

Sexual and Gender-Based Violence and Its Prevention in Education: Exchanging Knowledge and Envisioning Positive Practices

International Symposium Program

Conveners:

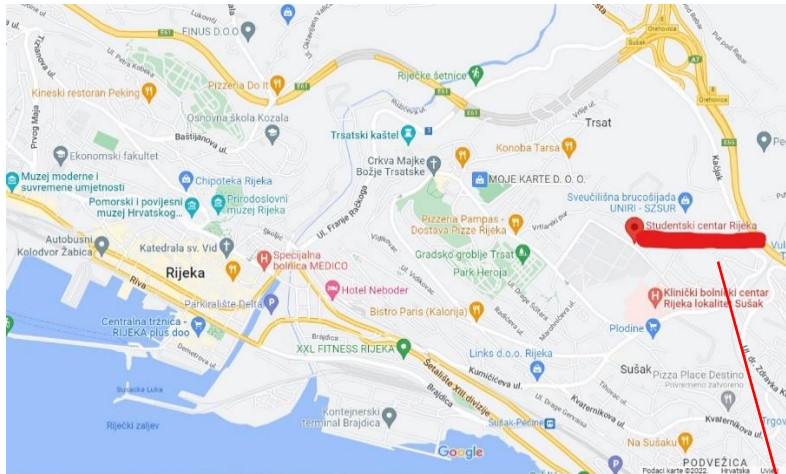
Nana Gulić
Miglena S. Todorova

July 6-8, 2022

University of Rijeka Campus (Trsat)
Studentski Centar - Akvarij
Radmile Matejčić 5, Rijeka, Croatia
<https://www.scri.uniri.hr/>

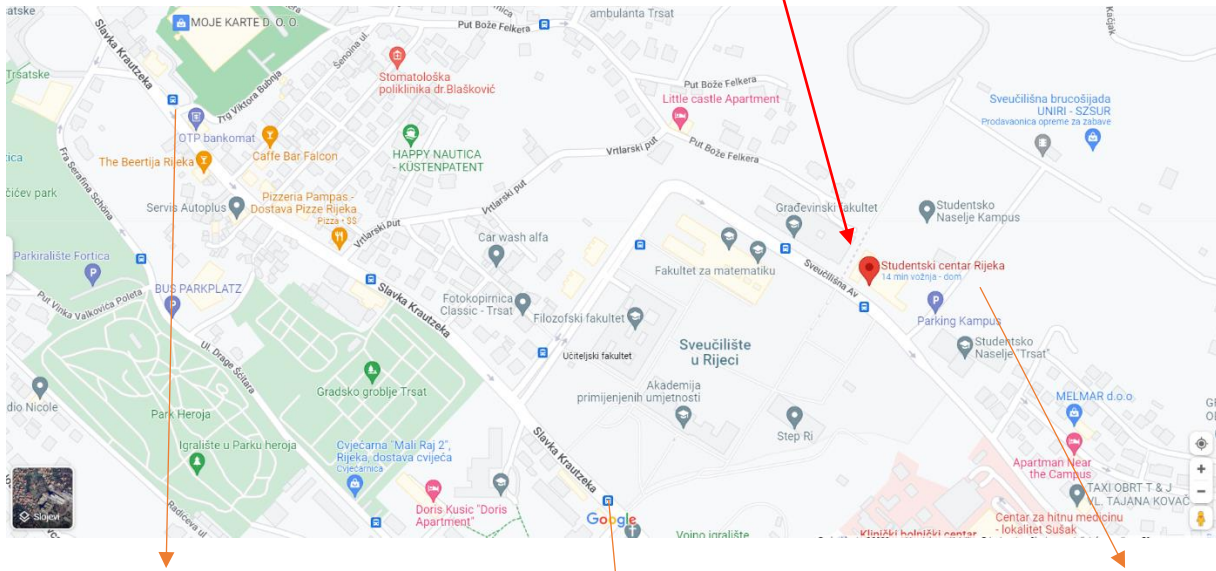
LOCATION OF EVENT & INFORMATION RE: EMERGENCIES

Studentski Centar – Akvarij Radmile Matejčić 5, Rijeka, Croatia



The area of the city where the Campus is located is called Trsat.

To access the venue from the city of Rijeka centre, take bus #2 towards “Trsat”.



Bus number 2 final stop. The bus might wait a few minutes before continuing.

Exit bus #2 here

Symposium venue

- **In case of emergency (medical, fire, police) – Dial 112**
- If you have any questions about the symposium or the venue, please call Nana Gulić: +385919843682 (available on Whatsapp or Viber) or email nana.gulic@mail.utoronto.ca.

Sexual and Gender-Based Violence and Its Prevention in Education: Exchanging Knowledge and Envisioning Positive Practices

Background: Sexual and gender-based violence in educational spaces is an important issue faced by institutions, educators, parents and policymakers the world over. UNESCO, the European Union and the World Health Organization define the issue as global and urgent, calling on educators and policymakers to come together and work towards solutions that protect and empower school children, teenagers and university students locally and internationally. Currently, schools and universities in Croatia lack systemic prevention approach and initiatives and few are in the process of establishing such programs. Sponsored by the European Union and NGOs, researchers and activists in Kosovo, Slovenia and Serbia have collected data on the prevalence of sexual violence and pushed universities and schools to adopt policies addressing the problem. Likewise, Canadian universities and K12 schools institutionalized special policies to deal with sexual violence and violence against women/girls, transgender, queer and racialized students on their campuses in 2015. Yet, the issue persists not only in Canada but other countries where such policies exist.

Issue: Implementing school and university-based policies is not prevention because these policies target the perpetrator after violence took place and mandate services to support survivors/victims of violence in schools and universities. In contrast, prevention seeks to stop such incidents from happening and requires complex approaches that most schools and universities in Canada, the Balkans and other world regions lack.

Objectives: This symposium connects feminist and activist educators, researchers, administrators and policymakers to support international collaborations and knowledge exchanges dedicated to sexual and gender-based violence prevention in educational spaces. The two- and half-day event further highlights research and efforts against violence in former socialist countries in the Balkans and situates these countries at the center of knowledge mobilization in the area of sexual violence prevention. The main objective of the dialogue is international cooperation in designing, testing and assessing pedagogical approaches, policies, teacher preparedness and materials anchoring potent sexual and gender-based violence prevention approaches that make education safe for all participants.

Objectives:

- ◆ knowledge exchange, dissemination and mobilization
- ◆ creating a collaborative research program to test approaches and compare data
- ◆ support a long-term alliance of researchers, educators, teachers and policymakers in Canada and the Balkans working on the area of sexual and gender-based violence in education and its prevention.

Participants: The symposium connects and brings together experts and educators from the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education at the University of Toronto in Ontario, Canada and teachers, educators, researchers, and university and school administrators and students from Universities in Croatia, Slovenia, Serbia, and Kosovo.

DAY 1: KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE

9:00 – 9:30 Welcoming remarks

- ◆ Sandra Krpan, City of Rijeka Deputy Mayor
- ◆ University of Rijeka representative
- ◆ Nana Gulić, University of Toronto representative

9:30 – 11:00 Canada-based panel

- ◆ Miglena S. Todorova, *Sexual Violence Prevention in Higher Education: Global Trends, Paradoxes and Positive Practices*
- ◆ Hayley Brooks, *The Links Between Violence and Its Prevention in K-12 and Higher Education*
- ◆ Lana Stermac, *Responding to Sexual Violence on Campus: Research, Policies and Procedures at the University of Toronto*
- ◆ Daniella Robinson, *How a Conversation about ‘Pleasure’ Could Support Sexual Violence Prevention Efforts*

11:00 – 11:15 Coffee break (refreshments will be provided)

11:15 – 12:15 Q&A/Group discussion re: Canadian panel

12:15 – 13:30 Lunch provided in the cafeteria

13:30 – 15:00 Rijeka, Croatia-based panel

- ◆ Dalida Rittosa & Adrijana Martinović, *Criminal Offences against Sexual Freedom in the Republic of Croatia – Legislative Framework and Future Preventive Actions*
- ◆ Lorena Zec, *Supporting Survivors of Sexual Violence on Local and National Level*
- ◆ Sven Sušanj, *Sexual Harassment and Student Bodies: Past Achievements and Future Development*
- ◆ Lucija Jančec, *Education Mainstreaming and Gender Issues*

15:00 – 15:15 Coffee break (refreshments will be provided)

15:15 – 16:15 Q&A/Group discussion re: Croatian panel

20:00 Dinner/Social for all participants sponsored by the City of Rijeka

Location: Restaurant “Boonker” at the following address: Istarsko pristanište 1, Rijeka

Website: <https://boonker.hr/>

DAY 2: KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE

9:30- 10:10 Serbia-based Presentation

- ◆ Krisztina Racz, *Addressing Sexual Harassment in the Academia in Serbia*

10:10 – 10:30 Coffee break (refreshments will be provided)

10:30- 11:30 Slovenia-based panel

- ◆ Jovana Mihajlović Trbović, *Drafting the Guidelines on Dealing with Sexual Harassment in Slovene Academia*
- ◆ Tonja Jerele, *Sexual Harassment in Higher Education in Slovenia: Between Student Activism and Research*

11:30 – 12:30 Q&A/Group discussion re: Serbian and Slovenian panels

12:30- 1:30 Lunch provided in the cafeteria

1:30 – 2:10 Kosovo-based presentation

- ◆ Vjollca Krasniqi (TBA)

2:10 - 2:40 Q&A/Group discussion re: Kosovo presentation

2:40- 4:00 General group discussions and networking

- Dinner is not provided (participants can choose among the many world-class restaurants and affordable food stands in the city)

DAY 3: MOVING FORWARD & COLLABORATIONS

10:00 – 12:45 Group discussion of ideas for collaborations in curricula and prevention program designs, policy frames and future events to sustain the collaborations

Facilitator: Miglena S. Todorova

12:45 – 14:00 Group discussion and closing remarks by Nana Gulić

14:00 – 15:00 Late lunch provided in the cafeteria

PARTICIPANT BIOS



Hayley Brooks is a PhD Candidate in Social Justice Education at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education (OISE), University of Toronto. Ms. Brooks specializes in the areas of international education, media and cultural literacy, and gender-based violence prevention in public education. She is the Coordinator and an Advisory Board Member of the Centre for Media, Culture, & Education at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education. Ms. Brooks has delivered guest lectures, workshops and scholarly presentations for diverse audiences including K-12 educators in Ontario, international exchange students in higher education, and colleagues at the Canadian Society for Studies in Education, the American Educational Research Association and the Association for Women and Gender Studies/Recherches Féministes. Her co-authored research on the relationship between mass media, popular culture and sexual and gender-based violence prevention is published in the *Journal of Media Literacy Education*. Ms. Brooks is also a member of a research team collecting data on sexual violence in universities in Ontario, and a co-author of the report of findings, forthcoming in the *Journal of Comparative and International Education*. Her innovative study of curriculum designs in international education, and review of the literature in this area of research, is accepted for publication in the *Annual Review of Comparative and International Education* 2022.



Nana Gulić is a doctoral student at OISE's Social Justice Education department with a specialization in Comparative International and Development Education. She has a Master's degree in Social Justice and Equity Studies from Brock University and a Bachelor's degree in Child and Youth Care from Ryerson University. With youth empowerment and engagement as the guiding premise, from 2004 to 2012, she worked in residential group homes, community development and violence prevention programs in Toronto, Canada. In 2012, she moved to her home country Croatia, where she became a Child and Youth Care Counsellor in Elementary School Milan Brozovic. In Croatia, Nana has done policy work with the Croatian Ministry of Education and served as a nationwide trainer and mentor for teachers and staff specialists during the national education reform (2015-2020). Nana has been involved with a number of international organizations including the International Centre for Innovation in Education, the European Commission, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the Teacher Taskforce.



Lucija Jančec, Assistant Professor, PhD lectures several graduate courses as Experience -Based Learning, Family Pedagogy, Pedagogy of Early and Preschool Education and Encouragement of socioemotional competences in the classroom. Her general interest is the research of the hidden curriculum in any form of education ("theory in practice"), its interrelatedness with other fields of research through interdisciplinary studies as an important feature in the raising of awareness of microelements in pedagogical work, in institutions as well as out of institutional life. Her interests include social competences as well as developing learning to learn competencies from the pedagogical aspect, especially educational benefits.



Tonja Jerele is a PhD student at the Faculty of Arts, University of Ljubljana. Her research interests lie at the intersection of Marxist feminism and political economy, labour rights, social reproduction and digital technology. In addition, she is involved in many social causes, most notably as the coordinator of the student research-activist group *Rezistenca*, which focuses on sexual harassment and violence in academia



Vjollca Krasniqi is a sociologist. She is Associate Professor at the Faculty of Philosophy, and Faculty of Arts, University of Prishtina. She holds a Ph.D. from the University of Ljubljana, an M.Sc. degree in Gender, Development, and Globalization from the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE), and a BA degree in Philosophy and Sociology from the University of Prishtina. Her research interests are gender, nation-building, human rights, post-war justice, and social policy. She has led and participated in numerous international research projects and published widely on these issues. Her recent publications include: *Are we putting human rights into practice in Kosovo* (co-author with Jane McPherson and Tatiana Villarreal-Otalora 2021); *Skirts and Words: The Art of Acknowledgment, War Time Rape and Albanian Nationhood in Kosovo* (co-author with Ivor Sokolić and Denisa Kostovicova 2020); *Domestic Violence: Gendered State Rationality and Women's Activism in Kosovo* (2019); *Migration and Human Rights in Kosovo: Perspectives for Social Work Education* (2019). She is co-founder of the University Program for Gender Studies and Research (2013-). She is member of the Executive of Board of East European sub-Regional Association of Schools of Social Work. She is co-founder and member of the Women's Academic Leadership Initiative in Southeast Europe (2013-). She is member of the steering committee of Memory Studies Association Regional Group South East Europe. She is co-chair of the Working Group on Training and Capacity Building of the COST Action Slow Memory. She is Chair of the Board of Directors of Save the Children Kosovo. She served as the Vice-President of the State Council of Quality of the Kosovo Accreditation Agency (2019-2021). She has worked on numerous projects on gender issues and she been active in the women's movement in the Balkans.



Sandra Krpan graduated from the Faculty of Education, majoring in Croatian language and literature. Since 1999, she has been working as a professor of Croatian language and literature. Since 2008, she has been working as the principal of Milan Brozović Kastav Primary School. She was the president of the 13th International Conference on Excellence, Creativity and Innovation in Basic and Higher Education: Excellence in Education and Psychology under the auspices of the President of the Republic of Croatia and the Ministry of Science, Education and Sports. Sandra was an active participant in a series of consultations, seminars, workshops, lectures and study stays in the country and abroad in the field of education (Finland, Estonia, Poland, Netherlands, Belgium, Singapore, China, USA, Canada, Denmark, Israel, UEA). She is dedicated to the promotion of human rights, non-violence, peacemaking and humanitarian work, she is an advocate of women's rights, especially the right to make decisions about one's own body. Sandra has been actively involved in political work since 2003, when he became a member of the Rijeka SDP City Organization. From 2005 to 2021, she was a member of the City Council of the City of Rijeka. As a local politician, she was a President of the Club

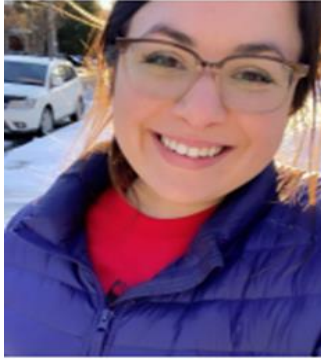
SDP - Laborists - SDSS in the City Council of the City of Rijeka, as well as the president of the Committee for Gender Equality of the City of Rijeka. On a national level, she was a Member of Parliament and member of the Committee for Gender Equality of the Croatian Parliament. Currently, she is a Deputy Mayor of the City of Rijeka where she continues to focus on education, social justice and women's rights.



Adrijana Martinović is an associate professor at the University of Rijeka, Faculty of Law (Department for European Public Law). She is also a deputy-head of the Inter-University Centre of Excellence Opatija (<https://excellence.uniri.hr>). Member of the European Equality Law Network - national expert for gender equality for Croatia. She was the academic coordinator of the Jean Monnet Module “EU Social Security Law”, Erasmus+ Jean Monnet Activities 2016, Grant Agreement No. 2016-2151/001 (2016-2019). Participated as a member of the research team in various international and national scientific and research projects, including the project „Perspectives of maintaining the social state: towards the transformation of social security systems for individuals in personalized medicine“ (2014-2018), „Flexicurity and new forms of work (challenges for modernization of the Croatian labour law)“ (2015-2018), funded by the Croatian Science Foundation, and “PSEFS: Personalised Solutions in European Family and Succession Law”, funded by the EU Justice Programme (2018-2020). Currently works on a project “Digital transformation of society: Legal aspects”, funded by the University of Rijeka, “Integration and disintegration of the European Union: Dynamics of Europeanism and Euroscepticism” (2020-2025), funded by the Croatian Science Foundation, and “Praxis Iuris: Besplatna primarna pravna pomoć i stručna praksa na Pravnom fakultetu u Rijeci” (Free primary legal aid and professional practice at the Faculty of Law in Rijeka) (2020-2023). Her scientific interests and research include various areas of EU law, EU gender equality and non-discrimination law, EU citizenship, internal market law, social security law, and competition law. Regularly publishes scientific papers and participates with presentation at various international scientific conferences and seminars. Co-holder of various EU law courses at the Faculty of Law in Rijeka, at undergraduate, graduate, postgraduate and doctoral law studies, including European Law I, EU Social Security Law, Anti-Discrimination Law, Fundamentals of EU Law, Internal Market and Fundamental Freedoms, EU Labour Law. Member of the European Institute of Social Security (EISS). Alumni of the Foundation of the University of Rijeka.



Krisztina Rác is a scholar with interdisciplinary education and experience, having research interests in language, multilingualism / multiculturalism, ethnic minorities and education, with a special focus on Central and Southeastern Europe. Her expertise also lies in social memory, gender and migrations. To the study of these, she is applying ethnographic methods which build on contemporary theoretical perspectives. She has conducted fieldwork in Serbia, Slovenia and Romania, and has gained rich experiences in working in diverse international academic settings in Hungary, Slovenia, Serbia, Austria and Norway. She has published articles for journals and book chapters in English, Serbian and Hungarian languages. She has a wide collaborative network with colleagues from and/or working on Central and Southeastern Europe and beyond, as well as fora for sharing her research with a wider public.



Daniella Robinson is a PhD Candidate in sexuality studies and sex-based education at the California Institute of Integral Studies, USA. Her research and teaching focuses on understanding the role of “pleasure” and positive sexual relations in supporting sexual and gender-based violence prevention in educational, institutional and social settings in Canada, the United States and beyond. Ms. Robinson is also the Director and leading expert of the Anti-Human Trafficking Program at Native Child and Family Services/ Bekaadendang (Being Peaceful) in Toronto, Ontario. The program draws knowledge from Indigenous cultures and communities in Canada of which Ms. Robinson is a member. Her team supports survivors of sexual exploitation and those at risk through individual work, community programming (such as Sex Positive and Healthy Relationships), and ongoing partnership building with community and educational institutions. Ms. Robinson has delivered special lectures, workshops and research-based presentations at various professional conferences and events organized by public institutions such as the University of Toronto, University of Guelph, and the National Women Studies Association.



Dalida Rittossa is an associate professor at the Department of Criminal Law, Faculty of Law in Rijeka. She is the author of a number of scientific papers and two books in the field of criminal law, criminology, victimology and human rights. As a hearty advocate of vulnerable groups’ rights, Ms. Rittossa has recently focused her research on issues concerning criminal legal protection of children, sexual crimes against children, family violence and rights of people with mental difficulties. She is a principal investigator of the Croatian Science Foundation project IP-CORONA-04-2086 "Life in the Time of COVID-19 - Social Implications on the Security and Well-Being of Vulnerable Groups in the European Context". In an effort to bring scientific conclusions closer to both the professional and the general public, she regularly presents the results of her research at international and domestic scientific conferences. Truly supporting the idea that community should be informed about the correct implementation of legal norms, she is a cofounder of the "Law in Community", a lifelong learning program.



Lana Stermac is a clinical psychologist and Professor of Counselling and Clinical Psychology in the Department of Applied Psychology and Human Development at the University of Toronto. She served previously as Associate Dean of Research and Innovation at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education at the University of Toronto (2014 – 2015) and Acting Chair of the Department of Applied Psychology and Human Development (2013-2014). Professor Stermac’s research focuses broadly on the health and educational impacts of violence against women. She was an advisory member on the Presidential and Provostial Committee on Prevention and Response to Sexual Violence and a member of the Expert Panel on Education and Prevention of Sexual Violence at the University of Toronto in 2017. Professor Stermac’s most recent projects examine the effects of sexually coercive behaviours on the educational experiences, academic performance and health of culturally diverse undergraduate students on Canadian university campuses. Her research is supported by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) and the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR). Professor Stermac and her students have published their work in top-tier academic journals including The Canadian Journal of Higher Education, Journal of Interpersonal Violence, Violence and Gender and College Student Journal. Professor Stermac is an active member of the Canadian

Psychological Association and an executive member of the section on Women and Psychology. She received the 2018 Distinguished Contributions to Women and Psychology Award from the Canadian Psychological Association. She is a senior editor of an international journal in counselling psychology.



Sven Sušanj is a law student at the Faculty of Law in Rijeka. From 2019 to 2021 he was the Student Ombudsman of the University of Rijeka and from 2020 to 2022 the Vice-President of the Student Council of the Faculty of Law in Rijeka. During his term as Student Ombudsman, he organised a public panel debate on the topic of sexual harassment in the academia. Furthermore, he initiated the adoption of university sexual harassment guidelines. He was a member of the Expert Council at the Center for Studies of the University of Rijeka. He is currently a member of the Council of Honour of the University of Rijeka which is the body that interprets the University Code of Ethics. He is the recipient of five Dean's Awards and the Rector's Award for Excellence.



Miglena S. Todorova is Associate Professor in the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, University of Toronto, Canada. Her research, teaching and publications are in the areas of education, sexual violence prevention, and women's issues in Canada, the United States and former socialist countries in Eastern and Central Europe and the Balkans. Dr. Todorova is the Director of the Centre for Media, Culture and Education at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education where her research further supports media literacy education locally and globally. She is the lead investigator of a large study exploring the role of cultural differences in sexual violence prevention funded by the Government of Canada. Todorova's work has been published in leading Canadian and American academic journals, such as *Meridians: Race and Transnational Feminisms*, *Canadian Journal of Communication*, *Canadian Woman Studies*, and *Interventions: Journal of Postcolonial Studies*. She is also the author of a book entitled *Unequal under Socialism: Race, Women and Transnationalism in Bulgaria* published in 2021 by the University of Toronto Press. Dr. Todorova is a distinguished educator and the recipient of awards for excellence in teaching. In 2018, Todorova received an award for best essay on women's solidarity across the United States and the Balkans during the Cold War.



Jovana Mihajović Trbovc is a research fellow and gender equality advisor at the Research Centre of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts. Her research focus is at the meeting point of memory studies, political science, cultural studies, and gender. She published on the topics of social memory in relation to the Yugoslav Wars of the 1990s and World War II, and the history of women under socialism, particularly female scientists. She has been working in a series of projects related to gender equality in academia and gender in science (GARCIA, ACT, R&I PEERS, INSPIRE), and is a member of the Commission for Equal Opportunity in Science (a consultative expert body to the Ministry of Education, Republic of Slovenia).



Lorena Zec is a feminist psychologist who runs the Counseling Center for Victims of Domestic, Partner and Sexual Violence of the SOS Rijeka - centre for nonviolence and human rights, where she works directly with mostly women who experienced intimate partner abuse and/or sexual violence, providing psychological help and support. She is an active member in many initiatives and advocacy groups working towards better victim protection services and, together with colleagues from SOS Rijeka, works on providing different types of education and prevention activities for youth and experts.