundary construction processes. A special ethnographic focus on the cultural and social life of the region and the ethnography of a SE European country constitute a rich and advanced curriculum.



Moreover, the participants have a chance to conduct short fieldwork projects in three Balkan countries, participate in the BCN's publication series, actively engage in local issues within the framework of applied Anthropology, and become acquainted with the notion of borders and border areas.

10th INTERNATIONAL KONITSA SUMMER SCHOOL

2015

23 JUL-12 AUG
Anthropology Ethnography and Comparative Folklore of the Balkans

- Lectures & seminars
- Fieldwork in Greece, Albania & F.Y. Republic of Macedonia
- Visits & cultural events

Invited Speaker
Prof. Susana Narotzky

CELEBRATING 10 YEARS OF THE KONITSA SUMMER SCHOOL
International conference, Konitsa alumni reunion



www.border-crossings.eu
konitsa.summerschool@gmail.com
facebook.com/TheBorderCrossingsNetwork

KONITSA Summer School
In Anthropology, Ethnography and Comparative Folklore of the Balkans
Konitsa, Greece, 23/7 - 8/8 2014

9th International Summer School 2014

LECTURES SEMINARS

FIELDWORK
IN GREECE
ALBANIA &
F.Y. REPUBLIC
OF MACEDONIA

VISITS & CULTURAL EVENTS

Invited speaker:
Professor
Stathis Gourgouris

The Border Crossings Network
www.border-crossings.eu

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facebook: The Border Crossings Network

8th KONITSA summer school
ANTHROPOLOGY, ETHNOGRAPHY & COMPARATIVE FOLKLORE OF THE BALKANS
24/7 - 9/8
2013

Intensive courses
Fieldwork in Albania & Greece
Visits & cultural events

Guest speaker
David Kideckel

7th KONITSA SUMMER SCHOOL
ANTHROPOLOGY, ETHNOGRAPHY AND COMPARATIVE FOLKLORE OF THE BALKANS

25/7 - 9/8 2012
Intensive courses
Fieldwork practice in Albania and Greece
Visits and cultural events

Guest speakers:
Keith Hart
Ulf Brunnbauer

Border Crossings Network
www.border-crossings.eu
Konitsa Summer School
konitsa.summerschool@gmail.com

6th KONITSA SUMMER SCHOOL
ANTHROPOLOGY, ETHNOLOGY AND COMPARATIVE FOLKLORE OF THE BALKANS
27 July - 11 August 2011
Konitsa - Greece

intensive courses
fieldwork practice in Albania & Greece
visits & cultural events

guests speakers:
Michael Stewart & Cesare Poppi

Border Crossings Network - Municipality of Konitsa - University of Ioannina
www.border-crossings.eu konitsa.summerschool@gmail.com

5th KONITSA SUMMER SCHOOL
Anthropology
Ethnology
& Comparative
Folklore
of the Balkans
28/7-12/8 2010

Border Crossings Network
Municipality of Konitsa
University of Ioannina

intensive courses

fieldwork practice in Albania & Greece

visits & cultural events

guests:
CHRIS HANN
NENI PANOURGIA

konitsa.summerschool@gmail.com

4th KONITSA SUMMER SCHOOL
anthropology, ethnography & comparative folklore of the Balkans

INTENSIVE COURSES
FIELDWORK PRACTICE IN ALBANIA & GREECE
KEY LECTURES BY MICHAEL HERZELD & SARAH GREEN
VISITS & CULTURAL EVENTS

konitsa.summerschool@gmail.com
www.bordercrossingsnetwork.org
29 July - 13 August 2009

2nd Konitsa Summer School in Anthropology, Ethnography and Comparative Folklore of the Balkans
30 July - 10 August 2007
Konitsa, Greece

www.gri.conferences2007_konitsa_summerschool/index.html

Publications

Since 2008 the BCN has institutionalised two (2) publication series.

- Balkan Border Crossings: Proceedings from the Konitsa Summer School



Both function as a forum for academic dialogue concerning the Anthropology, Ethnology and Folklore of the Balkans and the Balkans themselves. Each series is guided by a seven-member editorial/advisory board and a five-member board of reviewing editors.

- Balkan Border Crossings: Contributions to Balkan Ethnography

Thus far, three edited volumes (2008, 2011, 2013) and two monographs (2010, 2011) on Balkan ethnography have come out in collaboration with the German publishing house Lit-Verlag.





The activities of the BCN have established an interactive network of Universities, academics, young scholars and students. They build capacity within the participating higher education institutions and enable Further common research activities.

Exchanging experiences and knowledge helps us counter fears, mistrust and prejudices and provide different points of view and alternative ways to see problems our societies are dealing with.

Join our activities and experience the Border Crossings Network...

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