

Marija Grujić

**Unhomely Homelands – belonging and politics of belonging in ‘internal displacement’
(working title)**

In my doctoral project I study the intersection of gender, nation and religion in post-socialist and post-conflict settings. My research interests cover the relation between the individual belonging of internally displaced persons (IDPs) and their collective belonging to a ‘homeland’. My focus is, amongst others, the displacement migration of Kosovo Serbs from Kosovo caused by the Serbia-Kosovo conflict in 1999, in particular vis-à-vis the post-conflict politics of belonging towards “other Serbs”. In my thesis I aim to analyze miscellaneous power relations in which IDPs in Serbia are entangled. One of the matters I for instance look into is the discursiveness of the term “Kosovari”, which is used by the local Serbian population for compatriots with a Kosovo origin.

The belonging/not belonging of Kosovo Serbs is also embedded within the Serbian Orthodox Church’s (SOC) enforcing of a collective memory on an “Orthodox” Kosovo as well as the SOC’s gendered discourses on nation. One example is that in dominant religious and political discourses, Kosovo is identified as “Serbian Jerusalem”. Moreover, the life of the Serbian population on Kosovo is compared to the World War II genocide of the Jewish people as well as the 1999 displacement of IDPs to Serbia is referred to as an Exodus. Drawing on an intersectional biographical analysis of interviews with internally displaced Kosovo Serbs, I scrutinize how those hegemonic and nationalist discourses are summoning individual forms of belonging. In my doctoral thesis, I finally argue that biographical accounts of internally displaced Kosovo Serbs and the discursiveness of their status and position in Serbia, as being and belonging as not-Serbian Serbs (or “Other Serbs”), provide a litmus test of conveying boundaries in a gendered and racialized, national collectivity.

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