

# 13<sup>th</sup> International "Border Crossings"

## Students' Conference

23rd April- 26th April 2015, Sarajevo

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### *Balkan Worlds, Balkan Lives:*

### *Experiencing, Sensing and Imagining the 'realities'*

This year's conference contributes to the discussion of the role of experiences and senses in relation to the anthropology of the Balkans. It is a common place by now, among anthropologists, that subjectivity and neutrality are not really met, when going to the field. People confer sense and purpose in what they say and do, so alternative approaches have been employed, in an attempt to understand the multiplicity of lived life and the performances performed on a daily basis. Thus, instead of "studying the Balkans" alternative readings of assessing and analysing balkan worlds and balkan lives have been proposed, which prioritize the role of lived and experienced and embodied 'realities'. By this token, what anthropologists working along this line suggest, is to demystify and reveal the complexity and plurality of experiences in the area. Furthermore, there is an intention to problematize

the supposed unity of the Balkans: debatable, interacting and often conflicting narrations and what more, sensual and emotional experiences, offer a more fragmented and debated Balkanogeography. On the one, worlds and lives seem necessary notions in order to dismantle the bounded "Balkans" and on the other, this seems to be achieved by mobilizing our senses. What is proposed, resembles a "tasteful ethnography", which is at the same time "descriptive, non theoretical and memorable. Writers of tasteful ethnographies mix an assortment of ingredients -dialogue, description, metaphor, metonymy, synecdoche, irony, smells, sights and sounds- to create a narrative that savors the world of the other" (Stoller, 1989: 32).

### **Conference subtopics:**

- + The dynamics of local, regional, national and European identities
- + Economic, political and social tensions and transformations
- + Alternative social movements and social networks
- + Balkan worlds, balkan lives and emotional geographies
- + Consumption and commodities in motion
- + New forms of tourism, commoditization of cultural heritage and revalorizations of traditions
- + Remembering, forgetting and imagining the past
- + Sustaining images of cultural distinctiveness
- + Politicization of everyday life: eating and drinking performances

- ✚ Music and dance contexts and the enactment of power relations
- ✚ Gender worlds, gendered identities
- ✚ Methodological and ethical issues of doing fieldwork

### **Organizing Institutions:**

- ✚ Border Crossings Network
- ✚ Music Academy of Sarajevo, University of Sarajevo
- ✚ Department of Ethnology and Anthropology, Faculty of Philosophy, University of Belgrade
- ✚ Department of History and Archaeology, University of Ioannina
- ✚ National School of Political Studies and Administration, Bucharest
- ✚ Department of History and Ethnology, Democritus University of Thrace
- ✚ Institute of Ethnology and Anthropology, Faculty of Natural Sciences and Mathematics, St Cyrill and Methodious University, Skopje
- ✚ Department of Ethnology and Cultural Anthropology, University of Ljubljana, Ljubljana
- ✚ Department of Ethnology, Sv Kliment Ohridski University, Sofia
- ✚ Department of Ethnology and Cultural Anthropology, University of Zadar, Zadar
- ✚ Department of Balkan, Slavic and Oriental Studies, University of Macedonia, Thessaloniki

### **Organizing Committee:**

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 Professor Rajko Mursic, Department of Ethnology and Cultural Anthropology, University of Ljubljana, Ljubljana

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Professor Vintila Mihailescu, National School of Political Studies and Administration, Bucharest

Professor Vassilis Nitsiakos, Department of History and Archaeology, University of Ioannina, Ioannina

Dr. Georgios Agelopoulos, Department of Eastern, Slavic and Oriental Studies, University of Macedonia, Thessaloniki

Dr. Alik Angelidou, Department of Social Anthropology, Panteion University, Athens

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Dr. Vassiliki Kravva, Department of History and Ethnology, Democritus University of Thrace, Komotini

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### **Scientific Committee:**

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Prof. Rajko Mursic, Dept. Of Ethnology and Cultural Anthropology, University of Ljubljana, Ljubljana

Prof. Tamara-Karača Beljak, Dept. for Musicology and Ethnomusicology, Academy of Music, University of Sarajevo

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#### **Assisting the organization:**

Dr. Georgia Sarikoudi, PhD Social Anthropology, Aristotle  
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Ariadni Andoniadou, Postgraduate student, Dept of History and  
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Harun Zulić, Undergraduate student, Department of Music  
theory and pedagogy, Academy of Music, University of  
Sarajevo

#### **Eligibility:**

The conference is open to all undergraduate, M.A. and Ph.D.  
students from the universities which are members of the  
Border Crossings Network, as well as to other students, from

the wider area, who might find the network interesting. Students are expected to present papers related to the main topic of the conference. The presentation should be maximum 12 minutes (plus 5 minutes for discussion). Power-point and multimedia presentations are welcome.

### **Cost:**

There is no conference fee. However, travel costs and the cost of accommodation have to be covered by the participants themselves. Participants are to be accommodated in double and triple hotel rooms and there will be a notice shortly after their acceptance.

### **Transportation:**

Participants should make their own travelling arrangements. In addition, a bus for the conference participants will run from Thessaloniki to Sarajevo on the 23rd April (Thursday) and from Sarajevo to Thessaloniki on the 26<sup>th</sup> April (Sunday). The bus fare will depend on the final number of the participants and is to be covered by them.

**Deadline for submissions is the 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2015. Successful applicants will be notified by the 7<sup>th</sup> April.**

**Please note that there will be NO abstract acceptance after the proposed date (22nd March).**

### **Application procedure:**

Applicants should send their personal data, including university affiliation, and titled paper abstract (around 15 lines) to the following persons:

❖ **For paper proposals (please contact BOTH persons):**

Dr. Vassiliki Kravva, Democritus University of Thrace:  
[valiakravva@gmail.com](mailto:valiakravva@gmail.com)

**and**

Dr. Georgia Sarikoudi, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki:  
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