



INSTITUTE FOR PHILOSOPHY
AND SOCIAL THEORY


BOOK OF ABSTRACTS

POLITICS OF ENMITY – CAN NATION EVER BE EMANCIPATORY?

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

Group for Social Engagement Studies
– Institute for Philosophy and Social Theory, University of Belgrade –
September 26-28 2016, Belgrade

 **Regional Research**
Promotion Programme | **Western Balkans**

 Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
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Panel 3: Gendering Serbian-Albanian relations

Elife Krasniqi | Karl Franzens University of Graz

Gender and Nation: competing loyalties in socialism and post-war period in Kosovo

After the abolition of Kosovo's autonomy by Serbia in 1989, during 1990s (so called the 'parallel system'), Kosovo Albanian women activists on women's rights could have worked, as Julie Mertus says, by serving the nation, but at the same time on behalf of national cause women challenged the inherited gender identity and roles (Mertus, 1999). What has permeated women's activism from period of socialism to present days is a plurality of belongings or identities that each was stratified in relation to power, oppression and loyalties. This paper attempts to bring to the surface the dynamics of these components through which women's activism in Kosovo have been developed. While not elaborating certain theoretical frames, the paper does provide an empirical account from a micro-level perspective of women's activism in three periods:

1. Women activists part of the underground resistance nationalist movement in Kosovo, known as *Ilegalja* (Illegality) - years of 1960s and 1980s.
2. The women's activism during 1990s in the time of so called 'parallel system'
3. The proliferation of feminist activism in post-war Kosovo.

Adriana Zaharijević | Institute for Philosophy and Social Theory, University of Belgrade

Sisterhood in dispossession: the case of Serbia and Kosovo

The paper considers the possibility of establishing and maintaining alternative communities, taking as an example the Women's Peace Coalition between Kosovo Women Network and the Serbian Women in Black network. The principal question put forward is whether communities that surpass identitarian belonging are possible, and how these communities relate to "communities" determined territorially, nationally (by a nation state), as well as how they relate to artificial and symbolic supranational bodies. The main aim is the examination of the political potential of a community that wishes to be grounded on the logic of peace and the rejection of the logic of possession (following the slogan "people, not territories"). A community of women activists in the shape of the Women's Peace Coalition is defined as a community of the dispossessed, a term developed following the work of Judith Butler and Athena Athanasiou. This pregnant philosophical concept is introduced in order to offer a new approach to the context of an ambivalent, divided, inoperative state, with long-festered wounds of war.