



ZNANSTVENO-RAZISKOVALNO SREDIŠČE KOPER
CENTRO DI RICERCHE SCIENTIFICHE CAPODISTRIA
SCIENCE AND RESEARCH CENTRE KOPER

International Conference
on
**SOCIETIES AND SPACES IN CONTACT:
BETWEEN CONVERGENCE AND DIVERGENCE**

16–20 September 2019

Portorož-Portorose, Slovenia

THE CONFERENCE ORGANIZER'S WELCOME



"As the Chair of the Scientific board and Conference Organizer, I am looking forward to meet you in Portorož-Portorose in 2019. We decided to hold the conference in the multicultural, three-border Upper Adriatic region, as we believe that is an ideal place for reflecting the questions about contact areas, border communities and minorities, as well as social integration and inter-cultural cooperation.

Even though the area was and still is so diverse and spatially and socially controversial, even though its territory was so intensively disputed during and after

WW 1 and WW 2 among different geopolitical systems and nation-states, it always found the way to overcome geopolitical and international obstacles and differentiations, and to re-establish cross-border and inter-cultural relations between neighbours, native people and newcomers. This contact area, as many others, has actually showed how long-lasting functional multicultural regions are easier to be kept united than to be divided.

Geographers and other social scientists, who had already some voice in the past, when several studies have been conducted on the effects of political transformations on the ethnic and language structure, and on the developments of cross-border contacts, are now called to perform an even more important role in the preparation of new visions and projects for not only the preservation of the numerous European multicultural and border regions, but also in directing new forms of social integration between different cultures and groups, transcending the classic forms of territorial and social exclusion and marginalization.

And this is what we will actually try to do during the Conference: to discuss common academic issues and to look forward for better and more integrated forms of inter-academic and inter-national understanding and cooperation. I hope we could be successful in developing this apparently simple and natural task, and I promise we will do our best to create a friendly environment for both more formal and less formal meetings and talks, in particular during our excursions and visits of both the Italian and Slovene minorities in Istria and Trieste."

Prof. dr. Milan Bufon
Chair of the Scientific board

INVITATION

The **Science and Research Centre Koper** is pleased to invite you to the international conference **Societies and Spaces in Contact: Between Convergence and Divergence** that will be held in the seaside resort of **Portorož-Portorose (Slovenia)**, nearby the borders of Croatia and Italy, on **16–20 September 2019**.

The Conference is organized in cooperation with the *Institute for Ethnic Studies* in Ljubljana (Slovenia) and the *Slovene Research Institute* in Trieste (Italy), and will seek the participation of both the Italian minority in Istria and the Slovene minority in Italy. The Conference is open to scholars of various disciplines who may contribute to the analysis of the various (geo)political, cultural, social, linguistic and economic aspects related to divergence and convergence processes in contact areas, and (re)integration perspectives and policies in multicultural and border regions. The aim of the Conference is to give an assessment of past developments and conflict resolutions, an analysis of current situations and problems concerning minority protection approaches, language planning, spatial and social cross-border and inter-cultural integration/disintegration policies and issues, and an evaluation of the future trends and opportunities for co-operation and development within a local and broader operational context.

Papers should consider the following main Conference Themes:

- **European national and regional minorities: from territorialities of exclusion to territorialities of inclusion**
- **Policies for cultural diversity and social integration within a multilevel decisional context**
- **Migrants and “new minorities”: factor of conflict or development potential?**
- **Spatial and social transformations in contact areas: towards an integrated approach**
- **Cross-border cooperation and planning: past experiences and future trends**
- **The perception of the “other”: mental maps and narratives**
- **Cultural diversity, multiculturalism and education: language policies and societal building**

Within the conference, we are also going to organize two scientific excursions. Firstly, we will visit the **Istrian region**, where we will explore this once unified historical region that is now divided between Croatia and Slovenia with the focus on the Italian minority and its *Centre for Historical Research* in Rovinj-Rovigno (Croatia). For the second excursion, we are planning to go to **Trieste-Trst (Italy)**, where we will conclude our Conference and meet the representatives of the Slovenian minority within the Slovene minority festival *Slofest*, which will be held in this period in the city of Trieste.

KEY-NOTE SPEAKERS



Prof. Dr. Tove H. Malloy is Director of the European Centre for Minority Issues in Flensburg, Germany and adjunct professor at the Europa-Universität Flensburg. She is a political theorist by background specializing in the political and legal aspects of national and ethnic minority rights in international law and international relations, especially in the European context. Her areas of expertise cover the major international organizations, the European Union as well as individual countries. In addition to being Director at ECMI, Prof. Malloy heads up the ECMI's research cluster Citizenship and Ethics. Her current research interests include non-

territorial (cultural) autonomy, minorities and regional development, minority citizenship, ethno-ecologism, minority indicators, and inter-sectional discrimination. She is the author of the monograph *National Minority Rights in Europe* (OUP, 2005); she has co-edited books, including two textbooks, and authored numerous articles and papers about minority issues. She is currently editing five volumes on non-territorial autonomy for Oxford University Press.



Prof. Dr. Colin H. Williams was Research Professor in Sociolinguistics, now an Honorary Professor, in the School of Welsh, Cardiff University, UK. He is a former Fulbright Scholar in Residence and Visiting Professor at the Department of Geography, Pennsylvania State University, 1982-83, a SSRC/SHFR Exchange Scholar (1982) and Swedish Institute Scholar (1988) at the Centre for the Study of International Conflicts, Department of History, University of Lund, and an Adjunct Professor of Geography, University of Western Ontario, 1994-to date. Currently he is a Visiting Fellow, and a Senior

Research Associate of the Von Húgel Institute at St Edmund's College, the University of Cambridge, UK where he specializes in post-conflict reconstruction and reconciliation. His main scholarly interests are Sociolinguistics and Language Policy in Multicultural Societies, Ethnic and Minority Relations and Political Geography.

BASIC INFORMATION

The official language of the Conference is English. All participants are required to submit the **title of their papers/presentations** along with a **250 word long abstract** on the official webpage <http://spacesincontact2019.splet.arnes.si/>. After the submission, the scientific board is going to evaluate the papers and select up to 36 papers for the presentation. The Organizer will be also looking for the publication of a selection of papers as an edited book for a major international publisher.

IMPORTANT DATES

November 1, 2018	Opening abstract submission
April 30, 2019	Deadline for abstract submission
May 31, 2019	Notification of acceptance to authors
August 1, 2019	Registration closes
September 16, 2019	Beginning of the Conference

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

September 16, 2019	Opening registration and evening Ice breaker
September 17, 2019	Plenary speeches and sessions
September 18, 2019	Sessions
September 19, 2019	One-day bus excursion to the Istrian region
September 20, 2019	One-day bus excursion to Trieste, final session and social dinner

REGISTRATION FEE

The **conference fee for participants** is **€ 250** and includes:

- Conference programme materials and the book of abstracts
- Admission to all sessions and coffee breaks
- Ice breaker - Welcome cocktail
- Bus excursions/meetings to/in both the Istrian region (Slovenia-Croatia) and Trieste-Trst (Italy)
- “Slow food” lunch and “slow drink” evening wine degustation during the excursion in Istria
- Final “sunset” social dinner nearby the Miramare castle at the end of the conference session/excursion in/to Trieste-Trst (Italy)

The **fee for accompanying persons** is set at **€ 150** and includes: *general admission to all sessions and coffee breaks, and access to the excursion programme.*

THE SCIENTIFIC BOARD OF THE CONFERENCE

- Milan Bufon (Conference Chair, Science and Research Centre, Koper)
- Lucija Čok (Science and Research Centre, Koper)
- Devan Jagodic (Slovene Research Institute, Trieste)
- Tove H. Malloy (European Centre for Minority Issues, Flensburg)
- Vesna Mikolič (Science and Research Centre, Koper)
- Sonja Novak Lukanovič (Institute for Ethnic Studies, Ljubljana)
- Mateja Sedmak (Science and Research Centre, Koper)
- Colin H. Williams (University of Cardiff, Wales)

With the notification of acceptance to authors in **May 2019**, participants will receive further information regarding accommodation, registration and fee payment procedure.

For any further information, including tourist facilities in Portorož-Portorose, other practicalities and travel hints, please visit the conference webpage <http://spacesincontact2019.splet.arnes.si/> or contact the **Conference Secretary**, Mr. Kristjan Nemac, via E-mail: kristjan.nemac@zrs-kp.si.