



## 14th International “Border Crossings” Student Conference 21 – 24 April, 2016, Zagreb, Croatia

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

By addressing some of the key issues of today's world – (un)certainty, (in)equality and hope(lessness) – the conference aims to provide a platform for discussion on complex social processes and on various challenges and possibilities they offer for anthropological research.

From the position between the opposites – certainty/uncertainty, equality/inequality, hope/hopelessness – we wish to explore how these modes of contemporary social life are constructed, valued and argued for. What are the forms and practices of uncertainty, inequality and hopelessness? How do people define and manage these feelings and conditions and how do they relate to one another? How are they institutionalized, and how are they defined in public discourse? What are the political, economic, social and ecological preconditions and implications of uncertainty, inequality and hopelessness? Can certainty, equality and hope be defined as utopian projects? What actions do people take to surpass inequalities? How do they speak about hope and how do they work on certainty? In spite of uncertainty and various inequalities, does hope still manage to find its place in everyday practices and narratives?

By shedding light on these topics, we also wish to discuss various challenges and possibilities they provide for anthropological research. How do anthropologists respond to these possibilities and how do they position themselves in complex research situations? What kind of research strategies and methodologies do they use and develop? What forms of reporting about their research do they choose? How do they work on visibility and applicability of their research projects?

The conference thus opens a space for interpreting concepts, practices and agents of (un)certainty, (in)equality and hope(lessness) and for debating responses produced by anthropologists that deal with them.

While discussing the main theme, the conference wishes to tackle various **subtopics**, such as:

- Concepts and practices of wellbeing, vulnerability, care, solidarity, humanitarianism, voluntarism, cohesion
- Concepts and practices of power, empowerment, authority, marginality, social justice
- Mobilities and immobilities in today's world, flows and borders
- Discourses and practices of crisis
- Discourses and practices of development and sustainability
- Hope between past and future, hope and heritage
- Discourses and practices of activism
- Methodological and ethical challenges of contemporary anthropological research
- (Re)thinking, (re)formulating and doing engaged anthropology
- Anthropological research and its social responsibility
- Anthropologists as researchers and anthropologists as activists.

#### **Organising Institutions:**

Department of Ethnology and Cultural Anthropology, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Zagreb, Zagreb

Border Crossings Network

Department of History and Archaeology, University of Ioannina

Department of Balkan, Slavic and Oriental Studies, University of Macedonia, Thessaloniki

Department of Ethnology and Cultural Anthropology, University of Ljubljana, Ljubljana  
National School of Political Studies and Administration, Bucharest  
Institute of Ethnology and Anthropology, Faculty of Natural Sciences and Mathematics, St Cyril and Methodious University, Skopje  
Department of Ethnology and Anthropology, Faculty of Philosophy, University of Belgrade, Belgrade  
Department of History and Ethnology, Democritus University of Thrace

### **Eligibility**

Eligible to apply are BA students, BA graduates, MA students, MA graduates, PhD candidates.

### **Conference sessions and paper presentations**

The conference sessions will take place on Friday, April 22 and Saturday, April 23 in the venues of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Zagreb. Check on the following links: <http://www.ffzg.unizg.hr/> and <http://www.ffzg.unizg.hr/etno/>.

Paper presentations are expected to be in English and last not more than 10 minutes (plus 5 minutes for discussion).

Power-point and multimedia presentations are welcome.

The conference programme will be announced in the beginning of April 2016. Check on <http://www.border-crossings.eu/> and <http://www.ffzg.unizg.hr/etno/>.

### **Conference Costs**

There is no conference fee.

Travel and accommodation costs should be covered by the participants themselves.

Participants are expected to make their own arrangements for the accommodation. For useful information about travel and staying in Zagreb check: <http://www.infozagreb.hr/&lang=en>.

### **Application procedure:**

Paper presenters are expected to submit (via e-mail) a paper abstract (around 250-300 words), their academic status and institutional affiliation by March 21, 2016. Successful applicants will be notified by March 31, 2016.

**Conference Email contact address:** info@border-crossings.eu

**Conference Email contact person:** Georgia Rina, PhD candidate, Department of Social Anthropology, Panteion University, Athens

### **Conference Scientific Committee**

Prof. Vassilis Nitsiakos, Department of History and Archaeology, University of Ioannina, Ioannina

Prof. Vintila Mihailescu, National School of Political Studies and Administration, Bucharest

Prof. Rajko Muršič, Department of Ethnology and Cultural Anthropology, University of Ljubljana, Ljubljana

Prof. Ljupčo Risteski, Institute of Ethnology and Anthropology, St Cyril and Methodious University, Skopje

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