

DEMOCRACY AT RISK

The Cultural Negotiation of Hatred, Rights and Freedom – Panel at the Conference *Democracy and Human Rights in Multiethnic Societies*

Lynne Alice (Melbourne/Victoria)

General information:

The eighth 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 11-15, 2005.

Location: Cultural House, Konjic, Bosnia-Herzegovina.

We invite those interested in the issue to submit their title proposals and abstract (max. 400 words), as well as a short CV as soon as possible. The workshop(s) will gather a small group of researchers who will be selected in early 2005 for the Konjic seminar in July.

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Transport and accommodation information is available at the Institute's web site:
<http://www.rokkan.uib.no/bihdemocracy/>

The idea for this panel emerged from a research project being undertaken at the Institute for Globalisation and Citizenship, Deakin University, Australia, – *Moving On ›Cultural Negotiation‹ in Theory and Practice for the 21st Century*.

The project has three main aims. Firstly it investigates the continuing adequacy of paradigms in social and political theory that attempt to elucidate cultural differences, cross-cultural communication, inter-culturalism, diversity, multi-ethnicity and conflict resolution. Secondly, the research critically evaluates commonly such concepts and frameworks through a series of case studies that link theory and its application to sites of cultural negotiation, including cultural consumption, international ethics, global media, armed humanitarianism, the regional politics of self-determination, cultural heritage management, the operations of multinational corporations and the changing nature of governance under globalisation. Thirdly, the project will demonstrate how ›cultural negotiation‹ as an umbrella concept offers a variety of strategies and conceptual signposts for enhancing communication and respect for various cultural needs that are regionally inflected as well as marked by globalisation.

The organisers and participants intend to publish a collection of articles following the workshop in Konjic. The themes to be pursued in the Konjic workshop include:

- How are the cultural dimensions of citizenship conceptualised and experienced in an era of rapid globalisation, and increasing resistance to it in eastern and Southeastern Europe?
- In an era when both multiculturalism and racism are increasing, how can cultural negotiation offer an understanding of and a critical response to these twin phenomena?
- How does one ensure the protection of local heritage, cultural identity and human rights under the conditions of rapid and intensive globalisation? How does cultural negotiation assist in the theorising and understanding of these issues in post-conflict situations?
- How can the interests of corporations, local communities and environmental lobbies be negotiated between within an ear of increasing pressures from economic globalisation?