

## REGION, REGIONAL IDENTITY AND REGIONALISM IN SOUTHEASTERN EUROPE

### 4<sup>th</sup> InASEA Conference

International Association for Southeast European Anthropology (Graz)

Date: May 24-27, 2007.

Location: Timisoara, Romania.

Deadline: November 1, 2006.

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Proceedings:

A selection of the refereed  
Conference papers will be published  
in two regular issues of *Ethnologia  
Balkanica*, the InASEA's annual jour-  
nal (Volumes 11 and 12).

Travel and Accommodation:

The organizers of the Conference  
will cover at least a part of the  
travel and accommodation costs of  
the participants from the countries  
of Southeast Europe that have not  
entered the European Union until  
2006. Accommodation for parti-  
cipants who qualify for financial  
support will be pre-arranged. Other  
participants will also be assisted in  
making hotel reservations. More  
information about the accommo-  
dation in Timisoara will be given  
on the Conference website ([http://  
www-gewi.kfunigraz.ac.at/inasea/  
conference3.html](http://www-gewi.kfunigraz.ac.at/inasea/conference3.html)) in due time.

Registration Fee:

The Conference registration fee for  
the InASEA members will be covered  
from their annual membership fee.  
The non-InASEA members will be  
asked to pay the on-site registration  
fee equivalent to: 15. - EUR (parti-  
cipants from Southeast Europe, out-  
side the European Union) and  
30. - EUR (other participants).

Additional Information:

More information about the  
Conference can be obtained from  
the President of InASEA:  
Dr. Vesna Vučinić-Nešković,  
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Over the last years, the ›region‹ has become an issue in southeastern Europe in a political, economic and a socio-cultural sense. The reasons for the growing relevance of regional policy and regional planning and for the increase in regional self-awareness and identity are manifold. SEE nation states have been and still are highly centralized. This was taken to the extreme in the socialist period, while the growing regionalism or even autonomist movements may be a counter reaction to this concentration of resources in the capitals and big cities. Regionalism can also be attributed to the fact that regional disparities in SEE are growing: while urban regions increasingly attract people and resources, many rural regions are becoming marginalized and either depopulated or gradually turning into refuges of ethnic minorities or of (Western) old age pensioners. On the other hand, the strengthening of regions, particularly of the border regions, and of regional identities may already be a result of the EU policy of a »Europe of Regions«, or it may foreshadow a reaction to the growing impact of globalization on SEE. EU accession also leads to the creation of regional institutions that administer EU programs for disadvantaged regions, and these administrative realities may in the future also affect identities.

Whatever the reasons – which need to be studied in greater detail – the regions and regionalism are a problem not only of politicians and regional planners, of economists and geographers, of demographers and sociologists, but also of ethnologists, folklorists, anthropologists, and historians. After a period of emphasis on the ›deterritorialization of culture‹, the ›spatial turn‹ has brought the region back to the attention of the ethnological sciences – both as a construct and as a tangible (and often problematic) reality of everyday life.

The 4<sup>th</sup> conference of the *International Association for Southeast European Anthropology* (InASEA) wants to explore regions, regionalisms, regional cultures and identities in the southeast European countries from a predominantly ethnological/anthropological perspective. The association invites colleagues to present their empirical studies of present regions or their studies of historical regions with a focus on socio-cultural issues: on regional cultures and their construction, on regional identities, on the everyday »functioning« of regions, including cross-border regions, on social and cultural consequences of regional disparities, etc. Scholars from neighboring disciplines, such as history, geography and sociology, are also invited to propose papers which deal with the topics of the conference and have a socio-cultural approach.

The conference will be organized around the following major themes:

- »What's in a region?«: Defining the ›Region‹
- Region as Construct – Region as Tangible Reality
- Delimiting the Region: Regions and Borders
- History of Regions and Regionalisms Inventing
- Reviving and Forgetting Regions
- Memories and Narratives of the Region
- Regional Society and Culture
- Regional Identities – Region and Identity
- Regional Images and Stereotypes
- »Selling« the Region – »Consuming« the Region
- Disparities within and between Regions
- Region and Ethnicity
- (Cross-)Border Regions
- The Politics of Region and Regionalism
- Researching the Region
- What's in Regional and Border Anthropology? Theories and Methods

The Proposal ought to contain the paper title, a 200-250 word abstract as well as the author's name, institution, address, e-mail, and a very brief academic c.v.

Invited panels are also welcome. The panel organizer(s) should thus submit the panel title, a 200-250 word panel abstract as well as the list of four panel participants with all the

information about individual papers asked above. The panel and paper proposals should be formatted in MS Word for Windows with Times New Roman, letter size 12 pts and single line spacing. The proposal should refer to the most appropriate Conference theme and should specify the technical equipment needed for the paper presentation

