

посматрало исте појаве, истовремено посматрајући и једни друге, комуницирајући са околином и међусобно, и питајући се о сврси, циљевима и методама свог рада. Експеримент би свакако био заокруженији да је свих седам учесника приложило радове и да су они можда у писаној форми обишли још један круг и били међусобно коментарисани. Тиме би се вероватно избегла и понека погрешна или погрешно интерпретирана или схваћена информација, која се „искривила“ у поменутој какофонији до које је повремено долазило у међусобној комуникацији. Али и овакав какав је, овај зборник је драгоцен и, у извесном смислу, јединствен допринос како познавању локалне културе у Свиници, тако и расправи о проблемима, методама и процесима теренског истраживања.

Младена Прелић

## **International Conference Unsettled Europe: Refugees, States and Politics in Southeast Europe**

University of Graz, Centre for Southeast European Studies, *Graz*, 27-29. 01. 2017.

It would be hard to overstate the importance of ongoing or recently conducted research on forced migration. The volume of such inquiries in the past two and a half years is the result of the so-called refugee crisis, which is one of the most complicated and heavily debated issues on the European political agenda, academic fora and in public life. A number of conferences, publications and research projects have come to life since the onset of the crisis, some of them with outstanding results. When it comes to conferences, the Centre for Southeast European Studies of the University in Graz organized one of the most thoroughly conceived scientific events on the topic. The occasion had a real interdisciplinary character, as one could find anthropologists, historians, sociologists and even practitioners of refugee policy among the presenters. Geographically and thematically all of them had their focus on Southeast Europe.

On the opening day the key-note speaker, Ulf Brunnbauer (Institute for East and Southeast European Studies, University of Regensburg) provided a broad historical overview of refugee policies in the region, starting from the 19th century. The topic has a real multi-layered and complex character, therefore it offered lots of opportunities for the presenter to highlight some lesser known aspects of refugee movements, such as the fact that the (re)settlement of forced migrants has actually been the main immigration form in the region. Contrary to the current dominant public consensus, Southeast Europe has not only been characterized by emigration – it has always had strong immigration features as well. Speaking of the intentions of the states, it became clear from Brunnbauer's lecture that „ethnic engineering“, internal colonization and similar practices have always been common methods of political elites in creating better conditions for ethnic majorities.

The thematic focus concentrated more on the present on the second day, as the presenters moved to the analyses of actual events. All of them provided key considerations for interpreting the current crisis. The main claim of the panels of the second day was that the Balkans appears as a periphery in many scientific narratives, and Dane Taleski's (South East European University) argument was no exception. He

highlighted the temporary aspect (which entails political neglect and defencelessness) of Southeast Europe, by which forced migrants predominantly view the region as a transit zone. Danilo Mandić (Department of Sociology, Harvard University) focused on the Syrian forced migrants and the role of human smuggling. He presented an extraordinarily detailed material, through which it became clear that refugees view the role of smugglers in a positive way, since they provide them with better chances of reaching their goal. On the other hand, they are mistrustful towards official policies. Furthermore, it is worth noting, as Mandić did, that those forced migrants from Syria who want to come to Europe are usually opposing the Assad-government, while those who stay in the country have a more pro-Damascus stance. Seraina Rüegger (ETH Zürich) had a more abstract approach in her analysis of the connections between conflicts and migration. Summarizing a vast amount of data from the previous decades, she concluded that when the number of refugees rises, so does the frequency of armed conflicts. At the same time, risk of insecurity becomes critically higher when marginalized groups who do not receive government support appear and their ethnic background is different from that of the host society. Conclusion: there is no proper and sustainable refugee policy without the will and readiness of states to apply all-round and careful steps.

The second section deepened the look on the role of the state and the civil sector. Elissa Helms (Central European University) emphasized the importance of discursive strategies surrounding the Balkan route. The impacts of these discourses create solid boundaries between gender (highlighting masculinity) and by the use of various orientalist discourses the already troubled interpretation of the region becomes even more burdened with stereotypes. Nevena Gojković Türünz (independent researcher) was dealing with the relationship of the Serbian state and civil society regarding their actions aimed at managing forced migration. Based on extensive fieldwork conducted in Belgrade, she concluded that civil organizations rely heavily on foreign support, moreover that foreign organizations give much more voice to refugees than governmental institutions do. It becomes clear based on these conclusions that the civil sector plays an essential role in refugee policy and that without their activities the situation on the ground could be even graver. Vedran Džihic (Austrian Institute for International Affairs) called attention to new phenomena in boundary-making and identity politics in Serbia and Croatia. The refugee crisis in his interpretation means that nationalistic sentiments and the machinations with state boundaries remain the main features in Balkan politics. This finding is supported by the fact that the crisis in 2015 did not increase European cohesion between Budapest and Zagreb, instead it reinforced ethno-politics.

During the third session, civil sector was in the centre of attention once again. Effrosyni Charitopoulou (Nuffield College, University of Oxford) did a well-executed anthropological fieldwork in two villages on the island of Lesbos. As it turned out, the structure of the relationship between locals and forced migrants is of crucial importance. In the first village, locals helped refugees during and after their arrival, therefore their contact was personal and direct. Moreover, due to spacial mobility, the forced migrants did not have to stay in the village. In the second settlement, there was no direct contact between the groups; the local residents possessed a more negative attitude, and because of an establishment of an informal camp, antagonisms emerged between the groups. Chiara Milan (Center for Southeast European Studies/Scuola Normale Superiore) tried to summarize the challenges which plague the functioning of the civil sector. One of her

main findings was that beside their tendentious activities, NGOs dealing with refugees in the region lack long-term strategies and the cultural dispositions of these NGOs are causing various problems. Eugene Michail (School of Humanities, University of Brighton) redirected the attention to the Greek context. The site of his fieldwork was the island of Chios, where he explored how a local community formulates its opinion and what can influence it, as it is not a fixed phenomenon – it can change over time in multiple ways. On Chios, the locals were overburdened by the consequences of the refugee crisis, but the emergence of foreign organizations did not result in relief either, instead it led to aversion of the local community towards the activists of the organizations. It is interesting to notice that every action in the field can interrupt existing practices both in positive and negative ways, therefore, every policy should pay careful attention in order to create positive results.

The closing session of the first day was a roundtable discussion led by Florian Bieber with the participation of Adelheid Wölfl (*Der Standard*), Kilian Kleinschmidt (IPA Switzerland) and Melita H. Šunjić (UNHCR Vienna). All three of them came from primarily non-academic institutions, which gave the conference a pleasant diversity. The journalist of *Der Standard* made an exhaustive account based on her experience in the field by the help of a string of photographs. The representative of UNHCR provided a detailed and practical criticism of the refugee policies in the countries affected by the crisis. For example, she is convinced that the idleness of European states led to the strengthening of the smugglers' network, which means that today illegal channels are much more tempting than official ones. The gravity of this phenomenon increases if we take into account that there were a number of signs from 2010 which showed the possibility of a major migration crisis. In the end, Kleinschmidt concluded that various viable plans exist regarding the managing of forced migration towards Europe, however, international actors are yet unable to come to a consensus on this issue.

The third day began with a thematic block on the role of media, which is arguably one of the most influential tools when it comes to politics, public opinion and the voice of refugees. Alaaddin Paksoy, İbrahim Efe és Muzeyyen Pandir (Department of Journalism, Anadolu University/Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, Işık University) made an extensive quantitative research in the Turkish media in order to grasp the profile of refugees through semiotic and content analysis. His results show that Turkish media is rather positive or neutral towards forced migrants, but this attitude is still centred around Turkish interests, while the interests of the refugees remain poorly advocated. The presentation of Nikos Panagiotou és Mustafa Selçuk (School of Journalism and Mass Communications, Aristotle University) made a useful contribution to the previously mentioned findings, as they monitored the role of media in influencing Greek public opinion during 2015 and 2016. They concluded that if the state and the international community is weak, then the role of media becomes more important and intensive. In this process various media emerge which present hoaxes and conspiracy theories. Finally, Krisztina Rác (Institute for Philosophy and Social Theory, University of Belgrade) attempted to determine a set of anthropologically-based concepts useful in describing and analysing refugees fleeing through the territory of Serbia. She highlighted the often neglected need to rethink and re-evaluate our basic set of analytical tools in order to create a more precise and realistic picture about ongoing processes in the field. For example she used the expression „nameless places” for meeting and grouping places of forced migrants, by which we can better emphasize the marginal and hidden aspects of these localities. Moreover, she highlighted waiting as

the main routine and activity of these people – waiting for a bus, a train, to cross the border or to meet with their family members.

The last session was centred on the topic of nationalism, Euroscepticism and xenophobia. Cvete Koneska (St Antony's College, University of Oxford) analysed the ways in which the European Union tries to enforce its interests. Apart from providing a detailed account of the policies of the EU, she highlighted that the enlargement process cannot solve all the problems in the Western Balkans, namely the issues which surround refugee policy. Srđan Jovanović (Department of Communication and Media SOL, Lund University) grasped the presence of xenophobia and hidden nationalism in public discourse in Serbia, bringing to the listeners' attention that these are largely connected to the interests of the political elite in the country. An interesting „game” of the current president of Serbia can be observed: in some cases he and his party allow xenophobic and nationalistic speech, but in other occasions they restrict it. The final presenter of the conference was Marta Stojić Mitrović (Institute of Ethnography, SASA), who's findings resonated well with Jovanović's remarks. From her viewpoint Serbian migration policy took a turn towards security policy which entails the normalization of xenophobia. „Reading” the public life in Serbia shows that the political elite idealizes its own role, while it puts the blame on forced migrants if problems occur.

In conclusion, it is obvious that the conference was focused on the most important problematics of European refugee policy. One can only hope that this kind of professional knowledge will have more voice in the media.

Péter Vataščin

## Седамдесет година рада Етнографског института САНУ – хроника прославе

У 2017. години, Етнографски институт САНУ је обележио 70 година рада и постојања. Поводом прославе јубилеја, током читаве године организовани су различити пригодни садржаји који су за циљ имали да, како академској, тако и најширој јавности, представе и приближе делатност Института, теме којима се истраживачи који су на њему запослени баве и резултате њихових истраживања. Ова безмало целогодишња манифестација отпочела је циклусом предавања под називом *Шта етнологија и антропологија могу да нам кажу о нама самима? Ритуал и свакодневица. Између религије и секуларности*, који је реализован у сарадњи са Центром за предавачку делатност Задужбине Илије М. Коларца. Предавања су се одржавала у малој сали Коларчеве задужбине, сваке среде у 18 часова, у периоду од 17.5. до 14.6.2017. године. У оквиру овог циклуса, предавања су одржали: проф. др Љиљана Гавриловић – *Истраживање измишљених светова: реалност и фантазија*, др Иван Ђорђевић – *Антрополог међу навијачима. Да ли је могућа антропологија фудбала?*, др Александра Павићевић – *Сахрана или кремација? Да ли нам треба образовање за смрт?*, др Мирослава Лукић Крстановић – *Метаморфозе спектакла – друштвени простор и драма* и др Милеса Стефановић Бановић – *Гаврил Стефановић Венцловић између две епохе*. Овај циклус предавања је заинтересованој јавности представио ширину опсега истраживачких интересовања сарадника и сарадница Етнографског института