

# 9<sup>th</sup> International “Border Crossings” Student Conference

12-15 May 2011, Komotini, Greece

## *“Betwixt and Between”:*

### **Boundaries, negotiations and transitions in SE Europe**

The title is quite indicative of the main theoretical concerns of the 9th Student Conference which will be hosted by Democritus University of Thrace in Greece. According to Victor Turner, a well known anthropologist who dealt with the analysis of symbolism and rituals some decades ago, the phrase “betwixt and between” refers to the liminal period in which the individual is found in a marginal state. Individuals found in this marginal state are not yet classified and thus they experience a condition of ambiguity, paradox and confusion.

Turner’s notion might prove thought provoking if applied to the modern political, economic and social reality in South Eastern Europe: changing borders, migration and mobility, economic and political instability, social upheavals. In the last couple of years we are witnessing a constant effort on behalf of the Balkan countries to gain trust and economic support from the European Union. Yet it seems as if most countries are caught up in a vicious circle of political, economic and social dependency. In the context described above the conference is intended to be the forum for as much as different “voices” as possible along with different ethnographic examples accounting for the “liminal” and “marginal” situations which inevitably bring up issues of boundaries, negotiations and transitions in SE Europe.

#### **1. Conference subtopics:**

- Local, regional, national and European identities
- Migration and transnational networks
- Globalisation, economic, political and social transformations
- Consumption and commodities
- Tourism and cultural heritage
- EU integration
- Tradition and modernity
- Europe and the Balkans
- Europe and the Mediterranean
- Artistic expressions, visual representations and popular culture
- Space and place in SE Europe
- Memory, the Past in the Present
- Doing Fieldwork
- Minorities and the maintenance of cultural distinctiveness
- Eating, Drinking, Dancing as cultural expressions
- Culture and Materiality
- The politics of everyday life

#### **2. Organizing Institutions:**

- Border Crossings Network
- Department of History and Ethnology, Democritus University of Thrace
- Department of History and Archeology, University of Ioannina

- Institute of Ethnology and Anthropology, Faculty of Natural Sciences and Mathematics, St Cyril and Methodious University, Skopje
- Dept. of Ethnology and Cultural Anthropology, University of Ljubljana, Ljubljana
- Department of Ethnology and Anthropology, Faculty of Philosophy, University of Belgrade, Belgrade
- Department of Ethnology, Sv Kliment Ohridski University, Sofia
- Department of Anthropology, New Bulgarian University, Sofia
- National School of Political Studies and Administration, Bucharest
- Department of Ethnology and Cultural Anthropology, University of Zadar, Croatia
- Department of Balkans Studies, University of Western Macedonia, Florina

### **3. Eligibility:**

The conference is open to all undergraduate and M.A. and PhD. students from the universities which are members of the Border Crossings Network, as well as to other students from the area and beyond who might find the network interesting. There are capacities for approximately one hundred and twenty (120) participants. Students are expected to present their papers in any way related to the main topic of the conference. The presentation should not exceed ten (10) minutes (plus 5 minutes for discussion). Power-point and multimedia presentations are welcome.

### **4. Application procedure:**

Applicants should send their personal data, including university affiliation, and paper abstracts (around 15 lines) to the responsible coordinator at the home university.

**Deadline for submissions is March 21st. Successful applicants will be notified by April 10th , 2011.**

### **5. Cost:**

There is no conference fee. However, the organisers are not in position to cover travel costs and the cost of accommodation for participants. Participants will be accommodated in triple and double hotel rooms at the Orpheus and Democritus hotels. The cost for accommodation, including one meal is about 30 EUROS per night and per person.

### **6. Transportation:**

Participants should make their own travelling arrangements. The most convenient way to travel to Komotini is: by plane (or train) to Thessaloniki and from there by bus (or train) to Komotini or by plane to Alexandroupoli and from there by bus to Komotini.

In addition, a bus for the conference participants will run from Thessaloniki to Komotini on the 12th and from Komotini to Thessaloniki on the 15<sup>th</sup> (this might be free of charge for the participants coming from Balkan countries).

### **7. Organizing Committee:**

- Professor Vassilis Nitsiakos, University of Ioannina
- Assist. Prof. Georgios Agelopoulos, University of Macedonia, Thessaloniki
- Dr. Alik Angelidou, Panteion University, Athens

- Dr. Vassilis Dalkavoukis, Democritus University of Thrace
- Kostas Mantzos, PhD candidate, Dept. of History and Archaeology, Univ. of Ioannina - Research associate, TCDI (Therapy Centre for Dependent Individuals)
- Dr. Ioannis Manos, University of Western Macedonia, Florina
- Dr. Vasiliki Kravva, Democritus University of Thrace and Educational-Technological Institute, Thessaloniki

## **8. Academic Committee:**

- Prof. Vassilis Nitsiakos, Dept. of History and Archaeology, Univ. of Ioannina
- Prof. Vintila Mihailescu, National School of Political Studies and Administration, Bucharest
- Prof. Rajko Mursic, Dept. of Ethnology and Cultural Anthropology, University of Ljubljana, Ljubljana
- Prof. Efi Voutira, Dept. of Balkan, Slavic and Oriental Studies University of Macedonia, Thessaloniki
- Dr. Ljupco Risteski, Institute of Ethnology and Anthropology, St Cyril and Methodious University, Skopje
- Dr. Slobodan Naumovic, Dept. of Ethnology and Anthropology, Faculty of Philosophy, University of Belgrade
- Dr. Bojan Zikic, Dept. of Ethnology and Anthropology, Faculty of Philosophy, University of Belgrade.
- Dr. Georgios Agelopoulos, Dept. of Balkan, Slavic and Oriental Studies University of Macedonia, Thessaloniki
- Dr. Ilija Iliev, Dept. of Ethnology, University "Sv. Kliment Ohridski", Sofia
- Dr. Evgenia Blagoeva, Department of Anthropology, New Bulgarian University, Sofia
- Dr. Deema Kaneff, Centre for Russian and East European Studies, University of Birmingham
- Dr. Margarita Karamihova, Ethnographic Institute with Museum, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Sofia
- Dr. Hande Birkalan Gedik, Yeditepe University, Department of Anthropology, Istanbul
- Dr. Armanda Kodra, Institute of Cultural Anthropology and Study of Arts, Tirana
- Dr. Rozita Dimova, Free University, Berlin
- Dr. Iliana Jakimovska, Institute of Ethnology and Anthropology, St Cyril and Methodious University, Skopje
- Dr. Snježana Zorić, Department of Ethnology and Cultural Anthropology, University of Zadar, Croatia
  
- Dr. Eleftheria Deltsoy, Department of History, Archaeology and Social Anthropology, University of Thessaly, Volos
- Dr. Alike Angelidou, Dept. of Social Anthropology, Panteion University, Athens
- Dr. Panagiotis Panopoulos, Dept. of Social Anthropology and History, University of the Aegean, Mytilini
- Dr. Marilena Papachristophorou, Dept. of History and Archaeology, Univ. of Ioannina
- Dr. Vasiliki Kravva, Democritus Un. Of Thrace and Educational-Technological Institute of Thessaloniki
- Dr. Yiorghos Tsimouris, Dep. of Social Anthropology, Panteion University, Athens
- Danijela Birt, Dept. of Ethnology and Cultural Anthropology, University of Zadar
- Kostas Mantzos, Dept. of History and Archaeology, Univ. of Ioannina - TCDI (Therapy Centre for Dependent Individuals)
- Dr. Vassilis Dalkavoukis, Dept. of History and Ethnology, Democritus University of Thrace
- Dr. Ioannis Manos, Dept. of Balkan Studies, University of Western Macedonia, Florina

## **9. For additional information please contact:**

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