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FOREWORD

Ninety years of the Institute for Balkan Studies Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts

To reach its ninetieth anniversary is no small feat for any institution. The Institute for Balkan Studies of the Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts has achieved this notable milestone despite the numerous challenges it has had to overcome. The Institute for Balkan Studies (Balkanski institut) was established in 1934 by two prominent men of letters, Ratko Parežanin and Svetislav Spanaćević, under the patronage of King Alexander of Yugoslavia. After the capitulation of the Kingdom of Yugoslavia, the German occupation authorities decided to close the Institute in August 1941. The Institute resumed its work in July 1969, headed by the academician Vasa Čubrilović, who had been associated with the former Institute for Balkan Studies and had served as the inaugural director of the newly established Institute for Balkan Studies of the Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts (Balkanološki institut Srpske akademije nauka i umetnosti). Because the two Institutes' names are identical in English, one may be led to think that the rebirth of the Institute had been foretold.¹ However, this was not the case, as in Communist Yugoslavia, any continuity with its royal predecessor was to be eschewed. The revolutionary climate in the humanities meant that it was necessary to emphasize the communist character of any intel-

¹ Although the correct English translation of both institutes is Institute for Balkan Studies, to distinguish them from each other, we decided to use the name Balkan Institute for the one in Royalist Yugoslavia and the Institute for Balkan Studies SASA for the one in Communist Yugoslavia.

lectual undertaking, and the rebirth of the Institute did not align with this profile. Therefore, it took some time before the geopolitical and scholarly imperatives created the need to re-establish the Institute. Nevertheless, continuity was still to be avoided, and thus the name changed from *Balkanski* to *Balkanološki institut*.² Nonetheless, the shared objectives, research methodology based on an interdisciplinary approach, international and regional academic collaboration, and, most notably, publication output testify to the continuity between the two eras of the Institute.

GEOSTRATEGIC RATIONALE FOR THE FORMATION OF THE INSTITUTE FOR BALKAN STUDIES

The Balkan Institute was established as a private institution, even though King Alexander facilitated its establishment by providing a monthly subsidy from his personal funds, which constituted its founding capital and enabled the launch of the Institute's journal, *Revue internationale des Études balkaniques*. The Institute was established in a period when the totalitarian regimes in Italy and Germany wielded considerable influence in the Balkans. Thus, the Balkan Pact of February 1934 was a regional initiative supposed to ensure the autonomous development of the region. Consequently, the Institute's founding rationale, the academic elaboration of the Balkans' autochthonous identity, regained geostrategic significance. The Institute was intended to facilitate the resolution of conflicts between Balkan nations and to change the prevailing perception of the Balkans as a region characterized by intractable ethnic and territorial disputes. After the untimely death of King Alexander, the Institute continued as a private enterprise with minimal staff and no research profile, whose publications were financed from subscriptions and purchases by Yugoslav state institutions.

One of the Institute's founders, Ratko Parežanin, defined its objective as the promotion of Balkan cooperation and solidarity:

"It is imperative that we facilitate the convergence of the Balkan countries, thereby enabling them to forge robust political and economic agreements and alliances. It is similarly vital to foster a spirit of solidarity and community among the Balkan peoples, which can be achieved through mutual assistance and collaboration. In order to achieve this, a number of conditions and even greater needs must be met."³

² "Le memorial de l'Institut des Etudes balkaniques", *Balcanica* XXX–XXXI (1999–2000), with bibliographies of both Institutes; I. Obradović, "Balkanski institut", *Godišnjak za društvenu istoriju* 3 (2010), 43–62; D. T. Bataković, "The eightieth anniversary of the Institute for Balkan Studies (1934–2014)", *Balcanica* VXL (2014), 7–14.

³ R. Parežanin, *Za Balkansko jedinstvo* (München: Iskra, 1979), 21.



Portrait of King Alexander Karadjordjević, by Petar Omčikus

He also explained the rationale for establishing the Institute, namely, the necessity of enabling the Balkan peoples to assume governance of their own region.

“It is imperative that the Balkan peoples unite. This is their destiny. This is a matter of great consequence for the future and survival of these peoples.”⁴

“In order to secure the Balkans for the Balkan peoples, the following idea must also be revived: Balkan peoples for the Balkans. We should turn to our motherland and look for the principal and only correct and solid support for political and economic independence and autonomy there. We should seek and find in the Balkans the sources of inspiration and motives for all creativity.”⁵

⁴ *Idem*, 24.

⁵ *Idem*, 25.

The motto “Balkans for the Balkan peoples” was synonymous with regional cooperation and lay at the heart of numerous regional initiatives, from the Balkan Alliance against the Ottomans in 1912 to the Balkan Pact of 1934 to the next iteration of the Balkan Alliance in 1954, which brought together Communist Yugoslavia and NATO members Greece and Turkey. The rationale for the establishment of both institutes thus rested on the continuing relevance of geostrategic considerations in both royalist and communist Yugoslavia. In the case of communist Yugoslavia, this regional alliance proved short-lived, as the re-establishment of relations between the Yugoslav and Soviet communist parties from 1955 onwards significantly reduced its importance. It regained importance at the beginning of the period of détente in 1968.

SHARED RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Multidisciplinary approach

These scholarly underpinnings of the Balkan Institute’s journal, the *Revue internationale des Études balkaniques*, were articulated by Professors Milan Budimir and Petar Skok, who also served as the editors of the Institute’s journal. Milan Budimir, a classical scholar and professor at the University of Belgrade, and Petar Skok, a Romance philologist and professor at the University of Zagreb, both scholars of international renown, pioneered comparative research of the Balkans, laying the foundations for Balkan studies, or Balkanology. In the inaugural issue of the Institute’s journal, the editors defined the field of research that the Institute would address as studying the Balkans as a whole.

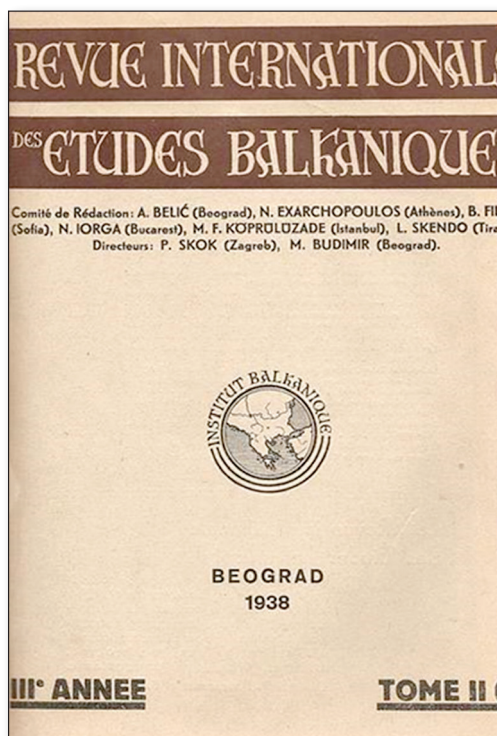
“However, it seems that the time has come to think about coordinating national Balkan scholarship, giving it cohesion and, above all, directing it towards the study of the Balkan organism that has formed a distinct entity since the earliest days of classical and pre-classical antiquity. This is the main goal of the academic discipline that we have taken the liberty of calling Balkanology⁶ and to which our journal is dedicated.”⁷

They also defined the object of research of Balkan studies as the comparative inter-Balkan system.

“The comparative study of the Balkans has become a pressing necessity. It is long overdue. The aim of this discipline is to define and explain the parallel

⁶ The inaugural issue of the Institute’s journal was written in French and the name of the new discipline in French was *balkanologie*, which can be translated in English as *Balkan Studies*.

⁷ M. Budimir, P. Skok, « But et Signification des Etudes balkaniques », *Revue internationale des Études balkaniques* I (1934), 3.



phenomena that manifest themselves in various fields of human activity in the Balkans.”⁸

The research method to be used in Balkan studies was described as comparative, establishing the fundamental premises of scholarship of the Balkans carried out in a comparative perspective in all Balkan countries.

“Balkan studies will proceed as follows. Whenever it has to study a particular phenomenon in a Balkan people, it will ask itself whether there are analogies in the neighboring Balkan peoples. If it finds them, it will duly define their nature. Then it will look to expand those findings, which will allow it to try to explain them. For a given question, it will try to take into consideration all the Balkan peoples, or, if this should prove impossible, at least two peoples, never just one. This is because the particular phenomena attract its attention in so far as they can be linked to the whole of Balkan life. It will leave the study of particular phenomena to specialists in nation-specific scholarship.”⁹

The concept of Balkan studies, as defined by Professors Budimir and Skok, was based on multidisciplinary research on the Balkans:

⁸ *Idem*, 7.

⁹ *Idem*, 8.

“It is not enough to define Balkan studies as an academic discipline based on inter-Balkan comparison. Comparison alone is not a widely used method in scholarship. It does not tell the whole story. It is necessary to determine the areas of Balkan studies where this method is applicable.”

In the first issue of the journal, the two professors gave ample evidence and numerous examples of why Balkan studies should include history, linguistics, folklore, economics, literature, law, and art history. Their concept of the new discipline was wholeheartedly embraced by fellow scholars in other Balkan countries. The articles published in the journal from 1934 to 1938, when the last issue appeared, bear witness to the success of their concept. It is fair to say that the journal brought together the *crème de la crème* of Balkan scholars in the humanities and social sciences.¹⁰ The members of the journal’s editorial board were Nicolae Iorga (Romania), Nikolaos Exarchopoulos (Greece), Bogdan Filov (Bulgaria), Fuat Köprülü (Turkey), Lumo Skëndo (Albania), and Aleksandar Belić (Yugoslavia).

Continuity in multidisciplinary research of the Balkans was confirmed by the decision of the Presidency of the Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts of May 18, 1967, to found the Institute for Balkan Studies of the Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts (SASA). The Presidency’s statement highlighted the comparative approach by enumerating the disciplines to be explored in Balkan studies:

“The Institute should employ scholarly methods to study, research, and explore issues in Balkan studies, namely: archaeology, history, linguistics, ethnology, sociology, literary and art history, economics, and law, if they relate to at least two Balkan nations or to one Balkan and one non-Balkan nation.”¹¹

The mandate for the restored Institute established by the Presidency of SASA included the main elements of Balkan studies as conceived by Budimir and Skok in 1934. Balkan Studies was considered to be an established academic discipline based on a multidisciplinary approach with a comparative perspective. The Institute began its work in July 1969 under the leadership of Vasa Čubrilović, a former associate of the Balkan Institute and the first director of the Balkan Institute of the Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts. The Institute launched its journal *Balcanica* in 1970. In its inaugural issue, the Editorial Board affirmed its decision to dedicate the journal to Balkan studies and its multidisciplinary approach:

¹⁰ Le memorial de l’Institut des Etudes balkaniques, *Balcanica* XXX–XXXI (1999–2000), with the bibliography of the first Institute for Balkan Studies.

¹¹ The decision of the Presidency of the Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts of May 18, 1967, archives of the Institute for Balkan Studies SASA.

“This journal will publish articles on all areas of Balkan Studies in its sections devoted to archaeology, history, linguistics, ethnology, sociology, history of literature and art, economics, and law.”¹²

Moreover, the Institute’s research program clearly demonstrated its multidisciplinary character. The research was organized into 11 projects, spanning from antiquity to the 20th century. The projects were characterized by thematic diversity and chronological comprehensiveness. The first group of the Institute’s contributors, already renowned scholars, took charge of the following projects:

- Material and spiritual culture of the Paleo-Balkan tribes of the central and eastern Balkans in the pre-Roman period, Nikola Tasić, PhD;
- Bogomilism in the Balkans and East Asia, Dragoljub Dragoljović, PhD;
- Management and administration of the Turkish Empire in the Balkans, Vasa Čubrilović, academician;
- The Eastern Question in the light of the liberation movements of the Balkan peoples, Kliment Džambazovski, PhD;
- Serbia and the liberation movements in the Balkans from the Congress of Paris to the Berlin Congress (1856-1878), Vasa Čubrilović, academician;
- The history of the labor movement in South-Eastern Europe, Petar Milosavljević, PhD;
- Great powers in the Balkans in the 20th century, Dušan Lukač, PhD;
- Nomadic and semi-nomadic pastoral movements in the Balkans and Southeast Europe, Dragoslav Antonijević, PhD;
- Customary law and self-government in the Balkans and neighboring countries, Djurica Krstić, PhD;
- Folk literature in the Balkans, Miodrag Stojanović, PhD;
- Arts and crafts in the Balkans over the centuries, Verena Han, PhD.

The overall research structure at the Institute underwent a thorough reform in the last decade of the 20th century when a new macro-project titled “History of the Balkan Peoples and their Cultures” became the pillar of its academic work. It consisted of a number of sub-projects in the fields of archaeology, history, ethnology, art history, and language and literature, led by a combination of new-generation scholars and some of the Institute’s founding members:

- Tribes of the Central Balkans between the Illyrians and the Thracians, Aleksandar Palavestra, PhD;
- History of the Balkan Peoples, Veselin Djuretić, PhD;
- Folk Culture of the Balkans, Dragoslav Antonijević, PhD;
- Similarities and Differences in the Artistic Expression of the Balkan Peoples, Dinko Davidov, corresponding member of SASA.

¹² La Rédaction, Avertissement, *Balkanica* I (1970), 1.

- Linguistic and Literary Links between the Peoples and their Cultures, Miodrag Stojanović, PhD.

The democratic changes that took place in Serbia in 2000 after the end of the wars in the former Yugoslavia also brought about a profound reform of the system of research. Research and its funding became project-based, so a new set of projects was conceived at the Institute by a new generation of scholars. The multidisciplinary character of the Institute's projects was retained as their methodological pillar, and they were organized by era. In addition to the projects focusing on antiquity, the Middle Ages, and the contemporary Balkans, projects dedicated to linguistic, ethnological, and anthropological research of the Balkans were also included. The chronologically organized projects also introduced a new methodological feature: an interdisciplinary approach to a given period. Thus, the interpretive framework of the Institute's projects became more complex, combining a multidisciplinary approach with an interdisciplinary focus. The leaders of this set of projects inevitably changed as one generation of scholars gave way to the next. All of them added their personal contributions to the projects:

- *Society, Culture and Communications in the Balkans in Proto- and Early History*, initially led by Professor Nenad Tasić. The project was later renamed: *The Balkans in Prehistory and Antiquity: Interdisciplinary Research*, with Dragana Nikolić, PhD, as project leader.
- *The Medieval Heritage of the Balkans: Institutions and Culture* initially led by Danica Popović, PhD. The project was later renamed *The medieval heritage of the Balkans*, with Valentina Živković, PhD, as project leader.
- *History of Political Ideas and Institutions in the Balkans in the 19th and 20th Centuries*, initially led by Dušan T. Bataković, PhD, and later by Vojislav G. Pavlović, PhD.
- *Language and Folklore in the Balkans*, initially led by Biljana Sikimić, PhD, and later by Annemarie Sorescu-Marinković, PhD.
- *Folk Culture of the Serbs in Slavic and Balkan Contexts*, initially led by Ljubinko Radenković, PhD, and *The Danube and the Balkans: Historical and Cultural Heritage*, initially led by Djordje S. Kostić, PhD. These two projects, one focusing on ethnological and the other on anthropological research, later merged into the project *Migration and Cultural Transfer in the Balkans*, with Aleksandra Djurić Milovanović, PhD, as project leader.

The Institute's research revolved around its principal projects. From 2020 onwards, a new source of funding became available with the creation of the Science Fund of Serbia, which provided a significant boost to academic research. The Fund's remit was to provide financial support for scientific and research projects through competitive programs, with the funding provided by the World

Bank, the European Union, and the budget of the Republic of Serbia. This new source of competitive funding proved to be an invaluable opportunity for the Institute's research work. From 2020 onwards, six of the Institute's projects have been selected for funding within four distinct programs offered by the Science Fund of Serbia.

**THE PROGRAM FOR EXCELLENT PROJECTS OF YOUNG RESEARCHERS
PROMIS (2020–2022)**

- *Regional Absolute Chronologies of the Late Neolithic in Serbia (RACOLNS)*
Partners: Institute for Balkan Studies, Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts, Laboratory for bioarchaeology, Faculty of Philosophy, University of Belgrade, Institute of Archeology
Principal Investigator: Miroslav Marić, PhD, Institute for Balkan Studies SASA;
- *The Serbian Right-Wing Parties and Intellectuals in the Kingdom of Yugoslavia, 1934-1941*
Partners: Institute for Balkan Studies, Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts (SASA), Institute for Literature and Arts, Institute for Philosophy and Social Theory
Principal Investigator: Dragan Bakić, PhD, Institute for Balkan Studies SASA;

THE IDEAS PROGRAM (2022–2024):

- *Pope Pius XII and the Challenge of Totalitarianism in Yugoslavia, 1941-1958 (POLITY)*
Partners: Institute for Balkan Studies, Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts, Faculty of Philosophy, University of Belgrade, Institute for Recent History of Serbia
Principal Investigator (PI): Vojislav G. Pavlovic, PhD, Institute for Balkan Studies SASA;
- *Vulnerable Languages and Linguistic Varieties in Serbia (VLINGS)*
Partners: Institute for Balkan Studies, Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts, Faculty of Philology, University of Belgrade, Faculty of Philosophy, University of Novi Sad, Faculty of Philosophy, University of Niš, Department of Interpreting and Translation, University of Bologna
Principal Investigator: Annemarie Sorescu-Marinković, PhD, Institute for Balkan Studies SASA.

PROGRAM FOR EXCELLENT PROJECTS OF YOUNG RESEARCHERS AND SCIENTISTS IN THE EARLY STAGE OF CAREER – PROMIS 2023 (2024–2025)

- *(Trans-)Formation of Identities: Orthodox Christians in the Ottoman Balkans (c. 1450-c. 1750) (FORMIDOX)*
Partners: Institute for Balkan Studies SASA, Faculty of Philology, University of Belgrade, Institute for Byzantine Studies SASA
Principal Investigator: Marija Vasiljević, PhD, Institute for Balkan Studies SASA.

PRISMA PROGRAM (2024–2026)

- *Viticulture and Winemaking in the Central Balkans (15th–19th Century) (BalkViWine)*
Partners: Institute for Balkan Studies SASA, Faculty of Philosophy; University of Novi Sad, Faculty of Philosophy; University of Belgrade, Faculty of Philology; University of Belgrade
Principal Investigator: Nebojša Šuletić, PhD, Institute for Balkan Studies SASA.

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

Besides continuity in the methodological approach to research, both institutes considered international cooperation to be one of the pillars of their work. Budimir and Skok defined the aim of the *Revue internationale des Études balkaniques* like this:

“Our journal is intended to serve as a modest outlet for international scholars to share the results of their research of the Balkans.”

In their introduction to the first issue of the journal, the editors of *Balcanica* set out their views on international cooperation in the following terms:

“The editors are pleased to include in this publication the results of the work not only of Yugoslav Balkanologists, but also of those from abroad. The Editorial Board is aware that modern scholarship transcends local and national borders and that satisfactory results can only be achieved through a full, open, and genuine exchange of academic experience in a climate of mutual cooperation between all experts in Balkan Studies, both at the Yugoslav and international level.”¹³

The bibliographies of both journals, the *Revue internationale des Études balkaniques* and *Balcanica*, show that the aspirations of their respective editors

¹³ *Idem.*

materialized. The number of foreign contributors to the *Revue internationale des Études balkaniques* was three times higher than that of Yugoslav contributors. The list of foreign contributors is impressive and includes the elite of European humanities scholars, e.g., Jacques Ancel, Charles Diehl, Nicolae Iorga, Michael Lascaris, Carlo Sforza, and Hermann Wendel. The Yugoslav contributors were at least as well-known as their foreign counterparts: Fehim Bajraktarević, Aleksandar Belić, Veselin Čajkanović, Vladimir Ćorović, Vladimir Dvorniković, Miodrag Ibrovac, and Georgije Ostrogorski, to name but a few. The journal published papers in French, English, German, and Italian, making it easier for scholars from abroad to contribute their articles.

The ratio between local and international scholars changed in favor of Serbian contributors in *Balcanica* mainly due to the different character of the Institute for Balkan Studies SASA. The Balkan Institute had neither a permanent staff nor the status of a research institution; in Communist Yugoslavia, the Institute was reconstituted as a research institute of the SASA with a number of scholars as permanent staff. Consequently, *Balcanica* became a journal with the primary purpose of presenting their work. Nevertheless, *Balcanica* continued to publish contributions by renowned scholars, such as Jurii. A. Pisarev, Nicolae Ciachir, Richard Plaschka, Ioannis Hassiotis, André Guillou, and Paolo Odorico. In 2005, the historian and diplomat Dušan T. Bataković became the director of the Institute and placed international cooperation at the center of the Institute's efforts, continuing the traditional orientation of the Balkan Institute. Since 2005, the journal *Balcanica* has been published exclusively in English and French to facilitate communication with the international academic community.

The objective was to achieve two-way communication. The journal has published an increasing number of articles by internationally renowned scholars, while simultaneously publishing articles by Serbian scholars in English. This has enabled the international academic community to gain a more profound insight into academic production in Serbia. Since 2005, 23% of all articles published in *Balcanica* were authored by European scholars, such as Thanos Veremis, Spyridon Sfetas, Paschalis M. Kitromilides, Georges-Henri Soutou, Jean-Paul Bled, and John Henderson. Concurrently, over 210 Serbian scholars have been given the chance to present their research to the international academic community.

Unlike its predecessor, the Institute for Balkan Studies SASA developed international cooperation on an institutional basis. Cooperation was naturally established with similar institutes in Bulgaria, Romania, and Greece, founded in the first half of the 1960s. Over the years the Institute established mutually beneficial cooperation based on formal agreements with more than twenty universities and research centers in Europe and beyond, including the Institute for Slavic Studies of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Moscow (Институт славяноведения Российской академии наук, Москва); Institute of Historical

Research, Department of Neohellenic Research, Athens; Harry S. Truman Research Institute for the Advancement of Peace, Hebrew University of Jerusalem; Università degli Studi Roma Tre, Facoltà di Scienze Politiche, Roma; Research Centre for the Humanities, Hungarian Academy of Science, Budapest; Ecole française d'Athènes; Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin - Sprach- und literaturwissenschaftliche Fakultät - Institut für Slawistik und Hungarologie.

Since its renewal, the Institute has been a member of the International Association of South-East European Studies, a Balkan-wide association for South-East European studies based in Bucharest under the auspices of the UNESCO. The Institute's reputation, the abilities of its associates, and the international reputation of its director, Professor Radovan Samardžić, was affirmed during the 5th International Congress of the Association of South-East European Studies, which the Institute successfully hosted in 1984.

In recent years, the Institute's scholars have enhanced their international cooperation by participating in projects implemented through European funding programs, such as Creative Europe and COST:

CREATIVE EUROPE

- *Prometheus – Promoting Universal Values through Digital Epigraphy and Cultural Heritage 2024-*
Partners: Archaeological Museum of the Republic of North Macedonia Skopje, Sofia University St Kliment Ohridski, Institute for Balkan Studies, Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts, University of Belgrade, Faculty of Philosophy, Ss. Cyril and Methodius University in Skopje;
Project Coordinator: Dragana Nikolić, PhD, Institute for Balkan Studies, SASA;
- *European Network on Archival Cooperation (ENArC) (2007–2015)*
Partners: Bayerisches Hauptstaatsarchiv, München, Národní archiv, Prague, Slovensky narodny archiv, Bratislava, Arhiv Republike Slovenije, Ljubljana, Magyar Országos Levéltár, Budapest, Hrvatski Državni Arhiv, Zagreb, Budapest Főváros Levéltára, Institute for Balkan Studies SASA, Scuola Normale Superiore di Pisa, Università degli Studi di Napoli Federico II, Historisch-Kulturwissenschaftliche Informationsverarbeitung, Universität zu Köln, International Centre for Archival Research – ICA-RUS, Wien, Ministerio de Cultura, Subdirección General de los Archivos Estatales, Madrid.
Project Coordinator: Žarko Vujošević, PhD, from Institute for Balkan Studies, SASA.

COST (EUROPEAN COOPERATION IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY) ACTIONS

- *Participation through Prayer in the Late Medieval and Early Modern World (PRAYTICIPATE) 2024-2028*
Principal Partner: University of Madrid
The project's members Valentina Živković and Marija Vasiljević are employed at the Institute for Balkan Studies SASA.
- *Managing Artificial Intelligence in Archaeology, 2024–2028*
Principal Partner: University of Pisa
The project member Vladimir Petrović, PhD, is employed at the Institute for Balkan Studies SASA.
- *Connecting Theory and Practical Issues of Migration and Religious Diversity (COREnet), 2021–2025*
Principal Partner: University of Caunas
The project member Aleksandra Djurić Milovanović PhD is employed at the Institute for Balkan Studies SASA.
- *Action Islamic Legacy: Narratives East, West, South, North of the Mediterranean (1350–1750), 2019–2023*
Principal Partner: University of Ghent
The project members Valentina Živković and Ognjen Krešić are employed at the Institute for Balkan Studies SASA.

Another form of international cooperation in which the scholars from the Institute have been involved is bilateral interstate projects, such as:

- *What's in a verb? Mapping Serbian verbs borrowed into Romani (2024–2026)*
Partners: Institute for Balkan Studies, Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts (SASA), Department of Slavic Studies, University of Graz
Project Coordinator: Mirjana Mirić, PhD, Institute for Balkan Studies SASA;
- *Religious Policies and Freedom of Conscience in the interwar and socialist Yugoslavia: The Contexts of Change (2023-2025)*
Partners: Institute for Balkan Studies SASA, Science and Research Center Koper
Project Coordinator: Aleksandra Đurić Milovanović, PhD, Institute for Balkan Studies SASA;
- *Semiotic landscapes of multilingual border regions (2022-2023)*
Partners: Institute for Balkan Studies, Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts (SASA), Friedrich Schiller University Jena

Project Coordinator: Annemarie Sorescu-Marinković, PhD, Institute for Balkan Studies SASA;

- *Linguistic landscape of the cultural region Banat in diachrony and synchrony (2020-2021)*
Partners: Institute for Balkan Studies, Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts (SASA), Friedrich Schiller University Jena
Project Coordinator: Annemarie Sorescu-Marinković, PhD, Institute for Balkan Studies SASA;
- *Probing the Boundaries of the (Trans)National: Imperial Legacies, Transnational Literary Networks and Multilingualism in East Central Europe (2018–2021)*
Partners: Institute for Balkan Studies SASA, University of Oslo
Project Coordinator: Marija Mandić, PhD, Institute for Balkan Studies SASA;
- *Middle Danube, Lower Sava and Central Balkans: land of anchor, land of passage from first to fifth century A.D. (2014–2015)*
Partners: Institute for Balkan Studies SASA, Institut Ausonius, Bordeaux
Project Coordinator: Vladimir Petrović, PhD, Institute for Balkan Studies SASA.

PUBLISHING AND EDITORIAL WORK



Both Institutes considered their publishing and editorial output to be their primary purpose, albeit from slightly different perspectives. The Balkan Institute was established to foster awareness of the scientific and popular aspects of Balkan unity rather than as a research institution *per se*. Accordingly, the objective of its publications was to present evidence of the convergence between the political, cultural, and economic experiences of Balkan nations. The Institute for Balkan Studies SASA, on the other hand, aimed to present the latest knowledge on

the Balkans and publish original scholarly contributions by its members and correspondents. These two perspectives, though differing in nature, shared the same overarching objective: to promote knowledge about the Balkans in both academic and popular circles.

The Balkan Institute's publications were split into two series, one intended to instruct and educate and the other to inform a broader audience. The topic of the first series revealed the editors' intentions to educate the broader public on the beginnings of the nation- and state-building process in the Balkans. Four volumes were published:

- П. Скок, М. Будимир, Р. Парезанин, С. Спанаћевић и Г. Круљ, *Балкан и Балканци* (*The Balkans and the Balkanians*) (1937)
- В. Ђоровић, *Борба за независност Балкана* (*Struggle for Balkan Independence*) (1937)
- Ф. Шишић, *Југословенска мисао: историја идеје југословенског народног уједињења и ослобођења од 1790–1918*, (*Yugoslav thought: the history of the idea of Yugoslav national unification and liberation from 1790-1918*) (1937)
- Г. Константинов, *Вођи бугарског народа: Раковски – Каравелов – Левски – Ботјов*, (*Leaders of the Bulgarian People: Rakovski - Karavelov - Levski – Botjov*) (1939)
- *Књига о Балкану* [Book on the Balkans], was intended for a wider circle of Yugoslav readers, presenting to them the concept of Balkan unity. Two volumes were printed (1936-1937).

A separate series on contemporary Balkans focused on its economic development:

- Драгослав П. Михајловић, *Привреда савремене Турске*, (*The economy of contemporary Turkey*), 1937
- Bogoljub Konstantinović, *La Yougoslavie pour la sante publique: Situation sanitaire. Organisation de l'activité socialo-médicale. Instructions pour le relèvement de la santé publique* 1937.
- *Economic encyclopedia of the Balkan countries* (with texts in French, German, English, and Italian, in two volumes, 1938). This was a pioneering work, which, given its topic, had a broad practical application and was distributed to many state institutions in Turkey, Greece, Bulgaria, and Romania. It was remarkably well-received in the Balkan countries.

The Balkan Institute also published literary works, focusing on poetry:

- Miodrag Ibrovac, *La poésie yougoslave contemporaine* (1937)
- Hélé Lambridis, *La poésie grecque des cinquante dernières années* (1937)
- Mario Roques, *La poésie roumaine contemporaine* (1937)

A monograph on Belgrade (1940), printed in French and German, the last publication of the Balkan Institute and a collective undertaking, was unfortunately banned before it could be distributed. It was considered unacceptable and damaging to German interests in Yugoslavia, and the authorities succumbed to pressure from the German Embassy. As we have already said, not long afterward, the Institute itself was banned by the German occupational authorities.

The editorial work of the Institute for Balkan Studies SASA focused on publishing the proceedings of the conferences organized by the Institute and the monographs authored by its members. The flagship series of the Institutes was called Special Editions. The first decades of the Institute's existence saw the publication of the following monographs:

- *Обичајно право и самоуправа на Балкану и у суседним земљама (Customary Law and Self-Government in the Balkans and in Neighboring Countries)*, Collection of Papers from an International Scientific Conference, Belgrade 1971, ed. Vasa Čubrilović, Belgrade 1974.
- *Драгољуб Драгојловић, Богомилство на Балкану и у Малој Азији (Bogomilism in the Balkans and in Asia Minor)*, Belgrade 1974.
- *Средњовековно стакло на Балкану (V–XV век), (Medieval Glassware in the Balkans (5th–15th Century))*, Collection of Papers from an International Conference, Belgrade 1974, ed. Vasa Čubrilović, Belgrade 1975.
- *Одредбе позитивног законодавства и обичајног права о сезонским кретањима сточара у Југоисточној европи кроз векове (Provisions of positive legislation and customary law on seasonal movements of herders in Southeast Europe over centuries)*, Proceedings of an international scientific conference, Belgrade 1975, ed. Vasa Čubrilović, Belgrade 1976.
- *Светска економска криза 1929–1934. године и њен одраз у земљама Југоисточне Европе (The world economic crisis of 1929–1934. and its reflections in the countries of Southeast Europe Proceedings)*, ed. Vasa Čubrilović, Belgrade 1976.
- *Петар Милосављевић, Раднички покрет у Румунији I (1870–1917), (Workers' Movement in Romania I (1870–1917))*, Belgrade 1977.
- *Ђурица Крстић, Правни обичаји код Куча. Анализа реликата. Методологија. Прилози за теорију обичајног права, (Legal customs of Kič. Analysis of relics. Methodology. Contributions to the Theory of Customary Law)*, Belgrade 1979.
- *Никола Тасић, Борислав Јовановић, Методологија истраживања у праисторијској археологији, (Research Methodology in Prehistoric Archaeology)*, Belgrade 1979.
- *Архивска грађа о стаклу и стакларству у Дубровнику (XIV–XVI век), collected and edited by Verena Han, Belgrade 1979.*

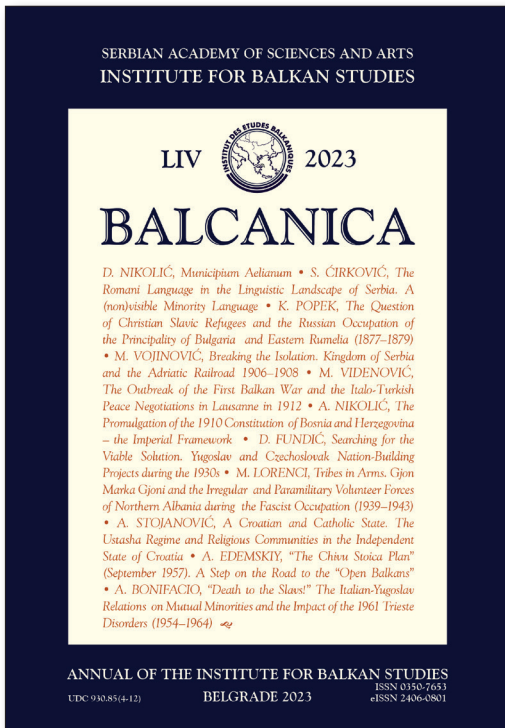
A total of 159 titles have been published in the Special Editions series, including monographs and edited volumes. Since 2000, 61 books have been published in Serbian and 21 in English and French. The trend of publishing books in foreign languages intensified from 2006 onward in a bid to overcome isolation in narrow national frameworks and establish lively communication with contemporary movements in the globalized domain of the humanities. It is worth noting that many of the Institute's publications have been produced as the final and obligatory outcome of important international conferences hosted by our Institute. The series reflect the multidisciplinary character of the research conducted at the Institute. The five projects that formed the structure of the Institute's research after 2000 have all produced a significant number of monographs in their research fields.

The Institute has developed a fruitful cooperation with several publishing houses in Serbia, namely with Clio, Zavod za udžbenike, and Sebastian Press. One of the major editorial projects has been the publication of the seminal volume *Christian Heritage of Kosovo and Metohija* in collaboration with Sebastian Press. Recently, the Institute signed an agreement with Brill Academic Publishers that will bring the Institute's publications to a much wider audience, as a number of them will be reprinted by Brill. The first book published by Brill in a special series devoted exclusively to the Institute's monographs is Vladimir Ćorović's *Relations between Serbia and Austria-Hungary in the 20th Century*.

Dušan T. Bataković invested considerable effort in creating the Institute's digital infrastructure. The central platform integrating various projects, activities, and content is the official website of the Institute, which brings together numerous individual websites, databases, and digital tools created as a result of the Institute's research. Digital, open-access versions of books from the Special Editions series are available on the site. The Institute for Balkan Studies also participates in Google's partner program, so the Institute's publications are also available on the Google Books platform, enhancing the visibility of the Institute's publications and the availability of scholarly works and publications.

The journal *Balkanica* has its own website, and the texts it publishes are also available through a number of important national and international digital services, including DOI Serbia, CEEOL, and DOAJ. Additionally, they are accessible through the Digital Repository of the Institute for Balkan Studies SASA, which forms an integral part of the Digital Archive of the Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts (DAIS). Currently, the Digital Repository of the Institute for Balkan Studies contains over twenty thousand titles divided into several collections.

The objective of the *BiblioBalkans* project is to enhance the visibility of researching the Balkans in social studies and humanities and facilitate international collaboration between institutions and researchers working in Balkan stud-



ies. This is to be achieved by establishing an international network that will enable and encourage the development of joint projects and activities.

This project created a bibliographic database comprising the scholarly output of institutions that focus on Balkan studies. The digital infrastructure for the database was developed in collaboration with the Mathematical Institute of the Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts (SASA).

A number of digitization projects have been implemented at the Institute for Balkan Studies SASA, which represent a significant contribution to the academic community and the cultural

heritage of the region. Suffice it to mention a number of notable independently and co-authored projects by Dr. Mirjana Detelić, including the digital lexicon “Epic Cities,” which is accessible on the Institute’s platform, and electronic critical editions. “Epic Folk Poetry” and “Erlangen Manuscript” are accessible via the Monumenta Serbica portal.

Additionally, the “Language, Folklore and Migrations in the Balkans” project, spearheaded by Biljana Sikimić, resulted in the establishment of the DABI (Digital Archive of the Institute for Balkan Studies SASA). This multimedia archive represents a unique and invaluable repository of field research, providing a basis for the Institute’s current and future research.

Another notable achievement is the digitization of Serbian diplomatic material, undertaken as part of the aforementioned European project EnArC. As a result of this initiative, the material is now accessible via the Monasterium web portal, the largest European virtual archive of charters. In accordance with the agreement of 2021, the Institute for Balkan Studies SASA ceded its rights over the “Serbian Digital Diplomacy” to the Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts.

Scholars as the Institute's principal resource

Both Institutes were privileged to have a group of particularly knowledgeable and renowned scholars to guide their research. Professors Budimir and Skok laid the foundations for Balkan studies as an academic discipline in its own right. Their colleague at the Balkan Institute, academician Vasa Čubrilović, continued to foster the same research principles at the Institute for Balkan Studies. Academician Radovan Samardžić took over the Institute's helm in 1979, following in the footsteps of his professor and predecessor. During his ten years as the head of the Institute, Radovan Samardžić published ten issues of the *Balkanica* journal and twenty books in the "Special Editions" series and hosted several international academic conferences.

Academician Nikola Tasić took on the thankless and challenging task of leading the Institute during the turbulent last decades of the 20th century marked by international sanctions. Institutional international cooperation was no longer possible but continued through personal contacts, confirming the importance of previously established cooperation. Despite the limited resources at its disposal, the Institute showed an enviable vitality in the 1990s, manifested, above all, in its prolific scholarly production, with thirty-five monographs published in the Special Editions series.

As director (2000–2004), Ljubinko Radenković guided the process of adapting the Institute's work after the introduction of project-based funding. The historian and diplomat Dušan T. Bataković became the director of the Institute in 2005 and made international cooperation the Institute's focus. Academician Nikola Tasić, despite his workload and commitments as Vice-President of the Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts, agreed to stand in as the Institute's director during Dušan Bataković's diplomatic service (2008–2012).

Throughout its existence, the Institute for Balkan Studies of the Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts has enjoyed the full support of academicians who, by participating in its Scientific Council, guided the Institute's research. The Council's members included many renowned scholars, such as Mithat Begić, Milka Ivić, Dragoslav Srejšević, Milutin Garašanin, Predrag Palavestra, Ljubomir Tadić, Dragoljub R. Živojinović, Aleksandar Loma, Mirjana Živojinović, and Vujadin Ivanišević. Their colleagues, Nikola Tasić, Borislav Jovanović, Mihailo Vojvodić, and Ljubodrag Dimić, as representatives of the Department of History of the Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts on the Institute's Executive Board oversaw the Institute's daily work.

The Institute for Balkan Studies and the Institute for Balkan Studies SASA owe the high standard of their research output to the dedicated work of their staff. Over time, a number of colleagues who began their careers at the Institute moved on to teaching positions at the University of Belgrade, but this did not interrupt their cooperation with the Institute – on the contrary. New gen-

erations of scholars committed to researching the Balkans gradually assumed responsibility for the Institute's work. The late 2010s saw a significant generational change, with more than half of the Institute's current staff now under 40 years of age, ensuring its continued success, productivity, and development.

In the future, the Institute will focus on national and European projects. Regional cooperation has always been, and will remain, a constant of the Institute's development. The Institute's website boldly states that the vision for the future is to become the central institution of a future regional network of institutions dedicated to multidisciplinary research of the shared heritage and promotion of the inherent values of the Balkans as a European region. Ambition, even great ambition, is a powerful stimulus, and time will tell how productive it has been.

Editor-in-Chief

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