

Extended Programme
„Innovation paths in Albanology“
International Online Conference for Young Researchers

Keynote

Prof. Dr. Christian Voß

Re-Inventing Albanian and South-Slavic Studies

Abstract

The presentation reflects the actual situation of two marginal disciplines and their comparability. By analyzing the scientific state of the art in combination with Albanian, South Slavic and/or Balkan branding in recent and visible productions of film, arts and literature, we try to identify the potential of Balkan Studies in the context of post-excellence German Academia of the 2020s. On the example of the Berlin Centre „Crossing Borders“, we present the resources of local, national and international funding lines for transdisciplinary research. It turns out that the crucial competencies of small disciplines like Albanian and South Slavic Studies shall be: to formulate the unique selling points of Albanology and South Slavic Studies and to be connectable to broader networks within the Humanities. Especially Kosovo Studies exemplify the need to overcome the monolingual approach of traditional national(ist) philologies and to address interface topics.

Short CV

Christian Voß is Professor and Head of the Department for South Slavic Studies at Humboldt University in Berlin since 2006. He has published extensively on issues of sociolinguistics in the Balkans, especially on minority issues in Northern Greece and language policy in the former Yugoslavia. Since 2016, he has been the director of the newly founded Interdisciplinary Center for transnational border research „Crossing Borders“. He is the founder and editor of the book series „Studies on Language and Culture in Central and Eastern Europe“, and member of the editorial board of „Balkan Studies Library“, „Mediterranean Language Review“, „Südost-Forschungen“ and „Colloquia Humanistica“. Since 2012, he is a member of the „Classe di Slavistica“ at Academia Ambrosiana in Milan.

Elona Gjata

The Language Situation of the Macedonian Minority in Albania

Abstract

This paper aims to study the linguistic situation of the Macedonian minority in Albania. Our study will be limited to Golloborda, Gora and Korça where there is a significant dispersion of this minority. According to 2011 statistics, there are 5,512 ethnic Macedonians living in Albania. They live in nine villages in the Korça district, in several other villages in Golloborda in the the Dibra district and in Dibra itself, and in the north-east Albania (Gora). The study of the linguistic situation in contact with the native language of the country would be of special study interest, as it will focus on various issues of sociolinguistic interest. Extralinguistic factors will also occupy a special place in this study, among which we would highlight religious belief, integration in the social life of the country, education, profession, rural and urban character, marriages, religious coexistence, gender, inter-community coexistence, depopulation, etc. Also, an integral part of this study will be the role of the academic institutions: how present is Macedonian in the school curriculum? Are there schools that develop the entire curriculum in Macedonian or not?

In addition to extralinguistic factors, special attention will be paid to the linguistic contact with Albanian (dialect and standard variant) and Macedonian (dialect and standard variant). Studying these factors together is quite important, as they will play a key role in determining the language behavior of this community. Another objective of our study will be to reveal and understand the ethnic identity of the Macedonian community through the linguistic situation in which they find themselves.

The study will thoroughly analyze the situation in which different age groups find themselves. The age groups will be respectively: the first age group (16-23 years old), the second age group (24-65 years old), the third age group (66-80 years old). Various qualitative and quantitative data collection methods will be used.

Short CV

Elona Gjata is a researcher in the field of linguistics. She currently holds a master of science diploma. Ms. Gjata is a PhD candidate in the field of Linguistics at the University of Tirana, Faculty of History and Philology. The dissertation was submitted to the linguistics department in June; the defense of dissertation takes place in the autumn of this year. The focus of her scientific works has had a phonetic and phonological character on the issues of orthography and standard spoken Albanian language. Gjata has worked as a lecturer in the Albanian language department at the University of Elbasan and Tirana. She has also been engaged as a teacher in high school for the subject of Albanian language. Furthermore, Gjata is the co-author of the textbook of 9-year education: *Gjuha shqipe 9* (student book), and the co-author of the workbook of *Gjuha shqipe 9*.

Bora Shpuza Kasapolli

The Linguistic Dependence of an Independent Country: State of the Language and the Linguistic Fluidity of Kosovo Albanians

Abstract

The native Albanian language of Kosovo is at a precarious crossroad, mostly as a result of circumstance – and lately also by choice – owing to historical, geopolitical, demographic and socio-cultural factors, technology, as well as the nature of the language itself. The ubiquity of the English language in Kosovo points to the lack of suitable Albanian equivalents and the scarcity of results from institutional efforts to address the current state of language. Albanian is a unique language with high survival value thanks to historically tight-knit communities, but primarily due to its opulent phonetic range, dialectal diversity and overall flexibility. In the globalized multilingual environment of the 21st century, the tested-and-tried methods of language development and advancement are no longer likely to work. With the benevolent intrusion of English and its worldwide dominance, Albanian is under pressure to adapt and adjust. Resistance to change goes against the widely-accepted notion that language is a fluid living organism. Therefore, in order to optimize efforts and remedy the situation, a different attitude is needed: innovative thinking. Rather than rigidity and purism, a constructive approach should be adopted whereby change is embraced and dealt with in new pioneering ways. The suggestion here is that Albanian language plasticity constitutes an excellent foundation for adaptation and adjustment, both in terms of smoothly absorbing ‘anglicisms’ and reconciling in-language varieties within acceptable hybrids.

Short CV

Bora Shpuza Kasapolli is a PhD candidate at the University of Zagreb, in the doctoral program Language and Cognitive Neuroscience, an innovative interdisciplinary study involving various fields and integrating them into new knowledge. She is a multilingual educator with a highly diverse academic and professional background focused around language and communications. Her research interests include the relationship between language and cognition and optimal innovative ways to utilize relevant findings in today’s fluid linguistic environment. Her current research project seeks to explore the cognitive implications of bidialectalism in Albanian, based on the view that bidialectals share similar cognitive traits with bilinguals.

Delina Binaj

The Visibility of Gender Identities and Linguistic Practices for Naming People in Albanian

Abstract

The Albanian language is characterized by various possibilities and especially by derivational forms to addressing gender identity of people. In particular, the standardization process of the Albanian language in the 1970s during the communist period coincided with a feminisation of job titles by introducing gender specific

nouns also for women. This linguistic shift was not instigated by women themselves but by the state and thus the primary motive was an ideological one and therefore had limited impact and sustainability. It is only after the change of the political system in the early 1990s and even more in the presence that emancipatory initiatives, most of all from feminist and queer community organizations, consider language use as an important area for the deconstruction of patriarchal structures and the unfolding of gender identities in the society. Language use can hereby facilitate the deconstruction of patriarchal structures and promote emancipatory processes and the visibility of gender identities.

Based on the examination of a variety of materials regarding language use in the media and in the public discourse, I will provide in my presentation findings of my empirical research, which includes the discussion of diverse linguistic practices for naming people in the contemporary Albanian as well as their perception by the language users.

Short CV

Delina Binaj is a PhD candidate at the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Humboldt University of Berlin. She has a B.A. in German Studies from the University of Tirana. 2004-2005 she completed a Postgraduate Course for Didactics of Translation and Interpreting at the Institute of Translation Studies, University of Graz, 2006-2008 lecturer of the Albanian language at the same institute. In 2007, she received her M.A. in Women's Studies and Feminist Research at the Rosa-Mayreder-College in Vienna. 2010-2015 she was engaged in the DFG-research project „Gender and Language in South-Eastern Europe“ at the Centre for Transdisciplinary Gender Studies, Humboldt University of Berlin.

Dr. Albana Muco

Phraseological Units with Colour Naming: A Contrastive Analysis of Albanian and German

Abstract

This research project aims to study the metaphorical meaning of colour (conceptualizations and categorizations) within phraseological units in Albanian and German from a pluricentric perspective (inter- and intralinguistic variety). The work consisted of three phases: 1) identification of linguistic units containing colour terms in both languages and creation of an inventory (more than 400 units; basis for bilingual and bi-directional Albanian-German/German-Albanian vocabulary); 2) identification of diatopic variants and analysis of the 'knowledge' and 'use' of colour phraseology through interviews in Albania, Kosovo, Germany and Austria, taking into consideration social variables such as interviewees' 'origin', 'age', 'gender' and 'education' (ages 15 and up); 3) contrastive analysis according to the Construction Grammar (GxC) – grammatical model of Cognitive Linguistics – of a specific type of phraseologisms, namely one with a fixed schema structure: [[X] (verb) like/as [Y]]. The analysed linguistic units were collected from the interviews.

Short CV

Albana Muco was a third-year PhD Candidate in Linguistic, Literary and Intercultural Studies in European and Extra-European Perspectives (German-Albanian Studies) at the University of Milan (Italy). She defended her dissertation on July 2021. Albana Muco received her BA in Translation and Linguistic Mediation at the Scuola Superiore per Mediatori Linguistici di Perugia (Italy) and her MA in Translation at the University of Turin (Italy) with a thesis on “German and Albanian as pluricentric languages” (“Albanian as a pluricentric language”, Peter Lang, 2018). Her research focuses on sociolinguistics, colour studies, phraseology, contrastive linguistics, translation. She is also interested in (inter)cultural studies.

Dr. Kadire Binaj

Structural Sentence Patterns in Albanian Language: The Semantic Roles of Complements in Sentences with Bivalent Monotransitive Verbs

Abstract

This paper describes and analyzes the semantic roles carried by complements of bivalent monotransitive verbs. Bivalent monotransitive verbs, which build the pattern S – monotransitive verb – DO, constitute one of the basic sentence patterns in the Albanian language. It is traditionally said that in such cases the subject marks the agent, whereas the object marks the patient. The research findings show that this generalization is not accurate. In the corpus analyzed, the pattern S – monotransitive verb – DO generated eight semantic sentence patterns, which indicates that a syntactic function does not presuppose a certain semantic role; consequently, functional sentence patterns cannot be equal to semantic patterns. A certain semantic role may exhibit greater affinities with a certain syntactic function or with a certain syntagmatic category, but is not equal to them, as the classification criteria differ. The semantic role that a given complement carries depends solely on the semantic type of the verb that assigns the semantic role. Different semantic types of verbs, despite having the same range of valences, assign different semantic roles. Two verbs, bivalent in our case, whose complements can carry out the same syntactic functions and be realized with the same syntagmatic categories, but which belong to different semantic types, assign different semantic roles to their complements/arguments.

Short CV

Kadire Binaj (1989) has completed her doctoral studies at the University of Prishtina “Hasan Prishtina” (2021), in the field of Albanian syntax. Since 2013 she has been working as a full-time assistant in the Albanian Language Department of the Faculty of Philology (UP). She is the professional secretary of the International Seminar on Albanian Language, Literature and Culture. Kadire Binaj deals with studies in the field of syntax, morpho-syntax and semantics.

Dr. Philipp Wasserscheidt

Digital Language Corpora of Albanian

Abstract

Digital language corpora are one of the most important pillars of modern linguistics. Their range of use is almost limitless and enables the study of language in an unprecedented way. However, the creation of corpora relies on a lot of preliminary work, which is described in this paper for Albanian. For the minimal annotation levels, morphological annotation and lemmatisation, one needs at least an annotation scheme, a lexicon and/or a manually annotated training corpus. The article presents the necessary steps and the available resources. Possible uses, potentials and problems are pointed out. In detail, individual problems of the annotation are pointed out. This point is a crucial pivotal point between computational linguistics on the one hand and linguists on the other. This is because technical specifications (annotation standards and existing annotation solutions within the standards) and grammatical descriptions (traditions of grammar writing and the current state of the language) often come into conflict. Selected examples from Albanian will be used to show what solutions can look like in this area - but also what understanding of the other subject area is necessary in order to be able to create and use these resources together.

Short CV

Philipp Wasserscheidt is a PostDoc at the Department of South Slavic Linguistics and Cultural Studies at Humboldt University Berlin. He works mainly in the field of Construction Grammar as applied to language contact, narratology and syntax, as well as in the field of semantics and pragmatics of sub-sentential expressions. Methodologically, he mainly uses corpus linguistic methods. One focus is on the creation of corpora and other linguistic resources for underrepresented languages, such as spoken Bosnian or Albanian. He is currently involved in several projects to develop innovative digital teaching and cooperation formats.

Prof. Ass. Dr. Blertë Ismajli

“Kadale, kadale, wie war nochmal dein Name?” – Bilingual Linguistic Features in Albanian Pop Music Lyrics

Abstract

In the present paper, she is looking at linguistic features of Albanian contemporary pop song lyrics, with a special focus on bilingual lyrics in Albanian and German. Bilingual (and multilingual) song lyrics (Albanian-German, Albanian-French, and Albanian-English-German) are a recent phenomenon in Albanian pop music, especially when the artists have a migration background. Since 1960s, migrants have contributed to language and culture transfers between German and Albanian, especially in Kosova and North Macedonia. In the case of pop culture, we are dealing with the third generation of migrants that facilitate the language contact. While German loanwords in Albanian have been subject of earlier studies (Maksuti 2009, 2010, 2014, 2015; Sadiku 2017; Sadiku/Ismajli 2017; Jusufi 2021), research on bilingual lyrics Albanian-German in Albanian pop music

is a new research field. The aim of this paper is to investigate to what extent this is a new form of language transfer. The lyrics will be analyzed quantitatively and qualitatively to ascertain the form and functions of code-switching. Another important question to be addressed is the reception of German lyrics by Albanians that don't speak German.

Short CV

Blertë Ismajli completed his doctorate at the Institute for German Studies at the University of Vienna. Since 2003, she is working at the Department of German language and literature at the University of Prishtina. She lectures in sociolinguistics, language contact, phonetics and phonology of German. Her research fields include: contrastive morpho-syntax with a focus on verb mood as grammatical category and modality as semantic category; evidential categories, translation problems, especially in the field of modality. She is currently working on evidentiality in Albanian.

Blerina Kelmendi

Language-mixing in Albanian-German Bilingual Families

Abstract

Although Albanian-speaking communities in Germany and Switzerland represent a comparatively large group of migrants since the 1990s, the language and linguistic behavior of this steadily growing community has little been researched until day.

If multilingual speakers talk to each other, they usually do not use just one language, but rather use their entire linguistic repertoire and mix their languages within a conversation, a sentence or even within a word. The aim of my work is to examine these language-mixing phenomena in Albanian-German bilingual families – in which speakers from three generations are represented – in terms of their structure and function and to determine in which conversational constellations which mixing phenomena occur.

A corpus of natural/spontaneous language data, that was recorded on tape by the family members themselves, serves as the basis for the investigation. In addition, semi-structured interviews were conducted with all speakers who appear in the family recordings once in German and once in Albanian. In these interviews, the speakers reflect on and evaluate their own language (-mixing) behavior, their language attitudes and language preferences.

In my conference lecture, I will present the first results from my research by using selected examples to show how the language-mixing behavior of the three examined generations differs and how these changes depending on the conversational constellations.

Short CV

In March 2019, Blerina Kelmendi completed the Elite Graduate Program for East European Studies and the additional training German as a Foreign Language Philology at the University of Regensburg. The focus of her master's program was on the history of Southeast Europe and law. Since May 2019, she has been working as a research assistant and doctoral candidate in the international research project "Albanian in Contact. Horizontal transfer and identity creation in the multilingual practice" at the Institute for German as a Foreign Language at the Ludwig-Maximilians-University Munich. Under the supervision of Prof. Dr. Claudia Riehl, she is writing her dissertation on the topic of "Language-mixing in Albanian-German bilingual families – a comparison between Germany and Switzerland".

Dr. Agata Rogoś

Patterns of Albanian Occupation of Space in Neukölln (Berlin) and Bronx (NYC)

Abstract

This paper expands the city as a field of intervention for solving problems associated with modern life and migration process in different time frames. The aim is to follow up the processes of reimagining and redesigning urban milieu in material infrastructure, political possibilities, social relations, aesthetic styles, migrant urbanisms, which are equally developing from homegrown solutions and aesthetic forms, not to turn only into Western (European & American) prototypes. The paper is to consider in which ways cities transformed by migration and everyday mobilities and how these actions impact urban spaces (Hall 2012, 2015, Foner et al., 2014, Glick Schiller and Çağlar 2011, 2018). Following Gilroy (2004) and Hall (2015b) — migration is understood on the purpose of this project as "a participatory rather than invasive process of change" (Hall 2015a). The perspective of 'everyday' enables to perceive migration as an integral process of social and urban change. I will look at the participation of migrants in everyday life from the economic and cultural perspective. Everyday life in this project will be defined by urban locality, city space and urban migration, where migration process and a process of urban transformation are reciprocally engaged with each other.

The paper looks at two sites: Little Italy of Bronx (NYC) and Neukölln (Berlin). In the analyzed neighborhoods the space is considered in the three defining categories, ethnic specific, socio-culturally specific and class specific and will be juxtaposed with the historical process of post-war (Cold War) regeneration in urban class areas, highlighting phenomena of physical proximity of different groups and social propinquity. Anthropological approach enables exploration on the closer level (smaller groups) of how they occupy space and temporality of urban margins. I use site visits and observations to generate a series of field notes and maps with physical site descriptions, maps by the time of day and day of the week, circulation maps, to establish the economic, social, and cultural capital of the migrants.

Short CV

Dr. Agata Rogoś is a Post-doc Research Fellow with a record of research in Balkan Studies, South East European Studies, Border Studies and Migration Studies. She wrote her Ph.D. thesis on Slavic and Albanian

collective memory and contemporary identity discourses in Macedonia, which she defended at Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań (Poland). She is a Post-doc fellow at the Humboldt University in Berlin. She is currently working on the research funded by Fritz Thyssen Foundation on “Homeland loyalties and narratives of Albanian pasts and migrant identities”, to be accomplished by the end of 2022. The research is based on the experience of exploring urban design of Albanian migrants and mapping their neighborhood-making activities in Berlin (Nord-Neukölln). Research practice is the result of the two careers of an art historian and an area / Balkan studies scholar, with consequent application of the two approaches – urban studies and cultural anthropology with elements of ethnography – being a starting point in connecting those research perspectives.

Dr. Belfjore Zifla (Qose)

Issues Emerging from Albanian Transnational Literature

Abstract

The growing of Albanian Diaspora after 1990 led to the phenomenon of transnational writers and literature. This area of Albanian Literature can be considered in the best case under-researched. The aim of this research is to overview how the context interacts with this literature and influences writers and explores the concept of identity and belonging in their works.

Transnational writers engage with both the country of origin and the country of their residence, we will analyze how these relations are manifested in literary works. The image of motherland and the projection of identity will be an important part of this research. The issue of belonging as perceived through the literary works, or memoirs, autobiographies, and interviews, is also important to understand the relation with the past in the country of origin, and the scale of the inclusion, integration in the new society. The narrative of displacement is often present in the Albanian diaspora literature, bringing to light the reasons behind emigration and the emotional experience, which can manifest in the best way in literature. Literature absorbs stories, narratives, and it leads us to a deeper understanding of the “in between-ness” of the emigrants’ lives.

The approach of this research will be a panoramic overview on transnational writers living in different countries and cultures, to represent in the best way the Albanian diaspora literature. I will exemplify through the analysis of some novels the above-mentioned issues.

Short CV

Dr. Belfjore Zifla (Qose) is a full-time university lecturer at the University of Tirana, Department of Literature, where she lectures “Modern World Literature of the 20th century”, “Russian and Slavic Literature”, “Theory of translation”, “Albanian Literature”. She is the founder and a member of the Albanian Young Academy. Her doctoral dissertation is on Trebeshina, an Albanian dissident writer, focusing on the Fantastic in his prose. Her academic activity focuses on Dissident Literature, Literary Subversion, new methodological approaches on studying literature, especially contemporary Albanian Literature. She is also an emerging poet and prose writer, published and translated in many foreign languages.

Prof. Ass. Dr. Abdulla Rexhepi

A Review to the Literary Work of Naim Frashëri

Abstract

Naim Frashëri is considered as one of the most studied personalities in Albanistic studies, being assessed as one of the most influenced figures in establishing the Albanian identity and consciousness. Naim was born and educated in an Albanian family but in an Islamic – Bektashian environment, therefore he was formed with oriental knowledge, which later reflected in every step of his political and intellectual career. In these environments, the Persian culture prevailed, especially the Persian poem with which Naim was embodied from his young age. The episteme of this culture had a great influence in the political, philosophical and religious discourse of Naim. Therefore, a very considerable part of his literary work was created under the influence of Persian literature. Highlighting the Persian influence, this work's purpose is to treat the cultural intercommunication of the Albanian culture and literature with another great world culture and literature, as the Persian one is. By this work I tend to prove that introduction with Persian dimensions of the work of Naim can create opportunities to highlight the eastern aspects of the Albanian culture and literature. This can result in knowing the way how today the oriental episteme and concepts function that are deeply embedded in the cultural consciousness and sub-consciousness of the Albanian people. This work will result in highlighting the epistemic similarities between Persian and Albanian literature, a fact that could lead us to knowing and recognizing of “the other”, keeping in touch with “him” and this way, cultivating a peaceful spirit between the two nations.

Short CV

Dr. Abdulla Rexhepi is an assistant professor, teacher of Persian language and literature in the department of Oriental Studies of “Hasan Pristina” University. He has finished the bachelor studies in the department of Oriental Studies in Pristina, and the post-graduate studies in the University of Teheran on Persian language and literature. He researches the presence of Persian language and literature in Albanian regions, the Albanian literature of Alamiado and the history of Iranian thought. He has published two monographs: “The Prevalence of Persian Literature among the Albanians” (Tehran, 2019) and “Naim Frashëri and the Persian literature (Tirana, 2020). He is editor of two books and author of some scientific articles.

Dr. Eljon Doçe

Discovering a New Migjeni, Under the Light of Textual Reading

Abstract

This paper takes into consideration Migjeni's work, especially his prose, from a completely textual perspective so as to set a new relationship in the studying of this author.

Migjeni's work, first because of his early death and his interesting short physical life, and second because of the political and historical reasons after 1945 in Albania, was mostly studied, if not entirely, according to the author's biography and according to the interests that the communist power had to use literature and art in general as an important part of their direct political agenda.

Despite that Migjeni did not have the same fate as the excommunicated writers from the Albanian literature canon, he was actually one of the main writers in the Albanian literature hierarchy, only because of the fact that the reasons for this appreciation were almost completely contextual, this makes us rethink about the real reasons he should still be in this literary hierarchy, but now for a different reason, which should be first of all a textual reason.

A lot of Migjeni's textual characteristics, like the fact that he expressed his artistic reality in a short prose type, which at that time was not so popular; the fact that his narrative was very, and in some cases, extremely fragmented; his parodic narration and sometimes even his blasphemic topics and above all his tendency to deconstruct, layer by layer all the previous aesthetic, mostly romantic, literary patterns needs to be considered again because all these traits in his work, that traditionally were considered mostly as "additional characteristics", from a deep textual reading, appear to be actually fundamental characteristics.

Short CV

Eljon Doçe has studied Language and Literature at the University of Tirana. He took his Bachelor degree studies (2005-2008) and his Masters of Science (2008-2010). In 2010, he started working at the Department of Literature, University of Tirana. Eljon Doçe completed his doctoral studies and took his doctoral degree in 2014, with his dissertation on Migjeni's short prose poetic. During the period 2014-2016, Doçe worked as an invited professor at the Department of Language, at the University of Belgrade, teaching Albanian Language and Albanian Literature. His teaching subjects and research interests include Balkan Literature, Rhetoric and Metric and Textual Semiotics.

Ervina Halili

The Publishing House Rilindja and the Formation of a Codified Language

Abstract

The presentation aims at presenting a brief overview of the formation of a shared literary communicative discourse. Such discourse was established by writers published by the publishing house Rilindja, and it mirrored the social and political circumstances within which this enterprise has operated as the Organ of the Socialist League of The Working People for Kosovo and Metohija.

The newspaper Rilindja, as the Organ of the Joint National Liberation front, was first published on 12 December 1945. Such publication came at a period when Kosovo had now become part of the joint Yugoslavian war against Germany, whilst within Kosovo itself, fierce conflicts among armed groups were taking place aiming at the principle of the second league of Prizren to return the northern part of Kosovo and to join Albania. Some

months following the first published newspaper, during the communist assembly held in July 1945 in Prizren, Kosovo was declared an integral part of Serbia within Yugoslavia, a decision preceding another armed conflict between the Yugoslavian nationalist and partisan movements Kosovo. Following this conflict, which concluded with the Tivar massacre, Enver Hoxha proclaims that Albania does not have an interest in Kosovo and that Kosovo should focus its political interests within Yugoslavia.

In the meantime, Rilindja – the sole medium in the Albanian language in Kosovo, initially issued in four pages and twice per week due to the lack of typography in the Albanian language and staff – proliferated once transferred to Prishtina becoming a daily newspaper, the Organ of the Socialist League of The Working People for Kosovo and Metohija. Considering that it increased the social shares, courses, schools and literary and journalistic activity, it gathered several figures interested in literature who would come together under the magazine Jeta e Re. Consequently, the first literary group in Kosovo was established, which would publish in the Albanian language, mainly in the frame of the Yugoslavian propaganda, socialist lyric and missionary texts for the proletariat. However, these literary motifs would change due to the changes in Yugoslavia and Albania's political relations. In 1960, the Revolutionary Movement for Uniting with Albanian had already been established, and numerous Albanian intellectuals from Kosovo were imprisoned, including Adem Demaçi. These groups that operated illegally and with some of its members part of the Rilindja entity itself would influence a new literary language transforming the missionary literature from a proletariat language into a language of symbols and codes that communicated in the frame of the inherited collective memory of the folklore, and national motifs. Analyzing such a language in the frame of the development context of the Rilindja Enterprise mirroring the political and social events in Kosovo would enable understanding if such allegorical language had been engaged or whether it was formed automatically due to the risk of eradication of an ethnic identity being adapted within the Yugoslavian identity unification. This language even takes on a more metonymic form following the death of J.B. Tito and the outburst of protests by students of the University of Prishtina that would take on the dimensions of nationwide population demonstrations, on what occasion the employees of Rilindja gave up the membership records of the Yugoslav communist party.

Short CV

Ervina Halili is a writer and scholar from Prishtina, Kosovo. She has collected and assembled the lost archive of the publishing house Rilindja in Kosovo and has formed a private fund of archival materials of post- World War II Kosovo Albanian writers. Her studies are focused on collective behavior projected through art and literature while her literary concepts display the themes of subconscious and dreams. She has published her first book in 2004 while in 2015 she has been awarded the Annual National Award in Literature “The Slumber of Octopus” is her first book published in German. She has been a guest of many literature houses including IHAG Austria, Landys and Gyr- Swizerland, Pen Sarajevo - Bosnia Krokodile -Belgrade, and part of many international anthologies for contemporary literature.

Yll Rugova

Punchcutting of Two Original Albanian Alphabets from the 18th and 19th Century

Abstract

In the period spanning from the end of the 17th century, to the end of the 19th century there were at least 10 original alphabets for writing the Albanian language. As far as we know, only two of them are cut into type for usage in print. In 1847 the typographer Alois Auer exhibited punches cut for typefaces of 200 distinct alphabets for different languages. One of them was the Albanian alphabet of Naum Veqilharxhi, thus being the first original Albanian alphabet to be cut in type known to date. In 1851, there was another set of typographical letters cut for an Albanian original alphabet of Theodor Haxhifilipi, that was added to the impressive collection of typefaces created for the Austrian Imperial Printing House, that Alois Auer was running as its director. While Auer's "comparative table of alphabets" was mentioned by scholars studying both Naum Vexhilharxhi, and Theodor Haxhifilipi, his work on Albanian alphabets was never in reality examined, and thus overlooked. In this presentation we will try to shed some new light on the first typographer to develop typefaces for two original Albanian alphabets, and to see the types he has developed.

Short CV

Yll Rugova (1984) is a graphic designer, typographer and social activist. Has a master's degree in Graphic Design at the University of Prishtina. He has lectured on graphic communication at the UBT College in Prishtina. In 2005, he founded Trembelat, a design group. Furthermore, he served on the board of REDO International Design Conference in Prishtina. As social activist, he is one of the founders of the satirical Strong Party, a devoted advocate for secularism, creative commons, feminism and political reform in Kosovo. In 2018 and 2019, he was appointed as Director for Culture at the Municipality of Prishtina, and as Deputy Minister of Culture, Youth, and Sports.

Zsófia Turóczy

From Rilindja to Pop Culture: The Poem "O moj Shqypni" as an Albanian Memory Side

Abstract

The Poem "O moj Shqypni" (1878-1880) written by Pashko Vasa is one of the most influential work in the Albanian literature as well as in the intellectual and political history of the Albanians (Endresen 2011: 39). Especially the last words *Feja e shqyptarit asht shqyptarija* (The faith of the Albanian is Albanianism) has been interpreted and reinterpreted many times and has been used as a political, cultural or even religious argument – e.g. by the League of Prizren, Enver Hoxha, the Kosovo Liberation Army and recently by the pop singer Elvana Gjata. Thus, the poem has been a "fix point of the past" (Assman 2004) that it has become a part of the collective memory of the Albanian nation. Following Pierre Nora's concept of *lieux de mémoire* (Nora 1998: XVII), I consider the poem a place of remembrance of which (re)interpretations show how the

community thinks about its past and itself. In Albania, there seems to have been no discussion about Nora's concept yet. Nor has the poem been the topic of the few studies on Albanian culture of remembrance (Brunnbauer & Pichler 2002; Roche 2014) so far. In my presentation, I focus on the following questions: (1) What is the relation between the remembrance of the poem "O moj Shqipni" and the poem itself, (2) what are the functions of the poem regarding the collective memory and identity construction and (3) can Nora's concept be transferred to Albania? The last question can of course only be answered provisionally and with limited scope on the basis of a single example.

Short CV

Zsófia Turóczy is a PhD Candidate at the Department "Comparative Cultural and Social History" of the Leipzig University. In her thesis she investigates "Freemason Networks in South Eastern Europe (1886-1920)". Before starting her PhD, she graduated from "South Eastern European Studies", at the Friedrich-Schiller University in Jena (2015). She holds two further Master's degrees, one in "Arts in German Language and Literature" (2011) and Master of "Arts in Hungarian Language and Literature" (2009) at the Eötvös Loránd University in Budapest. Her fields of interest include Freemason networks, culture of remembrance, public image and self-image in the media and literature and Critical Discourse Analysis with focus on South Eastern Europe.

Jeta Abazi Gashi

Secularity from the Lenses of the Online Media (2009-2019). Kosovo and Albania

Abstract

Albanians have their own special way for treating religion and national identity. Non-religious identity has been promoted and well cultivated in the culture and the politics of Kosovo and Albania. Despite their similar cultural and historical intermixing, they share different social and political past. Secularism is also designed differently. This thesis investigates the role of religion in post conflict situation for Kosovo and Albania (2009-2019). It is a combination of institutional framework analysis (1), interviews with religious leaders in both countries (2) and the Critical Discourse Analysis for discursive construction of national identities by national leaders, religious and intellectuals of other social domains. The discussion on 'radical Islam' and the involvement of Albanians in the foreign conflict countries has affected the results. Overall analysis suggests that not only there are inter differences and not static construction of what people say about the national identity but there are multiple forms of secularity used by both religious and non-religious elites.

Short CV

Jeta Abazi Gashi is currently about to complete her PhD studies in Faculty of History at the University of Leipzig. She has used the opportunity of this study period to do her Research Visit, in the Department of Geography and Territories of the École Normale Supérieure (ENS) in Paris. Since 2012 she has worked as a teaching assistant at the Journalism Department, University of Prishtina. She also worked as an investigative

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Ferdi Kamberi

Religious Tolerance as an Antagonism of Religious Fundamentalism - The Case of Kosovo

Abstract

In Kosovo, religious tolerance is a bridge between the various ethnic groups living in Kosovo, and it is an important value of the Albanian nation that has inherited it from the past of national renaissance. Religious fundamentalism, as the first stage of violent extremism and radicalism, can be seen as a contradiction between religious tolerance and destructiveness, destroying the values of religious harmony that have existed for hundreds of years. This paper analyzes the role of religious tolerance as the opposite of religious fundamentalism, the role of the state in relation to dissatisfied religious groups, religious communities and their position, as well as the future of religion in the Kosovar context. The results are based on the study of research that is complemented by quantitative research with a sample of 500 respondents in Kosovo. The results of the research show that the tendencies of religious fundamentalism in Kosovo have been the starting point of citizens' participation in foreign wars and have fluctuated the religious tolerance built centuries ago. Some factors of the appearance of religious fundamentalism have been social organization after 1999, rules of behaviour, social change of value systems, the protracted transition, socio-economic factors, and the lack of visa liberalization, the influence of the Internet and the influence of non-governmental organizations. One strategy to prevent religious fundamentalism in Kosovo was the enactment of the law on Prohibition of joining the armed conflicts outside state territory, draft law on freedom of religion in Kosovo, public awareness and inter-religious dialogue.

Short CV

Ferdi Kamberi is a PhD candidate at the University of Prishtina, a member of the Association of Sociologists of Kosovo. He works at the Ministry of the Local Government Administration. Certified in the USAID & AUK - R.I.T program related to Public Policy Development and Leadership and Trainer certified by KIPA & GIZ in the Design and Management of Public Policy of European Integration. He published several scientific articles with impact factors in international and regional journals and is the author of the books "The Fundamentalism of the Great Monotheistic Religions and Globalism", 2016 and "The Dilemmas of Transition", 2019. His research interests include sociology of religion, media, community development and local governance.