

The subject of collective and social identities is consequential when it deals with communities that live in trans-cultural and trans-religious empires. One of the examples is Orthodox Christian communities in the Ottoman Balkans between the middle of the 15th and the middle of the 18th centuries. These communities shaped their identities in connection with religious, cultural, economic, or social practices in the Empire that legally divided its Muslim and Christian subjects. For that reason, identifications that stemmed from these practices were layered, manifold, and with various connections to one another.

This conference aims to shed light on the ways different collective and social identities were built in this period. Collective identity is characterized by a sense of belonging to a particular group based on categorical attributes and/or relationships with other members. Social identity is defined as self-understanding, which refers to an individual's perception of belonging to different groups (also based on categories and/or relationships with other members). However, these identities did not exist outside particular situations and contexts, nor should they be understood in an essentialist manner – groups are not ontological but epistemological realities. For that reason, we propose the use of the terms identification and self-understanding to stress the processual, situational, and contextual nature of the creation of identities. It also invites us to think about the agents that do the identifying while, at the same time, it shows that not every process of identification will result in the identity.

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Construction of the Tower of Babel, source: "The World of Serbian Manuscripts (12th–17th Centuries)", Belgrade 2016.



(Trans-)Formation of Identities: Orthodox Christians in the Ottoman Balkans (c.1450-c.1750)

16th-17th
October 2024

Hall 3, Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts
Kneza Mihaila 35, Belgrade



FORMIDOX



Wednesday 16th October

- 10:00 – 10:30** **Vojislav G. Pavlović** | Director of the Institute for Balkan Studies SASA
Opening
Marija Vasiljević | Institute for Balkan Studies SASA
Introductory remarks
- 10:30 – 11:10** **Marija Vasiljević** | Institute for Balkan Studies SASA
(Re-)Thinking Identities in the Early Modern Balkans
- 11:10 – 11:50** **Ognjen Krešić** | Institute for Balkan Studies SASA
Modes of Collective Identifications of Orthodox Monks in Ottoman Documents
- 11:50 – 12:20** Coffee break
- 12:20 – 13:00** **Milena Davidović** | Institute for Balkan Studies SASA
(Trans-)Forming the Identity of Christians and Ottomans in the Marginalia of Medieval Manuscripts 1450-1750
- 13:00 – 13:40** **Marian Coman** | Faculty of History, University of Bucharest
| “Nicolea Iorga” Institute of History, Romanian Academy
Ottoman Christians, Moldo-Wallachians or Wallachians? Pretenders to the Throne of Wallachia and the Rhetoric of Identity
- 13:40 – 14:40** Lunch break
- 14:40 – 15:20** **Valentina Živković** | Institute for Balkan Studies SASA
(Trans-)Formation of Identities: The Case of Blessed Osanna from Kotor
- 15:20 – 16:00** **Aleksandra Ivanović** | Faculty of Philology, University of Belgrade
Celebrating New Protectors: Topoi and Collective Identity in Hymnography
- 16:00 – 16:40** **Irena Plaović** | Faculty of Philology, University of Belgrade
Laudating Normative Models: Encomiastic Literature
- 16:40 – 17:00** Coffee break
- 17:00 – 17:40** **Dejan Dželebdžić** | Faculty of Philosophy, University of Belgrade
Greek Identity and the Greek Language in the Post-Byzantine Period
- 17:40 – 18:20** **Zoran Jovanović** | Institute for Byzantine Studies SASA
Greeks and the Others: Post-Byzantine Greek Short Chronicles about Greeks, Other Christians and Ottomans

Thursday 17th October

- 10:00 – 10:40** **Maja Nikolić** | Institute for Byzantine Studies SASA
(Trans-)Formation of Identities on Post-Byzantine Crete: The Case of Μικρογραφία of George Klontzas
- 10:40 – 11:20** **Nikolaos Livanos** | Institute for Historical Research, National Hellenic Research Foundation
Ethnic Identities in the Textual Representation of the Past on Mount Athos from the 15th to the 18th Centuries
- 11:20 – 11:50** Coffee break
- 11:50 – 12:30** **Rositsa Gradeva** | American University in Bulgaria
Orthodox Christians in Sofia, 17th–Early 18th Centuries – Ethnic Identification and Self Identification
- 12:30 – 13:10** **Nebojša Šuletić** | Institute for Balkan Studies SASA
‘Serbian Land(s)’ and ‘Serbia’: Renewal of Serbian Ethnic Symbolism in the 18th Century
- 13:10 – 13:30** Concluding remarks
- 13:30 – 15:00** Lunch