



International Interdisciplinary Conference

Bosnia and Herzegovina

Post-Colonial and Post-Conflict Heritage of a European State

Location: Vila Lanna (V Sadech 1/1, Prague 6, 160 00, Czech Republic)

Date: Thursday, November 10, 2022 (10:00-18:00)

Organized by: The Institute of History of the Czech Academy of Sciences

In cooperation with: The Institute of Philosophy of the Czech Academy of Sciences and Prague Security Studies Institute (PSSI)

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STRATEGIE AV21
Špičkový výzkum ve veřejném zájmu



Conference program

10:00-10:30 **Conference opening – Welcome speech on behalf of the Institute of History of the Czech Academy of Sciences**

10:30-11:00 **Xavier Bougarel – Can Bosnia and Herzegovina Survive Without an Empire?**

11:00-11:30 **Radan Haluzík – “The Time When Each Nation Got Its Own Glasses”:
Crisis of Modernity and the Arrival of New “Political Climate” Before
the Fall of Yugoslavia**

Coffee break 30 min.

12:00-12:30 **Ivo Goldstein – Historical Revisionism, Neo-Ustashism, Neo-Chetnikism
and the Monopolization of the Just Side**

12:30-13:00 **Zora Hesová – Bosnian Islam as ‘European Islam’: Thirty Years After the
Independence**

13:00-13:30 **Ger Duijzings – What Went Wrong and Why? Reflecting on the NIOD
Srebrenica Report Twenty Years Later**

Lunch break 60 min.

14:30-15:00 **František Šístek – Representations of Bosnia and Herzegovina in Czech
Public Discourse (1992-2022)**

15:00-15:30 **Mario Katić – Mechanism of Social and Urban Design in Post-war
Bosnia: The View from the Periphery**

15:30-16:00 **Petr Stehlík – Bosnian-Herzegovinian Literature: The History of a
Transnational Concept and Its Prospects in the Post-Conflict Society**

Coffee break 30 min.

16:30-17:00 **Anja Grabovac, Tamara Grabovac, Markéta Slavková – Western Balkans
at the Crossroads: Geopolitical Influence of External Actors in Post-
conflict Bosnia and Herzegovina**

17:00-17:30 **Srećko Latal – Bosnia and Herzegovina Reaches Critical Crossroads at
the End of 2022**

17:30-18:00 **Closing speech – the ambassador of Bosnia and Herzegovina in the
Czech Republic Martina Mlinarević & concluding debate (with all
speakers)**

**From 20:00 an informal social gathering of the conference participants and
guests will take place in Bubenečský pivovar (Bubenečská 321/33). Refreshments
are not covered.*

Description of the event

In 2022, three decades have passed since the beginning of the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina (1992-1995), one of the most devastating conflicts on European soil since the end of the Second World War. This year also marks the 30th anniversary of the proclamation of Bosnia and Herzegovina as an independent and sovereign European state. Despite considerable long-term international engagement in post-war reconstruction and state-building efforts, the civilian peace implementation is still supervised by the High Representative for Bosnia and Herzegovina selected by the Peace Implementation Council (PIC). The country is lagging behind in the process of European integration and remains negatively affected by nationalism, internal divisions, social problems and wounds from the past.

Bosnia and Herzegovina had a specific position in the wider European context already in the second half of the 19th century, as Austria-Hungary's de facto only colony (1878-1918) and a land with a high proportion of autochthonous Muslim inhabitants. Its multiethnic, multiconfessional and multicultural character represented Bosnia and Herzegovina's most prominent feature in interwar as well as socialist Yugoslavia. Many current problems the people of Bosnia and Herzegovina are facing have historical roots or analogies, but there are also some notable discontinuities. Bosnia and Herzegovina is a state officially built upon key European values, especially the coexistence of diverse nationalities, cultures and religions. On the other hand, the possibility of multiethnic coexistence has also been seriously put into question in the recent past.

The international conference “Bosnia and Herzegovina: Post-Colonial and Post-Conflict Heritage of a European State” attempts to provide an opportunity for an exchange of the latest research results and ideas among top scholars from different countries and disciplines (especially history, political science, anthropology, media and religious studies) who have been focusing on various aspects of the country's past and present. We would like to approach, analyze and contextualize selected key problems of Bosnian and Herzegovinian society (heritage of the Ottoman past /colonial rule /Yugoslav period, nationalism, multiethnic and multiconfessional coexistence, coming into terms with genocide, modernization, Europeanization etc.) in a broader historical perspective from the second half of the 19th century until present.

In the second half of 2022, the Czech Republic holds the presidency of the Council of the European Union. The integration and stabilization of Southeastern Europe belongs among its top priorities. As part of the conference, we also aim to emphasize the role of the Czech Republic as a country, which has contributed to the development of Bosnia and Herzegovina and has been significantly engaged in the Balkan region both politically and economically. Furthermore, we intend to

highlight the role of the Czech Republic as an important academic/scholarly center for the research of the Balkans in the European context.

Last but not least, we would like to bring to focus the attempts at undermining the integrity and even existence of Bosnia and Herzegovina by both European and regional populists, which in our opinion threatens the progress of European integration and regional stability. These issues represent a challenge for the Czech presidency of the EU. Therefore, we would like to put special stress on the idea of statehood in relation to the multiethnic and multi religious society in a historical and interdisciplinary perspective. These discussions will also include the role of Europe as a guarantee of a certain normative order in its approximate neighborhood, ideas of transnational integration, constitutional state and also the concept of the “ontological security”.

The conference will consist of individual presentations (20 minutes and 10 minutes of discussion will be provided for each paper) and a final round table discussion. Selected papers from the conference will be published as thematic issue of the scholarly journal *Slovanský přehled / Slavonic Review (Journal for the History of Central, Eastern and Southeastern Europe)*, founded in 1898 in Prague and published by the Institute of History of the Czech Academy of Sciences. The conference will take place in the Vila Lanna, a neo-renaissance villa built by the entrepreneur Adalbert (Vojtěch) Lanna in the second half of the 19th century and now used by the Czech Academy of Sciences for top level scholarly venues and ceremonial occasions.

Detailed program (abstracts & speakers' biographies)

10:00-10:30

Conference opening

Welcome speech on behalf of the Institute of History of the Czech Academy of Sciences

Introductory speech by the conference organizing committee: František Šístek, Markéta Slavková, Zora Hesová and Ladislav Hladký

Ladislav Hladký

Biography

Ladislav Hladký is a research fellow at the Institute of History of the Czech Academy of Sciences, Brno, and associate professor at the Faculty of Arts, Masaryk University in Brno, the Czech Republic. He has focused on the history of

former Yugoslavia (especially Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Slovenia) and Czech relations with the South Slavs in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. His publications include the monograph *Bosenská otázka v 19. a 20. století* [The Bosnian question in the 19th and 20th century] (Brno: Masarykova univerzita, 2005) and the edited volume *Czech Relations with the Nations and Countries of Southeastern Europe* (Zagreb: Srednja Europa, 2019).

Selected academic publications

Czech Relations with the Nations and Countries of Southeastern Europe (Zagreb: Srednja Europa 2019).

Ladislav Hladký – Jana Škerlová – Pavel Cibulka (eds.), Korespondence: T. G. Masaryk - Slované. Jižní Slované /Correspondence: T. G. Masaryk - Slavs. South Slavs./, Praha: Masarykův ústav a Archiv AV ČR - Historický ústav AV ČR 2015.

Vratislav Doubek – Ladislav Hladký - Radomír Vlček (eds.), T. G. Masaryk a Slované / T. G. Masaryk and the Slavs, Praha: Historický ústav AV ČR 2013.

Slovinsko /Slovenia/, Praha: Libri 2010.

Bosenská otázka v 19. a 20. století /The Bosnian Question in the 19th and 20th Century/, Brno: Masarykova univerzita 2005.

10:30-11:00

Xavier Bougarel

Presentation title

Can Bosnia and Herzegovina Survive Without an Empire?

Abstract

Since the Ottoman period and until 1992, Bosnia-Herzegovina has always been part of an empire (with a short and bloody interruption during the Second World War). This integration into a wider political entity explains at least in part the preservation of its plurinational character and its consociational institutions. In the early 1990s, nationalist parties have deliberately destroyed this fragile balance, and Serbian nationalists have attempted to establish a Serbian nation-state on Bosnian territory. From 1994 onwards, US diplomacy has promoted a new territorialized consociativism as the founding principle of the Dayton agreement signed in December 1995. Almost thirty years later, this agreement has reached its limits, but this does not necessarily mean that the very principle of consociativism should be rejected. In reality, the present stalemate is due to certain imbalances in the architecture of the peace agreement itself, but also to a broader failure of the « transition » to political democracy and a market economy.

Against this background, is the adoption of a new institutional framework possible without renewed violence, and without the involvement of the European Union as a new empire based itself on consociational institutions ?

Biography

Xavier Bougarel is a researcher at the Centre for Turkish, Ottoman, Balkan and Central Asian studies at CNRS in Paris. He is, among others, the author of *Islam and Nationhood in Bosnia-Herzegovina* (2018) and, with Elissa Helms and Ger Duijzings, one of the editors of *The New Bosnian Mosaic. Identities, Memories and Moral Claims in a Post-War Society* (2007).

Selected academic publications

Xavier Bougarel – *Islam and Nationhood in Bosnia-Herzegovina. Surviving Empires*, Bloomsbury, London, 2018, 262 p.

Xavier Bougarel – Nathalie Clayer, *Europe's Balkan Muslims : A New History*, Hurst, London, 2017, 285 p.

Xavier Bougarel – Elissa Helms and Ger Duijzings (eds.), *The New Bosnian Mosaic. Identities, Memories and Moral Claims in a Post-War Society*, Ashgate, Aldershot, 2007, 332 p.

Xavier Bougarel – Nathalie Clayer (eds.) *Le nouvel islam balkanique. Les musulmans, acteurs du post-communisme (1990-2000)*, Maisonneuve & Larose, Paris, 2001, 508 p.

Bosnie: anatomie d'un conflit, La Découverte, Paris, 1996, 174 p.

11:00-11:30

Radan Haluzík

Presentation title

“The Time When Each Nation Got Its Own Glasses”: Crisis of Modernity and the Arrival of New “Political Climate” Before the Fall of Yugoslavia

Abstract

With the growing criticism of (the communist version of) modernity from within, from below, as well as with the arrival of new postmodern thinking from the West "a new political climate is coming" to Yugoslavia at the end of the 1980s. This paper attempts to study the process of how new political and intellectual elites, journalists and cartoonists of leading Yugoslav popular magazines, but also ordinary people in the Bosnian countryside, began to share common metaphors

and tropes of new postmodern relativism. Unfortunately, we will examine how this chance to see the world from different perspectives – “*through different glasses*”–, how this fresh new spirit of criticism of the project of modernity turned into ethnic fundamentalism, national particularism and political naturalism... “We have to awake and be reborn”, “let’s go back to our roots!”– say other central metaphors of this politics of authenticity. We will see how the grand narrative of Yugoslavia and its federation (as well as Bosnia) are depicted as “unnatural alienated Babylon” of incommensurable ethnic cultures, antagonist national histories, competing political interests and futures.

Biography

Radan Haluzík, born in 1969 in Zlín, the Czech Republic. He earned his MSc degree in biology and ecology in 1995, and MA in anthropology in 1998, both at Charles University, Prague. In the 1990s, as an anthropologist and a war journalist, he conducted fieldwork in post-communist war conflicts in Bosnia, Croatia, Kosovo as well as in Chechnya, Georgia, Abkhazia, South Ossetia, Armenia and Nagorno-Karabakh, This fieldwork later became the basis for his PhD and a book. After his pre-doctoral studies at Central European University and Stanford University, he earned his PhD in social sciences at SSEES at the University College London with the PhD thesis *How War Was Hatched from Peace: political aesthetics, mass performance and ecstasy of the post-communist ethnic conflicts in the former Yugoslavia and in the Caucasus* (2011). Since 2003 he has taught social sciences at Charles University (Faculty of Humanities, Faculty of Social Sciences), the Prague campus of New York University, CERGE-EI/ UPCES and the Center of Audiovisual Studies at FAMU. From 2011 he works at the Center for Theoretical Study, Charles University/ the Czech Academy of Sciences in Prague.

Selected academic publications

2022. Self-Made Men – Architects of the Self: The New Houses and New Landscapes of the Western Balkans. In: *Český lid/ Czech Ethnological Journal* 109: 299-327.

2021. ‘It Was All a Big Theatre’: Velvet revolutions, ethnic conflicts, and conspiracy theories in Eastern Europe. *Diogenes* vol. 62, Issue 3-4, pp. 89-100.

2020. Venkov v antropocénu: lokální domy v čase globálních sítí. In: Pokorný, Petr and David Storch. *Antropocén*. Praha: Academia. p 476-506.

Haluzík R. et al. 2020. *Město naruby: vágní terén, vnitřní periferie a místa mezi misty*. Praha: Academia. 400 pp. (*City Inside Out: Terrain vague, inner periphery and places in-between*)

2018. *Proč jdou chlapi do války: emoce a estetika u počátku etnických konfliktů*. Praha: Dokořán. 455 pp. (*Why Do Boys Go to War: Emotions and Aesthetics at the Beginning of the Post-Communist Ethnic Conflicts*)

12:00-12:30

Ivo Goldstein

Presentation title

Historical Revisionism, Neo-Ustashism, Neo-Chetnikism and the Monopolization of the Just Side

Abstract

Bosnia-Herzegovina was established in 1945 as a republic within the six-member Yugoslav federation. It happened after the war, which was, in comparison with other republics and regions of Yugoslavia at the time, immeasurably fiercer in Bosnia-Herzegovina (only Croatia could be compared). After the war, a higher degree of trust was established among the peoples of Bosnia and Herzegovina, based on the slogan "brotherhood and unity." Forty-five years later, it turned out that this trust is not resistant to new temptations. When socialist Yugoslavia began to disintegrate, "'national' cultures of memory" began to emerge. They were significantly different from the socialist one. Under pressure from Serbia and later from Croatia and other internal incentives, the newly established culture of memory became a generator of hatred that was important in the preparations for the 1992-1995 war, instead of creating a liberal-democratic culture of memory that would be able to confront old frustrations.

In such circumstances, historical revisionism appeared on all sides. It was embedded in the foundations of newly constructed cultures of memory, starting with, for example, Gavrilo Princip, the assassin of Franz Ferdinand in Sarajevo in 1914. Was he a freedom fighter or a terrorist? However, key mythologem were created around the historical roles of the Ustasha and the Chetniks. Finally, a position of a supposedly "good, just side" has been taken, but it has also been constructed on erroneous foundations.

Biography

Ivo Goldstein (1958, Zagreb, Croatia) graduated in history at the University of Zagreb, and received his Ph.D. in history from the University of Belgrade. Since 2001 he has served as a full professor at the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences in Zagreb. His initial areas of expertise were Byzantium and Croatian history in the Middle Ages, but since the late 1990s he has focused on the Croatian history of 20th century. Goldstein served as ambassador of Croatia to France and UNESCO (2013-2017). Among his more than 20 books, he is the author of: *Bizant na Jadranu od 6. do 9. stoljeća* [Byzantium on Adriatic – 6th to

9th centuries] (Latina & Graeca, 1992); *Hrvatski rani srednji vijek* [Croatian Early Middle Ages] (Novi liber, 1995); *Croatia. A History* (Hurst & McGill University Press, 1999; 2nd ed., 2005; 3rd ed., 2010); in London and Montreal (282 p., Hurst Publishers, Mc Gill University Press, 2. ed. 2005., 3. ed. 2010), which is one of the rare histories of Croatia from Antiquity to nowadays published in foreign languages; and *Holokaust u Zagrebu* [Holocaust in Zagreb] (Novi liber – Židovska općina Zagreb 2001), published in English translation by USHMM & the University of Wisconsin Press in 2016. Goldstein is also the author of: *Židovi u Zagrebu 1918-1941* [Jews in Zagreb 1918-1941] (Novi liber 2004); and *Hrvatska 1918-2008* [Croatia 1918-2008] (EPH Press 2008), which is a synthetic view on the last 90 years of Croatian history; and editor in chief of *The Biographical Lexicon of the Jews of Croatia* (Leksikografski zavod Miroslav Krleža, 2018). In 2015, Ivo and Slavko Goldstein published *Tito* (Profil, 912 p.), a biography of the Yugoslav communist leader. In 2018, Ivo published *Jasenovac* (Zagreb, 960 p.), the history of the biggest Ustasha camp 1941-1945 (Serbian edition, Novi Sad 2019) and recently *Antisemitizam u Hrvatskoj od srednjega vijeka do danas* (*Antisemitism in Croatia from the Middle Ages till nowadays*).

In 2019 Ivo Goldstein became a member of the Academy of Sciences and Arts of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Selected academic publications

Putovanje kroz prošla vremena /Travels Through the Past/, Cetinje: Fakultet za crnogorski jezik i književnost 2022.

Antisemitizam u Hrvatskoj od srednjega vijeka do danas /Antisemitism in Croatia since the Middle Ages until Present/, Zaprešić: Fraktura - Židovska vjerska zajednica "Bet Israel" u Hrvatskoj 2022.

Hrvatska 1990.-2020. /Croatia 1990-2020/, Zagreb: Profil 2021.

Jasenovac, Zaprešić: Fraktura 2018.

Ivo Goldstein – Slavko Goldstein, *The Holocaust in Croatia*, Pittsburgh: Pittsburgh University Press 2016.

Ivo Goldstein – Slavko Goldstein, *Tito*, Zagreb: Profil 2015.

12:30-13:00

Zora Hesová

Presentation title

Bosnian Islam as 'European Islam': Thirty Years After the Independence

Abstract

In an original tone in 2007, Xavier Bougarel has taken stock of the claim that Bosnian Islam may be seen as a model for European Islam. Basing himself at the evolution in the 1990s, he suggested three perspectives on Islam in Bosnia – common culture individual faith, and political ideology, while expressing scepticism on the evolution of religious practice towards a "European Islam".

This contribution will look at the development of Islam in Bosnia since. While Bougarel's article was dealing with the stark legacies of 1990s, the evolution has been no less dynamic since. Contemporary Bosnian Islam is characterized by the central role of the religious institution that has, despite challenges, only increased since 2007. Being a legacy of the colonial period, and finding a new role in the post-conflict Bosnia, the Islamic institution taken large has managed to incorporate all Bougarel's perspectives by being a pillar of national education, through relations with the secular state and by representing a political-religious forum for questions of national and religious identity.

The contribution will give an overview of the developments of Bosnian Islam through the prism of institutions and conclude with attempting to answer the original question.

Biography

Zora Hesová is a research fellow at the Institute of Philosophy of the Institute Czech at the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic and an assistant professor at the Institute for Political Science at Charles University in Prague. She works on the Islamic intellectual tradition, modern Islam in Europe, and, more generally, on religion in contemporary politics, with a particular focus on Central Europe and the Balkans. Hesová She has published a book on the philosophy of Abu Hamid al-Ghazali and research articles on Islam in Europe, religion and populism, the Arab Spring, and Islamophobia. Email: Zora.Hesova@ff.cuni.cz

Selected academic publications

Wahhabis and Salafis, daije and alimi: Bosnian neo-Salafis between contestation and integration, *Southeast European and Black Sea Studies*, 4/2021, pp. 593-614, DOI: 10.1080/14683857.2021.1994209

Zora Hesová – Ešref Kenan Rašidagić, The Changing Role of the Traditional Islamic Organization: Three Challenges to the Restored Bosnian Islamic Community, *Journal of Muslim Minority Affairs*, 2021, Vol. 40, Nr. , 2020., pp. 707-724.

„Islamic tradition”: questioning the Bosnian model, *Occasional Papers on Religion in Eastern Europe*, Vol 29, Nr. 5, 2019, pp. 128-139.

13:00-13:30

Ger Duijzings

Presentation title

What Went Wrong and Why? Reflecting on the NIOD Srebrenica Report Twenty Years Later

Abstract

The Dutch NIOD report on the Fall of the Srebrenica Safe Area, published in 2002, is one of the academic 'legacies' of the war in Bosnia and Hercegovina, besides all the multiple other (political, judicial) engagements with the events in Srebrenica. As one of the authors of the report, I will share some of my ruminations over the report from a critical temporal distance 20 years later: my talk will include 'postcolonial' reflections, in terms of addressing issues of (assymetric) knowledge production in the postwar period. It will describe the origins and background of this report, the immediate responses and political consequences, my involvement with and specific role in regard to the NIOD report.

Biography

Ger Duijzings is an anthropologist with extensive fieldwork experience in South-Eastern Europe, mainly Kosovo (1986-1992), Bosnia (1997-2002) and Romania (2009 - present). He started off working as a free-lance journalist and continued as an academic, with various positions in the Netherlands, the United Kingdom and Germany, always in interdisciplinary work environments (including the NIOD Institute for War, Holocaust and Genocide Studies in Amsterdam, and the UN International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia ICTY in the Hague). His work was published in thirteen countries (including the US and Jordan), and appeared in, or was translated into nine languages (Dutch, English, German, Italian, Serbian, Croatian, Albanian, Romanian, and Polish). He has also entered into collaborations with artists, being particularly interested in documentary cinema, sound, visual and performance art.

Selected academic publications

Perpetrators as 'victims' in eastern Bosnia (1992-1995): towards an anthropology of dark emotions. In: Harriet Rudolph and Isabella von Treskow (eds.), *Opfer: Dynamiken der Viktimisierung vom 17. bis zum 21. Jahrhundert*. Heidelberg: Universitätsverlag Winter, 259-279. 2020.

Religion and the politics of identity in Kosovo. London: Hurst / New York: Columbia University Press, 2000.

Commemorating Srebrenica: Histories of violence and the politics of memory in Eastern Bosnia In: Xavier Bougarel, Elissa Helms, und Ger Duijzings (eds.), *The new Bosnian mosaic: identities, memories and moral claims in a post-war society*. Aldershot: Ashplant, 141-66. 2007.

Xavier Bougarel – Ger Duijzings - Elissa Helms (eds.), *The new Bosnian mosaic: identities, memories and moral claims in a post-war society*, Aldershot: Ashgate 2007.

How to remember Srebrenica In Slobodan Kostić (ed.), *Strategy for transitional justice in the former Yugoslavia. Dealing with the past – post-conflict strategies for truth, justice and reconciliation in the region of the former Yugoslavia*. Belgrade: Humanitarian Law Fund, 63-74. 2005.

14:30-15:00

František Šístek

Presentation title

Representations of Bosnia and Herzegovina in Czech Public Discourse (1992-2022)

Abstract

The paper will provide an overview of the main features and key protagonists of Czech public discourse on Bosnia and Herzegovina in the last three decades. It will also highlight the transformations of this discourse over time. In the first part, the paper will focus on Czech perspectives of the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina in the 1990s, with special attention to the role of President Václav Havel as a defender of multicultural, civic and united Bosnia. It will then analyze the texts of the journalist Jan Urban as an example of an engaged eyewitness of the conflict, combined with a universalist, humanistic perspective. The paper will then focus on the personality and texts of Rajko Doleček, a staunch and influential fighter for the Serbian nationalist cause in Czech public space, personal friend of Radovan Karadžić and Ratko Mladić. In the concluding part, the paper will focus on the rise of Islamophobic stereotypes in representations of the country after 2001 and the recent image of Bosnia and Herzegovina as a country threatened by negative Russian influence.

Biography

František Šístek works as a research fellow at the Institute of History, Czech Academy of Sciences and lecturer at the Faculty of Social Sciences, Charles University in Prague. He graduated in history from Central European University in Budapest and earned his Ph.D. in social and cultural anthropology at the Faculty of Humanities, Charles University, Prague. He has mainly focused on modern history of former Yugoslavia and representations of the South Slavs and the

Balkans in Central Europe, national identities, images and stereotypes of the Other, competing interpretations of the past in Southeastern Europe and intellectual history. His recent publications include the edited volume *Imagining Bosnian Muslims in Central Europe: Representations, Transfers and Exchanges* (New York and Oxford: Berghahn 2021) and monograph *Jevreji u Crnoj Gori od antike do holokausta* [The Jews of Montenegro from Antiquity until the Holocaust] (Cetinje: FCJK 2022). He is the editor-in-chief of *Slovanský přehled / Slavonic Revue*, the main and oldest Czech scholarly journal focusing on modern history of Eastern, Central and Southeastern Europe, published in Prague since 1898.

Selected academic publications

Jevreji u Crnoj Gori od antike do Holokausta /The Jews of Montenegro from Antiquity until the Holocaust/, Cetinje: Fakultet za crnogorski jezik i književnost 2022, 360 pgs.

František Šístek (ed.), *Imagining Bosnian Muslims in Central Europe: Representations, Transfers and Exchanges*, New York and Oxford: Berghahn Books 2021, 251 pgs.

Prikazi i reinterpretacije Sarajevskog atentata u javnom diskursu u Češkoj / Representations and Reinterpretations of the Sarajevo Assassination in Czech Public Discourse/, In: Dževad Juzbašić - Zijad Šehić (ur), *Prilozi o historiografiji Bosne i Hercegovine (2001-2017)*, vol. 1. Sarajevo: Akademija nauke i umjetnosti Bosne i Hercegovine 2020, pp. 219-243.

Dějiny Černé Hory /A History of Montenegro/, Praha: NLN 2017, 616 pgs.

Bedřich Loewenstein - Milan Hlavačka - František Šístek (eds.), *Násilí: jiná moderna /Violence: Another Modernity/*, Praha: Historický ústav AV ČR 2017, 324 pgs.

Rat, identitet i egzil u djelu Raymonda Rehnicera /War, Identity and Exile in the Works of Raymond Rehnicer/, In: *Prilozi 45*, 2016, Univerzitet u Sarajevu - Institut za historiju, pp. 315-337.

Narativi o identitetu: izabrane studije o crnogorskoj istoriji /Narratives of Identity: Selected Studies in Montenegrin History/, Podgorica: Matica crnogorska 2015, 392 pgs.

15:00-15:30

Mario Katić

Presentation title

Mechanism of Social and Urban Design in Post-war Bosnia: The View from the Periphery

Abstract

By looking at very diverse examples within two hundred years of Bosnian and Herzegovinian history (from mid-19th to early 21st centuries), based on a decade of ethnographic research, I will try to problematize the mechanisms of social and urban design that, I argue, characterize post-war, and in some examples, colonial context of Bosnian and Herzegovinian past and present. The starting point of this paper is to look at the most important historical processes of the 19th and 20th century, that formed and framed Bosnian and Herzegovinian society, from the peripheral point of view i. e. outside of centers of power. The first part of the paper is framed within the colonial past and two Empires that ruled over Bosnia and Herzegovina (Ottoman and Austrian-Hungarian). The second part of the paper focuses on the 20th century i. e. socialist period and post-Dayton Bosnia and Herzegovina. Based on different case studies (Muslim settlements on the Sava river bank, Vareš, Novi Travnik, and Usora) I will draw out the main characteristics and results of mechanisms of social and urban design in post-war and post-colonial Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Biography

Mario Katić is an associate professor at the Department of ethnology and anthropology, University of Zadar. His main areas of interest are pilgrimage, folklore and death studies, urban anthropology, and research methods. He is a co-editor of *Pilgrimage, Politics and Place-making in Eastern Europe* (Routledge, 2014), *Pilgrimage and Sacred Places in Southeast Europe* (Lit Verlag, 2014), and *Military Pilgrimage and Battlefield Tourism* (Routledge, 2018). He is an author of *Death in Dalmatian Hinterland* (Ljevak, 2017) and *Lords and Natives: historical-anthropological study on creating Bosnian and Herzegovinian city of Vareš* (Buybook Sarajevo, 2020).

Selected academic publications

Domorodci i gospodari /Natives and Lords/, Sarajevo: Buybook 2020.

John Eade – Mario Katić (eds.), *Military Pilgrimage and Battlefield Tourism*, Routledge 2018.

Smrt u dalmatinskom zaledju /Death in the Dalmatian Hinterland/, Zagreb: Ljevak 2017.

Mario Katić – Tomislav Klarin – Mike MacDonald (eds.), *Pilgrimage and Sacred Places in Southeast Europe: History, Religion, Tourism, and Contemporary Trends*, LitVerlag 2014.

John Eade – Mario Katić (eds.), *Pilgrimage, Politics and Place-Making in Eastern Europe*, Routledge 2014.

11:00-11:30

Petr Stehlík

Presentation title

Bosnian-Herzegovinian Literature: The History of a Transnational Concept and Its Prospects in the Post-Conflict Society

Abstract

One way the decentralization of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (SFRY) manifested itself at the turn of the 1960s and 1970s was the consolidation of the cultural individuality of Bosnia and Herzegovina. An integral part of this process was the elaboration of a transnational concept of Bosnian-Herzegovinian literature, which, through its future canon, was supposed to integrate domestic literary traditions as well as contemporary writings by all authors from Bosnia and Herzegovina, regardless of their ethnic origins or self-identifications. What were the arguments of the proponents of such a transnational approach to the classification of literature and what challenges did they face? How did they conceive Bosnian-Herzegovinian literature? Did its definition change in any way after the collapse of the SFRY and due to the deep polarization of society in Bosnia and Herzegovina caused by the armed conflict in 1992–1995? What are the forms, limits, and prospects of employing the concept of Bosnian-Herzegovinian literature in today's Bosnia and Herzegovina as well as beyond its borders? This paper aims to seek answers to these questions and thus reveal some aspects of the post-conflict heritage of contemporary Bosnia and Herzegovina in the field of culture.

Biography

Petr Stehlík is a Slavist and historian teaching South Slavic literatures and the history of the Balkans at the Faculty of Arts in Brno, Czechia. He has degrees in English, Croatian and Macedonian languages and literatures and obtained his PhD in history at the same institution. His principal areas of academic interest are national ideologies and the formation of national identities in Southeastern Europe, with particular regard to Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Serbia. He

has widely published on the position and perception of Bosnia in the Croatian and Serbian national discourses; the history and present of the Yugoslav idea; the history of Czech–South Slavic relations; South Slavic literatures; and the national question in the former Yugoslavia. He is the author of the books *Bosna v chorvatských národně-integračních ideologiích 19. století* (Brno: Masarykova univerzita 2013) and *Između hrvatstva i jugoslavenstva: Bosna u hrvatskim nacionalno-integracijskim ideologijama 1832–1878* (Zagreb: Srednja Europa 2015), in which he presents the results of his research on the position and perception of Bosnia in the Croatian national movement of the nineteenth century. He is also a translator of fiction and poetry from South Slavic languages to Czech. He has recently published papers on contemporary reconceptualizations of the Yugoslav idea (Yugoslavism) in the post-Yugoslav space and co-authored the monographs *Imagining Bosnian Muslims in Central Europe: Representations, Transfers and Exchanges* (New York – Oxford: Berghahn Books 2021) and *Czech Relations with the Nations and Countries of Southeastern Europe* (Zagreb: Srednja Europa 2019).

Selected academic publications

Yugoslavism in the Twenty-First Century? On the Afterlife of a Seemingly Retired Idea (in print).

Jugoslavenstvo Srđe Popovića kao temelj suvremenog promišljanja jedne naizgled umirovljene ideje. In: Štěpánek, Václav et al., *Savremena srpska i češka slavistička istraživanja / Současná srbská a česká slavistická bádání*, Brno: Ústav slavistiky Filozofické fakulty Masarykovy univerzity 2021, pp. 65–75.

Od ideologije do subverzije: promišljanje jugoslavenstva u Hrvatskoj u 21. stoljeću. In: Krešimir Bagić – Miranda Levanat-Peričić – Leszek Matczak (eds.), *Periferno u hrvatskoj književnosti i kulturi / Peryferie w chorwackiej literaturze i kulturze*, Katowice: Wydawnictwo UŚ 2021, pp. 65–76.

Ladislav Hladký – Petr Stehlík, The ‘Turkish Threat’ and Early Modern Central Europe: Czech Reflections. In: František Šístek (ed.), *Imagining Bosnian Muslims in Central Europe: Representations, Transfers and Exchanges*, New York – Oxford: Berghahn Books 2021, pp. 28–41.

Černohorská literatura: fenomén, kontext, milníky. In: Petr Stehlík (ed.), *Od moravských luk k balkánským horám: Václavu Štěpánkovi k šedesátinám*, Brno: Matice moravská ve spolupráci s Ústavem slavistiky a Historickým ústavem Filozofické fakulty Masarykovy Univerzity 2019, pp. 246–253.

16:30-17:00

Anja Grabovac, Tamara Grabovac & Markéta Slavková

Presentation title

Western Balkans at the Crossroads: Geopolitical Influence of External Actors in Post-conflict Bosnia and Herzegovina

Abstract

In this presentation, we aim to discuss the current state of geopolitical influence of selected external actors in post-conflict Bosnia and Herzegovina. We believe that this is an important topic while rethinking the country's post-colonial and post-conflict past, which has significantly shaped the contemporary geopolitical interests of the external actors in the region. The presentation has two goals. First, to introduce our current project at the Prague Security Studies Institute (PSSI) titled: "The Western Balkans at the Crossroads: Democratic Backsliding and External Actors' Influence". Second, to bring a deeper understanding into the strategies of selected external actors (Russia, China, Turkey, and the Gulf States as well as the EU and the US) to project their influence in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Apart from that, we will also contextualize the studied phenomena within a broader regional context of the Western Balkans and Croatia. We aim to explain how the local political actors have contributed to stability or instability of the region, including the lately frequently discussed process of democratic backsliding and describe various influence activities and approaches used by external actors in contemporary BaH including the specific tactics/mechanisms to project their influence.

Biographies

Anja Grabovac is a Researcher at PSSI within the project "Balkans at the Crossroads: East vs. West". She holds a Master's degree in International Relations and European Studies from Metropolitan University Prague. During her studies, Anja spent one year on Erasmus at Central European University Budapest. Her research interest revolves around the Western Balkan countries and their European integration path. Anja has previously been involved in projects focusing on national identities in Central-Eastern Europe or on the diffusion of EU norms in BiH. She has also previously interned with the Institute of International Relations, EUROPEUM or with the Czech Council on Foreign Relations.

Tamara Grabovac is a Project Assistant, where she focuses on projects relating to the Balkans. Tamara is a native speaker of Bosnian/Serbian/Croatian and has relevant expertise in the political and social issues of the Western Balkans.

Markéta Slavková specializes in the discipline of sociocultural anthropology with a focus on topics of food, war, nationalism, transnationalism and identity. During

her doctoral studies she carried out a longterm ethnographic fieldwork in Srebrenica, Bosnia and Herzegovina. As part of her postdoctoral training, she was employed at the Comenius University in Bratislava, Slovakia (2016-2018) and subsequently at the Institute of Ethnology of the Czech Academy of Sciences (2019-2020). Currently, she works as a Project Coordinator of a Regional Security Program for Western Balkans at Prague Security Studies Institute. Additionally, she also works as a lecturer in the field of anthropology of food.

Selected academic publications (Markéta Slavková)

The Food Insecurity of an Everyday Life in the Bosnian War (1992-1995). ICA (Institute of Cultural Anthropology) 2/2021, pp. 16-19.

‘Salt over Gold’: Food as a Tool of Power and a Weapon of War during the Siege of Srebrenica (1992–1995). *Národopisný věstník*. 2020, 79(2): 71-86. ISSN 1211-8117.

The Burek as a Meal and Metaphor: Food, Migration and Identity Between “Orient” and “Occident”. *Porta Balkanica* 2019 XI (1–2), pp. 62-75.

Daniel Heler – Markéta Slavková, Sandžak and Sandžaklije in a State of Flux: Nation-building and Politics of In/Exclusion Between Serbia, Montenegro, and Bosnia During Three Decades of Yugoslavia's Disintegration. *Urban People/ Lidé města* 2019 21 (2), pp. 203-232.

Cooking with Nothing: War Cuisine in Bosnia and Herzegovina between 1992-1995. *Národopisná revue* 2019 (3), pp. 225-235.

Starving Srebrenica and the Recipes for Survival in the Bosnian War (1992–1995). *Český lid* 2019 (106), pp. 297–316. doi:<http://dx.doi.org/10.21104/CL.2019.3.02>

17:00-17:30

Srećko Latal

Presentation title

Bosnia and Herzegovina Reaches Critical Crossroads at the End of 2022

Abstract

Years of democratic backsliding, ruthless political infighting and brain-drain, as well as the steady decline of the EU and US presence and growing influences of Moscow, Ankara, and Beijing, have almost completely unraveled Bosnia and Herzegovina’s Dayton peace agreement. The Dayton treaty clearly failed to provide for a stable and functional state fit for the EU integrations, but its complete collapse – which may be approaching – could push BiH and its people

towards even greater calamity; a return to the chaos of the 90s, possible dissolution and even new conflicts.

Which one of these scenarios would indeed play out in the coming weeks and months, may already be determined by the outcome of BiH's latest general elections, which were held on October 2. While BiH remains torn asunder by internal political – not so much ethnic – divisions and animosities, its immediate fate depends primarily on external actors, regional and global.

In this situation, the EU and EU member countries may have the very last chance to prevent another catastrophic – possibly even violent – crisis in the Balkans. Nevertheless, EU's continued failure in the region will make BiH and the rest of the Balkans even more vulnerable to political and security risks imported from the divergent, divided and divisive regional and geopolitical scene.

Biography

As Associated Press correspondent and editor, Srećko Latal covered conflicts in the Balkans, as well as in Afghanistan and Pakistan in the 1990s. Since 2000 he worked as an advisor for the EU and the World Bank, but continued writing for regional and international media and analytical organizations, like the Institute for War and Peace Reporting (IWPR), Balkan Investigative and Reporting Network (BIRN), Oxford Analytica, Janes Defence, Economist Intelligence Unit etc. In 2008 he joined the International Crisis Group, ICG as its Balkan analyst until ICG closed its presence in the Balkans in 2013. He is currently working as a regional editor for BIRN, and is cooperating with different international think-tanks in research and analytical projects across Southeastern Europe. His opus includes political, security and EU enlargement-related issues. Srećko Latal also holds an Executive Master in EU studies from the Centre International de Formation Européenne, CIFE.

17:30-18:00

Closing speech – the ambassador of Bosnia and Herzegovina in the Czech Republic HE **Martina Mlinarević**

Concluding debate (all conference speakers)