

Post-Yugoslav Identity Negotiations in Diaspora Settings: Biographical Narration among Academics of Serbian Origin in Baden-Württemberg

Authors : Dragana Bubulj

Abstract : The Former Republic of Yugoslavia was a sort of protective umbrella, a unique concept of gathering different ethnical, cultural, and religious identities, as well as diverse intersections of those. After 43-months long civil war and states disintegration in 1995, which resulted in 5 post-Yugoslav countries, Yugoslav Diaspora experienced radical changes. In Germany, one of the countries with the highest percentage of Yugoslav emigration, segregation on ethno-national grounds was empowered by the outbreak of the conflict: firstly on a socio-cultural level, and followed by changes on the level of institutional organizing. Psycho-emotional and financial involvement of Diaspora into the war is also not to be neglected. People of Serbian origin have been additionally overstrained with the designation of Serbs as war criminals in German media and the public sphere. In this way, the path from 'being a Yugoslav' toward 'becoming a Serb', outside nowadays Serbia, has been qualitatively different in comparison to potential identity shiftings experienced by other members of Former Yugoslav population. This paper is part of an ongoing PhD research and tackles biographical narratives of academics of Serbian origin in one German region. Paper addresses processes of post-Yugoslav identity negotiations in Diaspora settings, nationalistic tendencies among second generation youth, and discusses - based on NS-references founded in collected data - question of historicity of biographies.

Keywords : biography, diaspora, ethnography, former republic of Yugoslavia, identity

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