

60th International Academic Week 2022

Return Migration and its Consequences in Southeastern Europe



Photo: Participants of the 59th International Academic Week 2021 ©Beate Winterer/Akademie für Politische Bildung

Date: 3–7 October 2022

Venue: Akademie für Politische Bildung, Tutzing (upon invitation only) / Online via Zoom

Conference Language: English and German

Conference committee:

Dr. Lumnije Jusufi, Department of Geography, Faculty of History and Philology, University of Tirana / Institut für Slawistik und Hungarologie, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin

Prof. Dr. Jasna Čapo, Institute of Ethnology and Folklore Research, Zagreb

Prof. Dr. Rozita Dimova, Center for Advanced and Interdisciplinary Studies, Ss. Cyril and Methodius University, Skopje

The International Academic Week is the Southeast Europe Association's (Südosteuropa-Gesellschaft – SOG) annual key event to bring together early-career researchers (MA/ PhD/ Post-Doc levels) and experienced scholars from all over Europe and beyond to present and discuss their research on the region. As always, it will take place in cooperation with the Akademie für Politische Bildung at the beautiful Lake Starnberg in Tutzing (and partially online) from 3-7 October 2022. The conference language will be English and German.

This year's conference is hosted by Lumnije Jusufi (Tirana/Berlin), Jasna Čapo (Zagreb), and Rozita Dimova (Skopje) and will focus on the topic of return migration and its consequences for Southeastern Europe.

PROGRAM

MONDAY, 3 OCTOBER 2022

16:45

Welcome Addresses

Manuel Sarrazin, President, Southeast Europe Association

Beate Winterer, Akademie für Politische Bildung, Tutzing

17:00

Award Ceremony: Best Master Thesis in Southeast European Studies

Laudatio:

Jun.-Prof. Dr. Valeska Bopp-Filimonov, Friedrich-Schiller-Universität Jena

Award Winner:

Jeremy Wölbling (Tübingen): Die Schmach von Trianon: Karten und Karikaturen in Ungarn im Dienst der territorialen Revisionsbestrebungen (1920-1938)

17:15

Introduction by the Conference Committee

Lumnije Jusufi (Tirana/Berlin)

Jasna Čapo (Zagreb)

Rozita Dimova (Skopje)

17:45

Keynote

Daniel Göler (Bamberg): Remigration. Theorien, Konzepte, Erkenntnisse

18:30

Reception

08:15

Breakfast

09:00 - 10:30

Panel 1: Theories and the Geopolitics of Migration Governance

The panel addresses return migration in its multifarious forms and its past and present occurrences. The concept has complex meanings. It denotes a simple physical return to the country of origin or of ancestry. When it is referred to as 'homecoming' it connotes a certain finality and completion of a migration cycle. That concept also implies that 'home' is unique and to be found solely in the country of origin or ancestry. 'Repatriation', on the other hand, has been used to point to large scale population transfers that have followed major political upheavals in Europe throughout the 20th century. Return is shaped by micro, meso, and macro-level factors and can be leveraged to serve specific geopolitical goals in migration governance.

Chair: **Jasna Čapo** (Zagreb)

Panelists:

Nicole Immig (Gießen): Homecoming - Returning - Repatriation: Theoretical Approaches to Remigration in Greece

Eda Gemi (Tirana): Rethinking Return and Mobility in Southeast Europe: Multiple Trajectories of Second-Generation Albanians from Greece and Italy

Zana Vathi (Ormskirk/Lancashire): Return Migration in Shifting Geopolitics: A Different View on Key Stakeholders (*online*)

10:30

Coffee Break

11:00 - 12:30

Panel 2: Historical Research Revisited

The panel takes a comparative look at concepts and experiences of return in Eastern Europe from a temporal perspective. It shows that particularly strong return dynamics developed in the region since the 19th century. It analyses similarities and differences in return practices between two historical periods – the break-up of the empires at the end of the 19th century/beginning of the 20th century and the break-up of the communist states in the 1990s. It also gives examples from the period in-between: one presentation will review the legal provisions related to emigration and return in the Kingdom of Yugoslavia between the two world wars and another one will highlight a particular case of intra-Yugoslav migration in the socialist period (after WW II). That particular migration prefigures circular, transmigratory and transnational patterns of back-and-forth mobility between the region of origin and settlement.

Chair: **Jasna Čapo** (Zagreb)

Panelists:

Robert Pichler (Wien): Visions and Realities of Return in the Wake of Imperial Transition. A Diachronic Analysis of Return Migration in Post-Socialist Europe

Darija Hofgräff Marić (Zagreb): Rückkehrgründe und Schutzebene in der Zeit der Österreichisch-Ungarischen Monarchie und des Königreichs der Serben, Kroaten und Slowenen – Königreich Jugoslawien (*Online*)

12:30

Lunch

14:00 - 15:30

Panel 3: From Permanent Return to a Transnational Mode of Life

Transmigration is not only a phenomenon of contemporary global processes. In Southeastern Europe, it is firmly entrenched in traditional local cultures of temporary migration (known as gurbet or pečalba), which was originally a male phenomenon. How have these practices been changing with the passage of time and influencing family arrangements in the Balkans? How has the old concept of return as a permanent reverse movement been affected by these changes and evolving toward an understanding and practice of return as a more flexible and reversible movement which does not cut off ties with the state/locality of immigration but, instead, uses them to forge transnational entrepreneurship? The panel will also delve into the concept of “self-voluntary” as opposed to “voluntary” return.

Chair: **Rozita Dimova** (Skopje)

Panelists:

Karolina Bielenin-Lenczowska (Warsaw): Changes in Migration Patterns, Plans for Future Mobilities – Is It Still Pečalba?

Ivaylo Markov (Sofia): Life Trajectories of Re-Migrant Entrepreneurs in the Balkans. From Return Migration to Transnational Mode of Life

Lumnije Kadriu (Prishtina): Self-Voluntary “Permanent” Return Migration in Post-War Kosovo

15:30

Coffee Break

16:00 - 17:30

Panel 4: Complexities and Challenges of Return Migration

Return migration is more often than not wrought with ambiguities and challenges. The presentations in this panel analyse these complexities in various contexts and circumstances of return. We will see how ethnic boundaries get reshaped by transnational mobility and return in multi-ethnic communities in Romania. A neglected phenomenon of forced return of 2nd generation migrants is discussed in another presentation. It shows how the deportation from Germany affects the lives of the descendants of Turkish migrants, who are forced to return to the country of their ancestors, in which they have never lived before. Finally, follow-up research among Albanian returnees discusses the factors that push returnees to remigrate after several years.

Chair: **Jasna Čapo** (Zagreb)

Panelists:

Remus Gabriel Anghel (Bucharest) / **Ovidiu Oltean** (Cluj-Napoca): Ethnicity and Boundary Making in Transnational Return. Prestige, Claims Making and Struggle in Multi-Ethnic Romania

Nilay Kılınc (Helsinki): The Deportation of the Second-Generation Turkish 'Migrants' from Germany to Turkey: Reflections on De-Facto Citizenship, Masculinities and Belonging

Kalie Kërpaçi / **Martin Kuka** (Durrës): A Step Forward or a Step Backward: The Re-migration of Albanian Returned Migrants

18:30

Dinner

08:15

Breakfast

09:00 - 10:30

Panel 5: Chances and Opportunities of Return Migration – Part 1

This panel examines migrants and returnees in different temporal and ideological frameworks. The papers pay special attention to socialist Yugoslavia and the post-socialist contexts of Albania and the former Yugoslav republics. What was the role of migrants and the returnees for the overall Yugoslav modernization? Why did the crucial role of migrants remain unacknowledged? The different “geographies of belonging” reveal the migrants’ conceptualizations of space, belonging and home for the people on the move, and the effect national migration policies create on individual lives. The second part of the panel will emphasize the gendered aspect of return migration and the role of women on social and economic developments in the countries of return, as well as the extraordinary obstacles women face as they attempt to engender social empowerment and change.

Chair: **Lumnije Jusufi** (Tirana/Berlin)

Panelists:

Dhimitër Doka (Tirana): ReEMigration in Albanien – Von der Emigration zur Remigration und vice versa?

Sara Žerić (Regensburg): Factories Built on Deutschmark. Yugoslav Gastarbeiter Investments in Creating Jobs in Homeland

Julia Anna Schranz (Wien): Moving Back and Forth or Not at All? Travel and Transmigration in the Context of the Post-Yugoslav Wars

10:30

Coffee Break

11:00 - 12:30

Panel 5: Chances and Opportunities of Return Migration – Part 2

Chair: **Rozita Dimova** (Skopje)

Panelists:

Carolin Leutloff-Grandits (Frankfurt (Oder)): Capital and Connections Across Borders: Migrant Entrepreneurs, Families and State Policies in Kosovo and Serbia

Oliana Sula (Durrës): Factors of Human Capital Accumulation of Women Entrepreneurs Returned Migrants in Albania

Marsida Tafilica (Shkodër): Entrepreneurship by Albanian Return Migrants

12:30

Excursion to Munich

08:15

Breakfast

09:00 - 10:30

Panel 6: Material and Social Remittances

As return migrations implicate different groups and occur under different circumstances, they have various effects on returnees themselves as well as on the relationship between migrants/returnees and non-migrants in the societies of return. How does return transform migrants' own identities, social relationships and a sense of place? The relationship between the locals ("the established") and the emigrants/return migrants ("the outsiders," cf. Scotson and Elias 1965) is no longer conceived as a conflict-free interaction. What shapes does it take? What dependencies are the outcome? How do the countries of origin relate to their migrants/return migrants and their plans or return? What measures were put in place by the states to assist return planning in the period of the global pandemic that brought about business and border closures? What challenges does COVID-19 bring for (return) migrants and for the states?

Chair: **Rozita Dimova** (Skopje)

Panelists:

Mila Maeva (Sofia): Transnationalism of Left-Behind**Lidija Stojanović-Lafazanovska** (Skopje): In Between: Change of Mentality or Tearing of Habitus**Janine Pinkow-Läpple** (Halle (Saale)) / **Judith Möllers** (Halle (Saale)): The Transformative Power of Migration: The Case of Highly Skilled Female Return Migrants in Kosovo

10:30

Coffee Break

11:00 - 12:30

Panel 7: Planning Return, Motives and Expectations

Return often does not show itself as a "return" to the old life and to the old homeland. Often this is associated with the greatest and most diverse difficulties, which frequently prevent emigrants from returning. These problems change in time, space and emigration duration, but the bottom line is that they remain. What do these difficulties look like? How do those affected deal with them? What are the affected states doing to mitigate these difficulties? Are they doing anything at all? And how did the pandemic exacerbate these problems? The speakers address these research questions through case studies in this panel.

Chair: **Lumnije Jusufi** (Tirana/Berlin)

Panelists:

Samir Beharić (Bamberg) / **Azra Berbić** (Sarajevo) / **Denis Šarić** (Berlin): Bosnian Students Abroad in the Time of Pandemic: A Global Overview**Dragana Antonijević** (Belgrade) / **Miloš Rašić** (Belgrade): Return Migrations to Serbia: Realistic Expectations or Wishful Thinking**Mladen Zobec** (Graz): Conditions of Transgenerational Return: The Case of Confectioners from Polog (1945-1991)

12:30

Lunch

14:00 - 15:30

Panel 8: Objects, Goods and Commodities: Circulation and Migratory Paths

This panel explores the multiple trajectories in which material objects embark as they accompany people on the move. As part of consumption practices, commodities become markers of people's social status. As part of migratory experiences however objects embody symbolic vigour bypassing the commodified value of an item. These objects are therefore saturated with affects related to notions of home and homeland. This agency of objects to create sense of home, familiarity and belonging profoundly marks the migratory experience of those who migrate short or long distances in different timeframes. Based on ethnographic research, the papers in this panel highlight different relations between people and material objects as they are caught in an indefinite web of mobility and transgression of borders and boundaries.

Chair: **Rozita Dimova** (Skopje)

Panelists:

Zaira Lofranco (Milan): Changing temporalities in return patterns and everyday debt economy in Bosnia and Herzegovina (*Online*)

Anna Zadrozna (Oslo): Food, Borders and Belonging: Embodying Familiarity in Post-Ottoman Lands

15:30

Coffee Break

16:00 – 18:15

Panel 9: Cultural, Linguistic and Literary Transfer

Through their presence and interactions, their active and diverse transfers, but sometimes also through withdrawal from any form of presence or interaction (negative transfer), return migrants transform the countries of origin at various cultural and linguistic levels. What can we observe in the language and literature with respect to migration/return contexts? What influence does migration have on the language of people and literary works of authors with migration experience? These questions will be raised based on case studies.

Chair: **Lumnije Jusufi** (Tirana/Berlin)

Panelists:

Ivana Pajić (Novi Sad): Die (Re-)Semiotisierung von Herkunftsräumen in den Werken von deutschschreibenden Autor*innen mit Wurzeln aus dem Raum des ehemaligen Jugoslawiens

Mirko Milivojević (Belgrade): The Figuration of Home and Return in Recent Post-Yugoslav Literature

Blerita Ismajli (Prishtina): Zwischen Emigration und Remigration – Chancen für die deutsche Sprache in Kosovo

Aleksandra Ščukanec (Zagreb): Die Sprache und Identität von Kroaten in Österreich: Burgenlandkroaten vs. neue(re) Generationen von kroatischen Migrant*innen

18:30

Dinner

08:15

Breakfast

09:00-10:30

Round Table: Going Back and Looking Further

Return migration is a multifaceted concept. Return plans and practices are dynamic activities that constantly adapt to the changing migration politics and policies, social and economic circumstances in the countries of origin or settlement as well as to the immediate crises and events in the life of the migrant himself/herself and his/her family. Return migration can have various effects on returnees themselves as well as on the relationship between migrants/returnees and non-migrants in the societies of return.

The discussion therefore aims at contrasting the affective aspect of the decision to return and juxtaposing it with the national and international regulations that facilitate or prevent a smooth resettlement. The roundtable will feature persons of public interest who have been through the experience of remigration, practitioners from Germany who are involved in assisting in the resettlement process to another country, as well as academics who critically deal with the concept of mobility and return migration. Key questions that will be discussed are the following: What are the main reasons for deciding to re-settle in one's native country after years spent abroad? What are the hurdles on this way of re-migration on both sides of the spectrum in the context of Southeastern Europe? Which instruments exist to facilitate the process of return and how effective are they? How do the countries of origin deal with the integration of the returnees?

Opening Remarks:

Prof. Dr. Ursula Münch, Director, Akademie für Politische Bildung, Tutzing

Dr. Christian Hagemann, Executive Director, Southeast Europe Association

Panelists:

H.E. Liza Gashi, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs and Diaspora of the Republic of Kosovo

Corinna Wicher, Director, Directorate-General 7 Security, Law on Residence, and Returns, German Federal Office for Migration and Refugees

Dr. Nilay Kılınc, Postdoctoral Research Fellow, University of Helsinki

Samir Beharić, Ph.D. Candidate, Otto-Friedrich-Universität Bamberg

Moderation: **Prof. Dr. Rozita Dimova**, University of Skopje

10:30 – 11:00

Coffee Break

11:00 - 12:00

Final Panel: Results, Closing Words and Conclusion

All conference participants

Conference committee: **Lumnije Jusufi, Jasna Čapo, Rozita Dimova**

Akademie für Politische Bildung

Southeast Europe Association

12:30

Lunch

13:30 Departure of participants

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Institutionell gefördert
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*Institutionally supported
by the German Federal
Foreign Office.*