

COMPLETED DOCTORAL DISSERTATION

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The new boundary: everyday practices of urban and domestic space in post-war Sarajevo

This dissertation presents a 'cross boundary' ethnography of Sarajevan practices of space, which have been disrupted and reshaped during the conflict and in its aftermath. The discussion explores Sarajevan practice of public and domestic space in post-war time, in two Sarajevan neighbourhoods (Grbavica and in Lukavica) belonged to the same municipality before the war, included in the Serb-controlled area during the war and now divided by the IEBL (Interentity boundary line) established at Dayton that split the Bosnian capital city into two different towns: Sarajevo and East Sarajevo. The work theoretically distinguishes between the top-down reorganization of territory caused by shifting borders and violence from the 'production of locality' (Appadurai, Ingold, Gupta, Ferguson) intended as a socio-cultural process that merits ethnographic exploration.

Mainly based on prolonged fieldwork research, this work presents an innovative approach that adopts a relational perspective between the 'two sides' of the IEBL. Methodologically, this required the author to move residences across the IEBL in the Sarajevo urban area and to carry out participant observation and interviews with inhabitants, which had been particularly affected by movements of and across military and administrative lines. This was aimed at exploring transboundary cultural dynamics and at highlighting spatial practices of inhabitants divided by the IEBL as the complex effects of change and mobility, and not simply as the expression of ethnic homogenization and segregation. This ethnographic investigation of the Sarajevans production of locality explores different kinds of mobilities (space-time, socio-economic). Furthermore, the acknowledgment of cultural displacement, in territorial as well as political and geopolitical reconfigurations, highlights normalcy and spatial practices lingering between shifting (geo)political systems. From this perspective, this research discloses the ethnic issue's many connections with pre-war socialist practices and new global dynamics.

Dr Zaira Tiziana Lofranco is currently a Research Fellow in Social Anthropology at the University of Bergamo. She was awarded her PhD in anthropology and analysis of cultural transformation from the University of Naples. She joined the University of Bergamo in 2010 as postdoctoral fellow in social and cultural anthropology. From 2010 to 2013 she actively participated as an early career researcher in the EU funded networking project Eastbordnet, Remaking Eastern Borders in Europe. Since January 2014, she has been involved as a researcher in the FP7 ANTICORRP project with the specific task of producing an ethnography of corruption practices in Bosnia and Herzegovina.