



International conference  
**SOCIETIES AND SPACES IN CONTACT:  
 BETWEEN CONVERGENCE AND DIVERGENCE**

16–20 September 2019  
 Portorož/Portorose, Slovenia, Trst/Trieste, Italy

BOOK OF ABSTRACTS



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KOPER 2019

**International conference SOCIETIES AND SPACES IN CONTACT: BETWEEN  
CONVERGENCE AND DIVERGENCE  
Book of Abstracts**

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## A NOTE OF INTRODUCTION

Although still not in a sufficient and optimal form, the issue of “different” and “diverse” has gained importance in modern European discourse and the modern European agenda. The new European paradigm “unity in diversity” actually means a deep move and deviation from classic European state-based nationalism, which was a major factor involved in the outbreak of both world wars, due to which the European continent eventually lost its central role in the world political, economic and social “architecture”. The development of integration processes at the decay of bipolar world regulation now puts the European area and European politics, economy and culture to the forefront. It would be wrong to interpret and develop European connections only as a “banal” answer to the need for post-war restoration firstly, and later as just a reaction to the challenges of world economic globalisation. European integration is not and cannot be only a matter of the *socio-economic* sphere, but must, in a more comprehensive and innovative way, comprise the *socio-political* and *socio-cultural* sphere. Perhaps for the first time in history, all three fundamental areas of social life are being connected in modern Europe in such way that this process would not only follow the former pattern of internal centralisation and homogenisation. This new European developmental model could prove that the world socio-economic globalisation and macro-regional socio-political integration will not necessarily lead to a socio-cultural “melting pot” and the Americanisation of lifestyle.

In our opinion, these new developmental possibilities and this new social paradigm will have to be verified and applied at first in the numerous European contact areas. This process would not so much involve the “management” of interstate areas in the sense of organising and governing functional economic, social and administrative units and eliminating internal borders and obstacles for cross-border and other movements of people, goods, services and capital, but it would involve the “management” of potential conflicts and coexistence forms between various nations, ethnic and language groups, moving on a scale between tradition and modernity, and between *ethnos* and *demos*. Overcoming these last and most persistent “borders” means that the European society will have to ultimately overcome the traditional ethnocentric comprehension of social areas and social processes, as well as the natio-

nalist exclusivism towards “others” and the “different”, represented today in particular by migrants.

The European coexistence perspective helps us understand that we do not only meet various national or state identities within the EU framework and over relatively short distances, but also numerous ethnic and regional identities and various language practices. We also increasingly discover and accept the fact that different identities and language practices exist in the same administrative and social environments and that the borders between various socio-cultural areas are not linear and determined, but zonal and movable, thus creating not only a complex of differently partitioned multi-cultural and functional “contact areas”, but also providing potential bases for both conflict and harmony.

We could say that today Europe, the homeland of nationalism and the part of the world where the relation between the territorial and cultural identity is most dynamic and potentially conflictual, is more and more intensively dealing with the question, which is not new but which the Europeans want to resolve in a completely innovative way for the first time in their history; i.e., how to merge different and diverse interests and collectively “manage” them within the scope of a single, although multi-layered social system. The answer is far from simple and opens, as we saw, various contradictory processes and developmental scenarios. The relation between the potentials of democratic “opening” and “inclusion” and cultural “closing” and “separation”, between the features of “European” and “non-European”, between “globality”, “nationality” and “locality”, but also between “institutional” and “functional” as well as between the policies and practices “from above” and those “from below” will have to be completely redefined. The fundamental question, which modern Europe faces and on which the possibilities for the development of not only inter-cultural dialogue but also of integration processes on our continent depend, is: How will the relation between social and spatial convergence and divergence impact the co-existence and the co-dependence between European socio-cultural and socio-political areas and consequently the European “unity in diversity” paradigm?

In this sense, new and important tasks in revealing fundamental socio-spatial processes in numerous “contact areas” and in guiding (re)integration policies might be foreseen for scholars and this very perspective should be considered when discussing the future of the many European societies and spaces in contact and their convergence and divergence potentials.

The *Science and Research Centre* in Koper has particularly been involved in the study of these issues since its foundation in 1996. The Upper Adriatic is, in fact, an area where the major European ethno-linguistic groups come together; the Romance, the Germanic and the Slavic, thus producing complex contact situations between different cultural and political spaces, and creating different historical and societal developments, perceptions and visions. It is one of the numerous border and multicultural regions representing the great European diversity, as well as potentials for both conflict and coexistence among societies. Even though the area was and still is so diverse and spatially and socially controversial, even though its territory was so intensively disputed during and after WW 1 and WW 2 among different geopolitical systems and nation-states, a way was always found to overcome geopolitical and international obstacles and differentiations and to re-establish cross-border and inter-cultural relations between neighbours, native people and newcomers.

This contact area, as is true of many others, has actually demonstrated how long-lasting functional multicultural regions are easier to be kept united than to be divided. Geographers and other social and human scientists, who had already some voice in the past when several studies were conducted on the effects of political transformations on the ethnic and language structure, and on the developments of cross-border contacts, are now called on to perform an even more important role in the preparation of new visions and projects for not only the re-creation of the numerous European multicultural and border regions, but also in directing new forms of social integration between different cultures and groups, transcending the classic forms of territorial and social exclusion and marginalization.

And this is what we will actually try to do during the conference: discuss common academic issues and look forward to better and more integrated forms of inter-academic and inter-national understanding and cooperation. I hope we may be successful in developing this apparently simple and natural task, and I promise we will do our best to create a friendly environment for

either more formal or less formal meetings and talks, in particular during our excursions and visits with both the Italian and Slovene minorities in Istria and Trieste.

Dear colleagues and friends, it is an honour and a privilege for me to give you my warmest welcome to the International Conference on **Societies and Spaces in Contact: Between Convergence and Divergence** and to this truly Mediterranean and unique Slovene coastal area between Italy and Croatia.

Prof Dr Milan Bufon,  
Chair of the Scientific board

**CONFERENCE ORGANIZED BY:**

Institute for Linguistic Studies, Science and Research Centre Koper  
(Slovenia)

**In collaboration with:**

Institute for Ethnic Studies (Ljubljana, Slovenia),  
Slovene Research Institute (Trieste, Italy) and  
Unione Italiana (the main organisation of the Italian community in Slovenia  
and Croatia).

**SCIENTIFIC BOARD**

**Milan BUFON** (Conference Chair, Science and Research Centre, Koper)

**Lucija ČOK** (Science and Research Centre, Koper)

**Devan JAGODIC** (Slovene Research Institute, Trieste)

**Tove H. MALLOY** (European Centre for Minority Issues, Flensburg)

**Vesna MIKOLIČ** (Science and Research Centre, Koper)

**Sonja NOVAK LUKANOVIČ** (Institute for Ethnic Studies, Ljubljana)

**Mateja SEDMAK** (Science and Research Centre, Koper)

**Colin H. WILLIAMS** (University of Cardiff, Wales)





# PROGRAMME

**International Conference:**

**SOCIETIES AND SPACES IN CONTACT:  
BETWEEN CONVERGENCE AND DIVERGENCE**

**MONDAY, 16 SEPTEMBER 2019**

**17.00–21.00**

Location: Seaview terrace of Hotel Histron, Portorož

**Registration and Ice Breaker Party**

Degustation of Slovenian Istria local products in collaboration with the

Institute for Oliveculture, ZRS Koper

Sponsored by the Institute for Ethnic Studies - INV, Ljubljana

**TUESDAY, 17 SEPTEMBER 2019**

**9.00–9.30**

Location: Asteria Hall, Hotel Histrion, Portorož

**Welcome speeches**

**Rado Pišot**, Director of the Science and Research Centre, ZRS Koper

**Irina Moira Cavaion**, Head of the Institute for Linguistic Studies, ZRS Koper

**Milan Bufon**, Chair of the Conference Scientific Committee

**9.30–10.45**

Location: Asteria Hall, Hotel Histrion, Portorož

**Keynote lectures**

**Tove H. Malloy**: Spatial Integration and Regional Development Policies: Minorities as Actors and Agents of Change?

**Colin Williams**: “On the Side of Angels: Dignity and Virtue in Minority-Majority Relations”

**10.45–11.15 Coffee break**

Location: Lobby outside the Asteria Hall, Hotel Histrion, Portorož

**11.15–13.00**

Location: Asteria Hall, Hotel Histrion, Portorož

**LANGUAGE AND EDUCATION**

**Ana Đorđević:** CLIL(iG) in the World

**Borko Kovačević:** On Some Influences of Linguocultural Differences in Teaching Serbian as a Foreign Language

**Gabriele Zanello and Serena Martini:** Best Practices and Perspectives of the “Friulian Way to Multilingualism” in the Light of the New European Key Competences

**Ingrid Keller-Russell:** Subjective Agency and Socialized Thought in the Context of Linguistic and Cultural Diversity: A Challenge for School Education

**Sara Brezigar:** A Renewed Approach towards Slovene-Medium Education in Italy

**15.00–16.45**

Location: Asteria Hall, Hotel Histrion, Portorož

**BORDER AND LITERATURE**

**Miluša Bakrač:** The Perception of the “Other”: Mental Maps and Narratives - A Foreign Country as a Homeland or a Homeland as a Foreign Country in the Novel *“Monteturks”- Dream and Writing (Crnoturci - san i jazija)* of Husein Bašić

**Ana Pejović:** The Perception of the “Other”: Mental Maps and Narratives - Symbolism of Religious, National and Gender Diversity in the Novel *The Battle of Mojkovac* by Ćamil Sijarić

**Nataša Bauman:** When the Homeland Crosses Its Geographical Borders and Becomes the Individual’s Home. Anywhere

**Vesna Mikolič:** The Novel of the Slovene Canonical Writer Ivan Cankar as a Special Form of Intercultural Literature

**Maja Đukanović and Vesna Polovina:** The Perception of the “Other”: Slovenia in the Balkans, the Balkans in Slovenia

**16.45–17.00 Coffee break**

Location: Lobby outside the Asteria Hall, Hotel Histrion, Portorož

**17.00–18.45**

Location: Asteria Hall, Hotel Histrion, Portorož

**LANGUAGE POLICIES**

**Lucija Čok:** European Language Policies – New Realities Bringing into Focus

**Vittorio Dell'Aquila and Gabriele Iannàccaro:** Language Unease in Complex Diversity Border Territories

**Irina M. Cavaion:** Language Education Policy in European Neighbouring Regions: The Case of the Italian-Slovenian Border

**Sonja Novak Lukanovič and Mojca Medvešek:** Economical Value of Language in Slovenia

**Tjaša Jakop:** Slovene Dialects at the Crossroads of Three Languages

**WEDNESDAY, 18 SEPTEMBER 2019**

**9.00–10.45**

Location: Asteria Hall, Hotel Histrion, Portorož

**MIGRANTS AND CULTURAL BORDERS I**

**James Forrest:** Migration, Multiculturalism and Integration: The Australian Story

**Mojca Pajnik, Emanuela Fabijan and Mojca Frelih:** “Chameleonic Populism”: Framing “the Refugee Crisis” in the Political Field

**Jure Gombač and Asja Pehar Senekovič:** Day by Day (Extra)ordinary Innovations. Social and Labor Market Inclusion of Asylum Seekers and Refugees in Slovenia

**Mateja Sedmak and Barbara Gornik:** The Potentials of a Child-Centred Approach to the Integration of Migrant Children

**Zorana Medarić and Blaž Lenarčič:** Migrant Women and Access to Reproductive Health in the Coastal Region of Slovenia

**10.45–11.00 Coffee break**

Location: Lobby outside the Asteria Hall, Hotel Histrion, Portorož

**11.00–12.45**

Location: Asteria Hall, Hotel Histron, Portorož

**MIGRANTS AND CULTURAL BORDERS II**

**Matjaž Klemenčič and Maruša Verbič Koprivšek:** The Views of Slovenian Politics on the Latest Migration Waves as Source of Conflict or Potential

**Anton Gosar:** Recent Migrations and Their Impact in the Region of Primorska, Slovenia

**Mirna Buić:** Towards a Comprehensive Local Integration Policy: The Example of Slovene Istria

**Maja Zadel:** The Contact Area of Slovenian Istria and Its Inhabitants' *Lived* National (Trans)culture

**Dejan Valentinčič:** The Current Emigration from Bilingual Areas in Alpe-Adria Region and Its Impact on the Slovenian Ethnic Minorities

**15.00–16.45**

Location: Asteria Hall, Hotel Histron, Portorož

**IDENTITIES AND THE PERCEPTION OF THE "OTHER"**

**Roberto Dapit and Anja Mlakar:** Homeland and Promised Land between Imagery and Reality: The Perception of Italy and Morocco through the Eyes of Moroccan University Students in Udine

**Jernej Zupančič:** A House Too Far: The Dispute about (in)Perspectivity of Housing in Roma Settlements

**Patrik Tátrai, Ágnes Erőss and Katalin Kovály:** Excluded from the Nation: The Micropolitics of Identity Construction and Ethnic Categorization in Multiethnic Transcarpathia

**Ksenija Perković:** Challenging Multicultural Diversity: Changing Trends of Ethnic Groups in Vojvodina after the Disintegration of Yugoslavia

**Damir Josipović:** Where Should the Boundary between Slovenia and Croatia Be?

**16.45–17.00 Coffee break**

Location: Lobby outside the Asteria Hall, Hotel Histron, Portorož

**17.00–18.45**

Location: Asteria Hall, Hotel Histron, Portorož

**CULTURAL AND LINGUISTIC LANDSCAPES**

**Christian Lamour:** Investigating the European Identity at the Cross-Border Regional Scale: The Stability, Evolution and Coherence of a Supra/Post/Trans-Regional Story in the Greater Region

**Marco Acri and Saša Dobričić:** Landscapes in Motion: Rethinking Place Making through Corridors of Social and Environmental Connectivity, the Case of URBiNAT

**Miroslav D. Vujičić, Uglješa Stankov, Sanja Kovačić, Jovana Čikić, and Lazar Jovanov:** The Inner-City and Suburban Dichotomy in Residents' Image Perception – Implications for Tourism Policy of Novi Sad - European Capital of Culture 2021

**Maja Mezgec:** Language Policies and Linguistic Landscape in Contact Areas

**Neva Makuc:** Identities in the Early Modern Border Area between the Venetian Republic and the Habsburg Hereditary Lands

**THURSDAY, 19 SEPTEMBER 2019**

**Discovering Istria and the Italian national community  
in Slovenia and Croatia**

The visit is organised in cooperation with the Unione Italiana – Association  
of the Italian minority organisations and institutions in Istria

**9.00–21.00**

**Whole day bus excursion in Istria**

Visit to the Italian Minority Centre for Historical Studies (Centro di ricerche  
storiche Rovigno - Rovinj)

Presentation of the current situation of the Italian national community

Guided tour across the city centre

Visit to the central Istrian small city of Motovun/Montona, capital of the  
Istrian truffle

Social dinner in a typical farm inn and wine producer



**FRIDAY, 20 SEPTEMBER 2019**

**Discovering Trieste and the Slovene national community in Italy**

The visit is organised in cooperation with the  
Slovene Research Institute in Trieste - SLORI

**9.00**

**Departure from Porotorož to Trieste**

**10.00–10.45**

**Guided walking tour and presentation of former, current and future  
Slovene cultural institutions in the Trieste city centre**

**10.45–12.30**

Location: Sala Tessitori, Consiglio regionale della Regione autonoma Friuli  
Venezia Giulia, Trieste

**Final conference session:**

**MINORITIES IN THE ALPS-ADRIATIC REGION**

**Milan Obid:** “Symbolic Ethnicity” – A Proper Theoretical Concept for the  
Research on Current Development Trends among the Slovene Minority in  
Austria?

**William Cisilino:** The Evolution of Linguistic Legislation about Friulian  
Minority in Italy

**Matejka Grgič:** Language Convergence and Divergence between Italy and  
Slovenia

**Andrea Bartole:** New Challenges and Perspectives of Teachers and  
Institutions of the Italian Minority in Slovenia

**Milan Bufon:** National Minorities, Border Communities and Cross-Border  
Social Cohesion: A Case Study in Central Europe

**12.30–17.00**

**Free time for lunch and for attending SLOfest  
(Slovene cultural festival) events in Trieste town**

With the possibility to join guided city tours

**17.00–18.00**

**Discussion about the current minority situation in Europe**

Public event within the SLOfest programme, organiser: SLORI

With the participation of Tove H. Malloy, Colin H. Williams and Bojan Brezigar, the formal president of the European Bureau for Lesser Used Languages

**18.00–21.00**

**Final “sunset” social dinner in front of the Miramare castle  
and return to Portorož**

With a presentation of the original Prosecco wine (Prosekar)

Dinner sponsored by the Slovene Research Institute in Trieste – SLORI

# ABSTRACTS



**TUESDAY, 17 SEPTEMBER 2019**

**9.30–10.45**

Location: Asteria Hall, Hotel Histrion, Portorož

## **KEYNOTE LECTURES**

Chair: **Milan Bufon**

1. **Tove H. Malloy:** Spatial Integration and Regional Development Policies: Minorities as Actors and Agents of Change
2. **Colin Williams:** “On the Side of Angels: Dignity and Virtue in Minority-Majority Relations”

## **SPATIAL INTEGRATION AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT POLICIES: MINORITIES AS ACTORS AND AGENTS OF CHANGE?**

**Tove H. MALLOY**

*European Centre for Minority Issues in Flensburg*

thm@tovemalloy.com

Do ethno-cultural minority groups interact with mainstream society in planning the future of communities and regions? The answer to the question is in most cases 'yes' – ethno-cultural minorities do care, and they do engage. However, there is very little academic research and debate about this in Minority Studies. The literature focuses mainly on minority rights and the protection of ethno-cultural identity. Rarely are members of ethno-cultural minority groups seen as actors in their own right. Thus, most of the literature on minority rights and protection sees minority issues and politics through the lens of paternalism, in the sense of exerting control over minority groups through legislation and the institutionalisation of their existence and participation in public affairs. This view assumes that members of ethno-cultural minorities are objects in need of directional guidance through law and policy, rather than subjects of common societal integration processes through individual and collective action. Members of ethno-cultural minority groups are, therefore, rarely seen as actors directing their own fate, let alone as agents of change influencing societal development.

One reason for this is found in the one-sided scientific approach used in Minority Studies. Scholars of minority protection rarely speak to colleagues in regional development studies and economics. Occasionally, there have been analyses of the involvement of ethno-cultural groups in cross-border co-operation but these have often been confined to participation in cultural projects. Socio-linguists have made strides to bridge the gap between linguistics and sociology but rarely speak to political scientists. And political scientists may speak to legal experts but not to sociologists. True interdisciplinarity in Minority Studies is simply not well cultivated. This has ramifications for how minority issues are described, analysed and presented in areas, such as spatial integration and regional development. The argument is thus that scholars focusing on these two areas should focus more on ethno-cultural

groups as actors and actors of change. Do ethno-cultural minority groups participate in the political efforts to set development strategies and policies? Do they contribute to the development of regions, cities and communities? Do they have special skills and knowledge that enhance development? Do they care about mainstream society? In other words, do they engage? This discussion will address these questions and query how they may be answered using interdisciplinary research methodology and alternative theoretical frameworks.

## **“ON THE SIDE OF ANGELS: DIGNITY AND VIRTUE IN MINORITY-MAJORITY RELATIONS”**

**Colin H. WILLIAMS**

*School of Welsh, Cardiff University*  
williamsch@cardiff.ac.uk

This presentation will deal with three themes which continue to animate a minority's struggle for recognition and empowerment in selected contexts. In a period of multi-level governance, the various initiatives and programmes designed to safeguard the survival of ethnolinguistic minorities, have to contend with global geostrategic and structural tendencies which can either weaken or ameliorate the intended consequences of public policy. But they also have to contend with a moral framework which presumes public sympathy for the right to exist, which is not universally shared by all within the crowded arena of the respective state. A close examination of selected aspects of contact space can reveal the scale of the challenges facing framers of public policy who wish to carve out a distinct niche for a long-discriminated minority within the modern state.

Convergence, divergence, emergence and submergence mirror the opening and closing of periods of relative growth and decline in majority-minority relations, but do not necessarily follow a unilinear growth trajectory, despite a revival of fortunes and increased self-government. In fact, quite contentious claims can be upheld by reference to the three processes under review, namely the Atrophying of Territory, the Managing of Expectations and the Construction of Narratives of Belonging; each of which may be subject to quite different interpretations and consequently involve divergent outcomes, both in spatial and temporal terms. The argument will be illustrated by reference to current trends in Ireland, the Basque Country, Scotland and Wales.



**TUESDAY, 17 SEPTEMBER 2019**

**11.15–13.00**

Location: Asteria Hall, Hotel Histrion, Portorož

## **LANGUAGE AND EDUCATION**

Chair: **Irina M. Cavaion**

1. **Ana Đorđević:** CLIL(iG) in the World
2. **Borko Kovačević:** On Some Influences of Linguocultural Differences in Teaching Serbian as a Foreign Language
3. **Gabriele Zanello and Serena Martini:** Best Practices and Perspectives of the “Friulian Way to Multilingualism” in the Light of the New European Key Competences
4. **Ingrid Keller-Russell:** Subjective Agency and Socialized Thought in the Context of Linguistic and Cultural Diversity: A Challenge for School Education
5. **Sara Brezigar:** A Renewed Approach towards Slovene-Medium Education in Italy

## CLIL(IG) IN THE WORLD

**Ana ĐORĐEVIĆ**

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The cultural and linguistic differences of countries contribute to the development of diverse concepts of CLIL in Europe. In many discussions, this diversity is considered negative for the further development of CLIL. It is often suggested that all these different approaches be reduced to a unique concept, and that the concept should then be declared an official concept for all Europe. Lamsfuß-Schenk, Stefanie und Wolff, Dieter (1999) consider that nothing more dangerous could happen. The strength of CLIL lies in its diversity. We should rely on the diversity of CLIL and experiment even further with different subjects, methodical approaches, different age groups and different offers, which can only contribute to the concept of CLIL (Lamsfuß-Schenk & Wolff 1999: 1- 2).

This paper defines the acronym CLIL(iG) and presents the models of bilingual teaching that are encountered in the world, such as the bilingual teaching in Finland, Poland, Hungary, Norway, Serbia, Russia, Italy, Sweden, Bulgaria, Germany, France, Australia, Luxembourg and Switzerland. In this paper, special attention is paid to bilingual teaching with German as a vehicular language.

## ON SOME INFLUENCES OF LINGUOCULTURAL DIFFERENCES IN TEACHING SERBIAN AS A FOREIGN LANGUAGE

**Borko KOVAČEVIĆ**

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This paper discusses some remarks that have been collected during two year work with the students who learned Serbian in the project Svet u Srbiji (The World in Serbia). The participants of the project were students from different countries, different continents, and different cultures, whose native languages belong to different language families.

The research emphasizes some linguistic presuppositions that can learning of Serbian make easier or harder. Students from Mali, Burundi and Ghana are much faster in the process of learning the language than the other students. The paper shows that there are some purely linguistic reasons for this fact. We also show some sociocultural differences that can bring to mistakes or misunderstanding in communication in Serbian.

The conclusion is that teaching a foreign language (in this particular case Serbian) has to be adjusted to linguocultural models that students belong to. A teacher has to prepare different teaching materials and to use different teaching strategies depending on linguistic and cultural background of students.

## **BEST PRACTICES AND PERSPECTIVES OF THE “FRIULIAN WAY TO MULTILINGUALISM” IN THE LIGHT OF THE NEW EUROPEAN KEY COMPETENCES**

**Gabriele ZANELLO<sup>1</sup> and Serena MARTINI<sup>2</sup>**

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Thanks to the intersection of Latin, Germanic and Slavic civilizations, Friuli Venezia Giulia is characterized by the coexistence of three branches of the Indo-European family. This situation stimulated various studies in different fields, specifically the searches conducted by F. Fabbro and A. Burelli on Friulian-Italian bilingualism, or the essays written by F. Fusco on education and plurilingual experimentation (Udine 2012).

As recalled by S. Schiavi Fachin, referring to the studies of N. Perini (Schiavi Fachin S., *La “via friulana” al plurilinguismo negli scritti di Nereo Perini*, in Schiavi Fachin S. (ed.), *Il Friuli: lingue, culture, glottodidattica*, vol. 2, Udine 1994), it is possible to refer to a “Friulian way to plurilingualism”. Indeed, since the eighties important pilot projects, which affected nursery and primary schools, have been undertaken (*Le minoranze linguistiche nella prospettiva dell’educazione plurilingue*, «Annali della Pubblica Istruzione», 5-6, 2006, 23-35). The current scholastic panorama includes the establishment of multilingual schools, the application of the law 482/99 and of regional laws dedicated to the minority languages, and finally the recent establishment, in the University of Udine, of the Friulian and Slovenian curricula for the training of future teachers. Is it possible today to critically resume the definition of “a Friulian way to plurilingualism” in order to reconsider its innovative outcome bearing in mind the attention paid by the European institutions to the curriculum and to the early multilingual learning? The proposed intervention intends to report critically about the current plurilingual education in Friuli and about teacher training, considering the school as an agent of innovation.

## **SUBJECTIVE AGENCY AND SOCIALIZED THOUGHT IN THE CONTEXT OF LINGUISTIC AND CULTURAL DIVERSITY: A CHALLENGE FOR SCHOOL EDUCATION**

**Ingrid KELLER-RUSSELL**

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The paper proposal discusses the linguistic concept of subjective agency - within the context of a related research project – a scientific concept which has been under specific scrutiny concerning the study of linguistic pragmatics as language-in-use and as contextually-situated colloquy, either embodied or capacitated by human action, in the recent German discourse on the positioning and perspectives of linguistics. The research project in question is an intercultural oral speech-related qualitative study of language acquisition in the globalized European classroom of today. The project proposal, on the one hand, connects the discourse in pragmatics on the concepts of multilingual / plurilingual competence and of oral practices with, on the other hand, the intercultural educational discourse on multilingualism from a sociolinguistic perspective. Its central focus is on the notions of interaction and reflexivity delineating individual speakers' multimodal acts by relating to other participants. The objective of the research project is to clarify the relationship between action, utterance and thought process sustained by the deployment and the development of communicative prerequisites and cognitive abilities in the target language L2 to be acquired and controlled through speakers' pragmatic L1 knowledge based on bi- and multilingual dispositions. Linguistic phenomena of speakers' bidirectional pragmatic transfer have, to some extent, been well established in the fields of both bilingualism and pragmatics. However, desiderata of empirical research exist on the acquisition and development of cognitive structures in oral bilingual language use in schools and the institutional practice of school-oriented didactic frameworks. The focus of this paper, which considers the pragmatics perspective of subjective agency, is grounded in critical educational sciences, which themselves form the theoretical background of the research project.

## **A RENEWED APPROACH TOWARDS SLOVENE-MEDIUM EDUCATION IN ITALY**

**Sara BREZIGAR**

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The educational system forms the core of the Slovene community in Italy and it represents an essential mechanism of its reproduction. In the past decades an increasing number of children who do not speak the minority language (or do so poorly) enrolled into Slovene-medium kindergartens and schools. Educational institutions have tried to deal with these challenges by improving teaching methods, adjusting teaching contents and developing teaching skills. However, the end result is lacking and Slovene linguistic skills continue to deteriorate.

The paper explores challenges and obstacles faced by Slovene-medium kindergartens and primary schools in the region Friuli Venezia Giulia (FVG) and presents the results of a recent qualitative study on the issue.

The results of the study suggest that a shift in focus is needed in order to improve linguistic skills. A contextual approach widely addressing sociological and sociolinguistic issues that have a significant impact on language attitudes and language use could prove more effective than the adopted one that focuses primarily on linguistic and educational (didactic) issues. A number of interesting points have been raised by educators, including (but not limited to) parents' attitudes towards and use of the minority language, issues concerning language prestige, the dichotomy of economic and affective reasons for language use that clash severely in educational institutions, the community's (in)ability to support the use of the minority language outside school's walls, and a lack of a community-wide linguistic policy that leaves educators barefooted in terms of what they should aim for.

**TUESDAY, 17 SEPTEMBER 2019**

**15.00–16.45**

Location: Asteria Hall, Hotel Histrion, Portorož

## **BORDER AND LITERATURE**

Chair: **Vesna Mikolič**

1. **Miluša Bakrač:** The Perception of the “Other”: Mental Maps and Narratives - A Foreign Country as a Homeland or a Homeland as a Foreign Country in the Novel *“Monteturks”- Dream and Writing (Crnoturci - san i jazija)* of Husein Bašić
2. **Ana Pejović:** The Perception of the “Other”: Mental Maps and Narratives - Symbolism of Religious, National and Gender Diversity in the Novel *The Battle of Mojkovac* by Čamil Sijarić
3. **Nataša Bauman:** When the Homeland Crosses Its Geographical Borders and Becomes the Individual’s Home. Anywhere
4. **Vesna Mikolič:** The Novel of the Slovene Canonical Writer Ivan Cankar as a Special Form of Intercultural Literature
5. **Maja Đukanović and Vesna Polovina:** The Perception of the “Other”: Slovenia in the Balkans, the Balkans in Slovenia

**THE PERCEPTION OF THE "OTHER": MENTAL MAPS AND  
NARRATIVES - A FOREIGN COUNTRY AS A HOMELAND OR  
A HOMELAND AS A FOREIGN COUNTRY IN THE NOVEL  
"MONTETURKS"- DREAM AND WRITING (CRNOTURCI - SAN I  
JAZIJA) OF HUSEIN BAŠIĆ**

**Miluša BAKRAČ**

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One of the problems we will pay special attention to in this complex Bašić's novel is emigration of the Muslim population from Nikšić to Turkey, four years after the town's liberation from Turks.

According to aforementioned we will deal with the movements of Balkan refugees, and we will also analyse mentality of Montenegrin, Bosniak, Roma and Turkish people through the cultural cooperation of domestic people and newcomers in the chronotope of Nikšić and the chronotope of the road to the promised land. We will deal with the perception of the "other", through which the cultural particularity, cultural diversity and cultural similarity based on the shift of two cultures after the liberation of Nikšić from Turks in 1877, are defined.

The influence of migrations on perception and construction of national and transnational identities, the role of spatial structures or the influence of chronotopes on psychological shaping of the aforementioned processes will be considered.

The novel MonteTurks – Dream and Writing (CrnoTurci - san i jazija) will be analysed from literary-theoretical, anthropological and imagological perspective.



**THE PERCEPTION OF THE "OTHER": MENTAL MAPS AND  
NARRATIVES - SYMBOLISM OF RELIGIOUS, NATIONAL AND  
GENDER DIVERSITY IN THE NOVEL *THE BATTLE OF MOJKOVAC* BY  
ĆAMIL SIJARIĆ**

**Ana PEJOVIĆ**

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The aim of this paper is to provide readers with the thorough analysis of collective and individual consciousness by using the symbols of "forbidden love", war and Montenegrin and Austrian army, and to determine more precisely ethnical and religious diversity of the Orthodox and Muslim population during the most important battle of the First World War. This critical-theoretical analysis will be focused on the perception of the "others" through both the traditional values of the Montenegrin society and the conflict of religious and national affiliation. We will explain in what way the motive of forbidden love between the beautiful Muslim woman Umka Karadasic and the teacher Radic Memic takes on a deeper, ontological meaning which is interpreted through the chronotope of the famous battle of Mojkovac. By using the deeper, psychological analysis of the characters who come from the two opposing families, we will try to explain how the motives of blood feud and abduction of a Muslim girl become not only novel's symbolic paradigm, but also important ethical elements of the religious intolerance and of the traditional stigma of Montenegrin national identity. We will explain how the author, through the parallel story line of the novel, which is being presented through the employment of the individual and collective antagonisms, depicts the Montenegrin socio-cultural atmosphere. He creates not only striking male characters but also heroines whose ethical code justified the perception of the social role that was assigned to them by birth. Those characters together make one of the core elements of the literary tissue of this novel.

## **WHEN THE HOMELAND CROSSES ITS GEOGRAPHICAL BORDERS AND BECOMES THE INDIVIDUAL'S HOME. ANYWHERE**

**Nataša BAUMAN**

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How is it with the borders in personal lives? What influence do they have on an individual? How is the language of the individual? How do the writers write about that, and what do convergence and divergence mean to them?

Research and analysis of the multicultural phenomenon through the literary works of some renowned European literary writers, for example, Maja Haderlap, Florjan Lipuš, Franco Supino, Milena Michiko Flašar and Catalin Dorian Florescu.

Research on the multicultural and transcultural dimensions of individuals with a foreign background or foreign origin with the conclusion on how strong are the geographical boundaries of today.

## THE NOVEL OF THE SLOVENE CANONICAL WRITER IVAN CANKAR AS A SPECIAL FORM OF INTERCULTURAL LITERATURE

**Vesna MIKOLIČ**

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The aim of the article is to present the novel *Tujci* (Foreigners) of the Slovene canonical writer Ivan Cankar as a special form of intercultural literature. Esselborn (2009) described intercultural literature as literature that is born in the area of different cultures and literatures. He determined several criteria that can be useful when listing a literary work among intercultural literature, from linguistic and literary interculturality to intercultural themes which include meeting the other, the different, the outsider, and from the biographical interculturality of the author's personal story to collective interculturality as a common experience by a whole group. Cankar's novel *Tujci* is a story about Pavle Slivar and other Slovene artists in Vienna. We are interested in how much their critical view towards Slovene society is due to their stay abroad. They live with a feeling: the country has left me, so I can leave it. So, in the novel three kind of alienation can be observed: from homeland, art and women. Therefore, our main focus is a) on the role the intercultural discourses of the Slovene artists in Vienna have within the Slivar's condition of exile; and b) on the question how much they bring Cankar's novel into the framework of the intercultural literature.

## THE PERCEPTION OF THE “OTHER”: SLOVENIA IN THE BALKANS, THE BALKANS IN SLOVENIA

**Maja ĐUKANOVIĆ<sup>1</sup> and Vesna POLOVINA<sup>2</sup>**

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The aim of this paper is to examine views on the borders of the Balkan Peninsula, and the territory of today's Republic of Slovenia as a part of it. This paper also tends to address the issue of migrations and its influence on the change of population, along with interactions of different cultures and languages. The second section of this paper analyzes the current situation in the Republic of Slovenia from the viewpoint of rather intensive migration of the population from the former Yugoslav republics. An attempt was made to analyze the influence of other South Slavic languages on modern Slovene and cultural interactions of various cultural groups residing on the territory of this country and forming a new idiom. With the newly created idiom, which represents the very core of the ethnic identity of a notable group of people in another's environment, these immigrants guard the characteristics that distinguish them from the rest of the population. By maintaining this idiom, they express a certain solidarity in order to protect their mother tongue and their original culture. The relation between the use of the mother tongue and the use of foreign languages falls within the field of ethnolinguistics and can also be considered as an ethnocultural phenomenon. In this sense an expression of ethno-cultural tradition of openness towards a foreign language takes place, which is reflected in the relation towards minority languages.

**TUESDAY, 17 SEPTEMBER 2019**

**17.00–18.45**

Location: Asteria Hall, Hotel Histrion, Portorož

## **LANGUAGE POLICIES**

Chair: **Sonja Novak Lukanovič**

1. **Lucija Čok:** European Language Policies – New Realities  
Bringing into Focus
2. **Vittorio Dell'Aquila and Gabriele Iannàccaro:** Language  
Unease in Complex Diversity Border Territories
3. **Irina M. Cavaion:** Language Education Policy in European  
Neighbouring Regions: The Case of the Italian-Slovenian  
Border
4. **Sonja Novak Lukanovič and Mojca Medvešek:** Economical  
Value of Language in Slovenia
5. **Tjaša Jakop:** Slovene Dialects at the Crossroads of Three  
Languages

## EUROPEAN LANGUAGE POLICIES – NEW REALITIES BRINGING INTO FOCUS

**Lucija ČOK**

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Thirty years ago, with sufficient knowledge of the subject (multilingualism, interculturalism) it was easier to analyse the situations in nationally mixed and culturally entwined areas following European policies which in practice required appropriate interventions through various international projects, teaching models, functional strategies and policies in the expectation that they were followed up with success. Never the less they created laboratories of multilingualism that kept the users' attention on good practice promoted by them. After this happy period European policies widened the scope of giving importance to linguistic diversity in Member States declaring themselves not specifically authorized to handle their policies on the national, regional and minority languages. So, regional and minority languages within single EU states find nowadays themselves competing with the dominant languages and therefore under pressure of assimilation trends. UNESCO's Atlas of the World's Languages in Danger, for example, pointed out factors that could endanger the existence of languages, including minority languages. The language policy has become national policy domain; therefore, it is often conditioned by the political orientation of the ruling class. The more democratic the "policymakers" behave in general, the more democratic is their respect and their care for the native/official/national language, open to the needs of the speakers. Such a democratic policy addressing native language integrates all native languages in use respecting them equally. On the contrary, when the native language becomes dominant over the other languages in use and within the legislative protection, it becomes itself less open/free, bowing ideologically to the addresses of the ruling class.

## LANGUAGE UNEASE IN COMPLEX DIVERSITY BORDER TERRITORIES

**Vittorio DELLAQUILA<sup>1</sup> and Gabriele IANNACCARO<sup>2</sup>**

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The intersection of geographic and linguistic spaces across the Italian/Slovenian/Austrian borders shows patterns of complex diversity (Kraus 2012). Here, a number of (partially) co-occurring language varieties shape a set of social and conversational rules governing their patterns of use and establishing or confirming different ethnicities, identities and administrative belongings.

Now, the capacity and the will/possibility of the single speaker to comply with these socio/ethnolinguistic rules may determine different degrees of linguistic unease (Iann/Dell), i.e. situations in which speakers feel that their pragmatic linguistic competence is not fitting the communicative requirements of the linguistic act they are about to perform – or even that the symbolic value of their speech acts are perceived as misplaced. Both socio-professional allegiances and geographic mobility of the actors can sharpen or soften their experienced level of uneasiness - and this is true both for autochthonous population and mobile individuals.

Focusing on the aforementioned border areas, the paper will discuss the notion of linguistic unease, in order to show its heuristic and language policy related potential.

## **LANGUAGE EDUCATION POLICY IN EUROPEAN NEIGHBOURING REGIONS: THE CASE OF THE ITALIAN-SLOVENIAN BORDER**

**Irina M. CAVAION**

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The Council of Europe, in its web site addressing language policy, informs us that mutual understanding between countries and learning their respective languages and cultures was thought to be an effective measure to lay down strong foundations for a lasting peace between peoples, at the end of the second WW. The same paragraph encourages plurilingualism and interculturalism by mentioning minority languages of all kind - regional as well as national - calling for respect of the ethnic, cultural, linguistic and religious identity of each person. Finally, the importance of language education is highlighted, identifying importantly the renewed focus of Europe on the value of democratic citizenship and living together in society over language proficiency attainment as a key point for the present and future language education.

In the light of above, how is Europe doing with language education policy in border regions, by definition the place of intercultural encounters and implying mutual understanding? Border regions constitute the 40% of all the European territory, nevertheless they do not refer yet to a specific language education policy including for example crossborder agreements for the learning and teaching of the neighbouring language (NL).

This paper, through the case of Italian-Slovenian border, will analyse the needs as well as new visions of NL teaching and learning in border regions also in relation to the need of assigning National minorities new meanings and renewed functions.



## ECONOMICAL VALUE OF LANGUAGE IN SLOVENIA

**Sonja NOVAK LUKANOVIČ<sup>1</sup> and Mojca MEDVEŠEK<sup>2</sup>**

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There is wide agreement among scholars that economic factors play an important role in the preservation of the ethnolinguistic vitality of different groups within a society, and in the choice and use of individual languages. The interaction between the economy and multilingualism is increasingly clear, with economic variables having an important influence on language diversity, language maintenance and language shift. The paper examines whether bilingualism has a real economic value in the officially recognised nationally/ethnically mixed regions of Slovenia, or whether its value is restricted to the educational and cultural spheres, and to issues of identity.

We shall present a broad look at the economic value of language knowledge and focus on some research data comparing the situation in the public and private sectors, considering to what extent bilingual language skills are taken into account during the recruitment process and whether individuals who use both languages during their work are rewarded for this (bilingualism bonus programme). A further insight into prevailing attitudes towards the value of multilingualism will be presented, specifically in relation to the ethnically mixed regions (EMR) of Prekmurje.

## SLOVENE DIALECTS AT THE CROSSROADS OF THREE LANGUAGES

**Tjaša JAKOP**

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Slovene (also known as Slovenian) is a South Slavic language spoken by approx. 2 million people. The Slovene language (and its dialects) has been developing for more than 1,000 years at the crossroads of three language areas: Slavic, Germanic and Romance. Today it is surrounded by five neighbouring languages: Italian, Friulian, German, Hungarian and Croatian. Slovene is also spoken in some areas along the borders within its neighbouring countries (Northern Italy, Southern Austria and South-West Hungary). Dialect differentiation in Slovenia is, for geographical and historical reasons, one of the highest in the Indo-European world. Slovene dialects are divided into seven dialect groups. These dialect groups are further divided into 36 dialects and 12 sub-dialects. This paper will examine the proportion between borrowed and non-borrowed words in the Western Slovene dialects of the Littoral (Sln. Primorska) dialect group. The vocabulary from the semantic fields of 1) 'human body', 2) 'family' and 3) 'friends' will be presented through linguistic geography, and will show the spatial distribution of lexemes in these dialects.

**WEDNESDAY, 18 SEPTEMBER 2019**

**9.00–10.45**

Location: Asteria Hall, Hotel Histrion, Portorož

## **MIGRANTS AND CULTURAL BORDERS I**

Chair: **Mateja Sedmak**

1. **James Forrest:** Migration, Multiculturalism and Integration: The Australian Story
2. **Mojca Pajnik, Emanuela Fabijan and Mojca Freljih:** “Chameleonic Populism”: Framing “the Refugee Crisis” in the Political Field
3. **Jure Gombač and Asja Pehar Senekovič:** Day by Day (Extra) ordinary Innovations. Social and Labor Market Inclusion of Asylum Seekers and Refugees in Slovenia
4. **Mateja Sedmak and Barbara Gornik:** The Potentials of a Child-Centred Approach to the Integration of Migrant Children
5. **Zorana Medarić and Blaž Lenarčič:** Migrant Women and Access to Reproductive Health in the Coastal Region of Slovenia

## **MIGRATION, MULTICULTURALISM AND INTEGRATION: THE AUSTRALIAN STORY**

**James FORREST**

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Since the early 1970s, Australia has become one of the world's most population diverse countries, drawing immigrants from all parts of the world. At the 2016 census, 28 per cent of its population were born overseas, 18 per cent were from non-English speaking countries and nearly half (48 per cent) had at least one parent born overseas. Such a high level of diversity has not resulted on ethnic group segregation, which is less than half that of Britain, the US and Canada. Migrant children often have higher levels of education than the Australian born generally. Why does multiculturalism seem to work in Australia and not, say, in Britain or Germany, or indeed in many parts of Europe? Recent research suggests that the key to success of Australian multiculturalism lies in its selective immigration policy. But this is a recent development from the late 1990s. The 1950s to 1970s saw entry of large numbers of unskilled immigrants from southern Europe in particular, destined for factory work. Yet their children have shared in successful integration. Focusing on Gordon's (1964) structural, behavioural and receptional aspects of immigrant acceptance, we examine the intergenerational integration of Australia's immigrants since World War 2 in terms of entry into the workforce, linguistic shift, social networking, identificational integration, racist attitudes and, following Adler's (1997, 2017, 2018) work in the US, spatially through intergenerational dispersion from initial migrant enclaves into host society suburbia.

## **“CHAMELEONIC POPULISM”: FRAMING “THE REFUGEE CRISIS” IN THE POLITICAL FIELD**

**Mojca PAJNIK<sup>1</sup>, Emanuela FABIJAN<sup>2</sup> and Mojca FRELIH<sup>3</sup>**

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Recent debates about populism include differing approaches to the concept, understanding it, on the one hand, as an ideology, and, on the other hand (and often in opposition to ideology), as a communicative style, strategy or content. Scholarship also differs in arguing whether to approach populism “in the normal”, i.e. recognizing its manifestations across the political spectrum, or theorize it in relation to authoritarian and ethno-nationalist right wing political field only, leaving “left-populism” at the side. Approaching populism at the crossroads of both ideology and political style, and recognizing that populism develops across party differences, we analyse in this paper how representatives of political parties in Slovenia responded to migration during and after the time of the functioning of the “Balkan migratory route” (or “refugee crisis”) in the period of 2015-2018. Based on frame analysis of parliamentary debates in Slovenian National Assembly which address migration we explore the differences and similarities in speeches of different politicians identifying distinct “populist frames” revealing how various political actors speak about migration and refugees. We argue that distinct features of populist communication on migration stretch from exclusionary, ethno-nationalistic to inclusionary solidary frames revealing the “chameleonic” nature of populism that fits programmatic and ideological maps of specific political actors.

## **DAY BY DAY (EXTRA)ORDINARY INNOVATIONS. SOCIAL AND LABOR MARKET INCLUSION OF ASYLUM SEEKERS AND REFUGEES IN SLOVENIA**

**Jure GOMBAČ<sup>1</sup> and Asja PEHAR SENEKOVIČ<sup>2</sup>**

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Nearly three years after the closure of the “Balkan corridor” situation in the field of inclusion to Slovenian society is far from ideal. Whereas official policy doesn’t tend to provide additional activities other than those essential for livelihood, there are many other initiatives in the form of grassroots initiatives, solidarity movements, experiments, projects and one-time or continuous actions that together with refugees and asylum seekers create an alternative inclusion System to Slovenian society. There is a wide network of diverse actors, like local communities, NGOs, humanitarian organizations, public and private research institutions, youth cultural centres, activist movements, individuals and even some autonomous government offices involved creating something new and interesting. These networks also spread to Croatia, Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina. Solidarity practices are exchanged, experiences are shared, knowledge produced, actions organized. This new developments do not cover the integration field in the text book sense but are filling the small every day’s voids where people are stuck and which emerge from non-existing long-term strategy in the field of migrant and refugee welcoming and inclusion.

In order to learn about their experience and opinion first hand and from diverse contributors, we have conducted a study where we used the following methods: focus groups with stakeholders, refugees and citizens, individual interviews with refugees, participant observation, solidarity work, organizing of common events, actions and also personal involvement with refugee families.

As we are still in the process of collecting and analysing the data, experiences, narratives and practices main preliminary findings will definitely provide us with new knowledge in the fields of inclusion, border regime, grassroots initiatives, autonomy of migration, acts of citizenship and also networking of different actors with similar goals on many levels.

## THE POTENTIALS OF A CHILD-CENTRED APPROACH TO THE INTEGRATION OF MIGRANT CHILDREN

**Mateja SEDMAK<sup>1</sup> and Barbara GORNIK<sup>2</sup>**

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The paper discusses the epistemological and methodological dimensions of child-centered approach in relation to the study and measurement of well-being and integration of immigrant children in the educational system and the host society as such. Prevailing approaches and practices of inclusion of migrant children in school environment and society largely rely on perceptions, knowledge and recommendations of adults - professionals, researchers and politicians. Adults (teachers, counsellors, pedagogues, psychologists, as well as researchers, policy makers, and others) all too often enter into interactions with migrant children from the position of power and adult-centric knowledge. Epistemological and methodological U-turn into a child-centered approach to study the well-being of migrant children means to give them voice, to hear them and take them into account; it means to recognize the legitimacy of their claims, while at the same time having an opportunity, based on the knowledge acquired in this way, to design inclusion and integration policies and instruments for measuring "well-being" and "integration". From the point of view of a child-centered approach, we should focus on how children migrants themselves conceptualize "un/successful integration" and what makes them happy, gives them a sense of security, belonging and inclusion in the host society.

## **MIGRANT WOMEN AND ACCESS TO REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH IN THE COASTAL REGION OF SLOVENIA**

**Zorana MEDARIĆ<sup>1</sup> and Blaž LENARČIČ<sup>2</sup>**

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Reproductive health is considered as an essential component of human development and wellbeing through all phases of life. Despite the adoption of international norms and standards for the universal right to health, and therefore reproductive health as its inseparable part, significant gaps in access for certain groups of individuals still remain. One of them are migrant women who often face unequal treatment, discriminatory practices and restrictions in access to adequate institutional health care in the field of reproductive health. The aim of this paper is to present and discuss the accessibility to reproductive health of migrant women in the Slovenian Istria region – a markedly multicultural geographical area. In the contribution implementation of legislative rights to reproductive health will be discussed through the results of the qualitative study, in-depth interviews that were implemented in the coastal region of Slovenia. Perspectives of migrant women and healthcare workers (doctors, midwives, community care nurses etc.) will be presented, focusing on: (1) language barriers, (2) intercultural competencies of healthcare workers (3) (hidden) discriminatory practices/attitudes of medical personnel, (4) information barriers and (5) the importance of social ties for reproductive health of migrant women.



**WEDNESDAY, 18 SEPTEMBER 2019**

**11.00–12.45**

Location: Asteria Hall, Hotel Histrion, Portorož

## **MIGRANTS AND CULTURAL BORDERS II**

Chair: **Ksenija Perković**

1. **Matjaž Klemenčič and Maruša Verbič Koprivšek:** The Views of Slovenian Politics on the Latest Migration Waves as Source of Conflict or Potential
2. **Anton Gosar:** Recent Migrations and Their Impact in the Region of Primorska, Slovenia
3. **Mirna Buić:** Towards a Comprehensive Local Integration Policy: The Example of Slovene Istria
4. **Maja Zadel:** The Contact Area of Slovenian Istria and Its Inhabitants' Lived National (Trans)culture
5. **Dejan Valentinčič:** The Current Emigration from Bilingual Areas in Alpe-Adria Region and Its Impact on the Slovenian Ethnic Minorities

## THE VIEWS OF SLOVENIAN POLITICS ON THE LATEST MIGRATION WAVES AS SOURCE OF CONFLICT OR POTENTIAL

**Matjaž KLEMENČIČ<sup>1</sup> and Maruša VERBIČ KOPRIVŠEK<sup>2</sup>**

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The mass arrivals of political and economic migrants in Slovenia started in 2015 when Hungary closed its border with Croatia. The migrants are still arriving and some of them aim to stay in Slovenia permanently. Some Slovenian politicians are arguing against immigrant settlement due to major cultural differences, while the others would welcome them on the basis of respecting all humanitarian principles. The well-known fact is that Slovenia, as the other European countries, needs migrant as potential workforce, especially because of demographic situation facing Europe in the next decades. In this paper, we will analyze the reactions of objectively selected Slovenian politicians, focusing on their media statements since the beginning of mass arrivals of migrants to date. We will point out some of the most defining statements to show the political opinions clash between viewing “new wave” migrants as a threat of conflict or as an opportunity for economic development.

## **RECENT MIGRATIONS AND THEIR IMPACT IN THE REGION OF PRIMORSKA, SLOVENIA**

**Anton GOSAR**

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Since independence in 1991 the demographic, economic and social structure of the former Yugoslav republic Slovenia has changed. Among country's 12 statistical regions three along the Italo-Slovene border, known by their general historical name Primorska (in the past: Littorale (it.) and Kuestanland), namely Severno-primorska (also: Goriška), Južno-primorska (also: Obalno-kraška) and Primorsko-notranjska - have experienced specific socio-economic transformation. Permanent and seasonal work, education and leisure related as well as cross-border migrations resulted into a mix of demographic, economic and social structures. The diversity of the interests of the residential and immigrant population, as well as of the economy reflect itself in Primorska's unique political orientation, cross-border dependency and in specific use of national resources. Historical and present socio-economic trends have to a certain degree distant the region from the nation's core. This paper has the objective to analyse available demographic data (1991 - 2018), look into social/political/cultural representation and find spatial imprints in the social and urban spheres. Primorska's three statistical regions remain regarding prosperity to be among country's leading.

## **TOWARDS A COMPREHENSIVE LOCAL INTEGRATION POLICY: THE EXAMPLE OF SLOVENE ISTRIA**

**Mirna BUIĆ**

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Slovenia has not yet developed a comprehensive integration policy which would offer systemic solutions for effective integration of immigrants into Slovenian society, especially at local level. Local integration largely relies on discontinuously financed projects, activities and programs and on the work of individual local organizations. Even though it is recognized as fundamental the role of municipalities seems unclear and their responsibilities in the integration process remain undefined. Municipalities respond to the challenges of migration and integration partially and, at least in appearance, without a clear vision and direction. Moreover, there has long been a lack of dialogue and collaboration among them and civil society.

On the example of Slovene Istria, the paper will look at the roles of both local and state actors in the process of local integration of immigrants, their action towards promoting social inclusion and hence sustainable development. It will look also at the roles of key stakeholders in the local policy making processes and in the process of local integration of immigrants. Special emphasis will be placed on NGOs, and civil society in general, as locally specific actors who respond directly to the needs of the local environment, their influence on decision-making processes and their numerous roles in the development of inclusive local communities. Finally, the paper will offer some suggestions for the development of a comprehensive local integration policy based on an inclusive process, cooperation and dialogue among stakeholders.

## **THE CONTACT AREA OF SLOVENIAN ISTRIA AND ITS INHABITANTS' *LIVED* NATIONAL (TRANS)CULTURE**

**Maja ZADEL**

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The common culture is usually understood in national terms, consequently ending at the national borders. However, inhabitants of border areas – which are contact areas – understand their everyday lives in more trans-cultural terms that national ideology would like us to think. Even though the meaning of a physical space may be diminishing due to “new” technology, the case study in Slovenian Istria (quantitative research: telephone survey: 715 respondents, 2014 and qualitative research: interviews: 30 respondents, 2015) shows the complex relationship of self-determination, cultural practices in everyday life and their relationship to the nation-state. The inhabitants of Slovenian Istria are to a certain extent less bound to the national milieu and more to the local environment, notwithstanding the fluidity of their identities, also due to their Italian media consumption (but not only). The sense of space and place still play an important role, even defined in local terms, although supranational and national identifications are (still) significant. Also the respondents in the case study, while living in this transcultural everyday, they predominantly still define themselves in national terms, even though some find it difficult and prefer to define themselves in local terms. The border areas as contact spaces thus represent complex cases where transculturally lived culture collides with national ideology.

## **THE CURRENT EMIGRATION FROM BILINGUAL AREAS IN ALPE-ADRIA REGION AND ITS IMPACT ON THE SLOVENIAN ETHNIC MINORITIES**

**Dejan VALENTINČIČ**

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The bilingual areas in Alpe-Adria region have traditionally been areas of emigration. This is the case even today. The paper is focusing on the emigration from territories of Slovenian ethnic settlement in Italy, Croatia, Austria and Hungary (bilingual areas) from 1991 till today. Besides moving abroad many people also move to capitals and economically more developed cities of the same countries (per example Udine, Milano, Torino and Rome in Italy, Zagreb, Osijek, Split and Dubrovnik in Croatia, Vienna, Graz and Salzburg in Austria and Budapest and Szombathely in Hungary). In all cases an important proportion of Slovenian population from bilingual regions lives in these cities, in some cases the numbers are even comparable to the number of people living in the traditional ethnic territory. On one hand this raises questions about legal status of these populations, if they should also have some minority rights, are they organized, how to prevent their assimilation etc. On the other hand dilemmas about the impact of the emigration to bilingual areas and to ethnic minorities is also very important. The paper (1) analyzes the number of emigrants from bilingual areas that have moved from 1991 on and the reasons for them to move, (2) shows the results of semi-structured interviews with people of Slovenian origin that live in these cities and (3) compares good solutions in practice of other countries that also face this problematique.

**WEDNESDAY, 18 SEPTEMBER 2019**

**15.00–16.45**

Location: Asteria Hall, Hotel Histrion, Portorož

## **IDENTITIES AND THE PERCEPTION OF THE “OTHER”**

Chair: **Maja Zadel**

1. **Roberto Dapit and Anja Mlakar:** Homeland and Promised Land between Imagery and Reality: The Perception of Italy and Morocco through the Eyes of Moroccan University Students in Udine
2. **Jernej Zupančič:** A House Too Far: The Dispute about (in) Perspectivity of Housing in Roma Settlements
3. **Patrik Tátrai, Ágnes Erőss and Katalin Kovály:** Excluded from the Nation: The Micropolitics of Identity Construction and Ethnic Categorization in Multiethnic Transcarpathia
4. **Ksenija Perković:** Challenging Multicultural Diversity: Changing Trends of Ethnic Groups in Vojvodina after the Disintegration of Yugoslavia
5. **Damir Josipović:** Where Should the Boundary between Slovenia and Croatia Be?

## **HOMELAND AND PROMISED LAND BETWEEN IMAGERY AND REALITY: THE PERCEPTION OF ITALY AND MOROCCO THROUGH THE EYES OF MOROCCAN UNIVERSITY STUDENTS IN UDINE**

**Roberto DAPIT<sup>1</sup> and Anja MLAKAR<sup>2</sup>**

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This contribution brings an analysis on a population of students of Moroccan descent at the University of Udine, that are now living or were raised in Italy. We analyse how their perception of Morocco has changed since moving to Italy and what imagery of Italy participants of this survey had before moving here. On the other hand, we examine what the imagery of Morocco is like in the eyes of those participants who consider Italy as their homeland. The main purpose is to compare the formal and nominal residency and identity with the personal perception of belonging and alterity, moreover to analyse which cultural traits the participants associate most with the Moroccan identity and to what extent. From an other point of view we are interested how food, considered to be “traditional”, corresponds with the sense of belonging to the cultures and nationalities in question. The same focus will be on the linguistic competency and usage. We aim to answer to what extent living in Italy and Europe signifies an enrichment of the participants’ cultural and national self-awareness and how the different cultural and national influences, they have received through their life, have influenced them.



## **A HOUSE TOO FAR: THE DISPUTE ABOUT (IN)PERSPECTIVITY OF HOUSING IN ROMA SETTLEMENTS**

**Jernej ZUPANČIČ**

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The contribution analyzes the spatial-social dimension of Roma in Slovenia. The main question is why the previous attempts for solving the problems in Roma-settlements have been poorly successful. There reasons are to be sought in three directions. First: there are deep cultural patterns, which, together with a modest economic potential, do not allow them to reach the adequate living standard. Certain parts of the Roma society do not want open communication with the neighbourhood. Second: concerns two opposite patterns of Roma-policies: permissive and integrative. The permissive policy proclaim tolerance to the “particularity” of the Roma and practicing social interventionism. This is cheap and proclaim tolerance, but require it from the local neighborhood. The integrative – one is targeting to incorporate Roma into society, by attempting more demanding measures. Because they are often rigid, patronizing and support less initiative, the Roma follow them only modestly. Third: the relations between Roma and their neighbours, including organized forms of civil society. There is a mistrust between Roma and their neighbours; that often creates life on the distance. Some organizations act as Roma-friendly, but ignore the neighborhood, so thereby indirectly increase the distancing processes. Some organizations, for their own benefit, even spark disputes in relation to state institutions, that turn to minimize attention to Roma settlements. Finally, the contribution is targeting some developmental concepts, primarily in the framework of wider integration plans and the synchronous functioning of various institutions, local factors and the active participation of Roma. Roma house is not (too) far.

## EXCLUDED FROM THE NATION: THE MICROPOLITICS OF IDENTITY CONSTRUCTION AND ETHNIC CATEGORIZATION IN MULTIETHNIC TRANSCARPATIA

**Patrik TÁTRAI<sup>1</sup>, Ágnes ERŐSS<sup>2</sup> and Katalin KOVÁLY<sup>3</sup>**

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Since the collapse of the Soviet regime, the multiethnic population of Transcarpathia, the westernmost county of Ukraine, has developed manifold livelihood strategies such as permanent migration and other forms of intensive cross-border activities (shuttle-trade, seasonal work, education). The ongoing crisis in Ukraine generated such push factors that resulted in novel wave of emigration. The emigration is further facilitated by pull factors manifested in intensified political presence and kin-state politics of the Visegrad countries in need of fresh labour force.

Although ethnically diverse population in the Ukrainian-Hungarian ethnic contact zone has been already targeted by both the Hungarian and Ukrainian nation building in the last hundred years, the above recent changes fundamentally transformed local societies including self-identification and ethnic categorization of the left behind.

Based on field work carried out in 2018 in villages along the Ukrainian-Hungarian linguistic boundary in Transcarpathia, this paper aims at showing the local politics of identity construction, ethnic categorization, symbolic inclusion and exclusion. It explores how migration and Hungary's kin-state politics supporting ethnic kin communities by various symbolic, cultural and economic measures impacts on individual self-identification and intragroup relations. The paper also calls attention on the local understanding of the terms "ethnicity", "mother tongue" and "nation" significantly different from that of commonly used, resulting in blurred and intermingled ethnic, linguistic and religious categories.

## **CHALLENGING MULTICULTURAL DIVERSITY: CHANGING TRENDS OF ETHNIC GROUPS IN VOJVODINA AFTER THE DISINTEGRATION OF YUGOSLAVIA**

**Ksenija PERKOVIĆ**

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Vojvodina has been a cultural melting pot with a great number of nations settling here ever since the prehistoric times. The area became a migration centre of various peoples, and this state of diversity has remained one of main features of the region to the present day.

The violent disintegration of Yugoslavia and the subsequent creation of new ethnonational states and bouts of ethnic cleansing had as a consequence enormous population movements, as well as the creation of considerable number of refugees gravitating towards their kin-states. The large refugee wave which took place in Vojvodina exceeds, by its number, even the large colonization of this province after World War II. The migration dynamics significantly changed the ethno-demographic structure of the population in the region, and thus influenced the proportion and relations between different ethnic groups, most notably the relationship between the heterogeneous Serbian majority and the traditionally present minority groups.

Major influx of mostly Serb population and at the same time a high share of emigration of minority population have had a great impact on the big changes in the ethnic structure of population. Namely, in 1991 national minorities participated in total population of Vojvodina with 41%. After the immigration of Serbs from the former republics of Yugoslavia, in 2002 the share of national minorities fell to 30.6%, which represents a decrease of up to 10.5%. On the other hand, it should not be forgotten that the changes in the ethnic structure were also influenced by the changes in national declaring of population, which applies in particular to a drastic decline of the number of Yugoslavs.

## WHERE SHOULD THE BOUNDARY BETWEEN SLOVENIA AND CROATIA BE?

**Damir JOSIPOVIČ**

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Today, the state boundary between Slovenia and Croatia is a synonym of unsolved relations between the neighbouring countries. Perhaps the most prominent part of the bilateral dispute concentrates to the Piran Bay and the area around the Dragonja River mouth, and, to a certain extent, the junction of Slovenian territorial waters with the High Sea.

The final award of the Hague arbitration tribunal generated a somewhat schizophrenic situation where one party, despite the positive outcome, maintained its withdrawal from the process of arbitration, while the second aimed at its implementation by all means – even by a new lawsuit. This “expected unexpectedness” in the bilateral relations may best be described with the case of people caught in between places. This population responds in relation with the local-geographical circumstances and political, and other, more intangible factors. It is clear that the boundary course, laid down or verified by the tribunal, running between Razkrižje and Banfi (in the north-eastern section), and Brezovica pri Metliki and Brezovica Žumberačka (in the central section), makes up an unlively feature which very much hinders normal communication and everyday activities of the local population. The boundary line runs across houses, barns, backyards and other real estate, and for the most part remained as it was before the arbitration process. The author thus endeavours to the analysis of both countries’ actions and viable solutions for implementation in the afore-mentioned boundary sections.

**WEDNESDAY, 18 SEPTEMBER 2019**

**17.00–18.45**

Location: Asteria Hall, Hotel Histrion, Portorož

## **CULTURAL AND LINGUISTIC LANDSCAPE**

Chair: **Christian Lamour**

1. **Christian Lamour:** Investigating the European Identity at the Cross-Border Regional Scale: The Stability, Evolution and Coherence of a Supra/Post/Trans-Regional Story in the Greater Region
2. **Marco Acri and Saša Dobričić:** Landscapes in Motion: Rethinking Place Making through Corridors of Social and Environmental Connectivity, the Case of URBiNAT
3. **Miroslav D. Vujičić, Uglješa Stankov, Sanja Kovačić, Jovana Čikić, and Lazar Jovanov:** The Inner-City and Suburban Dichotomy in Residents' Image Perception – Implications for Tourism Policy of Novi Sad - European Capital of Culture 2021
4. **Maja Mezgec:** Language Policies and Linguistic Landscape in Contact Areas
5. **Neva Makuc:** Identities in the Early Modern Border Area between the Venetian Republic and the Habsburg Hereditary Lands

## **INVESTIGATING THE EUROPEAN IDENTITY AT THE CROSS-BORDER REGIONAL SCALE: THE STABILITY, EVOLUTION AND COHERENCE OF A SUPRA/POST/TRANS-REGIONAL STORY IN THE GREATER REGION**

**Christian LAMOUR**

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The two main approaches of the European identity have been: 1) an ethnic one, meaning the broad civilizational ties uniting Europeans, and 2) a political one, meaning a cross-national citizenship (Prutsch, 2017). In parallel, the discourse related to the European identity has had three main perspectives: 1) the supranational one consisting in shaping an efficiency-oriented EU story decoupled from national stories with its anthem, flag, currency, summits, 2) the post-national one relating different national stories in a reflexive way to define post-national narratives such as for instance to interpret historical events and 3) the transnational one conceiving Europe as a space where cultural differences cut across national differences with a presence of brokers building-up cultural bridges between multiple groups (Eder, 2009). Finally, the European identity discourse has been defined by institutional stakeholders located at different spatial scales (Cram, 2009). Cross-border regions led by political agents have multiplied in the EU (Perkmann, 2003). However, what are the approaches (ethnic/political) and perspectives (supra/post/trans-national) of a European identity used by these political stakeholders to represent their cross-border regions? It is argued that these leaders rescale plural approaches and perspectives at the cross-regional level to secure the durability of their regions in a given ethnic, political and functional context. A Critical Discourse Analysis of the political declarations of the Greater Region centred on Luxembourg is carried out to investigate the process of European identity building within cross-border regions.

## **LANDSCAPES IN MOTION: RETHINKING PLACE MAKING THROUGH CORRIDORS OF SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONNECTIVITY, THE CASE OF URBINAT**

**Marco ACRI<sup>1</sup> and Saša DOBRIČIČ<sup>2</sup>**

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Landscapes are worlds in permanent motion. Nevertheless, most of us imagine them as a sort of stabile backgrounds with distinct existences in transfer. Instead, Landscapes are scenarios of permanent move that include all facts and factors that even define the very notion of Landscape.

If Landscape is a scenario of omni-comprehensive migration and a relational model where no land results as inert background of permanence having as a consequence the indistinguishability of subject and object of observation and transformation, then thinking people and their environment unavoidably shifts from the traditional interpretational models of Earth's such as Space, Territory or Place and affects our traditional design and planning practices.

The paper discusses and rethinks the notion of place making through the eyes of "landscapes in motion" taking as reference the fundamentals of the URBiNAT project, which aims at community driven co-creation of NBS design solutions, having as a result "corridors of connectivity" that improve social and environmental regeneration of deprived urban areas. In particular the paper refers to the case study of Nova Gorica and Gorizia, as a particularly powerful and relevant occasion to rethink the same notions of territory, boundary, country, but also Place and Homeland, intended also as traditional forms of self-radicalization, whenever they embrace ambiguous features of "locality". Hence, Landscape with its omni-comprehensive migrations helps us to thoroughly rethink the narratives, concepts, ideologies and practices of place making and the consequent legacy over its ownership.

## THE INNER-CITY AND SUBURBAN DICHOTOMY IN RESIDENTS' IMAGE PERCEPTION – IMPLICATIONS FOR TOURISM POLICY OF NOVI SAD - EUROPEAN CAPITAL OF CULTURE 2021

**Miroslav D. VUJIČIĆ<sup>1</sup>, Uglješa STANKOV<sup>2</sup>, Sanja KOVAČIĆ<sup>3</sup>,  
Jovana ČIKIĆ<sup>4</sup>, and Lazar JOVANOVIĆ<sup>5</sup>**

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Destination image plays a major role in the competitiveness of travel destinations. However, apart from tourists, relevant institutions and investors, destinations also need to actively engage residents to support tourism development initiatives. An understanding of the place image perceived by its residents has been reported to be pertinent to the successful development and marketing activities of a tourism place. Unlike for visitors, the relationships of the residents with a tourism place are more complex and intricate in nature that is often under strong influences of different community hubs and inner-city and suburban dichotomy. Thus, this paper explores the idea that the inner-city and suburban border is related to residential preferences towards place image. The purpose of this paper is to discover similarities and differences in perception of city image between the residents' of the inner city and suburban areas in The City of Novi Sad (Serbia). To this end, the perceptions of 18 destination-focused and community-focused attributes (grouped into four categories - physical appearance, community services, social environment, and entertainment opportunities) were collected by in-person interviews using geo-location enabled recording devices, from 279 inner-city and 133 suburban residents. The results showed a significant difference in 14 attributes, where inner-city residents assigned higher positive rankings. Because of the repercussions of this spatial dichotomy, both for the destination image and residents' quality of life, the results are discussed from the perspective of practical implications for tourism development policy of Novi Sad as a European Capital of Culture for 2021.



## LANGUAGE POLICIES AND LINGUISTIC LANDSCAPE IN CONTACT AREAS

**Maja MEZGEC**

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Studies on linguistic landscape represent a new approach to the study of multilingualism that is based on the analysis of the language(s) in signs. Linguistic landscape refers to linguistic objects that mark the public space. Language used on writing reflects the social use of the languages and the status of the languages. The paper analyses the linguistic landscape of the territory, where the Slovene minority in Italy is settled. The aim of the study was to investigate the presence of Slovene language in the linguistic landscape, compared to the official language, Italian. The hypothesis is that in the case studied, the status of the Slovene language is visible throughout the linguistic landscape. The discussion focuses on the importance of the visibility of minority languages and the impact of language policies on the linguistic landscape.

## **IDENTITIES IN THE EARLY MODERN BORDER AREA BETWEEN THE VENETIAN REPUBLIC AND THE HABSBURG HEREDITARY LANDS**

**Neva MAKUC**

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The lecture focuses on the early modern provincial identities in the area along the border between the Venetian Republic and the hereditary lands of the Austrian branch of the House of Habsburg. Border areas are characterized by contrasts, exchanges, encounters and contaminations. They represent an important laboratory for researching identities. The inhabitants of the Habsburg County of Gorizia and of the Venetian Friuli shared similar usages and customs as well as ways of life. They developed complex and intertwined identities. Before the emergence of nationalisms in the 19<sup>th</sup> century the provincial identities transcended not only linguistic but also supposedly ethnic differences.

**FRIDAY, 20 SEPTEMBER 2019**

**10.45–12.30**

Location: Sala Tessitori, Consiglio regionale della  
Regione autonoma Friuli Venezia Giulia, Trieste

## **MINORITIES IN THE ALPS-ADRIATIC REGION**

Chair: **Devan Jagodic**

1. **Milan Obid:** “Symbolic Ethnicity” – A Proper Theoretical Concept for the Research on Current Development Trends among the Slovene Minority in Austria?
2. **William Cisilino:** The Evolution of Linguistic Legislation about Friulian Minority in Italy
3. **Matejka Grgič:** Language Convergence and Divergence between Italy and Slovenia
4. **Andrea Bartole:** New Challenges and Perspectives of Teachers and Institutions of the Italian Minority in Slovenia
5. **Milan Bufon:** National Minorities, Border Communities and Cross-Border Social Cohesion: A Case Study in Central Europe

## **“SYMBOLIC ETHNICITY” – A PROPER THEORETICAL CONCEPT FOR THE RESEARCH ON CURRENT DEVELOPMENT TRENDS AMONG THE SLOVENE MINORITY IN AUSTRIA?**

**Milan OBID**

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At the end of the 1970s, Herbert Gans introduced the term „symbolic ethnicity“. He claimed that the socio-structural functions of ethnic origin among the third generation of European immigrants to the USA started to decrease at that time. Ethnicity becomes a question of identity in the first place, and its formerly functional relevance turns into a rather expressive one. To put it pointedly: ethnicity becomes a leisure activity.

Precisely because the socio-structural dimension of ethnic background disappears, the people affected often tend to stress their identity more explicitly. Does this assumption, which is typical for symbolic ethnicity, hold true for the members of the Slovene minority in Austria as well?

Gans claims that ethnic identity changes from an ascriptive feature to a voluntary social role alongside other roles. Differences can no longer be identified in the people’s habitus, and this is why the agents are able to choose what „ethnic role“ they want to play in a certain situation.

This contribution discusses the question whether developments that can be summarized under the term symbolic ethnicity are relevant for current development trends among the Slovene minority in Austria. It examines which features of symbolic ethnicity can be found among people regarding themselves as Carinthian Slovenes, and what, on the contrary, could be described as opposing trends. Finally, the examined phenomena are discussed within the context of the particular political framework that is usually summarized with the catchphrase „European integration“.

## THE EVOLUTION OF LINGUISTIC LEGISLATION ABOUT FRIULIAN MINORITY IN ITALY

**William CISILINO**

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The paper analyses the legislation enacted in Italy on the Friulian language. Following a brief introduction on the different events linked to the recognition of linguistic minorities in Italy, the author goes on to focus on the regional laws 15/1996 and 29/2007 about the promotion of Friulian language, enacted by the Friuli-Venezia Giulia Autonomous Region.

Finally, it addresses law 482/99, through which the State —pursuant to article 6 of the Constitution of 1948— officially recognised Friulian.

## LANGUAGE CONVERGENCE AND DIVERGENCE BETWEEN ITALY AND SLOVENIA

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Along the border between Italy and Slovenia, two national minorities have settled throughout history: the Slovenian minority in Italy (in the provinces of Trieste / Trst, Gorizia / Gorica, and Udine / Videm) and the Italian minority in Slovenia (in four municipalities of the Coastal-Karst Region / Regione Carsico-Costiera). In spite of the proximity of these communities to their respective states, both ethnic groups are facing large-scale language divergence in the minority-language continuum.

In my paper, I bring to light some examples of language divergence in communication practices where in-continuum convergence, as well as consistency and unitarity, are highly recommended or even codified. In particular, I focus on how linguistic divergence has influenced the terminology in public administration and, as a consequence, the linguistic landscape in the aforementioned fields.

Among the possible causes of the current situation, the (self-)marginalisation processes of the minority ethnic group(s) will be discussed in detail.

## **NEW CHALLENGES AND PERSPECTIVES OF TEACHERS AND INSTITUTIONS OF THE ITALIAN MINORITY IN SLOVENIA**

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Schools and kindergartens with Italian learning language in Slovenia are formally a part of the learning system of Republic of Slovenia and are open to all. Particularly at the coastal region, kids of the so-called “mainstream majority” enrolled in these types of school already in the 1990s.

Therefore, teachers have always worked with children who are not familiar with the language at all (as it is not spoken within their families), and are faced with a double task: to teach the Italian language to those children who already know and speak it, while to those who barely started to learn it as well. In recent years, this phenomenon has been more present than ever, as the population of the coastal region has changed and it is still changing. Teachers have been used to these kind of challenges for decades, although reasons and the population now both differ compared with the situation twenty years ago.

Against this context, the paper aims to highlight the importance of teachers and institutions of the Italian minority in the integration process. On the one hand it should not be forgotten that the primary task of a teacher is to transfer the language that they are teaching, and their additional task is also to pass the values and traditions of our national communities. On the other hand we will discuss also the role of our institutions, that is to introduce the history of these places to the new, young generations. In such a way the difficult history, which marked these places, can be explained in a right way, and, above all, it shall not be forgotten.

## **NATIONAL MINORITIES, BORDER COMMUNITIES AND CROSS-BORDER SOCIAL COHESION: A CASE STUDY IN CENTRAL EUROPE**

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The paper will discuss both past developments and recent situation concerning national minorities, inter-ethnic and cross-border relations in the current Slovenian-Italian border region, one of the most typical Central European “contact” areas. These developments represent the result of intensive and simultaneous interconnections between social and spatial convergence and divergence processes that have provided for different variations in the pre-modern, modern and post-modern period. National minorities were perceived in these periods in a quite different way: they became undesired “foreigners” in the modern period, but acquired a potential role of cross-border “social bridges” in the post-modern period. In the latter, political and cultural boundaries - once dividing social spaces in separate, exclusive units - seem to lose their “barrier” function, permitting thus not only national minorities, but also border communities in general, to participate to both the “ethnos” and “demos” of the neighbouring countries. Based on recent field researches conducted in the studied border region, the paper will present the increasing level of both “intra-national” and “inter-national” social integration of national minorities and border communities. This process contribute not only to a potential general “revival” of the multicultural and multilingual habits within border regions, but also to an effective functional cross-border (re)integration.



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