
Third International Conference
Sarajevo and the World
May 4 to 15, 2017

REPORT

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Introduction

In pursuit of our founding mission, International Forum Bosnia proposed and organised the first international conference on Sarajevo and the World in 2014. The planning documents for the conference included the following statement:

The goal of this international academic conference is to affirm the universal values expressed in and through Baščaršija as the historical and cultural kernel of the city of Sarajevo and of Bosnia as a whole. This goal comprises the following elements:

- To initiate and develop a long-term programme of research into and the evaluation and presentation of the myriad cultural aspects of Baščaršija;
- To bring together leading researchers, thinkers and artists from within the country and abroad to discuss and explore aspects of Baščaršija's past, present and future, as a symbolic paradigm for Sarajevo and so for the sustainability of plural society and social pluralism more generally;
- To generate scholarly and artistic work that will reflect on the symbolic and material value of Baščaršija as the cultural and economic life force of Sarajevo and its relationship to positive trends in the contemporary world;
- To raise awareness of and contribute to thoughtful articulation of both the material and non-material values of life in Baščaršija, as the central core of Sarajevo, and of everything associated with it;
- To stimulate scholarly, educational and artistic programmes to help raise awareness of the heritage of Baščaršija and so of Sarajevo as a whole and so to promote its preservation and further creative development;
- To assist in the presentation of Baščaršija and so of the city of Sarajevo as a public good that belongs to the world;
- To stimulate various forms of activity related to the building of educational, scholarly and cultural institutional capacity that can represent the values encapsulated in Baščaršija as essential elements of Sarajevo and as expressed the core of the Bosnian cultural paradigm, etc.

A series of discussions were held on the basis of this proposal with individuals and representatives of various public institutions, resulting in a broad consensus regarding the need for such a programme. The Sarajevo Old Town municipality was, then as now, the major supporter of the proposal. As a result, the programme has been incorporated into the activities to mark the Sarajevo Old Town municipal day.

The 3rd International Conference on Sarajevo and the World was held between May 4 and 15, in 2017, with the generous support of Sarajevo Old Town municipality. The chief media sponsor for the programme was Old Town Radio/Radio Stari Grad. The conference programme included the following events:

1) May 4 (Thursday), 2017.

A public discussion of *SARAJEVO AND BOSNIA IN THE PHILOSOPHY OF ESAD ZGODIĆ*

2) May 5 (Friday), 2017.

A public presentation of SARAJEVO AND BOSNIA IN THE POETRY OF *ASMIR KUJOVIĆ*

3) May 6 (Saturday), 2017.

The **THIRD INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON SARAJEVO AND THE WORLD**

This symposium included three panels: a) Sarajevo and religious plurality; b) Sarajevo's past and future, and c) Society, politics and development in Sarajevo.

4) May 8 (Monday), 2017.

A public presentation of SARAJEVO AND BOSNIA IN THE FILMS OF PJer ŽALICA

5) May 10 (Wednesday), 2017.

A public discussion on **JUSTICE AND THE ETHICS OF REMEMBRANCE IN BOSNIA:**
with a showing of the film *Nuremberg - Its Lesson for Today*

6) May 15 (Monday), 2017.

An evening with the Pontanima Choir: *MUSICA SACRA BOSNAE* and Edin Karamazov

All evening programmes were open to the public free of charge.

1) May 4 (Thursday), 2017.

A public discussion of *SARAJEVO AND BOSNIA IN THE PHILOSOPHY OF ESAD ZGODIĆ*

The first event in the programme organized by International Forum Bosnia as part of the Sarajevo Old Town Festival was a public discussion of *SARAJEVO AND BOSNIA IN PHILOSOPHY OF ESAD ZGODIĆ*. The discussion was held at the Hotel Europa on May 4 and started at 19.00 hours.

Prof. Senadin Lavić, former Dean of the Faculty of Political Sciences and President of the Preporod Society, introduced his colleague Prof. Esad Zgodić, widely considered one of the most prolific and profound contemporary Bosnian writers on social and political philosophy. Professors Lavić and Zgodić then held a wide-ranging discussion of certain of the main points of Prof Zgodić's philosophical views and their application to understanding and interpreting the history and intellectual life of Bosnia and Herzegovina through the tumults of the 20th and early 21st centuries. Jasmin Hasanović read selected excerpts from the presented work. Nerin Dizdar chaired the discussion. The discussion was conceived as an open intellectual presentation and reconsideration of the philosophy of Esad Zgodić, as a public good of the highest importance for the critical demystification of our current ideological fog and the development of healthier social and political relations in Bosnia. The debate was followed by a lively discussion with members of the audience.

In his philosophical work, Esad Zgodić has researched many of the most important issues affecting politics and social life in Bosnia, as well as crucial issues pertaining to the identity and nature of Bosnia itself and its attempted deconstruction by its political enemies. Taken as a whole, his work may truly be said to open up new horizons for a Bosnian political philosophy, while at the same time discussing in sophisticated ways major trends in contemporary global thought on plural societies and their implications for Bosnia's political drama in recent centuries. His published works include (titles have been translated into English): *Parties and Coalitions* (2016); *On States: A Critical Glossary of the Science of the State*, (2015); *Territorial Nationalism: Ideology, Crimes and Alternatives* (2012); *The Culture of Patriotism: On the Virtues and Vices of a Form of Love* (2011); *The Secret Life of Democracy: Additions to Political Geology*, (2010); *The Multiverse of Power: For a New Cratology* (2009); *The Idea of the Bosnian Nation and Other Works*, (2008); *The Politics of Fantasy: On the War against Bosnia and Herzegovina* (2005); *The Politics of Denial: On Meta-politics and Bosnian Alter-Politics* (2005); *The Ideology of National Messianism* (1999).

Dr Senadin Lavić is a professor at and former Dean of the Political Sciences Faculty of the University of Sarajevo. He is currently the President of the Preporod Society. His academic interests encompass the methodological aspects of social science, rationality and language, and social theories. It is from this academic perspective that he advocates a thorough reconstruction of our individual, social, and political relationships towards Bosnia and the major questions of Bosnian and Bosniak identity.

Jasmin Hasanović is a teaching assistant at the Faculty of Political Science. His academic field is Modern Theories of Power and Geopolitics.

Nerin Dizdar is a senior teaching assistant at the University of Mostar. His academic interests include theories and strategies of translation and the politics of cultural racism.



SARAJEVO AND BOSNIA IN THE PHILOSOPHY OF ESAD ZGODIĆ, a public discussion, May 4, 2017, Hotel Europe, chaired by Nerin Dizdar, participants Esad Zgodić, Senadin Iavić and Jasmin Hasanović.

2) May 5 (Friday), 2017.

A public presentation of SARAJEVO AND BOSNIA IN THE POETRY OF *ASMIR KUJOVIĆ*

The second event in the programme organized by International Forum Bosnia as part of the Sarajevo Old Town Festival was a public discussion of *SARAJEVO AND BOSNIA IN POETRY OF ASMIR KUJOVIĆ*. The discussion was held at the Hotel Europa on May 5 and started at 19.00 hours.

Nehrudin Rebihić presented the Sarajevo poet Asmir Kujović and his work. This was followed by a conversation between the two of them, moderated by Hatidža Nuhić. The author read selected poems. There was a musical prelude and interlude on guitar by Boško Jović.

Although his literary output includes a wide and varied range of genres, Asmir Kujović is primarily a poet. For many observers of the contemporary Bosnian literary scene, his poetry affords a new and vital exploration of Bosnia's spiritual heritage within the horizons of the wider world. His published poetry includes the following collections: *Viewpoint (2014)*; *Das versprochene Land/Promised Land (2005)*; *Life After Death (2000)* and *The Military Dream Interpretation Book (1997)*. His book *Who ran over Mrs Moon (2002)* has received a number of commendations and literary awards.

Nehrudin Rebihić is a senior teaching assistant at the Sarajevo University Faculty of Arts. His academic interests include the literature of Bosnia and Herzegovina and its standing from the perspective of modern literary theory.

Boško Jović is a leading Bosnian professional guitarist, whose performances are recognised as an important contribution to the contemporary Bosnian musical and cultural scene.

Hatidža Nuhić is an author and TV presenter. She has collaborated on the production of many films about Bosnia.



SARAJEVO AND BOSNIA IN THE POETRY OF *ASMIR KUJOVIĆ* May 5, *Hotel Europe*,
Participants: Hatidža Nuhić, Nehrudin Rebihić, Asmir Kujović and the classical guitarist Boško Jović

3) May 6 (Saturday), 2017.

The third event in the programme organized by International Forum Bosnia as part of the Sarajevo Old Town Festival was The **THIRD INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON SARAJEVO AND THE WORLD**, including three panels: a) Sarajevo and religious plurality; b) Sarajevo's past and future, and c) Society, politics and development in Sarajevo. The conference was held at the Hotel Europa on May 6 and lasted all day.

As in previous years, the conference provided a forum for the academic and scholarly consideration of political, cultural and economic topics related to Sarajevo and Bosnia and Herzegovina and their position in the world and global currents. As stated in the initial programmatic document for the first conference, the objective has been to disclose new horizons and perspectives on Sarajevo's present, past and future as the capital of Bosnia and Herzegovina and a synthesis of everything Bosnian.

In his opening address, Rusmir Mahmutćehajić informed the participants of the presentation of the King Abdullah II award for events held to mark UN World Interfaith Harmony Week in 2017 and that International Forum Bosnia had received the award for second place for its programme for the Fifth Sarajevo UN World Interfaith Harmony Week. The programme was held from February 8 to 10, 2017. The award was presented to Džamna Duman and Fatima Mahmutćehajić, members of the International Forum Bosnia board, on behalf of International Forum Bosnia on April 30th. Džamna Duman then informed the participants of the Third International Conference on Sarajevo and the World about their stay in the Kingdom of Jordan and the award ceremony.



Presentation of the *King Abdullah II award* for second place for organising *the Fifth Sarajevo UN World Interfaith Harmony Week, Kingdom of Jordan, Amman, April 30th, 2017.*

The first panel, on Sarajevo and religious plurality, started at 9:30 and lasted until 11:55. It was chaired by Džamna Duman.

Rusmir Mahmutćehajić opened the conference with introductory speech. Mayer of the Municipality of the Old Town Sarajevo Ibrahim Hadžibajrić had also an introductory presentation titled as “Sarajevo and the global challenges facing us”

Contributors to the conference panel and titles of their contributions were as it follows: Ivo Marković, “The new generational paradigm of religious plurality”; Paul Ballanfat, “The conditions of culture”; Amra Hadžimuhamedović, “The reception of Sarajevo and its environs”; Senadin Lavić, “Fakes and falsehoods in the cultural and historical image of Bosnia”; Nerin Dizdar, “Bosnia and

Herzegovina between constitutive peoples and constituted Bosnianhood”; Samir Beglerović, “Thinking the self and the other: Modern third-level muslim theological studies in Bosnia”; Nedžma Džananović, “Old players on a new playing field: Diplomatic relations between towns”; David Kamhi, “Laura Papo-Bohoreta's views on social and political developments between the two world wars” and Rusmir Mahmutćehajić, “Revealing Sarajevo and a potential scenario for the future”.

The second panel, on history and future of Sarajevo, started at 12:00 and lasted until 13:40. It was chaired by Nerin Dizdar

Contributors to the conference panel and titles of their contributions were as it follows: Behija Zlatar, “Ghazi Husref-bey's Bosnian origins”; Šerbo Rastoder, “Karadževići and Sarajevo”; Jasminko Mulaomerović, “Two Sarajevo toponyms: Megara and Borak – attempting an alternative reading”; Vahidin Preljević, “Sarajevo as metaphor. The town's cultural significance in world literature, particularly literature in German”; Gorčin Dizdar, “The Sarajevo Town Hall in the light of Austro-Hungarian colonial thought in Bosnia and Herzegovina”; Đenan Galešić, “The central role of Sarajevo in the defence of Bosnia: on changing Ottoman for Habsburg occupation”.

This was followed by lunch, at which there was lively discussion of the papers given and topics raised. After lunch the second panel continued, from 15:10 to 16:25.

Contributors to the conference panel and titles of their contributions were as it follows: Mile Babić, “Sarajevo and the world in the literary visions of Ivo Andrić and Dževad Karahasan”; Mirsad Kunić, “The image of Sarajevo in the epic poems from the Parry Collection”; Ann Madelain, “The French contribution to Sarajevo pop-culture. The reception of Emir Kusturica and Enki Bilal’s work and Goran Bregović’s music in France”; Jasmin Hodžić, “Verbal stress in Sarajevo as compared to Mostar speech patterns or standard Bosnian”;

The third panel, Society, politics and Development of Sarajevo, started at 16:30 and lasted until 18:55. It was chaired by Asim Zubčević

Contributors to the conference panel and titles of their contributions were as it follows: Hasan Muratović, “Sarajevo's political future”; Fikret Čaušević, “Economic transition in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the position of Sarajevo”; Rasim Gačanović, “Supplying Sarajevo with power – requirements and threats”; Emir Softić, “Hidroplant at Dudin Hrid in Sarajevo – Lights of the city in the darkness of the Great War”; Fatima Mahmutćehajić, “Alma mater and educational policy: *acta, non verba*”; Enes Kujundžić, “Sarajevo's future as a smart city”; Mehmed Agović, “Digital technologies and urban development” and Adis Arapović, “The City of Sarajevo – preconditions and possibilities for its legal, political and social development.”

Closing remarks were made at 19:00 by Rusmir Mahmutćehajić, who proposed the following five conclusions.

1. In terms of content and quality, the conference was a success and a worthy continuation of the original programme of research into Sarajevo and its place in the world and vital factors in the development of Bosnian society and the country’s political, cultural and economic life.
2. The multidisciplinary approach taken to the themes is the only way to combat the current culture of obliviousness and neglect with regard to Sarajevo.

3. That the inclusion of themes related to urban planning, energy sector development, and the development of cultural life through engagement with information technology is a precondition for any holistic approach to the development of Sarajevo and the county as a whole.
4. Extending our investigations in this area requires the inclusion of a large number of individuals and institutions with responsibilities for planning the future of Sarajevo and the state.
5. That the papers presented at the conference will be published in the *Forum Bosnae* journal and participants are asked to provide their texts no later than June 30th , 2017.

The conference was open to the public.



The Third International Conference on *Sarajevo and the World*, May 6, 2017, Hotel Europe

4) May 8 (Monday), 2017.

A public presentation of SARAJEVO AND BOSNIA IN THE FILMS OF PJer ŽALICA

International Forum Bosnia organized a public presentation of *SARAJEVO AND BOSNIA IN THE FILMS OF PJer ŽALICA* on May 8, 2017, as part of its programme to celebrate the Sarajevo Old Town Festival. The presentation was held at the Hotel Europe, starting at 19:00 hours. Prof Srđan Vuletić introduced his colleague, the well-known filmmaker Pjer Žalica, and gave a brief talk about his career and films. This was followed by a discussion between these two distinguished filmmakers and academics about the place of Sarajevo and Bosnia in Žalica's films. Hatidža Nuhić chaired the event.

Pjer Žalica is a serving professor at the Academy of Performing Arts in Sarajevo. His academic field is film in the broadest sense. He is also an active and internationally well-regarded filmmaker. His films, which are indelibly marked by their auteur's personality and style, are acknowledged forming as an important contribution to Bosnian and world culture. They include *At Uncle Idriz's* (2004); *Fire Burning* (2003); *Mostar Sevdah Reunion* (2000); *An End to Unpleasant Times* (1998); *Made in Sarajevo* (1998); and *MGM Sarajevo: Man, God, Monster* (1994).

Srđan Vuletić is also a serving professor at the Academy of Performing Arts in Sarajevo, whose documentaries and feature films have been exceptionally well received to Bosnian and world culture: *It is difficult to be nice* (2007); *Summer in the Golden Valley* (2003); *10 Minutes* (2002); *Triple Jump* (2000); *I set legs on fire* (1993), *Orthodox Church* (1991).

Hatidža Nuhić is an author and television presenter. She has herself participated in production of a number of Bosnian films.



SARAJEVO AND BOSNIA IN THE FILMS OF PJer ŽALICA May 8, Hotel Europe, Participants: Hatidža Nuhić, Pjer Žalica and Srđan Vuletić

5) May 10 (Wednesday), 2017.

A public discussion on JUSTICE AND THE ETHICS OF REMEMBRANCE IN BOSNIA: with a showing of the film *Nuremberg - Its Lesson for Today*

International Forum Bosnia held a public discussion at the Hotel Europe ON JUSTICE AND THE ETHICS OF REMEMBRANCE IN BOSNIA, followed by a screening of the film *Nuremberg - Its Lesson for Today* on May 10, 2017, as part of its programme under the aegis of the Sarajevo Old Town Festival. The event started at 18:00 hours.

The film screened is a disturbing synthetic presentation of legal attitudes towards Nazi crimes. The Nuremberg Trials laid the foundations of international law and case law on crimes against peace, war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide. The crimes committed during the war against Bosnia and Herzegovina can only be understood by simultaneously grasping their specificity and how they relate to the broadest contexts of international law.

The principal speakers on the topic were:

Dr Edina Bećirević, professor at the Faculty of Criminal Sciences of the University of Sarajevo. Her academic research focuses on the theory of genocide and the genocide committed against the Muslims of Bosnia. Her book *Genocide on the Drina River* (2009) has been translated into English and published by Yale University Press. It is a fundamental and indispensable work for any researcher investigating the crimes committed in and against Bosnia during the 1990s.

Sonja Biserko is founder and president of the Helsinki Committee for Human Rights in Serbia. Since the breakup of Yugoslavia, she has been committed to analysing issues like justice, the role of the Serbian elites, the Greater Serbian ideology and Serbia's role in the aggression against Bosnia and the consequences of it. Her works include *Yugoslavia's Implosion - The fatal attraction of Serbian nationalism* (2012); *Serbia: A Continued Source of Instability in the Balkans?* (2007) and *Yugoslavia. Collapse, war, crimes* (1993).

Prof Fatima Mahmutćehajić of the Faculty of Economics of the University of Sarajevo chaired the discussion. Her academic areas of interest include the relationships between modern legal systems and cyberspace.



*JUSTICE AND THE ETHICS OF REMEMBRANCE IN BOSNIA, May 10, 2017, Hotel Europe,
Participants: Fatima Mahmutćehajić, Sonja Biserko and Edina Bećirević.*

6) May 15 (Monday), 2017.

MUSICA SACRA BOSNAE : An evening with the Pontanima Choir and Edin Karamazov

The final event in the programme organized by International Forum Bosnia as part of the Sarajevo Old Town Festival, was an Evening with the *Pontanima Choir: MUSICA SACRA BOSNAE*. This concert was held at the Sarajevo Old City Hall on May 12 and started at 19:00 hours. This is the second time that International Forum Bosnia and the Pontanima Choir have jointly organised such a concert in the stunningly renovated atrium of the Sarajevo Old Town Hall as part of the International Forum Bosnia programme within the Sarajevo Old Town Festival. The concert was free to all and was very well attended, providing a very fitting end to the programme of events.

Pontanima is a world famous choir based in Sarajevo, whose members come from all four of the traditional religious communities in Sarajevo, namely the Roman Catholic, Serbian Orthodox, Jewish and Muslim communities. They specialise in choral works from these four local traditions, which they have presented all around the world, including in command performances to the Pope and US Presidents, as well as other world political and spiritual leaders.

The choir's founder, Ivo Marković, OFM, prepared the programme for the evening performance. He introduced the choir before their performance. The songs included in the programme were chosen to reflect characteristics common to all four Bosnian sacred traditions, as well as some that are specific to each.

The performance by Pontanima was followed by a recital by world famous lutist from Sarajevo, Edin Karamazov. He performed works J. S. Bach and Steve Reich for the lute and the electric guitar; Bach: Cello Suite No. 1 G - Dur BWV 1007; Reich: Electric Counterpoint; and Bach: Partita No. 2 d – moll, BWV 1004.





The Pontanima Choir in concert and Edin Karamazov, *May 15, 2017, Vijećnica/The Sarajevo Old Town Hall.*



Posters for the events.

Conclusion

Some 570 individuals participated directly in the six events organised by International Forum Bosnia. The www.forumbosna.org webpage, where details of the six events were published, was visited by more than 2000 individuals, while the *facebook* page that carried notification of the individual events was visited by more than 25,000 individuals. Individual events were shared more than 1000 times. The events were covered by most of the daily press, TV stations and major portals in the country. Radio Stari Grad (Old Town Radio) was the exclusive media sponsor of the events and carried regular reports on them.

Compared to the previous two international conference on Sarajevo and the World, this year's programme suggests the following conclusions:

- (1) The increased interest in participating in the events offers confirmation of the view that a programme of this sort is needed and can serve the stated purpose of affirming and strengthening awareness of the goals stated in the introduction to this report.
- (2) The number and quality of the contributions to the various events affirms the academic progress that has taken place regarding the vital issue of plural society and its reconstruction.
- (3) The experience gained in organising these three international conferences represents an important resource for articulating change and progress in the preparation of future programmes.