

International Association for Southeast European Anthropology (InASEA)

4th Conference

Region, Regional Identity and Regionalism in Southeastern Europe

May 24-27, 2007
Timișoara, Romania

Call for Papers

1. Venue

The 4th Conference of the International Association for Southeast European Anthropology (InASEA) on *Region, Regional Identity and Regionalism in Southeastern Europe*, will be held at the West University of Timișoara, Timișoara, Romania.

2. Aim

Over the last years, the 'region' has become an issue in southeastern Europe in a political, economic and a socio-cultural sense. The reasons for the growing relevance of regional policy and regional planning and for the increase in regional self-awareness and identity are manifold. SEE nation states have been and still are highly centralized, the fact that was taken to the extreme in the socialist period, while the growing regionalism or even autonomist movements may be a counter reaction to this concentration of resources in the capitals and big cities. Regionalism can also be attributed to the fact that regional disparities in SEE are growing: while urban regions increasingly attract people and resources, many rural regions are becoming marginalized and either depopulated or gradually turning into refuges of ethnic minorities or of (Western) old age pensioners. On the other hand, the strengthening of regions, particularly of the border regions, and of regional identities may already be a result of the EU policy of a "Europe of Regions", or it may foreshadow a reaction to the growing impact of globalization on SEE. EU accession also leads to the creation of regional institutions that administer EU programs for disadvantaged regions, and these administrative realities may in the future also affect identities.

Whatever the reasons – which need to be studied in greater detail – the regions and regionalism are a problem not only of politicians and regional planners, of economists and geographers, of demographers and sociologists, but also of ethnologists, folklorists, anthropologists, and historians. After a period of emphasis on the 'deterritorialization of culture', the 'spatial turn' has brought the region back to the attention of the ethnological sciences - both as a construct and as a tangible (and often problematic) reality of everyday life.

The 4th conference of the International Association for Southeast European Anthropology (InASEA) wants to explore regions, regionalisms, regional cultures and identities in the southeast European countries from a predominantly ethnological/anthropological perspective.

The association invites colleagues to present their empirical studies of present regions or their studies of historical regions with a focus on socio-cultural issues: on regional cultures and their construction, on regional identities, on the everyday 'functioning' of regions, including cross-border regions, on social and cultural consequences of regional disparities, etc. Scholars from neighboring disciplines, such as history, geography and sociology, are also invited to propose papers which deal with the topics of the conference and have a socio-cultural approach.

3. Themes

The conference will be organized around the following major themes:

- “What’s in a region?”: Defining the ‘Region’
- Region as Construct – Region as Tangible Reality
- Delimiting the Region: Regions and Borders
- History of Regions and Regionalisms
- Reviving and Forgetting Regions
- Memories and Narratives of the Region
- Regional Society and Culture
- Regional Identities – Region and Identity
- Regional Images and Stereotypes
- “Selling” the Region – “Consuming” the Region
- Disparities within and between Regions
- Region and Ethnicity
- (Cross-)Border Regions
- The Politics of Region and Regionalism
- Researching the Region
- What’s in Regional and Border Anthropology?: Theories and Methods

4. Paper proposals

The paper proposal should be sent to the Conference organizers by **November 1, 2006**. The proposal ought to contain the paper title, a 200-250 word abstract as well as the author’s name, institution, address, e-mail, and a very brief academic c.v.

Invited panels are also welcome. The panel organizer(s) should thus submit the panel title, a 200-250 word panel abstract as well as the list of four panel participants with all the information about individual papers asked above.

The panel and paper proposals should be formatted in MS Word for Windows with Times New Roman, letter size 12 pts and single line spacing. The proposal should refer to the most appropriate Conference theme and should specify the technical equipment needed for the paper presentation.

The papers may be proposed and presented in one of the three InASEA official languages, i.e., English, French or German.

The paper proposals are to be sent to:

- Dr. Ulf Brunnbauer, e-mail: ulf@zedat.fu-berlin, fax: +49-30-838-54036 (Attn.: Dr. Ulf Brunnbauer)

- and
- Atalia Stefanescu, e-mail: ataliastefanescu@yahoo.com, fax: +40-256-592-148 (Attn.: Ms Atalia Stefanescu)

5. Proceedings

A selection of the refereed Conference papers will be published in two regular issues of *Ethnologia Balkanica*, the InASEA's annual journal (Volumes 11 and 12).

6. Travel and Accommodation

The organizers of the Conference will cover at least a part of the travel and accommodation costs of the participants from the countries of Southeast Europe that have not entered the European Union until 2006. Accommodation for participants who qualify for financial support will be pre-arranged. Other participants will also be assisted in making hotel reservations. More information about the accommodation in Timișoara will be given on the Conference website (<http://www-gewi.kfunigraz.ac.at/inasea/conference3.html>) in due time.

7. Registration Fee

The Conference registration fee for the InASEA members will be covered from their annual membership fee. The non-InASEA members will be asked to pay the on-site registration fee equivalent to:

- 15. - EUR (participants from Southeast Europe, outside the European Union) and
- 30. - EUR (other participants, including those from the countries that joined the European Union before 2006).

8. Contacts

More information about the Conference can be obtained from the President of InASEA

Dr. Vesna Vucinic-Neskovic
Department of Ethnology and Anthropology
School of Philosophy, University of Belgrade
Cika Ljubina 18-20, 11000 Belgrade, Serbia and Montenegro

E-mail: vvucinic@f.bg.ac.yu , phone: +381-11-3206-265, fax: +381-11-639-356 (Attn.: Dr. Vesna Vucinic)

from the Vice President of InASEA

Dr. Ulf Brunnbauer
Institute of East European Studies
Free University of Berlin
Garystrasse 55, 14195 Berlin, Germany

E-mail: ulf@zedat.fu-berlin.de , phone: +49-30-838-52028, fax: +49-30-838-54036 (Attn.: Dr. Ulf Brunnbauer)

from the Chair of the Conference Organizing Committee

Dr. Teodor Mircea Alexiu
Vice-Dean
School of Sociology and Psychology

West University of Timisoara
4, Blv. Vasile Paravan,
300722, Timisoara, Romania

E-mail: tmalexiu@socio.uvt.ro, phone: +40-256-490-770, fax: +40-256-592-320 (Attn.: Dr. Teodor Mircea Alexiu)

Or from the Secretary of the Organizing Committee

Ms. Atalia Stefanescu
Department of Sociology-Anthropology
School of Sociology and Psychology
West University of Timisoara
4, Blv. Vasile Paravan,
300722, Timisoara, Romania

E-mail: ataliastefanescu@yahoo.com, fax: +40-256-592-148 (Attn.: Ms Atalia Stefanescu)

9. Additional Information

More information about InASEA is available at its website at
<http://www-gewi.kfunigraz.ac.at/inasea>

News on the Conference will be announced at the Conference website at
<http://www-gewi.kfunigraz.ac.at/inasea/conference3.html>