

## Хроника Currents Actualités

**The Sixth Conference of the International Association for Southeast European Anthropology (InASEA). SOUTHEAST EUROPEAN (POST)MODERNITIES Regensburg: 28 April – 1 May 2011.**

International conference entitled "Southeast European (Post)Modernities" took place in Regensburg, Germany, in the period of April 28 – May 1, 2011. The Conference organizers were the International Association for Southeast European Anthropology (InASEA), University of Regensburg, and Southeast Institute, Germany. This meeting represented the sixth biannual InASEA conference, after the meetings in Sofia, Bulgaria (2000), Graz, Austria (2003), Belgrade, Serbia (2005), Timisoara, Romania (2007), and Ankara, Turkey (2009).

The aim of the Conference was to facilitate the presentation of the research results and discussions on contemporary changes that have come about in the southeast European societies, especially about the cultural aspects of post-socialism. This exchange was to take place between scientists of different human and social disciplines, such as ethnology and anthropology, folklore, history, sociology, and political sciences. The practical aim has been the establishment of mutual ties between researchers from the region of southeastern Europe with the colleagues from other parts of the world that share their interest for the understand-

ing of phenomena and processes of (post)modernity in southeastern Europe.

Call for papers for the conference, sent out in the spring of 2010, resulted in a wide interest of scientists from different academic, research and cultural institutions dealing with the region. At the InASEA Executive Committee meeting, held on October 8-9, 2010 in Regensburg, from the 170 submitted abstracts, 150 were selected for presentation at the conference, and they were from the following countries: Albania, Austria, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, France, Germany, Great Britain, Greece, Macedonia, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia, Spain, Turkey, US.

The Sixth InASEA Conference, "Southeast European (Post)Modernities", took place at the School of Philosophy of the University of Regensburg in the presence of about 140 researchers, of which 120 were paper-presenters. The ceremonial opening of the conference took place on Thursday, 28 April, in the late afternoon. The participants were welcomed by Prof. Ingrid Neumann-Holzschuh, the Vice-Rector for International Affairs of the University of Regensburg, and Prof. Ulf Brunnbauer, the President of InASEA, after which invited lecture "Dilemmas of Bulgarian Popfolk: Roma, Modernity, and Exoticism" was given by Prof. Carol Silverman from the University of Oregon, US.

The Conference sessions started in the morning of 29 April, with two plenary

lectures. First, entitled "Can Reflection of Modernity be Modern Again in Post-Post-modern Southeast Europe?" was held by Prof. Slobodan Naumović from the University of Belgrade, Serbia, and the second, entitled "From Pre-Modern Kurbet to Post-Modern Transnationalism" was given by Prof. Vassilis Nitsiakos, from the University of Ioannina, Greece.

The main part of the Conference took place within five or six parallel sessions. This part began on 29 April at 11:00 and finished on 1 May at 11:00. The papers on the following themes were presented: urban heritage and transformations of the cities; political and social identities; labor, time and calculation; religion, state and national identity; revival of religious festivities and new forms of religiosity; migrations and social processes; new power configurations and resistance; remembering communism; gender relations, marriage and family; youth cultures and lifestyles; common law traditions; consumption; photography and modernity; mediascapes and local community; the Western Balkans in the process of EU-enlargement; and Imagining "Europe". The papers were presented (in 20-minute slots) in English (predominantly), French, and German, the official languages of InASEA.

On Saturday, 30 May, in the afternoon, the InASEA General Assembly took place, at which the President's two-year report, the Vice-President's report on the Political Anthropology Network start up activities, and the report of Vesna Vučinić-Nešković on the current World Council of Anthropological Associations (WCAA) projects were presented. Also, the new InASEA Executive Committee was chosen, the idea of constituting the Advisory Committee was revived, the deadlines for the papers to be submitted for *Ethnologia Balkanica* were

announced, and the venue of the next conference was discussed.

At this occasion, after the presentation of the nominated members and the voting, the new InASEA Executive Committee was chosen. From the previous EC, three members did not want to stand for nomination again, i.e., Prof. Ulf Brunnbauer (University of Regensburg), Dr. Damiana Otoiu (University of Bucharest), and Prof. Vesna Vučinić-Nešković (University of Belgrade). Their places were taken by new members, i.e. Dr. Jennifer Cash (Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology), Dr. Carolin Leutlof-Granditz (University of Graz), and Prof. Saša Nedeljković (University of Belgrade). At the same time, four members of the earlier EC were reelected, those being Prof. Klaus Roth (University of Munich), Prof. Evgenia Krasteva-Blagoeva (New Bulgarian University, Sofia), Prof. Asker Kartari (Kadir Has University), and Dr. Ioannis Manos (University of Western Macedonia in Florina).

The Conference was attended by 15 participants from Serbia, mainly from the Ethnographic Institute of the Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts, Faculty of Philosophy of the University of Belgrade, Ethnographic Museum in Belgrade, and other academic and research institutions.

It is worthwhile mentioning that the Round Table on the "State of Affairs in Anthropology, Ethnology and Folklore in Southeastern Europe" was organized for the first time as the concluding plenary session (on Sunday, 1 May). The organizer of this event was Prof. Vesna Vučinić-Nešković, in cooperation with Prof. Klaus Roth. The incentive for this event was born out of the discussions at the World Council of Anthropological Associations meetings, where Prof. Vučinić-Nešković represents InASEA, as

well as the realization that anthropologists in southeastern Europe know very little about the institutional and professional circumstances in the neighboring countries. As groundwork for the Round Table, the participants were to send in answers to a lengthy standardized questionnaire prepared by the organizers, as well as to write a Summary, to be presented at the Conference.

According to the previously determined concept, participation in the discussion was ordained to the representatives of the southeast European countries in which ethnology and anthropology are institutionally most developed, and from which InASEA has had the most numerous membership. Thus, the Round Table participants were (according to the alphabetical order of the country they came from) the following: Armanda Hysa from Albania, Dr. Ana Luleva (in the absence of Prof. Evgenia Krasteva-Blagoeva, who wrote the text) from Bulgaria, Dr. Ioannis Manos from Greece, Prof. Jasna Čapo-Zmegač from Croatia, Dr. Stefan Dorondel from Romania, Dr. Vlado Kotnik from Slovenia, Dr. Aleksandra Pavićević (as the coauthor of the text with V. Vučinić-Nešković), and Prof. Asker Kartari from Turkey. After a short presentation of each country, a fruitful discussion developed, in which the authors themselves, but also other participants of the Conference who were intrigued by the themes related to the challenges and problems of our discipline in different national contexts, got involved. The conversation was moderated by Prof. Roth and Prof. Vučinić-Nešković. Two basic questions were opened at this occasion, those were: (1) In which ways the institutional constellations reflect theoretical and methodological approaches to the discipline(s), another words, are we talking about the cooperation or the

distancing between sub-disciplines (ethnology, anthropology, folklore)?, and (2) Are our disciplines relevant for the contemporary society and politics, thus do they deserve to be financially supported? The conclusion was that these themes are significant, and need to remain open for the future InASEA meetings. The Summaries presented at the Round Table will be published in one of the two next issues of *Ethnologia Balkanica*.

The Conference program and the abstracts were placed at the conference website (<http://www-ge-i.kfunigraz.ac.at/inasea/conference6.html>) and published in the Book of Abstracts. The papers selected according to the blind review process will be published in the next two issues of *Ethnologia Balkanica* (Vol. 15 and 16), the annual journal of InASEA, of which the main editor is Prof. Klaus Roth.

During the three conference days, beside the formal exchange of scientific results and experiences, the participants had a chance to interact during the coffee breaks organized in the building of the School of Philosophy. Socializing continued in the evening hours. The first conference day, after the ceremonial opening, a welcome reception was organized in the Uni-Pizzeria restaurant on the university campus. Also, the third day, the participants were invited to a conference dinner in the traditional beerhouse called Kneitinger-Keller.

The Sixth InASEA Conference was organized with the involvement of a significant number of individuals and institutions. The Conference Program Committee comprised of the members of the InASEA Executive Committee, headed by its president, Prof. Ulf Brunnbauer, and those were: Prof. Evgenia Krasteva-Blagoeva (New Bulgarian University, Sofia), Prof. Asker Kartari (Kadir Has University, Istanbul), Dr. Ioannis Manos

(University of Western Macedonia, Florina), Dr. Damiana Otoiu (University of Bucharest), Prof. Klaus Roth (University of Munich), and Prof. Vesna Vučinić-Nešković (University of Belgrade). The Conference Organization Committee, again headed by Prof. Ulf Brunnbauer, of which the members were the graduate students at the Department of History of the University of Regensburg, led by Bastian Vergnon, were efficient and sincere hosts.

The conference on Southeast European (Post)Modernities was supported by: German Research Foundation (Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft, DFG), University of Regensburg, and University Foundation Hans Vielberth (Universitätsstiftung Hans Vielberth). Owing to the generous financial support of these institutions, all the participants from southeastern Europe had their travel and accommodation costs covered. This already established practice of InASEA significantly adds to the degree of participation of the scientists from the region, who otherwise cannot find sufficient funding for attending the conferences abroad.

**Prof. dr Vesna Vučinić-Nešković**  
InASEA Advisory Board member  
InASEA representative in WCAA

**Knowledge and Value in a Globalizing World: Disentangling Dichotomies, Querying Unities. IUAES/AAS/ASAANZ Conference, 5-8/7/2011, Perth, Australia.**

An international conference entitled "Knowledge and Value in a Globalising World: Disentangling Dichotomies, Querying Unities" took place in Perth, Western Australia, on July 5-8 2011. The organizers of the conference were the International Union of Anthropological and

Ethnological Sciences (IUAES), the Australian Anthropological Society (AAS), and the Association of Social Anthropologists of Aotearoa/New Zealand (ASAANZ). This meeting functioned as one of the IUAES Inter-Congresses, which take place in-between two major international congresses, in this case, the previous one that took place in Kunming, China (2009), and the next that will take place in Manchester, Great Britain (2013). At the same time, it was the second joint congress of the Australian and New Zealand anthropological associations, as well as the largest in the region of the Southwest Pacific so far.

The conference "Knowledge and Value in a Globalising World" was hosted by the Anthropology and Sociology Discipline of the University of Western Australia. The pre-conference events that took place on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July comprised a native title workshop in the afternoon and in the evening the AAS Distinguished Public Lecture of Prof. Tim Rowse "Themes in the History of Indigenous Political Thought", followed by an opening reception in the Perth Cultural Centre. The conference opening took place on the morning of 5 July, when the welcome speeches were given by the conference committee chair, Prof. Nick Harney, and conference convener Dr. Greg Acciaioli. A special "welcome to country" was performed by Dr. Richard Wallely, a recognized leader of Indigenous arts in Australia and a renowned musician. He addressed the conference participants in the Noongar language of his elders and performed music on the didgeridoo. The conference continued for four days, whereby the concurrent sessions were preceded or followed by invited lectures. The two keynote addresses were given by Prof. Jean Comaroff on "Theory from the South: or, How Europe is