

TOWARDS A POST-ETHNONATIONALIST SOCIETY

Co-operation across Ethnic Boundaries in Academic and Non-Governmental Spheres in Kosovo – Panel at the Conference *Democracy and Human Rights in Multiethnic Societies*

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General Informations:

The seventh international seminar is organized in co-operation with the Dept. of Comparative Politics and the Rokkan Centre, Univ. of Bergen, Norway, and supported by the Project *The Politics of Democratic and Welfare Development in South Eastern Europe: A Network for Research and Education*, backed by the Center for International Univ. Cooperation and the Norwegian Research Council, Oslo.

Date: July 12-17, 2004.

Location: Cultural House, Konjic, Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Although there is no set deadline for the submission of papers, we encourage you to apply as soon as possible.

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Transport and accommodation information is available at the

Institute's web site:

<http://www.rokkan.uib.no/bihdemocracy/>

The panel for roundtable (depending on the final number of participants) will be part of the regular 5-day seminar *Democracy and Human Rights in Multiethnic Societies*, that is being held in Konjic, Bosnia-Herzegovina since 1997, and which has become one of the most inspiring meeting places for academics from the region. There is a strategic reason for choosing Konjic, a small town in Bosnia-Herzegovina, as a venue for a meeting between the Kosovo Albanian and Serb scholars on the one hand, academics from the rest of the former Yugoslav regions, on the other, and their US and European counterparts, on the third. Sadly, but perhaps not surprisingly, it seems that the absence of initiatives for cross-ethnic academic co-operation in Kosovo has only become more definite and interest-vested since the institutionalization of Kosovo as a *de facto* but not *de iure* independent from Serbia. Bosnia-Herzegovina provides a remarkable contrast to Kosovo in this respect: although the record of violence and war crimes along ethnic lines have been much graver in Bosnia-Herzegovina than in Kosovo, ethnic segregation and homogenization in Bosnia in the aftermath of the war could not be reproduced and managed as effectively as it is the case in Kosovo. Why were segments of the Bosnian-Herzegovinian civil society able to somehow »re-normalize«? This question could provide one of the challenging topics of the panel debates and a direction for future collaboration.

The panel derives from a public opinion survey that was conducted in Kosovo in the fall of 2003 by a team of Kosovo Albanian and Serb social scientists, under the auspices of a Danish consulting firm. The survey team wishes that their collaborative experiences be expanded, possibly in the form of a permanent »Balkan University«. For now, we would like to exchange our past experiences and prospects for overcoming the legacy of ethnonationalism in the local academia and non-governmental sector with the Konjic seminar participants, and expand the project in both theoretical and practical directions.

Suggested topics include:

- Civil society organizing in Kosovo and cross-regional comparisons;
- Nationalism and inter-ethnic everyday life in Kosovo;
- Nationalism and informal and institutional co-operation among academics and NGOs: Past lessons and prospects;
- What comes next: Proposals for building a free inter-ethnic academic co-operative.

Most of the above topics call for a comparison between the pre- and post-1999 conditions. New participants are invited to join and add more themes!

Presenters (so far):

Enver Hasani (Univ. of Priština)

Jovan Živković (Univ. of Kosovska Mitrovica North)

Fadil Maloku (Univ. of Priština)

A small seed grant for this panel was received from the US Social Science Research Council. Additional funding for 2-3 participants will be sought from the Belgrade office of the Freedom House.