



Annual Newsletter of the Department
of Anthropology, Faculty of Philosophy,
University of Prishtina “Hasan Prishtina”



Letter from the Editors

Dear readers,

We are pleased to present to you the fifth edition of our annual newsletter from the Department of Anthropology at the University of Prishtina. This volume reflects upon a fruitful year for our Department. Among significant archaeological findings, exchanges of knowledge, anthropological research, publications, and multiple conferences, this edition showcases the significant work accomplished by the academic staff and students of our Department. During this academic year, the Department succeeded in tackling new topics through guest lectures and providing opportunities to deepen debates and offer new perspectives within our discipline. This is an example of our commitment to creating a fruitful environment for learning and research.

Through active participation of our professors in various conferences and seminars, we have exchanged knowledge and experiences with colleagues from Kosovo and around the world. This ongoing dialogue has contributed to a broader perspective on the challenges and potentials of our field. Continuous publications and diverse contributions from the staff and from students are another hallmark of this academic year, which aids in the expansion of the body of knowledge in the fields of both anthropology and archaeology. This is evidence of our dedication to document and share our findings and observations with others.

This year, is a big leap forward, we publish our annual newsletter in English too, this will enable us to share our knowledge and research with a wider audience and convey our contributions on an international stage. This is a new path towards promoting the anthropological and archaeological knowledge of Kosova on a global scale. Through dedicated work and unwavering passion, the Department of Anthropology takes pride in raising the recognition in the fields of anthropology and archaeology in Kosova.

We continue with eagerness and dedication to positively influence the development and promotion of knowledge in these significant fields for our culture and history.

We hope that this journal will serve not only as a summary of our work in 2023, but also as a source of inspiration for future studies and research!

The new study programme

This year, our department launched a newly accredited BA program called “Anthropology and Cultural Heritage”. This program provides students with the opportunity to pursue the study of culture and society through the lens of anthropology, with a focus on cultural heritage as a central theme. The new program aligns with common international major-minor study pathways. Our Department has designed this specific study program to address the local need for anthropological study of cultural heritage, based on broader empirical knowledge.

Cultural heritage generally encompasses archaeological heritage, architectural heritage, natural landscapes, and intangible cultural heritage. From castles to museums, ancient cultural practices to historical festivals, collective memory to cultural tourism, there are a plethora of aspects, themes, and categories that are related to and/or connected with cultural heritage.

In this program, students will become acquainted with anthropological approaches, theories, debates, and methods, but also with their application in the study of cultural heritage, including how cultural heritage is protected, preserved, and interpreted. Another novelty of this program is the opportunity for students to take some courses in English.

Kosova Anthropologica – new annual academic journal of the Department

Kosova Anthropologica is an annual academic journal published by the Department of Anthropology, which will be released once a year in December. The aim of the journal is to advance anthropological knowledge and understanding of Kosova and the region. The journal serves as an open forum for researchers, primarily in the fields of cultural/social anthropology, archaeology, and linguistic anthropology. It is directed towards both national and international scholarly audiences interested in anthropological studies of culture, society, and everyday realities, with a focus on Kosova and its neighboring region. *Kosova Anthropologica* publishes essays in both Albanian and English languages. All published essays must meet the highest standards of academic publishing in scientific journals. Moreover, *Kosova Anthropologica* is open to contributions from researchers interested in publishing in the aforementioned fields/themes and includes studies focused on anthropological analysis based on empirical findings of specific topics, but also publishes essays oriented towards theoretical reflections and reviews of books, films, documentaries, and other visual media. The first issue is expected to be released in December 2023. For more please contact us at kosova.anthropologica@uni-pr.edu or visit the [website](#).

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Annual Newsletter of the Department of Anthropology, Faculty of Philosophy, University of Prishtina "Hasan Prishtina"
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 It comes out once a year, in printed and digital form.

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2023 - [website](#)

[The website of the Department of Anthropology](#)



Fieldwork photo,
"Memory in Stone", Podujeva, Kosova

Agreements with the MCYS

the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports

The Department of Anthropology has a tradition of collaboration with the Ministry of Culture, Youth, and Sports (MCYS). Over the years, MCYS has supported the staff and students of the Department in various fields, including large cultural projects and practical work for the Department's students within MCYS institutions. Recently, the agreement between the Department and MCYS has been renewed.

As a result of the agreement signed on April 5, 2023, between Minister Hajrullah Çeku and the Dean of the Faculty of Philosophy, Dashamir Bërxulli, various study programs, training sessions, seminars, conferences, projects, research, and internship courses will be organized and conducted between the Ministry of Culture, Youth, and Sports (MKRS) and the Department of Anthropology.

This collaboration has opened opportunities for students of the Department of Anthropology to engage in practical work in various areas related to cultural heritage, conservation, and restoration.

Scholarships from the MCYS

The Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports

The Ministry of Culture, Youth, and Sports (MCYS) provides annual scholarships for anthropology and cultural heritage students. This year, the Ministry of Culture, Youth, and Sports awarded 9 scholarships for studies in the field of cultural heritage (MA and PhD) at various European universities. The majority of these scholarship recipients were former students of the Department of Anthropology. So far, more than 30 students from the Department of Anthropology have completed or are currently enrolled in postgraduate studies abroad in the field of anthropology, ranging from prehistoric archaeology to digital anthropology.



Awards from the National Library of Kosova for Departmental staff members



Photos from the University of Prishtina



Photos from the University of Prishtina

On November 22, 2022, for the 78th anniversary of the National Library of Kosova “Pjetër Bogdani,” honored and awarded professors from the University of Prishtina for their work as mentors for the project “Memory of Kosovo: Testimonies of Survivors of the Krusha e Madhe Massacre.” From the Department of Anthropology, the honored professors include Assoc. Prof. Dr. Arsim Canolli, Ass. Prof. Dr. Shemsi Krasniqi, and Ass. Prof. Dr. Tahir Latifi. These acknowledgements were presented to the professors by the rector of the University of Prishtina, Prof. Dr. Qerim Qerimi.

The project, which is now in its final phase of implementation, aims to document, publish, and preserve the testimonies of survivors and eyewitnesses of the Krusha e Madhe Massacre in the Municipality of Rahovec in Kosova. The project is the result of collaboration between the National Library of Kosova “Pjetër Bogdani,” the University of Prishtina “Hasan Prishtina,” the Ministry of Culture, Youth, and Sports, the Municipality of Rahovec, and the U.S. Embassy in Prishtina.

A total of 35 students and graduates from the University of Prishtina specializing in cultural anthropology, sociology, history, journalism, and related fields have made significant contributions to this project, which includes conducting over 200 interviews as part of the project’s research efforts.

Annual Student Handbook

One of the most distinctive attributes of the Department of Anthropology is its transparency with its students. This is best exemplified through the annual student handbook prepared by the Department itself.

The departmental student handbook serves as a guide for any uncertainties or questions that students may have. It is recommended to read the handbook before the start of each semester, but it can also be consulted throughout the academic year. The handbook is designed to assist students with any issues they may encounter during their studies.

For this reason, the guide is very clear and easy to read. It contains guidelines and instructions, the general curriculum, and information about the academic staff, planned activities, and everything related to student support and skill development. In such a way the department envisions advancing Albanian anthropological thinking. Its mission is accomplished by imparting fundamental knowledge about culture, the past, the present, social relations, and more, through lectures, learning, training, and research.



→ Read further in [The student handbook](#)

Info and Activities

A Round Table Discussion of the Department of Anthropology

“Together with Others: Research, Projects, Presentations of the Department of Anthropology in Collaboration with Partners”

The Department of Anthropology has a history of collaboration with various partners, including different international universities, local and central cultural heritage institutions, non-governmental organizations, municipal culture departments, media, and more. These collaborations have not only helped students develop their research and analysis skills, but have also resulted in various outcomes such as publications, exhibitions, and video inquiries. These materials can be used not only by Department students but also by students from other disciplines and society in general.

Therefore, these collaborations help students work in groups or teams, where they take responsibility and appreciate the opinions of others, and lastly recognize the contributions of all participants involved in the project.

During Round Table Discussion held on April 19, 2023 the Department's projects were presented from the perspectives of professors, students, and collaborators, non-governmental organizations, communities, etc. The discussion table consisted of 6 panels and contained 20 presentees. The topics were diverse, offering different research methodologies and quite interesting projects for the region, where the discussion that followed was abundant with questions and comments from all panelists.

- Zanita Halimi



Photo from Round Table

The International Congress on Balkan Archaeology



Photo from "Epoka e Re"

For three days, from 17th - 19th, 2022, the Department of Anthropology organised an international conference titled "Archaeology of the Balkans from Prehistory to the End of Antiquity - Recent Discoveries and New Methodologies", which was held at the National Library in Prishtina. This conference, hosted for the first time in Kosovo, brought together various researchers from the Balkans and beyond with the aim of sharing their national or international projects and presenting the latest developments in the field of archaeology, and new methodological approaches.

The opening of this conference was attended by representatives from the Ministry of Culture, Youth, and Sports, representatives from the University of Prishtina "Hasan Prishtina," as well as professors and archaeology experts from England, the USA, Albania, Italy, France, and more.

Professor Christophe Goddard from ENS/Paris, emphasized the importance of collaboration in archaeology. "There is no archaeology without training, so the main goal of our universities wherever we are is essential not only to build a proper scientific archaeology but also to create this new generation of specialists who need to work together" said Goddard, expressing his gratitude to the organizers of the conference. Below we present the congress programme.

Program

November 17, 2022

PREHISTORY AND PROTOHISTORY

Session Chair: Hrvoje Potrebica

10:40 - 11:00: **Chronological and cultural data on the process of Neolithization in Albania**

Ilir Gjipali (Institute of Archaeology, Tirana)
Edlira Andoni (Institute of Archaeology, Tirana)

11:10 - 11:20: **New data on the civilization of the Bronze Age in Kosovo**

Adem Bunguri (Institute of Archaeology, Tirana)

11:20 - 11:40: **Submerged archaeological research in Lake Ohrid and Lake Prespa – A possible link**

between Line 3 and the Dunavec site

Adrian Anastasi (Institute of Archaeology, Tirana)

11:40 - 12:00: **Regional archaeology in the Peja and Istog region of Kosovo (RAPID-K), 2018 - 2021 – Preliminary results**

Michael L. Galaty (University of Michigan)
Haxhi Mehmetaj (Institute of Archaeology, Pristina)
Sylvia Deskaj (University of Michigan)

12:00 - 12:20: **The prehistoric settlement of Dobratini**

Shafi Gashi (Archaeological Institute of Kosovo)
Berat Ademi (Archaeological Institute of Kosovo)

12:20 - 12:40: **The late Bronze Age, archaeological findings from Kalaja of Dardania**

Klodian Velo (archaeologist, Albania)
Shafi Gashi (Archaeological Institute of Kosovo)

FUNERAL RITUALS AND ARISTOCRATIC CULTURE

Session Chair: Stéphane Verger

14:20 - 14:40: **Representation of early Iron Age leaders in the Balkans**

Hrvoje Potrebica (University of Zagreb)

14:40 - 15:00: **Rock-cut tombs in the Mat River Valley, Albania – Preliminary results from the 2022 field season**

Olsa Lafe (Aleksandër Moisiu University, Durrës)
Romir Mazari (Architect - restorer, Albania)
Gjergj Gjura (Archaeologist, Albania)
Bërbis Islami (National Institute for Cultural Heritage, Albania)
Albana Stefa (National Institute for Cultural Heritage, Albania)

15:00 - 15:20: **Tumular necropolis of Dolle**

Premtim Alaj (Institute of Archaeology, Pristina)
Sedat Baraliu (University of Pristina "Hasan Prishtina")

15:20 - 15:40: **Group of graves with simple and monumental architecture in the northern necropolis of Amantia – Aspects of architecture, burial rituals, and inventory items**

Kriledjan Çipa (Institute of Archaeology, Tirana)
Mariglen Memushi (Institute of Archaeology, Tirana)
Ulsi Toti (Universiteti d'Avignon)

ECONOMY AND CULTURAL EXCHANGES

Session Chair: Albena Milanova

16:20 - 16:40: **Messapic Knot – The challenge of segmenting and interpreting Scriptio Continua**
Kujtim Mani (Institute of Albanology, Pristina)

16:40 - 17:00: **The Nymphaion bitumen deposit – Historical geography and archaeology**

Francois Quantin (École Pratique des Hautes Études/IRAA UMR 6222 CNRS)
Saimir Shpuza (Institute of Archaeology, Tirana)

17:00 - 17:20: **Limes Vanonis – An unpublished Roman inscription from Rahovec (Kosovo)**

Emine Kalaja (Institute of History, Pristina)
Ilir Culaj (University of Pristina "Hasan Prishtina")

Program

November 18, 2022

HELENISTIC AND ROMAN CITIES

Session Chair: Balisa Muka

9:30 - 9:50: **Daedania of the 5th - 1st century BC: Between historical fragmentation and archaeological reality**

Neritan Ceka (Archaeologist, Albania)

9:50 - 10:10: **Architecture and urbanism in Orikum during the Hellenistic period**

Saimir Shpuza (Institute of Archaeology, Tirana)



Photo from MCYS

Gionata Consagra (University of Geneva)

10:10 - 10:30: **Apollonia-d'Illyrie – the portrait of a long-lived city**

Stéphane verger (National Roman Museum, Rome)

10:30 - 10:50: **A new light on the Coastal Kaonia – Albanian-Italian archaeological research in Phoinike and Butrint**

Belisa Muka (Institute of Archaeology, Tirana)

G. Lepore (University of Bologna)

E. Giorgi (University of Bologna)

10:50 - 11:10: **The Battle of Aoi Stena (198 BC) and the traces of fortifications in the territory**

Taulant Rama (Institute of Archaeology, Tirana)

Eduard Shehi (Institute of Archaeology, Tirana)

LATE ANTIQUITY CITIES

Session Chair: Luan Përzhita

11:50 - 12:10: **Late Antique Durres in light of new archaeological evidence**

Brikena Shkodra-Rrugia (Institute of Archaeology, Tirana)

12:10 - 12:30: **From Ulpiana to Justiniana Secunda**

Christophe J. Goddard (CNRS-ENS, AOROC, Paris)

Arben Hajdari (University of Pristina “Hasan Prishtina”)

Milot Berisha (Institute of Archaeology, Pristina)

Marco Maiuro (Sapienza University of Rome)

12:30 - 12:50: **Imperial Palace and the city of Sirmium**

Richard Miles (University of Sydney)

FORTIFICATIONS AND LANDSCAPES OF LATE ANTIQUITY

Session Chair: Richard Miles

13:40 - 14:00: **The latest fieldwork of the**

international archaeological project in Zaldapa, Bulgaria

Albena Milanova (University of Sofia “Kliment Ohridski”)

Nicolas Beaudry (University of Québec à Rimouski, Canada)

Georgi Atanasov (Historical Regional Museum - Silistra, Bulgaria)

Dominic Moreau (University of Lille, France)

14:00 - 14:20: **The region of Drin River in the late ancient period**

Luan Përzhita (Academy of Albanological Studies, Tirana)

14:20 - 14:40: **Fortified landscapes in central and southeastern Albania – A research and study project**

Altin Skenderaj (Institute of Archaeology, Tirana)

Luigi Maria Calio (University of Catania)

14:40 - 15:00: **About a historical and archaeological episode from the middle of the 6th century in the regions of Praevalis and Dardania**

Gëzim Hoxha (Institute of Archaeology, Tirana)

15:30 - 16:20: **General conclusions**

Elisabeth Fentress

Program

November 19, 2022

After Conference Tour

Archaeological Park “Ulpiana”

Gracanica Monastery

Prizren Castle

The success of this first international archaeological conference in Kosova lays a solid foundation for future initiatives in this field. It demonstrates the potential for continuous growth and development in archaeological research, preservation, and archaeological education within Kosova and beyond. As we reflect on this significant event, it reminds us of the ongoing importance of archaeology in uncovering humanity's shared history and in promoting cultural appreciation and collaboration on a global scale.

The Rights of the Sámi People in Norway - Lecture by Prof. Stener Ekern

Professor Stener Ekern, an anthropologist from the Norwegian Center for Human Rights at the University of Oslo, delivered a lecture to anthropology students on “The Rights of the Sámi People in Norway” on May 11th, 2023. Professor Ekern was in Kosova through the ERASMUS+ exchange program, which the University of Prishtina participates in with various universities in Europe. Professor Ekern emphasized that he had been to Kosova for the first time in 1973, but as a tourist in the southern part of then former Yugoslavia. In his lecture, he provided an overview of the history of the rights of the Sámi people, an indigenous group in Norway, but also present in other Nordic countries and Russia. The Sámi are an ethnic group with 10 quite different dialects spoken in Fenno-Scandinavia. They have had a continuous presence in those regions for at least 12,000 years. They are known for various practices related to reindeer herding, but today, the Sámi are integrated into Norwegian society. Since 1987, they have been recognized as an indigenous peoples and have various forms of self-identification. Between 1860 and 1960, during the formation of the Norwegian nation, the Sámi were deprived of some rights, but in the second half of the 20th century, they gained a new status within the Norwegian state, including their own parliament.

Professor Ekern discussed how international laws make their culture an object on material bases, where, for example, the reindeer herding, an ancient Sámi tradition, becomes the main basis protected by international law. Thus, a cultural objectification is required, in order to be marked as culture and protected. On the other hand, only 10% of the Sámi population is involved in reindeer herding today, while others work in various sectors of Norwegian society.

The question arises: what is Sámi culture? A handful of exotic signs or practices fixed by nationalism on one side and international law on the other? Or the daily life of the 90% of the Sámi population who are not involved in this work? Why is there a struggle to identify “survivals” for self-identification? How does self-identification work in the context of international law, as well as differentiation within the nation-state?

Through the example of the indigenous rights of the

Sámi people in Norway, Professor Ekern opened a discussion on indigenous rights in general, minority relations in the context of the nation-state, nationalism, and group identity in a time of significant changes in ecology, technology, and political self-identification culture.

- Arsim Canolli

Studies on Albanian culture at the University of Regensburg - Lectures by Prof. Ger Duijzings

Albanian studies have become a focal point of regional studies in Regensburg, Germany, thanks to the project “A Small but Fertile Field: Strengthening Southeast European Studies in Regensburg.” The project is a joint partnership, initiated by the University of Pristina in partnership with the University of Regensburg. Key contributions to the project include Albanian Language classes at the University of Regensburg, visits from local professors in both Regensburg and Prishtina, funding for doctoral studies in the fields of anthropology, history, and linguistics of Albanian regions and the broader region, research funding, postdoctoral studies, and many other innovations. Additionally, the University of Pristina and the Institute of Cultural Anthropology and Art Studies in Tirana are key partners in this effort to revitalize Albanian studies in a German academic center like Regensburg, which is the largest hub for Southeast European studies.

It should be emphasized that Albanian studies have begun to gain prominence in European studies, and this project is one of the many important steps

in redirecting attention towards Kosova, Albania, and the region. During his visit to Kosova, Professor Duijzings, among other activities, organized a lecture for the staff and students of the University of Prishtina, which were held on February 22, 2023., titled; "If Machines Could Walk: Postsocialist Roads between Traffic and Friendship." In this lecture, Ger Duijzings presented some of the key ideas from a new volume edited with geographer Tauri Tuvikene (University of Tallinn) on life on the road in post-socialist cities. The starting point is the explosion of private car mobility from the 1990s onwards, with case studies documenting tensions between 'mobility' and 'sociability' in cities like Bucharest and Prishtina. The discussion reflected on what this 'car invasion' has meant for the urban structure of cities - with demands for unhindered vehicle flows conflicting with the need for housing, comfort, and sociability at a slow pace for pedestrians. The lecture also addressed the importance of defining these roads as "post-socialist," looking at historical roads that connect current phenomena with the socialist past and highlighting differences from the so-called "West," which has shaped current mobility models.

- Arsim Canolli

Profesor Tahir Latifi studies Kosova migration in Vienna

In the summer of 2023, Prof. Tahir Latifi resided in Vienna, Austria, where he collaborated with Professor Robert Pichler to continue his study on the Kosova exodus of 2014-2015. One of the debates in the study is whether this irregular migration was an exodus. However, by using encyclopedic sources - for a period of about 3 months, 100,000 (one hundred thousand) people decided to leave their country with a population of around 1.5 million inhabitants. This is considered a large number of people choosing

to migrate in such a short time. The result of this phenomenon defines a form of migration even if it is not violent. So, this exodus or self-exodus comes from several broader factors, as a result of the accumulation of political, social, and economic dissatisfaction.

When studying such cases, the appropriate terminology must be considered. In principle, every human being has the right to move and seek a better life anywhere from their home country. For this reason, the term "illegal migration" reflects a hostile attitude. However, it is called irregular migration because these individuals took the route from Kosova to Serbia, and further into the Schengen area, specifically to the border area of Hungary, to continue their journey through various Western European countries. This journey was undertaken without visas, work permits, and proper travel documentation.

Dr. Latifi has considered that this phenomenon should be studied from an anthropological perspective. In the past, there have been studies and reports on the Kosova exodus of 2014-2015, but it is important to understand that there is still uncertainty about why people actually began to leave Kosova during those years. The challenge here is that it has been 8 years since this happened, and the fading relevance of the event affects the study. Additionally, there are issues with the clarity of refugee status because in reality, these individuals were not considered refugees in European countries. On the other hand, during the years 2014/2015, there was no political threat foreseen for the countries in the Western Balkans region, and therefore, the right to political asylum was not recognized by different Western European states.

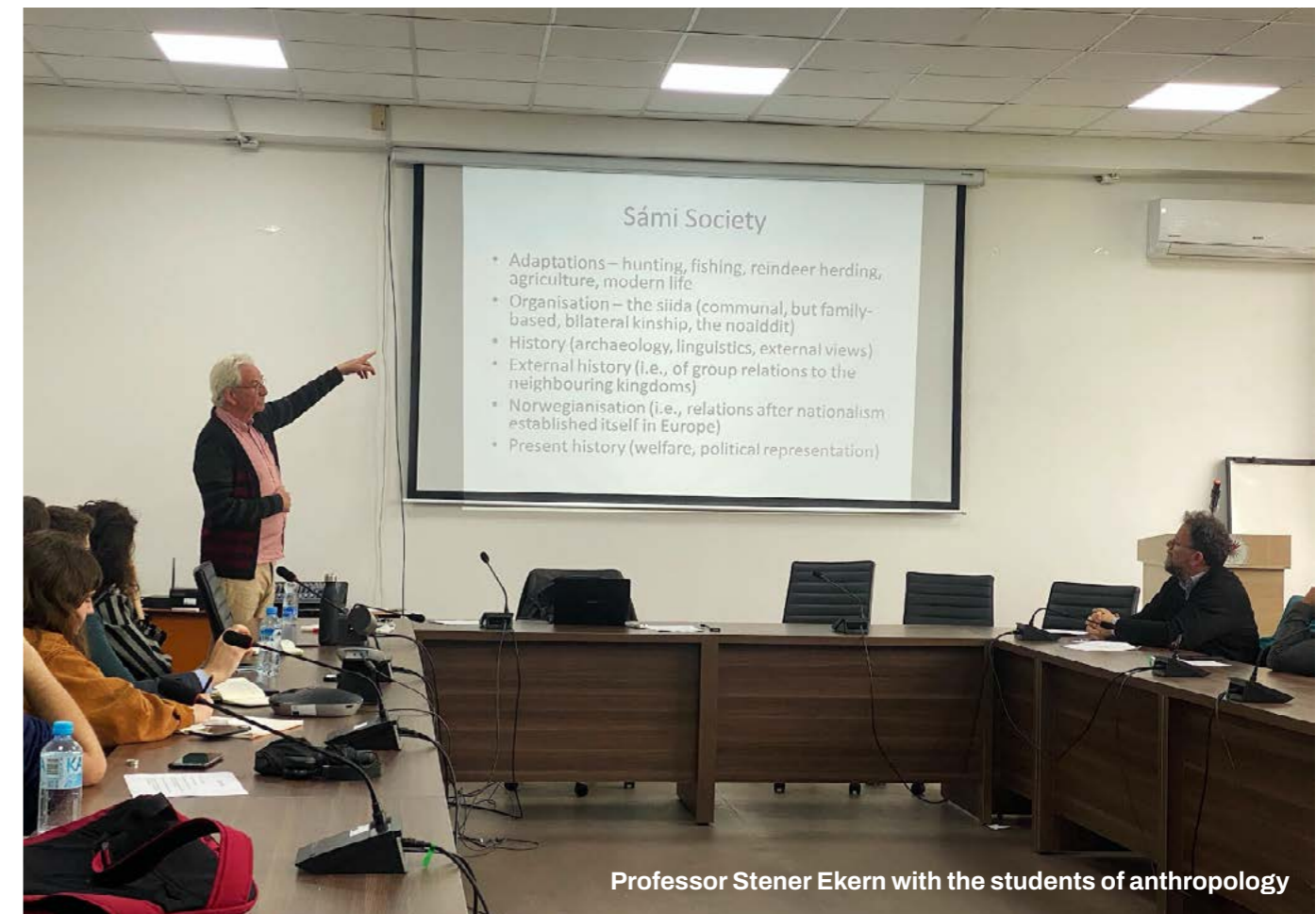
One of the main challenges of the study is the reluctance of subjects to share their narratives. The difficulty in articulating their feelings presents a barrier to understanding the real reasons for the decision to leave the country through irregular migration. What can be observed from the analysis of reports and international media is the sense of "escaping a hopeless situation." The lack of hope for a more stable life in Kosova may be one of the factors that drove this type of migration. Kosova experienced a "political impasse" in the beginning and the end of 2014 through June 2015. For about 6 months, the political situation was unclear, resulting in tensions and insecurity among the population.

The accumulation of dissatisfaction was likely an impactful reason for such decisions. During the analysis of reports and media, it is understood that these individuals often did not have a specific destination in mind. When asked where they would go, they would respond with "anywhere, it doesn't matter where, anywhere, because there is no life left in Kosova." From this, it is partly understood that the political situation and the economic condition in Kosova influenced people to think and act this way. The media also had a significant influence. In a time when news spreads quickly, it also simultaneously influences the masses. The media in Kosova indirectly played a role in encouraging people to leave their country. In the news, besides showing the number of migration cases, the costs and itinerary of travel from Kosova to Hungary were also presented.

Regardless of these speculations, it is considered that more time is needed to shed light on the uncertainties of the 2014-2015 exodus. Conclusions or judgments cannot be made without completed

research methods, which include the analysis of national and international reports, media, decisions and statements of individuals who experienced this reality, government activities, and in-depth interviews with subjects involved in this exodus.

Professor Tahir Latifi is in search of one or several major reasons to provide a more holistic understanding of the entire situation. His study is still ongoing, and further work is needed to ensure that the outcome of such a sensitive study aligns with the actual truth.



Professor Stener Ekern with the students of anthropology

MEMORIALI PËR FËMIJËT E VRARË DHE TË ZHDUKUR GJATË LUFTËS 1998-1999 NË KOSOVË

PËR TË QENË PJESË E KONSULTIMEVE
MBI PROJEKTIN, KONTAKTONI NË:

046/222-006 APO
MEMORIALI@RKS-GOV.NET

The Department of Anthropology conducting two more national projects of war heritage in Kosova.



Photo from Durim Abdullahu

Between 2022 and 2023, the Department of Anthropology at the University of Prishtina has participated in several national-scale projects related to the history and heritage of the war in Kosova. In March 2022, Durim Abdullahu (Teaching Assistant, Faculty of Philosophy), was appointed as a historian member of the Expert Commission by the Inter-Ministerial Committee for the project of the "Adem Jashari" Memorial Complex in Prekaz. An initiative of the Government of Kosova and led by the Office of the Prime Minister. His task was to research the history of the Jashari family, from their genealogy to their involvement in the armed resistance movement against the Serbian police which led to the fall of the Jashari family in March 1998. To complete this task, a thorough review of all literature and audiovisual materials produced to date on the topic was required, as well as interviews with individuals involved in the events of the time. Two students from the Department of Anthropology, Labeat Elshani and Valentina Krasniqi, were also involved in this project, conducting field ethnography. The first phase of the project extended from March to December 2022.

In April 2023, the Ministry of Culture, Youth, and Sports of Kosova signed a memorandum of cooperation with the University of Pristina for another project related to war heritage. This project focuses on consulting with family

members for the memorialization of children who were killed, disappeared, or died under the conditions created during the Kosova war in 1998-1999. This first research and documentary phase will be carried out by Assistant Durim Abdullahu (Department of Anthropology) and Assistant Erëblir Kadriu (Department of Psychology). This project will require multiple student volunteers to carry out field interviews, of which 200 are planned. Thus, 20 students from various departments of the Faculty of Philosophy were selected for this project, including students from the Department of Anthropology. The students involved in the project from the Department of Anthropology include Labeat Elshani, Valentina Krasniqi, Arbesa Berisha, and Fatjona Berisha. After a three-day training, the students began their fieldwork to conduct interviews, mentored by the two coordinators the project, Durim Abdullahu and Erëblir Kadriu. This project is still ongoing, with the aim of consulting with the families and witnesses of approximately 1200 (?) war victims in Kosovo who were under the age of 18 when they were killed or lost.

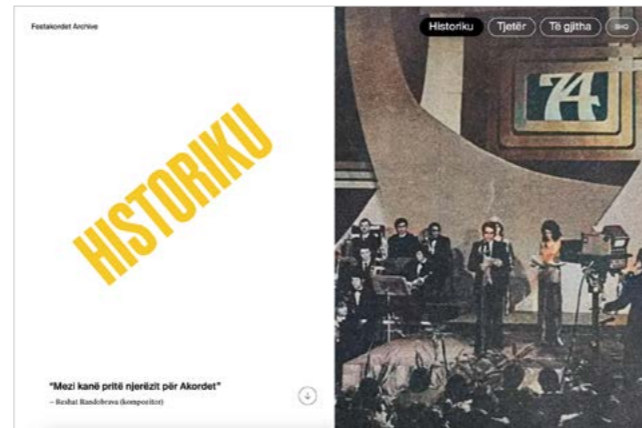
- Durim Abdullahu

Innovative project in the field of digital cultural heritage by students of anthropology

Enis Bytyqi and Tringa Sefedini, students of the Department of Anthropology, have been awarded a grant from UNDP-Kosova to support the project "Cultural Heritage as a Driver for Intercommunity Dialogue and Social Cohesion," funded by the European Union in Kosovo. They have taken an important step in digitizing the archive from the "Akordet e Kosovës" festival. This effort documents Kosovo's intangible cultural heritage through digital technology, making it easily accessible to musicians, researchers, culture enthusiasts, and music lovers in particular.

With an innovative approach, these two students have transformed Kosovo's intangible cultural heritage into an accessible and interactive experience for all those who want to explore the music and history of this country. Following anthropological research methods, they have created an online platform that brings to life the memories of the festival and the artistic creativity of the past century in Kosovo. There, you can find the history of this cultural event, content from festival nights, songs, photographs, videos, awards, festival books, and much more.

The project also serves as an excellent example for new practices in promoting cultural heritage. It contributes to the research of Kosovo's intangible cultural heritage and makes it accessible to the public, worldwide. To learn more and to explore this journey through time, please visit the website



festakordet.com



Enis Bytyqi and Tringa Sefedini at the launch of the project, Prishtina



Tesa Kabashi at the event of "Ethnographic Film Week", kino Armata, Prishtina



Rozafa Berisha at the event of "Ethnographic Film Week", kino Armata, Prishtina

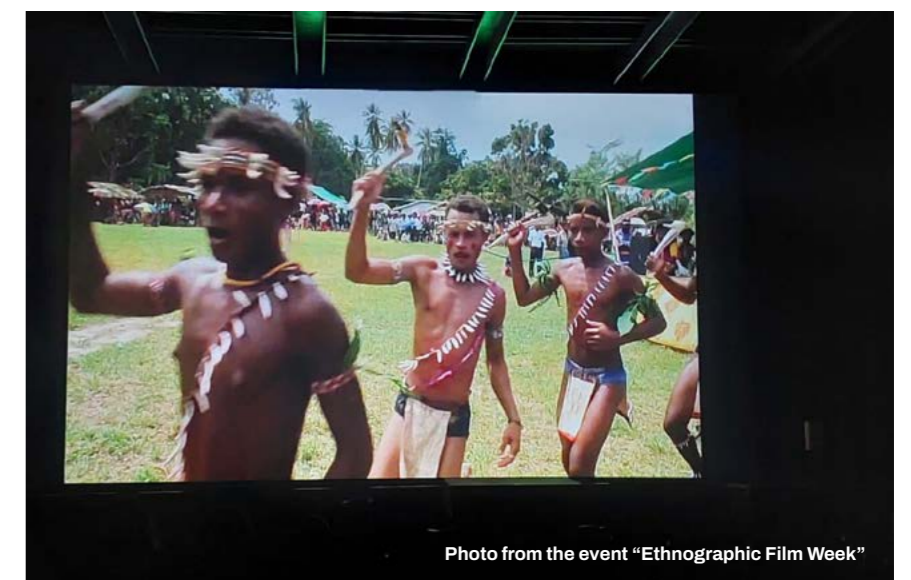


Photo from the event "Ethnographic Film Week"

In an effort to explore and promote the genre of ethnographic film, the Department of Anthropology at the Faculty of Philosophy of the University of Prishtina successfully organized our first "Ethnographic Film Week." This event is a new initiative led by one of our students, Tesa Kabashi, and was organized in collaboration with Rozafa Berisha (lecturer) and Ismail Myrseli (former student of archaeology), in partnership with Kino ARMATA. Ethnographic film is an important tool for documenting and describing various human cultures and traditions. Through images and stories, this type of film provides a perspective similar to anthropological studies but in a more accessible and understandable format for a wider audience.

On June 12th, 13th, and 14th, 2023, three ethnographic films were screened, beginning with "Chronicle of a Summer," a documentary film from 1965 by directors Jean Rouch and Edgar Morin. This film was a different experiment from others of its time, as it employed various techniques, including interviews with ordinary people, to delve into the depths of emotions and social changes in 1960s Paris. The second film that was screened was "Unity Through Culture" by Christian Suhr and Ton Otto. This film showcases the efforts of locals on Baluan Island (New Guinea) to (re)define their culture, tradition, and identity. Through musical rhythms and breathtaking visuals, the film calls for reflection on social transformations in post-colonial contexts and the impact of globalization. The final evening featured the film "About Love on a Small Island." The film questions stereotypical representations of Muslim women and

step by step reveals the complexity of marriage and the diversity of ideas about ideal love and sexuality. At the end, participants had the opportunity to engage in a virtual discussion with the director of this film, Elaheh Habibi.

Ethnographic Film Week will continue with its second edition in June 2024.

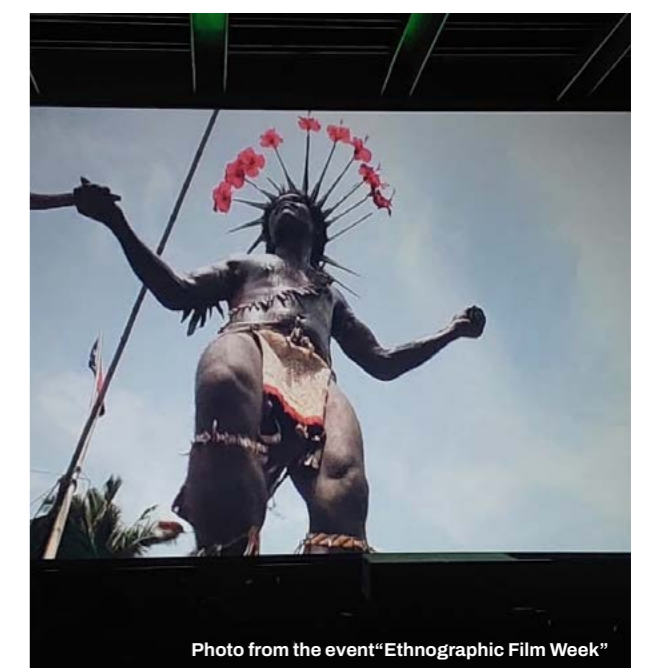


Photo from the event "Ethnographic Film Week"

The Archaeological Diary

Excavations in Ulpiana and a New Discovery

*“It is not easy to make the stones speak”
– Prof. Ass. Dr. Arben Hajdari*

On August 3rd, 2023, we visited the team of excavators in the area 700 meters away from the ancient city of Ulpiana. Little did we know that a few days later, this excavation project would be enriched with the discovery of a new inscription by the Emperor Justinian as a dedication to his place of origin.



Mosaik discovered in Ulpiana, Kosova

The project is led and carried out by Christophe Goddard, Arben Hajdari, and Milot Berisha, along with students from the Department of Archaeology and French students. They were assisted by the local residents in the surrounding area, and everyone worked tirelessly under the scorching August sun. Layer by layer, removing centuries-old dust and mud, they uncovered new structures and an undiscovered mosaic. The collaborative effort and determination of the excavators conveyed a sense of responsibility and passion for history, helping to reveal the past. The dimensions of the uncovered Basilica are 75 meters in height and 24 meters in width, with the entire central nave floor adorned with multicolored geometric ornaments.

The significance of this discovery has great historical weight, as Ilir Culaj states, “The mosaic found is extremely important because it shows that Dardania continues to be mentioned in the 6th century AD, in the context of a city where Emperor Justinian the Great and Empress Theodora ordered a large number of constructions, effectively founding the city.” In 518, the ancient Ulpiana was struck by a severe earthquake, and the inscription found testifies to the rebuilding of the city by Emperor Justinian the

Great, who renamed it 'Justiniana Secunda.' Above all, this discovery underscores that Dardania is still considered a highly important cultural identity, despite the fact that this territory became part of the Byzantine Empire, as Dardania was previously part of the Roman provinces, specifically Upper Moesia. According to Prof. Arben Hajdari, "Ulpiana was one of the most important settlements in the Balkans as a municipium, a center of knowledge, culture, production, artisanal and trade activities that attracted various social categories and where different people converged, connecting political and economic interests." "Ulpiana was also home to well-known senatorial families, such as the Furi and Ponti families. The presence of these influential Roman families in Ulpiana, after migrating to Dardania, highlights the city's significant role. Ulpiana was also known as the "City of Marble" and the "Magnificent City."

Considering the time (6th century), the preservation and conservation of this cultural identity become of great historical importance, as it pertains to a period on the brink of barbarian invasions in the Balkans. Ilir Culaj explains, "The presence of these churches in ancient Ulpiana, the city's reconstruction, and the dedications by the Emperor himself are rare in the Empire. All these aspects tell us about the weight and significance this territory held at the time." "This also speaks of a well-established organization of Christianity in Dardania, with people arriving from the 6th century accepting Christianity in contact with the local populations. Those who came during these great migrations found an advanced culture and civilization. He adds, "In ancient Ulpiana, we have identified five small-surface churches, and when ancient Ulpiana is excavated at greater depths and widths, I believe we will find a large number of churches and other secular, utilitarian objects, etc. The weight and historical value of this city are extraordinary."



Photo from the excavations, Ulpiana, Kosovo



Photo from the excavations, Ulpiana, Kosovo

Professor Christophe J. Goddard, the leader of the French excavation team, notes that it is very rare to excavate an untouched and undisturbed site. He calls it an "archaeological stroke of luck" to uncover something like this, which simultaneously provides satisfaction for the future of the project on this site. Arben Hajdari considers this archaeological fortune as something that "for archaeologists, is a gold mine... it's exceptional. However, he also emphasizes that, from a scientific perspective, it is an unexplored fortune, and in his words, "At the moment you're exploring it, discovering it, making it speak, and returning its former glory, it's a great responsibility because making stones speak is not easy."

The collaboration between the French team, students from the Department of Archaeology and History, and the Archaeological Institute of Kosovo was crucial for the realization of this discovery. This project began in 2017 with Christophe Goddard, Arben Hajdari, and Milot Berisha. Initially, the project was based on the significant questions surrounding the city of Ulpiana. Arben Hajdari explains, "The reason we couldn't answer questions about Ulpiana earlier is due to the lack of archaeological excavations". The journey

to answering these significant questions began when new conditions and circumstances allowed excavations to gradually expand to other areas of the Ulpiana ancient site. Initially, geophysical surveys were conducted, which solidified suspicions about the history of Ulpiana. With the start of a new study in the city of Justiniana Secunda, a new chapter in archaeology in Kosovo emerged.

Excavations in the discovered basilica began in July 2022, where it was revealed that the basilica consists of three naves. In 2023, excavations started in the central nave, where a mosaic with an inscription was found, as well as two other side naves with bricks/tiles. The fortunate aspect is that these underground locations were protected from atmospheric damage and modern disturbances. The protection of this area is ensured by law, as 120 hectares of the Ulpiana area are legally protected and not open to intervention.

To give value to these discoveries, the first step is to identify the area, which Ilir Culaj humorously refers to as "scanning the land" using contemporary geophysical methods. Next comes the excavation process, which simultaneously documents the excavated site. It is crucial that no detail is overlooked without consulting and verifying it, which often makes archaeology a slow process. After documentation, artifacts and findings are identified and documented. Careful protection of the artifact immediately follows to avoid damage. In this case, the mosaic was cleaned multiple times to make it legible. Temporary protection of the mosaic was achieved by placing geotextile fabric, which prevents contact with the loose sand placed over it.

After these steps, the next phase involves interpreting and analyzing the inscription and the discovered artifacts, mainly conducted by project leaders and experts from various fields. Based on interpretations and analyses, a scientific publication is produced, which is part of the valorization process. This is the final step that makes the discovery ready for public presentation and is sent to museums for display. This entire process aims to provide a clear picture of the organization of the city of Justiniana Secunda. It is not yet known what will happen to the inscription in the mosaic (whether it will remain there or removed to the National Museum) but there is no doubt that it will be protected, preserved and studied with utmost dedication.

Professor Arben Hajdari expresses, "If in the past,

archaeology was excavated and written with only the researcher in mind, today this approach has changed. Today, we work with the general public in mind and aim to popularize the discipline". Therefore, the main work does not end at the site but begins from there. Arben Hajdari emphasizes, "For archaeologists, artifacts provide the opportunity to give life and spirit to the past, aiding in the reconstruction of the daily lives of people who lived in that time and space." Public research, museologists and curators are also needed to present the narratives created by archaeologists for public education. According to Arben Hajdari, Kosova lags behind in this aspect, as there are many research projects that are not shared with the public. The discipline of archaeology is obligated to convey findings and interpretations to the public.

The Ulpiana site is a place of collaboration that brings together all researchers and excavators for a common interest: the value represented by the site. Different schools of thought intersect here. Different bodies of knowledge come together, and numerous discussions take place to gain knowledge about what happened. All these elements aid in interpreting an ancient reality.



Ambassador Jeffery M. Hovenier assisting in excavations in Ulpiana, Kosova

Various colleagues from France, the United Kingdom, Italy, Japan, and others, as well as students from different countries, participate in excavations at Ulpiana. Despite its challenges, this collaboration generates a high level of work energy and cooperation, the exchange of experiences during the long, hot summer days. Such projects are essential for future archaeologists. Arben Hajdari, with great determination, states that it has taken a lot of effort and time to create such an archaeological school,

which he, as a student, did not have the privilege of experiencing. In these projects, students gain recognition, learn new techniques, receive education, learn about the application of contemporary methods, and gain experience that helps shape their professional future and create personal research and exploration methods. Above all, it creates new contacts and provides new perspectives for the future.

The project will continue in the coming years until many questions about the transformation of Ulpiana are answered.

The revealing of the entire dedication inscription of Emperor Justinian is expected to take place in October, and it will be accompanied by a scientific publication in the future.



Photos from the excavations, Ulpiana, Kosova



Photos from the excavations, Ulpiana, Kosova

Excavations in Lin, Albania



Photos from the excavations in Lin, Pogradec, Albania.

The Department of Anthropology also offers various engagement opportunities for students outside of Kosova, as was the case for two of our students, Migena Mustafa and Diana Prenaj. They had the opportunity to gain experience through archaeological excavations in Lin, Pogradec during the year 2022. This project was a collaboration between the University of Bern and the Institute of Archaeology in Albania. These excavations provided a unique experience for these students since it also involved underwater archaeology. The importance of participating in such archaeological expeditions is demonstrated through their experiences:

"In August 2022, I participated in archaeological excavations in Lin, Pogradec. It was the second year of the project, which is a collaboration between the University of Bern and the Institute of Archaeology in Albania. The project consisted of two students from Kosova and four students from Switzerland, as well as field experts from Albania and Switzerland. It was a great pleasure for me to take part in this project as it was my first time participating in such a large and important project. We stayed there for a month, during which we made multiple significant discoveries. Among the most common findings were fragments of Neolithic pottery. These fragments were very fragile, and it was exciting to discover them, extract them from the soil, and clean them. Other findings included wooden fragments or palisades, which were used for building wooden structures and huts during that time. These palisades were also very fragile, and we had to handle them with much care. We also found animal bones, which indicated that people were indeed developing their livelihoods in that area. During the excavations, we not only learned about excavation methods but also about cleaning and documentation. Whenever a discovery was made, we had to prepare a bag in which the finding would be placed, along with a tag that recorded data about the discovery, such as the layer it was found in, the date, and the material. It was crucial for us to be attentive and remember which layer we were working on. During the documentation of the findings, we also made sketches of the findings on special forms, trying to approximate their precise location, especially for the palisades. We also made sketches of the soil layers visible in the unit profiles. In this way, I learned how to differentiate between types of soil and recognize signs of burning or human interventions, among other things. At the end of each day, measurements were taken using a theodolite at certain predetermined points in the trenches, as well as photogrammetry using a drone.

The process of cleaning the findings seemed relaxing but was, in fact, stressful. Even though the work was done while sitting in the shade, we had to be very careful because, as I mentioned earlier, the findings were very fragile. There were cases where I had a piece of pottery in my hand while cleaning it, and it either broke into smaller pieces or crumbled as if it were not yet fully baked. When dealing with the palisade fragments, we had to be careful not to damage the wooden rings, joints, or holes, as they could provide insights into human interventions used for construction. The animal bones were easier to clean because they did not retain much soil and were not easily damaged. We observed notches on them that could have been made by human tools. Besides the work, we also formed new friendships, learned from each other's experiences, and had lots of fun together. Even though the work was exhausting, we were proud to have worked there and brought something very important to light. We were delighted with the publications made this year about the Lin settlement because we were among the people who worked there and helped experts provide more information about the settlement. Through this project, I have noticed that fieldwork is essential for us as young archaeologists. No matter how much you have learned from books and professors, it doesn't count until you put it into practice. I hope that the younger generations will have the opportunity of participating in such projects, not only in Albania but also in Kosova. Our professors are always ready to help us, so I encourage all my fellow students of archaeology, anthropology, or history, to dedicate a few days of your summer vacation to an archaeological project. I am very grateful to Professor Ilir Culaj and Professor Adrian Anastasi for giving me the opportunity to participate in this project."

- Diana Prenaj

"It's been a year since my excavations in the Lin Peninsula of Pogradec, and as a graduate student in archaeology, I believe such an experience was quite necessary. We started with non-intrusive methods that didn't cause damage to the controlled area but it was the findings that motivated us to excavate a prehistoric site over 2 meters deep for a whole month. The results we found enrich the history of our region. It's hard to believe in history without tangible evidence, and that's why archaeology developed on its own, not just as a result of history. It's easy when we touch such facts with which we write our own history, and this is very attractive for a student in this field. This experience for me began thanks to Prof. Ass. Ilir Culaj, who believed in my abilities during my studies and made me part of such an important study. Besides myself, as a student from the University of Pristina, the project consisted of professors and students from the University of Bern in Switzerland, and Prof. Adrian Anastasi, known for underwater archaeology in Albania. The discoveries we made every day motivated us to start the next day with more enthusiasm and a willingness to continue because studies don't end with a single artifact. The findings included various dark-colored ceramics from the Neolithic period and long wooden beams that led us to the discovery of a Neolithic pile-dwelling settlement. With such findings, we initiated a new and extensive investigation for this site, aiming to make it one of the oldest sites in Europe. With this experience, I will be ready to continue my journey as an archaeologist in other places and sites of the same kind, acquiring new skills and knowledge in this field with great prospects and importance. I believe this won't be the last time we write new and interesting facts about our region, so we are the ones who need to act and not give time the chance to quickly cover the roots of our history. We are the ones who can make a difference, not just in this field. Therefore, every opportunity given should be taken so seriously that with our work, we create space for every new student, because everyone deserves such an experience, and the love for archaeology will only grow."

-Migena Mustafa



Photos from the excavations in Lin, Pogradec, Albania.

An interview with Michael L. Galaty

Professor Michael L. Galaty is an American archaeologist who earned his Ph.D. in anthropology from the University of Wisconsin. He has directed archaeological excavation projects in Greece and Albania. Professor Galaty specializes in prehistory and has authored a series of scholarly papers and books. Currently, he serves as the editor of the Oxford Handbook of the Prehistory of the Balkans, a volume that will be published soon.

Below, you can find an interview we conducted with him regarding his experience with the "RAPID-Kosova" project.

1. Could you elaborate on the importance of community engagement and collaboration with local stakeholders in your archaeological projects? How has this partnership shaped your research outcomes and contributed to the preservation of cultural heritage in Kosova?

The first phase of our project in Kosova (called RAPID, 2018-2021) focused on an intensive regional survey of portions of the Dukagjin Plain. Small teams of surveyors systematically searched the landscape, field by field, looking for artifacts. One wonderful side effect of this kind of archaeological work is that you come into daily contact with the people who live on and work the land. Each day in the field RAPID surveyors engaged with community members and collaborated with local stakeholders. Often, they were invited into peoples homes, for coffee or raki. This allowed them to tell stakeholders about our work - our desire to understand Kosova's past and to protect it - and for stakeholders to tell us where we might expect to find archaeological sites. This kind of communication often leads to "breakthroughs" in archaeological reconnaissance, since local people, especially farmers, possess an intimate experience of their land, which often stretches back many generations.

2. Can you share with us a memorable moment or discovery from your archaeological work in Kosova that has had a significant impact on your understanding of the region's history or culture?

Probably the best, most memorable moment, for me, happened in 2019, when surveyors returned from the field with chert blades, ground stone axes, and prehistoric pottery from the neighborhood of Lluga near Vrelle. They had discovered a brand new, very large Late Neolithic settlement, which we think might have functioned as a lithic workshop. Since then, University of Michigan Ph.D. candidate Zhaneta Gjyshja has been conducting her dissertation research at Lluga, with fantastic results. She has undertaken gridded surface collections, along with geophysical surveys, and she believes there may be multiple longhouses and a ditched enclosure buried at Lluga. There are many such Late Neolithic, so-called Vinca sites in eastern Kosova but very few on the Dukagjin Plain, so finding Lluga is a big deal. Zhaneta has even found two clay figurine fragments!

3. Could you tell us about the significance of the RAPID-K project and its findings in the Peja and Istog districts of Kosova, and how this collaboration between the University of Michigan and the Archaeological Institute of Kosova has contributed to advancing our understanding of the archaeological landscape in the region?

RAPID-K really benefited from the work that had been done already in Dukagjin, by people like Haxhi Mehmetaj, Shafi Gashi, Kemajl Luci, and Premtim Alaj. The Atlases the AIK published gave us a good sense of where sites were located and from which periods. The surveys that had been conducted in

Kosova prior to RAPID were extensive in nature, whereas our surveys were intensive. Intensive surveys tend to find many more, sometimes smaller archaeological sites and to define more precisely their size and chronology, compared to extensive surveys. So, we've been able to take the archaeological map of Dukagjin and add depth and precision. In addition, because all of our data have been entered into a Geographic Information System (GIS) - work done by University of Michigan Ph.D. candidate Erina Baci - we are now in a position to determine the factors that affected settlement through time. We can therefore say with more confidence not just that some people lived in hill forts, but why they lived in hill forts. This is important not just for the archaeology of Kosova, but for the Balkans in general, where hill forts are rarely studied carefully and systematically, backed by regional survey data.

4. What are your insights on the future prospects and potential growth of anthropological and archeological studies in the Department of Anthropology at the University of Pristina?

The University of Prishtina's Department of Anthropology is a rare example in Europe of an American-style four-field program. In most parts of Europe, cultural and biological anthropology, linguistics, and archaeology are taught separately. I believe, however, as do many American anthropologists, that there is much to be gained when the different anthropological subfields cohabit. Work done by ethnologists on modern human behaviors can inform archaeological understandings of the past, and archaeological data can be deployed to address contemporary problems. I am very excited by the interdisciplinary research being carried out by my colleagues in the U-P's Department of Anthropology and look forward to closer collaborations with them. Most importantly, I am excited to welcome more U-P students to RAPID in our next phase, which will be focused on excavation.



Michael L. Galaty with his son Dardan, in Luga, Kosova

I happily returned to Ulpiana (In memory of Edi Shukri) By Jean-Luc Lamboley

After more than three years, I had the opportunity to return to this site where, in 2006, I had the chance to initiate the first Franco-Kosovar archaeological collaboration with Professor Edi Shukriu. Participating for several years in the summer archaeological school at the University of Prishtina, where we offered a course in archaeology, was an opportunity to get to know the students, some of whom came to France to continue their master's and doctoral studies. Before retiring in 2017, I handed the baton to my colleague Christophe Goddard, who generously administered new energy into the archaeological collaboration with Professor Arben Hajdari and Milot Berisha who is the director of the archaeological park of Ulpiana. Thanks to the kind invitation of the mission leaders, I participated in the 2023 archaeological campaign and was pleased to witness the significant progress made since 2006. The technological tools used partly explain this progress: drones, automated total stations, high-quality photogrammetry equipment, photovoltaic panels, so many tools we didn't have in the days when triangles and card forms still had some charm! Above all, this achievement is due to a highly qualified and cohesive team, bound together by strong bonds of respect and friendship. It is a true joy to see that the students we have trained and the colleagues we have entrusted are capable of delivering their best work in a multiethnic context, which, as we know in Kosovo, is not always easy. Finally, we cannot deny the happiness that the extraordinary discovery brings with significant scientific interest. The moments when after weeks of tireless work in sweltering heat, slowly, one after another, row after row, the letters appeared

in the mosaic of the church, the excavations of which had begun the previous year, were a kind of astonishing apocalypse: the first row was somewhat enigmatic, the second imperial row with Justinian, the third, again, imperial with Theodora, and finally, what we could never have hoped for... the mention of Dardania in the fourth row! This discovery mobilized all the political and scientific authorities of Kosovo, but what could be more beautiful than shared happiness? There was only a shadow over our joy, the absence of Edi Shukriu, who had left us a few months earlier. This is part of life: perhaps sometimes we need a touch of sadness to better appreciate the aspects of happiness. As the years go by and retirement provides time for meditation and reflection, I want to draw the reader's attention to a point that is undoubtedly irritating for archaeologists and historians: the passage of time and the layering of centuries rarely allow history to reappear untouched and complete from the ground (dalla terra, as the beautiful Italian expression goes). The inscription found in Ulpiana, almost entirely preserved, still retains a small part of the mystery. For my part, my joy remains complete because this unexpected excavation campaign, in which a benevolent destiny undoubtedly allowed me to participate, took me away from a melancholic nostalgia for past activities and directed my thoughts toward a hopeful future, that of the young generations in whose training I have modestly participated. And for this, I extend heartfelt thanks to all those, and there are many, for whom I agreed to write these few lines.

- Jean-Luc Lamboley
Professeur émérite de l'Université de Lyon

Un retour à Ulpiana plein de bonheur

En hommage à Edi Shukriu

Depuis plus de trois ans, je n'avais pas eu l'occasion de revenir sur ce site où, en 2006, j'avais pu ouvrir la première collaboration franco-kosovare avec la professeure Edi Shukriu. La participation plusieurs années consécutives à l'école d'été de l'Université de Prishtina où l'on avait ouvert un cours d'archéologie, était aussi l'occasion de connaître les étudiants dont certains d'entre eux vinrent en France poursuivre leurs études de master et de doctorat. Avant mon départ à la retraite, j'avais pu passer le flambeau en 2017 à mon collègue Christophe Goddard qui sut donner avec brio une nouvelle impulsion à cette collaboration archéologique avec le professeur Arben Hajdari et le directeur du parc archéologique d'Ulpiana Milot Berisha. Grâce à l'aimable invitation des directeurs de la mission j'ai donc pu participer à la campagne 2023 et mesurer avec bonheur les énormes progrès réalisés depuis 2006. Les moyens techniques utilisés expliquent en partie ces progrès : drones, station totale automatisée, logiciels de photogrammétrie ultra performants, panneaux photovoltaïques, autant de moyens dont on ne disposait pas à l'époque où la triangulation et les fiches US papier avaient encore quelques lettres de noblesse! Mais ils sont surtout dus à une équipe homogène, hautement qualifiée et soudée par de solides liens d'estime et d'amitié. C'est là un autre vrai bonheur quand on voit que les étudiants que l'on a formés et les collègues en qui on a placé sa confiance sont capables de produire le meilleur et ce dans un contexte multi- ethnique qui au Kosovo, on le sait, n'est pas toujours facile. Enfin, on ne saurait nier le bonheur qu'apporte une découverte extraordinaire et d'un grand intérêt scientifique. Les moments où sont apparus, après des semaines de dur labeur dans une chaleur caniculaire, lentement, l'une

après l'autre, ligne après ligne, les lettres sur la mosaïque de l'église dont les fouilles avaient commencé l'an dernier, furent une sorte d'apocalypse haletante : première ligne un peu énigmatique, deuxième ligne impériale avec Justinianus, troisième ligne toujours impériale avec Théodora et enfin, ce qu'on n'aurait jamais espéré..., la mention de la Dardanie à la quatrième ligne ! Cette découverte mobilisa toutes les autorités politiques et scientifiques du Kosovo, mais quoi de plus beau qu'un bonheur partagé ? Il n'y avait qu'une seule ombre à notre liesse, l'absence d'Edi Shukriu qui nous avait quittés quelques mois auparavant. Cela fait partie de la condition humaine : il faut peut-être une part de tristesse pour mieux mesurer et apprécier les parts de bonheur. Avec les années qui passent et le temps libre de la retraite on a le temps de méditer et pour conclure j'aimerais attirer l'attention du lecteur sur un point sans doute irritant pour les archéologues et historiens : l'usure du temps et l'épaisseur des siècles permettent rarement à l'histoire de resurgir intacte et entière de la terre (dalla terra selon la belle expression italienne) : l'inscription, presque entièrement conservée, conserve toutefois une petite part de mystère. Pour ma part, mon bonheur reste entier car cette campagne de fouilles inespérée à laquelle sans doute une providence bienveillante m'a permis de participer, m'a détourné d'une mélancolique nostalgie des activités passées pour me projeter vers un avenir plein d'espérance, celui des nouvelles générations à la formation desquelles j'ai modestement participé. Et pour cela, j'adresse un immense merci à tous ceux, et ils sont nombreux, pour qui j'ai accepté d'écrire ces quelques lignes.

- Jean-Luc Lamboley
Professeur émérite de l'Université de Lyon

Field Explorers



Photo from the visit
the view of Kotor

Notes from Montenegro

Every year, the Department of Anthropology organizes an ethnographic trip in which both students and professors participate. In the past, these trips have been to Albania. This year, it was Montenegro's turn. The itinerary was organized with the aim of exploring specific settlements that are important for the field of anthropology

This trip took place from May 22nd to May 24th, 2023, and included 10 third-year anthropology students, along with 3 accompanying professors from the Department of Anthropology. The trip focused on the southern part of Montenegro, visiting cities and locations such as Ulcinj, Shas, Kotor, Perast, Rizon, Dioclea, Podgorica, Tuzi, and Tivat.

On the first day of the trip, we visited the medieval town of Shas, located in the northern part of Ulcinj, near Lake Shas. Although this settlement is known as medieval, evidence suggests that there are remains from earlier periods, possibly even from antiquity. Shas is mainly known for having had 365 churches, according to Marin Bici. However, today, only some ruins of these churches can be seen. The Church of St. Mary still has some standing walls and is visible from the main road.

After the visit to Shas, anthropology students, **Arbina Qorri** and **Arbana Murtezi**, provided their comments based on their ethnographic diary

"For us, Shas represents an ancient city from the period before the arrival of the Slavs, which ceased to exist in 1518. In the higher part of the city, there is a church that still stands to this day, but it doesn't receive much interest. The reason it lacks interest is that this church belongs to the Roman Catholic churches with a Romanesque architecture, which doesn't align with the Orthodox rite of the churches among the Montenegrins. From the higher area, gradually descending further down, there are also low rocky fortifications that descend gradually around this area, starting from the upper part of the site and reaching the lower part where the houses of the current owners are. As for the preservation of this site, it is overgrown with vegetation, and the lack of interest from the state

is not up for discussion, as this heritage does not belong to their population. However, from the local Albanian population, we can observe their insistence on describing the true owners of these sites, even by carving a quote in the Albanian language within the walls of the aforementioned church."

Furthermore, Fatjona Berisha, a third-year cultural anthropology student, shared her perspective on the brief observation of Shas.

"As we began our observation, we stopped in the town of Shas, unfamiliar to me but with a unique and ancient history. It's a settlement that dates back to the Neolithic period, as evidenced by the excavations and traces that have survived until today. Regarding its toponymy, the name Shas, etymologically speaking, is said to be related to "shkamb" (rock) or, in ancient Indo-European, it is directly connected to "shkamb" or stones, as it was built in the rockier part of the region. What caught my attention was a church we visited, the remains of which had withstood the test of time, even though it hadn't received much care from the residents or others. It's undoubtedly a shame that such a heritage remains in obscurity, without significant attention or further investigation, as it holds potential and interest from both local and foreign visitors. In fact, during our time there, we encountered some foreign visitors who perhaps hadn't heard or known anything about what lay before



Photo from the visit, group walking in Shas

them, but curiosity had driven them to come. Being a city with ancient history and legends about Shas were plentiful..”

A series of photographs were taken near and on the ruins of Shas. A lengthy discussion took place about the “frëngji” (the apse) of the church, the way the walls were constructed, the geographical position, the possibility of it being an ancient Illyrian site rebuilt later in the context of the reconstructions of the Nemanjić Kingdom and other regimes on the Illyrian ruins. Shas had a magical view, a seduction to further excavate it. It is said that even the excavations of the 1980s were interrupted without any significant academic reason, but rather because the new findings were not liked by the Serbian archaeologists. However, there is no explanation, no sufficient signs.

From Shas, the afternoon visit on May 22 continued to Ulcinj, specifically at the Ulcinj Castle, where we were greeted by Korab Kraja. Korab possesses exceptional knowledge about Ulcinj and its cultural heritage, the history of the place, and the castle. He has studied the traditional houses of the Krajë region, from where he originates. Everyone is familiar with the song “Te Kalaja e Ulqinit”, and some even with “Dulcinea” from Don Quixote, but when we visit the castle, before our eyes appear the Illyrian walls and the cyclopean stones, which were revealed after the earthquake of 1979, when the castle was surveyed. This is one of the splendors of the Ulcinj Castle.

We were joined by archaeologist Anton Lulgjuraj, who explained a lot about the history of the castle, Ulcinj, and the surrounding area. Anton started the discussion with a typical humor about the stereotype of Montenegrins’ laziness: “On Sunday, May 21st was Montenegro’s Independence Day, so on Monday, it’s a day off, but Montenegrins also take a break on Tuesday!”

Anton and Korab told us about the age of the castle, dating back to the 5th century BC. They informed us about what it means to be an Ulcinj resident of the castle, about the identity of Ulcinj, and the earthquake of 1979, which destroyed 80% of the castle, but the locals didn’t abandon it to move into new houses outside. They stayed and continued to rebuild their lives there. In one of the castle’s restaurants, we saw a painting of Ismail, one of the Ulcinj residents who had stoically resisted the request to abandon the castle after the earthquake. This shows the persistence and attachment of the Albanians to the castle, according to the locals.

Undoubtedly, the castle had undergone changes, it had been destroyed by unauthorized and unplanned constructions, as was the case with a building intended for a hotel, which led to the demolition of the southern wall near the sea. Some locals said that the investor was Russian. The students didn’t get to know the local residents well. There were few, and the desire to visit the museum in the remaining part of the day prevented them from stopping at the castle houses and talking to the locals, as they had planned.



Photo from the visit, inside the Church of St. Mary in Shas



Photo from the visit, Illyrian wall in the castle of Ulcinj

Ulcinj has a typical Balkan history, under various rulers, but the main characteristic of this city is the fact that it remained outside Ottoman rule until 1571. Then, in 1878, it came under the rule of Montenegro. During that period, piracy developed, which later transformed into trade. Although the Ethnographic Museum was under renovation, we visited the Archaeological Museum inside the Castle, where there was a variety of unique artifacts from the castle and the region. The traditional costume of the ethnographic area of Shestan, which was inside the museum, also stands out, representing the beautiful attire of the local Albanians.

Third-year student **Arbesa Berisha** experienced Ulcinj Castle as follows:

“A characteristic of Ulcinj Castle is that during the Iron Age, the Illyrians controlled the Adriatic Sea, and this castle served as a defensive stronghold against enemies. Another important point I learned from the visit was that in 1979, a powerful earthquake had struck and nearly destroyed everything within this castle. However, it was later rebuilt. The people who had lived in those houses didn’t allow their homes, ruins, or traces to be demolished. They reconstructed their lives there. Another significant feature of this castle is the closely built structures (houses, towers, hotels, restaurants) that are mainly of the same design. Some of the names of the structures included: Balshaj Tower, Slave Market, “New in Old Town,” Illyrian Wall, etc. Besides the names,

another unique aspect was the inscriptions on these castle walls, which, during the Ottoman period, were marked with their symbols, erasing the local traces.”

While **Arbana Murtezi** and **Arbina Qorri** emphasize that:

“Ulcinj is known as an Illyrian settlement founded in the 5th century. Even today, within the castle walls, there are families who refuse to give up their land. The majority of residents inside the castle are Albanian Ulcinj locals. The Ulcinj residents within the castle, are likely a conservative society when it comes to identity because they consider themselves as old Ulcinj locals, the oldest inhabitants of Ulcinj. This is not the case for the Ulcinj residents outside the castle walls. I believe this will have its own positive traits, as dominant elements in preserving the Albanian national identity.”

After Ulcinj and numerous discussions in the evening about identity, state, antiquity, and ideology, the following day on May 23, Tuesday, we continued with a visit to Kotor. On the way, Anton stopped us at the Benedictine Monastery of Ratac (Sutomore), precisely where various administrative and diplomatic activities took place, including the work of Abbot Gjergj Pelini, who was above all a diplomat who had written letters for Skanderbeg. Pelini was from Novobërdë. This monastery seemed somewhat forgotten, as it lacked sufficient explanations. Anton mentioned that it had its own printing press, hospital, and an inn for travelers, among other things. It served as a kind of

customs point, connecting Dalmatia with Greece. One can only wonder how many letters might exist in the archives of different states, written by Gjergj Pelini. They simply need to be discovered.

Then we visited Kotor, Perast, and Risan (Rizon). Venetian Kotor was one of the most beautiful cities the students had seen. The city walls, unique restoration, UNESCO protection, numerous visitors, and magnificent ships in the Bay of Kotor were simply majestic. Kotor is under UNESCO protection for its Venetian walls, along with Perast and some surrounding islands. One of the islands, as Antoni explained, was formed from Ottoman ships filled with stones by the locals. The Ottomans had never been able to conquer Kotor and Perast due to their strong defenses and geographical position. In Kotor, some of the students and professors climbed the mountain above Kotor to enjoy the breathtaking view from there. Then, the group continued towards Risan, the capital of the Illyrian queen Teuta. It is mentioned in ancient sources precisely because of Teuta's defeat against the Romans and her refuge there. At the top of the surrounding rocks stands a defensive fortress. Meanwhile, the city walls are made of cyclopean stones, just like other Illyrian structures in this region. Here, the group had mixed feelings. On one hand, there was a clear sense of pride in seeing the small Illyrian city of Teuta and Agron, and on the other hand, this place had not received the proper state treatment and protection. Professor Arben Hajdari, while explaining to the students, emphasized the need for systematic excavation at this neglected site and stressed the importance of better recognition. However, it seems that some of these archaeological sites, both in Montenegro and other places, including Kosova, have been entirely overlooked. Therefore, investing in archaeology is extremely necessary.

In the evening, we returned to Ulcinj, where we continued discussions about Kotor, Risan, Skanderbeg, and the need for collaboration in archaeology. The students felt inspired after the visit to Risan and Kotor, especially Risan. To see the walls of Teuta and Agron, which are still alive symbolically, as names but also as an urge to get to know them better, was simply a "beautiful gift of this journey," as they described it. The Illyrian civilization arouses great curiosity because, on one hand, much of it has been destroyed, on the other hand, it has left living survivals, such as the Albanian language and culture, and on the other hand, it is reconstructed in



Photo from Shas, Montenegro



Photo from the visit, the ruins of Rizon, Agron, and Teuta

the Albanian imagination due to the lack of real facts. Archaeology and linguistics are essential pillars of preserving this curious journey, to get to know this civilization and its place in history.

On the last day of the journey, we visited the Illyrian town of Doclea and the village of Vuksanlekaj. Doclea is located near Podgorica and is one of the most important settlements in Montenegro. The strategic position of this Illyrian settlement was significant, close to the Moraca River and the surrounding protective mountains. It takes its name from the Illyrian tribe of the Diokleates. Just like the Sharri Cheese, it is also known as the Doclean Cheese. This Illyrian town had nearly 10,000 inhabitants. Today, the ruins of the town are relatively well-preserved objects, but it appears that the excavations have been halted. "Why isn't this also an archaeological park like Ulpiana?" the students asked. Today, the town is a Roman city ruin with forums, baths, and other architecture because Doclea fell under Roman rule, then Byzantine, under the rule of the Balsha family, the Ottomans, and so on. The visit continued to the village of special graves, due to the symbols on the grave stones in the village of Vuksanlekaj. There, we were greeted by the teacher Luigj Camaj, who is well acquainted with the history of the area. Shouldn't the guide always be local? Yes. The guide should always be local. Anton, Korab, and Luigj conclusively demonstrated this. Hospitable, knowledgeable, self-critical in some cases, responsible, and proud of what they are. In the village of Vuksanlekaj, there are old graves known as the mysterious graves. But, after the visit, observation, and analysis, Luigj tells us the time when the grave stones are believed to have been carved, which does not exceed 200 years. Also, there are some dates in these graves. But their unique feature is the numerous symbols, mainly considered pagan, in these graves of the Christian Albanians of this area. Here, you can find eagles, stars, rosettes, clothing motifs, and writings. Robert Elsie has written about them, while Korab Kraja and Luigj Camaj are writing a book catalog about them. Elsie has called them "[Albanian grave art](#)". Simply put, in a small village, you can find a stunning collection of Albanian folk art.

This was an extraordinary visit of the Department of Anthropology group to Montenegro. Gresa Marmullaku said, "It was a fantastic trip," while Arlinda Shatri described this trip as one of the most valuable she has ever undertaken. Sami Haziraj, a student of archaeology, appreciated this trip as a "journey into antiquity," especially after the visit to Rizon.



Photos from the visit, a grave in Vuksanlekaj

An ethnographic field trip in Karadak

In the course of study visits for this year, led by Professor Arsim Canolli, third-year cultural anthropology students, visited the three villages of Karadak: Stublla, Letnica, and Binça, to reflect on the anthropology of religion and identity in the context of Southeastern Europe. The Karadak region presents a densely packed cultural and religious landscape, well-known for its rich cultural diversity and historical significance. Located in the Eastern part of Kosovo, this area has been a confluence of different cultures, traditions, and ethnicities for centuries.



Stublla is the most unique place to learn about a specific history of Albanian Catholics and crypto-Christianity in Kosovo. Letnica, the home of the Croats for 700 years, has a sad history, especially after the exodus of 1991. Only two elderly Croatian sisters and a few other elderly Croats living there, who recount their daily hardships. Letnica, the home of the Black Madonna, is also the beloved place of Mother Teresa, which she visited when she was young. The church in Binça, a village closer to Vitia, preserves the story of nearly 200 martyrs of Stublla on its walls, Albanian families who openly declared themselves as Christians in the 1840s, were interned in Turkey by Mahmut Pasha Gjinolli. Around 70 of them returned, currently there are about 10,000 Catholics but, they are dispersed in villages throughout Europe.

This visit complements the desire to get to know the idiosyncrasies of the cultural mosaic of Kosovo. In the absence of the possibility to visit other places, these ethnographic visits, focused on a single location, serve as a stimulus for further empirical research, which is appreciated within the specific subjects of the anthropology study program.



The “Hasi Jehon” Festival



Photo from the “Hasi Jehon” Festival, Has, Kosova



Photo from the “Hasi Jehon” Festival, Has, Kosova



Photo from the “Hasi Jehon” Festival, Has, Kosova

The folkloric festival “Hasi Jehon” took place this year during the evenings of May 5th, 6th, and 7th, 2023, in the village of Gjonaj in Hasi, near Prizren. This year, the festival was attended by Professor Arsim Canolli, who was also a member of the festival’s jury, along with anthropology students.

At this year’s festival, there were many novelties: talented girls from Deçan, outstanding ensembles from Mat, Hasi, Dibra, Skopje, Gollak, Drenica, and Viti performed with professionalism and passion. The second night of the festival was enriched by the presence of two special guests from the USA, Teng and Mat, who are artists and passionate researchers of cultural heritage. Teng Chamchumrus, who has worked at the Smithsonian Institution in the USA

and was supported by the American Embassy, visited Kosova and brought a special spirit to the discussions about cultural heritage and education in Kosova, serving as an advisor to the Kosova Cultural Heritage Council. He stayed in Kosova for one month and during this time, he was invited to various events throughout Kosova. In this case, he was an honorary guest of the “Hasi Jehon” festival and accompanied the performances on the second night of the festival.

Rhapsodists, instrumentalists, and dancers created a rich artistic content, providing an amazing experience for the audience. The festival stage showcased a rich range of cultural presentations, including women’s lamentations and men’s songs, which were highly valued concepts in the artistic performances. The

performances included wedding rituals, lullabies, girls’ songs, and oral storytelling. Additionally, there were also duet dances, polyphonic voices, and the sounds of traditional instruments such as the lute, flute, shepherd’s flute, and accordion. This festival presented a rich mosaic of Kosova’s cultural heritage, highlighting the country’s cultural richness and diversity.

The “Hasi Jehon” festival is not a competitive event; rather, it is a celebration of cultural wealth and the recognition of its values. Awards at this festival are given as a sign of respect for outstanding performances, and the assessment is based on the overall performance. This festival encompasses all performative aspects related to Kosova’s cultural

heritage.

This festival emphasizes that Kosovo’s cultural heritage is a treasure that must be preserved and passed down through generations. It is also the desire that this festival be declared a part of UNESCO’s cultural heritage in the future.

Professors and students from the Department of Anthropology are permanent guests of the “Hasi Jehon” festival. In the upcoming year, Professor Canolli will be part of the performance selection group at the festival.



Photo from Midwinter Festival, Zym, Kosova

Midwinter Festival

The Midwinter festival is celebrated throughout Europe, including among Albanians. This time, on December 21, 2022, the “Katarina Josipi” group presented it as a special performance, although they have performed it at various folklore festivals in the past. The goal was to showcase a performance that represented a pre-Christian ritual practice preserved among the Albanians.

Anthropologists such as James Frazer in “The Golden Bough” have written about “buzmi” (Yule/Midwinter festival), and scholars like Mark Krasniqi, Mark Tirta, Ukë Xhemaj, and others have also documented this ritual. Students from the Department of Anthropology and Sociology participated in and closely observed a reenactment of the “buzmi” ritual, traditionally celebrated in Zym. This magical ritual has been passed down through Christianity, but its roots date back to the pagan culture, as a fertility and agricultural ritual. An oak wood log is placed in the mountains, fed with food, and set on fire. Its ash is spread in the fields to increase agricultural blessings. Songs are sung, blessings are expressed, tables are set, and family members gather, among many other things. The main goal is the offering for the sun because this is the longest night of the year.

The ritual is accompanied by the singing of these words:

“The generous Buzmi is coming,

With leaves and grass,

With delights and abundance,

Following it then comes the spring.”

This ritual should be studied in the context of cultural heritage, changes in families, migration, culture as a relic of mimetic culture, religion, cultural policies, touristification, and more. But above all, it should be studied as part of the cultural diversity contributing to the Albanian identity.

- Arsim Canolli



Photo from Midwinter Festival, Zym, Kosova

We thank the Kolgjeraj family, the people of Zym and Has, for inviting us and offering us warm and unforgettable hospitality!



Fieldwork photography by Janet Raincek, 80s, Rogovë, Has, Kosova



Photo from the Summer School



In early July 2023, the first edition of the Summer School of Anthropology (SSA) was held, organized by the Department of Anthropology. This year, 10 students participated in the school under the guidance and supervision of three anthropology faculty members.

SSA 2023 is a project supported by the University of Prishtina and aims to contribute to the preservation and promotion of cultural heritage. The theme of this edition was “Cultural Heritage at Risk”, and the school included the examination of several important aspects of this theme. Initially, discussions revolved around the challenges of protecting and preserving archaeological heritage, with a special focus on the

“Pogragj Castle” site in Gjilan, featuring lectures, workshops, and discussions with Prof. Ass. Dr. Arben Hajdari. Subsequently, the challenges and opportunities for preserving intangible heritage were addressed, with a focus on documenting traditional costumes in Zym, Has, led by Prof. Ass. Dr. Arsim Canolli. Another important aspect highlighted in this milestone edition was the management of museum collections, with a particular emphasis on artifact preservation at the National Museum of Kosova in Prishtina, led by Dr. Ass. Zanita Halimi.

Day 1, “SSA began with the first workshop at the Pogragjë Castle in the vicinity of Gjilan. Professor Arben Hadari delivered an introductory and informa-

tive lecture on the history of the castle, from prehistory to late antiquity. The state of the castle was documented, potential risks were identified, interviews with locals about their relationship with the castle and oral legends were gathered, and the potential for revitalization and its impact on tourism and more were evaluated. Additionally, an early iron age was discovered in the castle, suggesting that this castle held evidence of life from early iron fragment (1100-900 BC). Students had the opportunity to discuss, inquire, and gather evidence for a “basic risk assessment” that pertains to the castle and its revitalization potential in the area! ‘We have a lot of cultural heritage; we just need to dust it off a bit and

bring it to light,’ expressed Samir Aliu, owner of the café and ZipLine ‘Green’ near Pogragj Castle, which has transformed Pogragjë into a new destination for daily tourism in Kosova.”

- Arsim Canolli

Day 2, “Students of the SSA continued their work documenting cultural heritage at risk, specifically focusing on the documentation of the private collection of Lajde Kolgjeraj in Zym, Has. What puts traditional costumes at risk? Several factors, including the lack of preservation materials, a shortage of raw materials, changes in embroidery patterns, excessive commercialization, a lack



of professional knowledge for treatment and maintenance of clothing, and other factors. Lajde Kolgjeraj has a unique collection of costumes, collected over the years from Zym and surrounding villages. The collection consists of nearly 1000 units. With institutional support, this collection would become the most unique museum in Kosovo, portraying intercultural heritage preserved in the Has region through clothing. The clothing of Zym, Has, is embedded in the ceremonial life of Hasjan families. However, significant economic, social, and cultural changes have also affected this clothing. Therefore, the preservation and promotion of this clothing are of great importance and priority. This year, the students of the Anthropological Summer School assisted in this direction by inventorying a portion of this collection.”

- Miridonë Sylja dhe Olisa Çekaj

Day 3, “Today, we concluded the fourth day of the SSA, during which we conducted a workshop on the theme ‘Cultural Heritage at Risk: Treatment of Archaeological, Textile, and Wooden Artifacts.’ The workshop was held at the National Museum of Kosovo and the Ethnological Museum. We identified internal and external risks and emphasized preventive measures for the funds or collections held by these museums. Without a doubt, the state of collections in the Museum of Kosovo is not the best, due to the layering of risks over decades, including infrastructure and other factors. We believe that the workshop held at the Museum of Kosovo



by the students promotes cooperation between educational institutions and cultural institutions. We had the opportunity to see up close the risks that collections face and identified some ways to eliminate these risks. The Anthropological Summer School contributes to raising public awareness about Kosovo’s cultural heritage. We thank the staff of the National Museum of Kosovo and the Ethnological Museum for providing us access to their unique collections!”

-Gresa Marmullaku

The Anthropological Summer School concluded with presentations by participating students, discussing in groups their work on the topic of “Cultural Heritage at Risk

10 students of the Summer School of Anthropology 2023 received certificates of participation and work based on the project with the theme “Cultural Heritage at Risk” (July 3-7, 2023).

Impressions of SSA 2023 Participants



Photo from the Summer School

"I am very happy to have been part of this school because it has given me great energy and knowledge. I have tested myself in these activities and have been inspired to continue in these directions that truly contribute to the preservation of cultural heritage. The credit for this summer school undoubtedly goes to its dedicated leaders, the three professors who were very committed in motivating and supporting us..."

- Arbesa Berisha

"The Anthropological Summer School 2023 has been one of the most beautiful experiences I have had during my 3 years of study, and it has been very effective in getting to know what the field can offer along the way. Getting to know Hasjan costumes and learning about the preservation of artifacts considered most at risk have had an impact on enhancing my knowledge. The Anthropological Summer School has been very effective and practical, and I hope it will continue in the years to come."

-Gresa Marmullaku



Photo from the Summer School

"The Anthropological Summer School allowed me to touch the roots where culture is born and happens, even when we sometimes think it has disappeared. There, I had the opportunity to see, feel, and appreciate the value, dignity, and respect for culture and for those who preserve, protect, and cultivate it. It was inspiring for the continuation of my studies."

-Afrim Visoka



Photo from the Summer School



Photo from "Ulpiana Fest," taken by Andi Mullazenuni



*“Ulpiana Fest” -
The celebration of
Archaeology in Kosova,
The Ancient Dardania*

Photo from “Ulpiana Fest,” taken by Andi Mullazenuni

After a fruitful summer of archaeological excavations in Ulpiana, where a dedicatory inscription for the Ancient Dardanian City by the emperor Justinian was discovered, archaeologists gathered to celebrate their work, collaboration, and commitment to archaeological education. Students and assistants from the Department of Anthropology organized the archaeological festival Ulpiana Fest, which took place on September 16th and 17th, 2023, at the archaeological park of Ulpiana.

For two consecutive days, Ulpiana of Ancient Dardania transformed into a festive venue celebrating archaeology and cultural heritage. Ulpiana Fest became the stage for the celebration of Dardanian and Roman antiquity through the reconstruction of ancient games, recipes, and attire, the display of ancient coins, dances, music, pottery, and other elements, mirrored a vivid portrayal of Ulpiana’s ancient life and culture.

The festival program commenced at 6:00 PM the first night with several unique elements. Festival organizers, Rilinda Gjonbalaj and Ilir Culaj began the evenings program by extending their thanks and greetings to attendees. Rilinda Gjonbalaj stated, “Today, Ulpiana is the host of the first edition of this festival, and I hope it will become a long-standing tradition to promote and highlight our cultural heritage. Allow me to express my sincere gratitude to all who contributed to the realization of this festival, sparing no effort. I must particularly commend our esteemed professors from the Department of Anthropology, Prof. Arsim Canolli, Prof. Tahir Latifi, and all others, who, with their professionalism, enhanced this organization.” Evoking the social life of the Dardanians and Romans, Ilir Culaj mentioned, “Let’s take a moment to think about how many festivals, joys, sufferings, or tragedies have taken place within the ancient walls of the city where we are tonight. Who knows what performances the actors interpreted in the Ulpiana theater, and how much applause they received from the audience back then.”

Certificates of gratitude and acknowledgement were given to the three leaders of the Ulpiana archaeological project, Prof. Arben Hajdari, Prof. Christophe Goddard, and doctoral candidate Milot Berisha. The certificates were given to them by the U.S. Ambassador, Mr. Jeff Hovenier, the French Ambassador, Mr. Olivier Guérot, and the Deputy



Photo from "Ulpiana Fest"

Head of the EU Office in Kosova, Mrs. Eva Palatova. The certificates of gratitude and acknowledgement were granted for their "consistent multi-year work in archaeological excavations in Ulpiana, advancing archaeological education for future generations, fruitful international archaeological collaboration, and their care and professionalism in promoting archaeology in the community and for the public."

Professor Goddard thanked the organizers and expressed his happiness at being at Ancient Ulpiana. He thanked the entire research team for their outstanding work in Ulpiana. He emphasized that

"just as Rome and Ulpiana were once connected, Brussels and Pristina are now a family: the European family." He thanked the EU for funding the project, which yielded exceptional results this year after many years of intensive work. Professor Arben Hajdari and Milot Berisha also expressed their gratitude to the organizers and all their colleagues for the work that was carried out in Ulpiana.

The program continued with performances of ancient songs and dances by a group from Lezhë, Albania, highlighting the reconstruction of men's attire from that era. The program continued with the premiere of



Photo from "Ulpiana Fest"

the play "Justinian and Theodora," performed in an open-air setting near the ancient city walls, in the presence of a large audience. The play was written by Arian Krasniqi, directed by Kushtrim Mehmeti, and featured students from the Faculty of Arts at the University of Pristina.

Festivities began at 1:00 PM on the second day, attended by a large number of visitors, primarily families with their children, as well as visitors specifically interested in cultural heritage. Activities included ancient games, painting and displays of pottery and other cultural objects. At 6:00 PM, the program continued with a performance by the Çegrani Ensemble from North Macedonia, highlighting the ancient pagan ritual of bee



Photo from "Ulpiana Fest"

calling. Subsequently, a number of students, dressed in ancient Dardanian and Roman costumes, as well as costumes that have survived from antiquity, such as the xhubleta of Malësia, the traditional costumes of Has and Anamorava (Gollak), and other costumes were paraded on the festival stage. The festival concluded with a reprise of the theatrical performance "Justinian and Theodora," in the presence of a large audience, including the Prime Minister of the Republic of Kosova, Mr. Albin Kurti, the Minister of Culture, Mr. Hajrulla Çeku, the Minister of Industry, Ms. Rozeta Hajdari, and numerous deputies and academics.



Photo from "Ulpiana Fest"

Touristic Kosova: Janet Reineck and the American Ethno-Tourists

Embarking on a cultural exploration journey through various regions of Kosova, Janet Reineck, a passionate American anthropologist, led a group of eleven Americans on an unforgettable ethno-tour in Kosova. This adventure took place from July 18th to July 28th, 2023, visiting places such as Prizren, Gjakova, Peja, the Rugova Valley, and Opoja. The ten day tour was filled with diverse cultural experiences, from savoring traditional foods to experiencing the songs and dances of the visited areas. Janet Reineck, with the assistance of student Arlinda Shatri, from the department of Anthropology, made it possible for this group to experience their visit to Kosova like never before. Janet Reineck's book "[An American Woman in Kosova 1981-1997](#)" is available online for free on her website.

Ulpiana Fest has left an indelible mark on Kosovo's cultural landscape, serving as a testament to the nation's commitment to preserving and celebrating its heritage. Through the collaborative spirit of its organizers, the support of the Ministry of Culture, Youth, and Sports, and the enthusiastic participation of the public, Ulpiana Fest promises to become a cornerstone event in Kosov's cultural calendar, ensuring that the echoes of the past continue to resonate with future generations.



Photo from "Ulpiana Fest," taken by Andi Mullazenuni





Here is Arlinda's story:

"The beginning of an "Ethno Tour" in Kosova with anthropologist Janet Reineck has given me an unparalleled opportunity to immerse myself in the rich tapestry of this beautiful land, its history, and its people. This experience has been further enriched by the presence of 11 American visitors who bring a unique perspective to our journey. Hailing from various regions and backgrounds, but all sharing a strong desire to explore Albanian culture, they were already well-versed in our traditional dances, surprising us all with their graceful moves in the Opoja Valley. From the genuine warmth and hospitality of the people of Kosova to the deep-rooted culture we encountered, the trip not only painted a vivid picture of the country's past but also highlighted the enduring spirit of its people.



Not only me, but the entire group was captivated by the hospitality that still prevails in the Opoja and Rugova regions, as well as the honesty and sincerity radiated by its residents. Our initial meeting with the citizens of Opoja at the beginning of the "Ethno Tour," and particularly Janet Reineck's reunion with the families she lived with in the '80s and '90s, as well as our close encounters with locals regarding their culture and customs, resulted in a profoundly layered study. This fusion of personal narratives and the differences between our cultures and American culture made our journey all the more beautiful.

Throughout the trip, the people of Kosova welcomed us with open arms. Their hospitality is truly reflected in every smile, gesture, and heartfelt conversation we shared. Whether it was a chance meeting with a local artisan or a heartfelt discussion with a family in a rural village, their warmth was always palpable. This welcoming attitude brought to life the old expression of hospitality being a cornerstone of our culture.

In Kuqishte, Rugova, we had the pleasure of meeting Ms. Dushe Gjevukaj's family, with whom we formed a strong bond. As we walked the paths around her 100-year-old home, a desire to climb mountain after mountain was awakened within us. Our journey through the mountains and ascent to Lake Liqenat in Rugova was accompanied by collective joy and spiritual tranquility.

One of the most touching aspects of the journey was the gratitude and respect shown to the American visitors. Through conversations and anecdotes with



various locals, we understood that there was a special place in their hearts for the help provided by Americans during the war. In every wedding we attended, there was an American flag. Their generous spirit extended toward Americans, and the compliments and expressions were not just for individuals but represented a collective recognition of the connections forged through these shared experiences.

As we traversed Kosova's stunning landscapes, they seemed like constant historical and triumphant reminders of the resilience of its people. The scars of war are met with the breathtaking beauty of the land, a testament to the indomitable spirit of its inhabitants. The narratives of stories of hardship underscored the determination to rebuild, and even their smallest contributions left many ideas with American visitors on how such a small population in Kosova could be so different from one region to another.

The Ethno Tour allowed us to witness the substance of traditions that define Kosova's cultural tapestry. From traditional music and dance to artisanal crafts, every aspect of the culture was a testament to shared pride. Janet Reineck's perspective, from her return to the old areas where she had stayed before the war in Kosova to the new contexts of some customs, made all our understandings of this important and evolving culture richer with the passage of time.

In conclusion, this Ethno Tour in Kosova was a journey of self-discovery and enlightenment for us all. This trip was not just about exploring a foreign land for American visitors and a local like myself; it was about embracing a fellow human being. As I reflect on the journey, it reminds me that a place is not beautiful solely in its landscapes but in the hearts of its people—their stories, resilience, and boundless capacity for warmth and hospitality."

- Arlinda Shatri



Xhubleta in UNESCO



UNESCO has established and maintains the convention for the preservation of cultural heritage, both tangible and intangible heritage. Ratified in 2003, this convention includes raising awareness of spiritual cultural heritage at the international level, especially for what enters UNESCO's preservation lists. The definition of cultural heritage according to this convention encompasses practices, expressions, knowledge, understanding, and appreciation of material and spiritual culture. What highlights the recognition of a cultural heritage by UNESCO is the documentation, identification, ongoing research, preservation, protection, and promotion of various issues and factors related to it. Importantly, this achieves formal and non-formal education on spiritual and material cultural heritage.

On November 29, 2022, the Xhubleta was admitted under UNESCO protection. The making of a Xhubleta is a traditional craft skillfully executed and worn by women from the mountainous regions of Northern Albania, Montenegro, and Kosovo. The process of creating a Xhubleta requires skill, precision, patience, and time. The Xhubleta, weighing around 15kg, is adorned with belts made of wool that are joined together through thin leather straps, which are placed in a horizontal line. This monumental garment, worn by anyone who chooses to wear it, exudes a majestic and dignified appearance. It is also accompanied by other parts such as the woolen belt decorated with ribbons and tassels, the front and back apron, as well as filigree-worked accessories and more. The assembly of the Xhubleta is tested and performed by checking how it stands on its own. Characteristic of the Xhubleta is its wavy and bell-like shape. Just as the mountains in the region have wavy forms, the Xhubleta also inspires an imitative shape.

Outside the museum, now the Xhubleta is only worn on festive occasions. Like any other garment, it serves as a form of identification, communication, and symbolic relationship. The white Xhubleta is worn by girls younger in age, the red one filled with ornaments is worn by married women, and the black one is worn by elderly women. The ornamentation within the Xhubleta reflects emotional and spiritual status. The Xhubleta encompasses both visible and invisible symbols that convey vision, emotion, and communication with each other. Xhubleta has attributes not only in appearance but also in the messages they have carried. The typology of the Xhubleta is divided into two regions: Malësia e Madhe and Dukagjini. In Malësia e Madhe, the lower part of the Xhubleta is white and so large that when walking in it, you can touch the ground/floor. In contrast to the Dukagjini region, it possesses more accessories and ornaments. The Xhubleta garment, which is around 4000 years old, represents a cultic and pagan belief. The symbols, including geometric shapes, snakes, eagles, suns, and moons, communicate with antiquity and the craftsmanship of the women who created them.

The inclusion of the Xhubleta in UNESCO is just the first step towards international recognition. The preparation of the dossier for UNESCO requires research and documentation to fulfill each of the components to know the origin and bearers of this cultural heritage. The category of intangible cultural heritage is divided into several lists, including the representative list, the urgent list, and activities that promote cultural heritage. The Xhubleta falls into the category of endangered intangible cultural heritage because, from UNESCO's General Council's examination, there are very few bearers of this tradition. There are very few women who wear and possess this craft, and for this reason, it is considered endangered and in danger of disappearing if not

transmitted. Ethnographer Afërdita Onuzi narrates the history of this attire in her 50-year study in the Albanian Alps. She compiles the peculiarities, the mysteries of the ornaments, and everything else about the attire in her book "Xhubleta," published in 2022. Through this book, she calls for the foundations of the attire not to be undermined by reproduction. The essence of cultural heritage is that it is kept alive through people, and if people are not the ones to transmit these practices, they become difficult to preserve. For this reason, UNESCO creates funds that help in knowledge transmission, and women who possess this skill can educate and teach the generations that come after them.



Student Exchange through the ERASMUS+ Program

Notes from Bournemouth: Experience in the Erasmus+ Program

My name is **Era Brahimaj**, a third-year student in the Department of Cultural Anthropology.

During this year, I had the opportunity to continue one semester at Bournemouth University in England through the Erasmus+ exchange program. I would like to share a bit of this experience with you. Throughout this journey, I learned a lot, especially in a professional context. I witnessed a completely different system of studying and working. I saw what it's like to live in a Western European country as a student. I had access to the resources offered by the university, such as online libraries and physical libraries with various types of literature materials, various clubs within the university, spaces on campus, and several other elements that made the learning process easier. Furthermore, I encountered more diversity, different cultures, and I believe this is very necessary for a young anthropologist

One of the benefits I gained from this trip is that I had the opportunity to meet different professionals in the field, which is always of interest in the academic world. Since I applied spontaneously, I was not prepared for what awaited me in England. I had to become independent differently from before and adapt to entirely new circumstances for me. I can confidently say that all the small challenges throughout this experience have served me in one way or another. I encourage my colleagues that if they are offered such an opportunity, they should take advantage of it for their own benefit.



Photo by Era Brahimaj, "Bournemouth University", UK

ALUMNI



Urtesë Zeneli is a master's student in the "CREOLE: Cultural Differences and Transnational" program at the University of Ljubljana, Slovenia. Urtesa has completed her studies at the Faculty of Philosophy, University of Prishtina, in the Department of Cultural Anthropology (2017-2021). Her MA studies are partially financed by the Ministry of Culture, Youth, and Sports (MKRS) in support of the further academic pursuits of distinguished students in the fields of anthropology and archaeology.

Following the completion of my Bachelor's studies at the University of Prishtina, I found myself filled with enthusiasm and profound motivation to pursue the next steps of my career as an anthropologist. My eagerness for knowledge drove me to seek further academic enrichment, leading me to the decision to continue my education at the University of Ljubljana, an institution already renowned for its reputation in the field of anthropology. However, what made this

educational journey even more remarkable was my enrollment in the unique and innovative joint program known as CREOLE. Unlike other programs, CREOLE holds the distinction of being the first joint anthropological program in Europe, in partnership with the most prestigious European universities. Reflecting on my academic journey, I find it essential to emphasize on the profound and multifaceted influence this experience has exerted on me, along with the critical and decisive contributions it has made to my academic development. CREOLE has proven to be a transformative space where I have not only improved my academic skills but also amplified my voice as an anthropologist in the realm of visual communication, particularly through the medium of film. Ethnographic filmmaking is my primary goal in my studies, and I aim to delve deeper into this form of knowledge production and explore its potential to shed light on the rich and diverse cultural and social practices of Kosova. Additionally, during my participation in the CREOLE program,



I had the privilege of engaging in an intensive one-week special program held in Bern, Switzerland, where I had the distinct honor of presenting ideas related to my master's thesis topic. This experience allowed me to discuss and exchange various methodologies for documenting cultural heritage in Kosova through ethnographic film, including innovative approaches such as sensory experiences through audiovisual documentation. Furthermore, during this intensive program, I had the opportunity and pleasure of collaborating with students from diverse cultural backgrounds, where together we discussed how ethnographic film has the potential to bridge the gap between academic research and public understanding. Ethnographic film achieves this by offering an intimate and immersive glimpse into people's lives and can serve as a powerful tool for preserving and sharing cultural heritage while promoting cross-cultural exchange. Therefore, my vision for my future studies remains rooted in these pillars. Kosova is a crucible of cultural diversity

and dynamic social, historical, and contemporary dynamics that require comprehensive exploration and documentation.

My aspiration is to give Kosova a voice and use ethnographic film as a platform to provide space for these vital conversations. Thus, my role in this context is to harness ethnographic film not only to advance academic research but also to raise awareness of cultural diversity, social issues, and human rights within the cultural context. Ultimately, my vision for my future work is a commitment to documenting and sharing the diverse stories emerging from this extraordinary region, thus promoting a space for intercultural dialogue



Tringa Berbatovci

is a second-year master's student in the "Archaeology and History" program at the Department of Ancient Sciences at École Normale Supérieure - PSL in Paris, France. Tringa completed her studies in Archaeology (2018-2021) at the University of Prishtina, Faculty of Philosophy, Department of Cultural Anthropology. She is recipient of a scholarship from the French Government, made possible through collaboration between École Normale Supérieure- PSL, the Embassy of France in Kosova, the University of Prishtina, and the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports in Kosova, to support educational continuation of outstanding students.

Enhancing my professional capacity in the field of archaeology has been and remains one of my primary objectives, and this pleasure is undoubtedly heightened when achieved in Paris. This is a place where multiple disciplines intersect: history, art, architecture, archaeology, and many other sciences that have captivated human interests. I am currently living the childhood dream of being a student at one of the world's most prestigious universities. Within its walls, the brightest minds on the planet have lectured, and this university has been home to several Nobel laureates, including Henri Bergson, Romain Rolland, Jean-Paul Sartre, and Louis Pasteur, to name a few. Its mission is "The Art of Learning from Professionals

-L'Art de l'Education". In this university's environment, I felt that the past meets the present in every corner, not only through imagination but by being there, as one with it. I say this because the methodology of studies at this prestigious school allows for the shaping of one's future as an archaeologist and the expansion of the knowledge spectrum, with access to laboratories (AOROC) and the C2RMF laboratory (the only one of its kind in the world) hidden beneath the basements of the world's largest museum, the Louvre (Musée du Louvre). This is where the most innovative chemical and physical techniques are employed for the analysis, treatment, and dating of artifacts. In the past, this place was known only through my readings, but now I have the opportunity to participate in scientific conferences, archaeological expeditions such as those in Pompeii, Italy, Egypt, etc., expeditions that span across the European continent, Asia, and Africa, as well as the use of the latest software in archaeology. What continues to impress me the most is the generosity and kindness of the French people. In Paris, I have met extraordinary individuals, students from every region of France and from around the world, with whom we exchange parts of our cultures daily. Through these meetings, we come to understand how similar and different we are but ultimately find common ground, which undoubtedly, like no other, is our passion for archaeology.



Considered one of the most romantic and poetic languages in the world, and the second most widely spoken, the French language is another highly significant element of my studies in France. It enables communicative interactions with others and naturally broadens the spectrum of knowledge.

During my Bachelor's studies, what sparked a lot of curiosity in me, since I also studied architecture, is the intertwining of archaeology with architecture. Observing and examining architectural structures, the organization of cities, construction techniques, material usage, but also addressing the social and spiritual aspects and how they influenced ancient civilizations, within which the ancient Dardanians lived their lives, is possible. Often situated on flat lands, and often on high hills, defending and fighting, this ancient people managed to create art and architecture. Today, our land remains an inexhaustible archaeological source, rich in material and spiritual terms.

Support and collaboration from professionals always remain a crucial factor for the success and professional development of every student. Of course, this support for my professional development undoubtedly came from the professors of the Department of Anthropology, to whom I am always grateful, especially to Professor Arben Hajdari and Assistant Ilir Culaj, who continue to stand by me even after finishing my studies, throughout every step of this academic journey. The Department of Anthropology undoubtedly provides students with quality training for pursuing studies abroad. Students passionate about cultural heritage, especially archaeology, must work hard to realize their dreams and not give up, because with effort, every success is on their path of knowledge.



In Memoriam



Edi Shukriu
1950 – 2023

On January 17, 2023, we lost Edi Shukriu, the first Albanian woman archaeologist in Kosova.

Prof. Edi Shukriu will be remembered for her extraordinary contribution to shaping the new generations of archaeologists, as well as her tireless dedication to the development of archaeological knowledge in our country.

Tonight, our hearts remember

“Go,

Tonight my heart celebrates...

Disappear from my chamber

For tonight, the spirit will provide me with reason

[...]

I want to play,

free

bold,

to play in the core of the heart

I thank you for the gifted necklace,

Take it and the dance

And go, for tonight I have a celebration...

Your soul rises above the castle's shadows

With a gaze that, it seems, travels in vain.”

This is how Edi Shukriu's first poem, written at the age of 22, begins. She was a girl from Prizren, the castle of Saint Premte, Has of Bogdani, Drini Plak, Lidhja and the revitalizing fountain, the daughter of Muhamed Shukriu and Margarita Mjeda. This is the first poem from her work with the same title, “Tonight, my heart celebrates,” published in 1972. It's a poetic manifesto that reflects the rebellion and enthusiasm of a young Albanian lady who aims to continue her path, free and independent, averse to the surrounding environment. With this passion, evident even in her early poems, Edi Shukriu gazes at the world towards the mysterious, towards the intangible of the human soul on her land. In her journey, she finds mazes, deities, myths, and legends, cities and gardens, fireplaces and resting places. There, she finds amphorae and inscriptions, art in ruins and art in mosaics. Along the way, she also finds ancient writings and dialogues about her homeland, the land of Dardania. On one hand, she studied this land from a scientific standpoint, and on the other hand she poetically embraced it with her spirit, and always inspiring us as readers.

Poetry and archaeology

Poetry and archaeology have something in common: they both delve into the mysterious. Poetry creates metaphors for the mysterious, for what we feel but find

hard to explain. Archaeology seeks to understand the hidden and tangible heritage left by our ancestors, from the first hominids to us. Both poetry and archaeology narrate what we keep within: poetry is what we keep in the heart's bosom, and archaeology is what we preserve within the Earth's bosom.

In Edi's poetry, you can see a poetic inspired by archaeology, or an “archo-poetics,” if we want to create a model-figure of this poetics. Here is a poem where her unique archo-poetics is evident:

The first came

Laid the foundations of basilicas

Placed an anchor in my heart

Inscription of a grave –

Other letters,

Our spirit

The second came,

Raised churches on the foundations

He borrowed our hands

Raised praise for himself

The third came

Destroyed the bell towers

And once again called the heavens

Above the green meadows

The Tuamats

[Poem “Tumat” from the 1979 collection “Gjakimi”]

In her collection “Syri i natës” (The Eye of the Night, 1986) and the poetic collection “Nënqielli” (The Rainbow, 1990), where she metaphorically represents Prizren and the cultural area around it, Has and Sharr, with metaphors, synecdoches, allegories, and numerous symbols, she incorporates her archo-poetics, expressing archaeological imagination through poetry.

The journey of the poet and archaeologist towards understanding her ancient homeland's civilization will continue. Edi Shukriu completed her academic studies up to a doctorate in Prishtina and Belgrade. After her studies, she returned and worked at the Museum of Kosova, and later at the Faculty of Philosophy at the

University of Prishtina, where she began teaching ancient history and archaeology from 1979 until 2020. She became synonymous with a female archaeologist, no small feat in her time. She also became a symbol of archaeological studies about Dardania, or ancient Kosova, as she called it in one of her books, with a focus on Dardanian goddesses, cults, epigraphic monuments, and more.

Edi delved into her archaeological labyrinth, found and studied the intricacies of this land, paved the way for her students, collaborated with colleagues from various international universities, presented Kosovar archaeology at conferences and symposia, which was translated into foreign languages and was taught at the Faculty of Philosophy for 41 consecutive years, even during difficult times for her and Kosova, tirelessly and with great dedication.

Her students fell in love with archaeological excavations and studies, and some of them continued their studies at universities worldwide, while others returned to continue research and excavations. However, none of them forgot the name of Edi Shukriu, the archaeologist of Kosova, who guided them into the world of ancient wonders and encouraged them to explore it. Her archaeological works, her work with students, lectures, and accomplished projects, summer schools, and conferences will forever remain in the institutional and personal memories of her students and friends. Her work in establishing the archaeology department within the Department of Anthropology at the Faculty of Philosophy of the University of Prishtina was foundational and will always be deeply appreciated.

In the comprehensive body of Professor Edi Shukriu's work, many dimensions are intertwined, including politics. However, politics was not an inherent state of her daily vocation but rather a will in an essential time to reject Serbia's violence and an immediate desire and necessity to build Kosova's cultural institutions after the war. Professor Edi Shukriu's name will always be associated with public life and her public service to the state of Kosova. In the 1990s, she was part of Kosova's peace activists and joined the alliance created by writers, poets, historians, archaeologists, sociologists, ethnologists, doctors, journalists, and others, led by the literary scholar Ibrahim Rugova, later the historic president of the Republic of Kosova. After the war, she led the Department of Culture, which is now the Ministry of Culture, and founded and directed other cultural heritage institutions.

A personal memory from my childhood

I got to know Professor Edi Shukriu through her books and collegiality in the department. But I had known her even earlier, from my childhood, from an occasion when I was an elementary school student. In 1991, as part of a school organizing event for elementary schools in Kosova, I participated in a month-long tour of Austria with 100 other students from all over Kosova. Under Professor's guidance, we prepared plays, recitals, and other artistic and cultural activities to present the situation in Kosova at that time to Austrians and others, for a month straight in Vienna, Graz, and other cities. I still remember the chorus of the song, which was an anthem for the Republic of Kosova that Edi had taught us:

O Kosova, daughter of Dardania,

You are the descendant of Illyria,

In these lands, you are sovereign,

You are the tribune of democracy...

Since then, the word "Dardania" has stuck with me, and I use it quite often. In fact, my colleagues often humorously remind me of my obsession with the word "Dardania." Professor Edi Shukriu deserves some of the credit for this!

Edi Shukriu has left a rich legacy of teaching at the University of Prishtina, a legacy she built through hard work and left with honor in the hands and hearts of her students and colleagues. However, her work and accomplishments will be a corpus callosum in the archaeology of Kosova. Her work honors all of us, inspires us, and gives us the courage to continue exploring the path to the heart of our land.

Today, Edi Shukriu has passed into eternity. Tonight, her spirit rests, but her heart is embodied in her work, in her worthy cultural heritage in Kosova. Today, we are all saddened, her colleagues and students. But tonight, and forever, our hearts will remember Edi Shukriu and celebrate her work.

Rest in peace in your beloved Kosova, the ancient Dardania!

17.01.2023

- Arsim Canolli



Publications



“The Memory of Trepça”

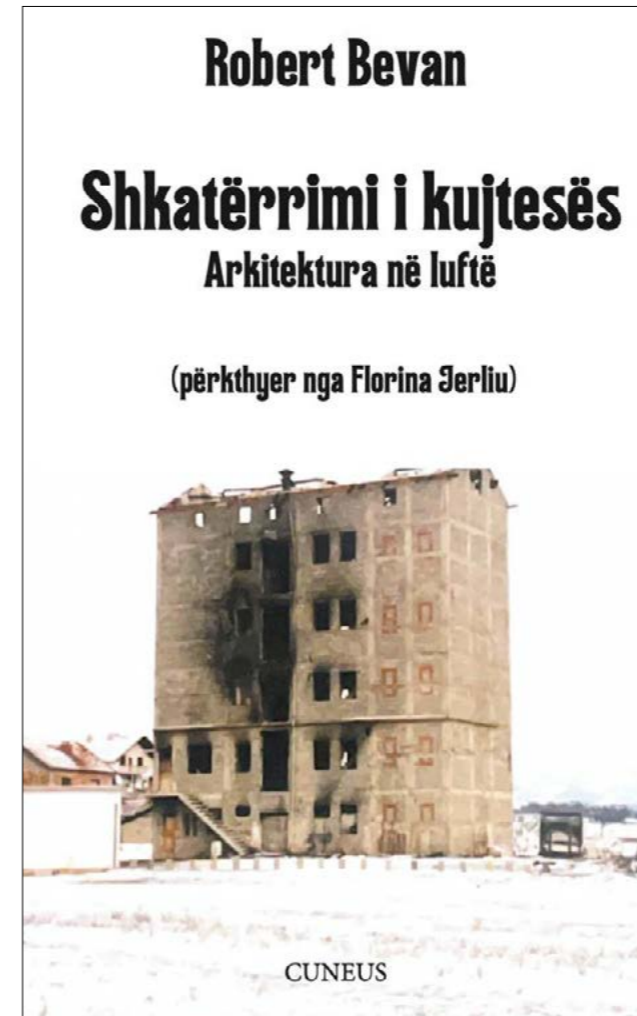
edt: Arsim Canolli

On April 19, 2022, the publications of the 10-volume book “The Memory of Trepça: Stories of 100 Trepça Miners” containing 100 video interviews and transcripts, were presented and discussed in Mitrovica. This compilation was the result of a year-long effort by a working group from Mitrovica, colleagues from the 7 Arte organization, Lulëzim Hoti, Diellza Jëlliçi, Rinor Kurshumliu, Egzona Rexha, Ardiana Koliqi, Samir Kurti, and 5 young researchers from the Department of Anthropology and Sociology at the University of Prishtina: Greta Avdyli, Valentina Krasniqi, Miridona Sylja, Ardita Aliu, and Ridona Berisha. Thanks to these researchers under the coordination of project mentor Arsim Canolli, 100 narratives full of history, events, and experiences of the Trepça miners all above 65 years old, were documented. These narratives will become essential evidence for future studies and source material for the Trepça Museum, which will be established in the future.

This memory is the result of honest, authentic, and passionate narratives of 100 Trepça miners. “The Memory of Trepça” provides narratives filled with emotions, pain, suffering, and self-confidence. They are an additional testament to one of the largest industrial giants in the world during the past century. Their narratives go beyond the years from the ‘50s to the present. They recount the experiences told by parents and grandparents who worked in Trepça, the narratives of strikes and imprisonments, the willpower and resilience, and the continuation of resistance against the oppressive regime of Serbia during the ‘90s, life before, during, and after the war, all connected to Trepça.

In these volumes, the political transformations that the Trepça complex has undergone are documented. The history of the discovery of Trepça is narrated, as well as information about Trepça’s productions and its affiliated organizations, tons of exports worldwide. Much is revealed, from remembering the strikes of miners in 1989, imprisonments, mistreatment, and punishments, the November 1988 march in Prishtina, the reconciliation of the three rifts in the mine during the strike before the action started with the students of Anton Çeta, the “Family Helps Family” campaign, the people who assisted, the elderly, students, and young people, all with eyes, ears, and hearts turned toward Trepça and its workers.

- Arsim Canolli



Book translation:

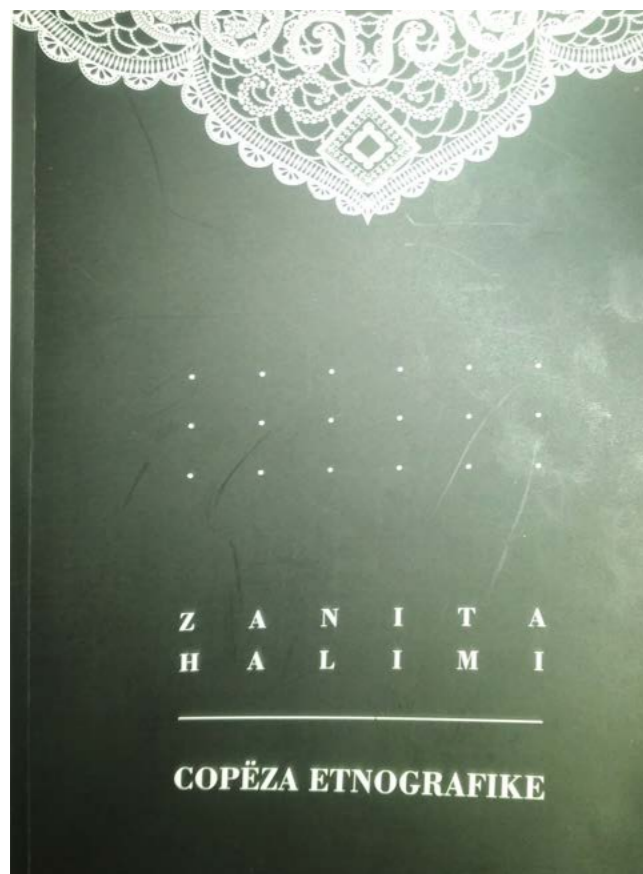
“The Destruction of Memory: Architecture at War”

by Robert Bevan, translated by Florina Jerliu

“The Destruction of Memory: Architecture at War” by Robert Bevan is a book that through numerous emblematic and symbolic examples of conflicts and wars worldwide throughout history, initiates a discussion about the importance of architecture not only in the material well-being of a people but also in their memory, in the sense of belonging it provides, in the collective articulation of historical, social, political, and cultural existence and continuity.

As understood from reading this book, the destruction of architecture in war is the most widespread crime of the epochs. Its destruction is the death knell for the destruction of a people; it is an indicator of impending or ongoing genocide. Robert Bevan develops this argument while noting that the destruction of Serbia’s architectural heritage in Kosovo was a planned and methodical element of ethnic cleansing, aiming to eradicate historical presence and the collective identity of the people.”

- Florina Jerliu



“Ethnographic Fragments”

from Zanita Halimi

“The book *“Ethnographic Fragments”* by Zanita Halimi offers a monograph on the broad field of cultural anthropology. It encompasses various themes and issues that are carefully conceptualized and presented as research works or concise essays, all intricately interconnected. The book takes the reader from one topic to another, creating a sense of cultural understanding as an undivided whole.

It is worth noting that the author, Halimi, examines and organizes her subjects by relying on ethnographic research methods, participant observation, comparison, and interviews. This approach allows the author to provide new data and draw stable and professional scientific conclusions.

The book reflects both new and old issues, traditions, and modernity, all successfully intertwined in the general scientific field of cultural anthropology. For example, the work on weddings reveals phenomena and practices that occur in the home of the bride or groom as tradition but also in restaurants as a modernity, representing the new phenomena. Thus, from customary philosophy or traditional thinking, the narrative reaches transformations and globalization, as both scholarly presentations and anthropological theories, such as Stuart Hall's and others,

are introduced. When discussing the family, the author does not forget to examine its development from the past, but she also addresses taboo topics as noticeable phenomena discussed in modernity.

It should be emphasized that the work on family photography, as a reflection of social contexts and an inventory of culture, is not limited to the material culture's visible culture but also addresses human relationships, as invisible culture. In another case, photography is treated as a means of materializing memory, a tool for various presentations, and a unique visual document in cultural anthropology.

Topics of such kind are entirely new in Kosovo. The work on the material culture of memorials constructed in public spaces, expertly discusses the important links of Albanian tradition in thinking and visual representations made in concrete and marble. Different types of road memorials are distinguishable, from simpler ones to war memorials, which are usually more complex and necessarily decorated with national symbols.

From the emotionally evoking writings, it is worth mentioning the case of the “Autochthonous” flag, as an individual innovation for national identification in a football game held in Belgrade. The author, through field research, special interviews regarding the “Autochthonous” case, and others, concludes that, as theory suggests, the symbol is an arbitrary or conventional sign or an act suggesting something other than what is shown as a visual symbol in a specific case.

When talking about hospitality and tourism, the author astutely demonstrates how tradition is negotiated in the context of tourism. In this case, examples of hospitality based on doctoral rights are examined without neglecting the phenomena and mutual relationships of modernity's phenomena, such as hospitality and public spaces, hospitality and rituals, and similar.

Rituals are portrayed as practices inherited with poetry and rich praxis from antiquity, but also as rituals of the media or media ritualism, showing the intersection of ancient and modern times.

Finally, allowing readers to enjoy every piece in this publication, I want to emphasize that the value of the book is enhanced by the photographs taken directly during the author's fieldwork in various geo-ethnographic regions. The book has scientific value and is a useful contribution to cultural anthropology, especially for students of ethnological and anthropological studies”

- Drita Statovci Halimi



“Traditional Crafts of Kosova”

nga Valon Shkodra

“The catalog *“Traditional Crafts of Kosova”* is a continuation of extensive fieldwork aimed at recognizing, documenting, and photographing traditional crafts practiced in our country. Our research for this catalog has primarily focused on the cities of Kosova, making it an urban ethnography study. The idea was born from the field itself, and we have made efforts to highlight the artisanal values of each municipality, always with the aim of including as many of our main centers as possible. The cities included in this catalog are: Prishtina, Prizren, Gjakova, Mitrovica, Vushtrria, Gjilani, Ferizaj, Podujeva, Kaçanik, Klina, Kamenica, Skenderaj, and Dragash. In the catalog, a total of 260 different photographs of the aforementioned crafts and neighborhoods in the cities are presented, which were once known to citizens, traders, and artisans both inside and outside the country.

Although new trends unfortunately favor the decline of traditional crafts on a daily basis, our research has resulted in the documentation of sixty traditional craft types that continue their activities to this day. We have engaged in discussions with 100 subjects, most of whom are artisans or former artisans. The documented and presented crafts in this catalog include: hat makers, cap makers, jewelers, watchmakers, bakers, photographers, bag makers, tailors, blacksmiths, bakers, tailors, pharmacists, confectioners, basket weavers, mattress makers, shoemakers, tanners, cobblers, barbers, kebab makers, sausage makers, shoemakers, bakers, hat makers, coffee makers, cooks, bakers, perfumers, saddlers, rug artisans, doll makers, taxi drivers, leather craftsmen, shoemakers, sweet makers, bakers, butchers, tobacconists, pipemakers, locksmiths, pastry makers, bakers, confectioners, saddle makers, glassblowers, millers, coppersmiths, herbalists, musical instrument makers, stone artisans, woodcarvers, rope makers, belt makers, and cart builders. The catalog consists of a total of 189 pages.”

- Valon Shkodra



“Memory in Stone”

from Kaltrina Igrishta, Lekë Shala,
Anduena Halilaj

“Kullas speak, we just need to understand them” -
Michael L. Galatay

“Memory in Stone: Symbol Carving in Kullas” highlights the ethnographic and archaeological study aimed at documenting and explaining the carving of symbols in the stones of traditional houses and other domestic spaces in the territory of the Republic of Kosovo. Through understanding these symbols, the book enriches our knowledge about social organization, knowledge systems, Albanian beliefs, and their connections with the environment.

Kaltrina Igrishta, Lekë Shala, and Anduena Halilaj, through the “Memory in Stone” project, have worked to provide a scientific product on the symbols in Kullas. The idea for this work stemmed from the lack of documentation of a crucial period in Kosovo’s history, specifically the period when Kullas flourished. Symbols are the heart of the house, and to understand society, we must decipher and interpret them.

We delved into ethnographic, historical, and geographical books to understand the link between the present and the past. We held the thread of the story in our hands, updating the interpretation of the history of Kullas daily. The statistical

data we collected in the field, oral and written histories, sometimes matched and sometimes differed significantly. Nevertheless, we analyzed all the data and compiled an overview of the importance of symbols in Kullas for house residents and society. This work was mentored by Erëmirë Krasniqi, and many people contributed and gave meaning to this book: Florian Cousseau, Marie Besse, Michael L. Galatay, Eliza Shala, Bardhyl Dobrosi, Elisa Shkurtaj, Erina Baçi, Rrona Abrashi, and others, reminding us that teamwork is the key to a successful study!

Kullas have been built all over Kosovo, and symbols have been carved into them. These symbols, widely spread, were created through various techniques such as carving, relief, sculpture, painting, or engraving. Their symbolism is expressed through rich figurative representations that often reflect the beliefs and aspirations of homeowners. Elements carved into stones intertwine closely with ornamentation on clothing, wooden objects, public spaces, religious objects, gravestones, painted ritual eggs, tattoos, and more. These symbols are part of a cultural practice that extends beyond Kosovo’s borders. Therefore, this study is a complementary piece of a broader dimension of Albanology that is fulfilled through comparative studies. Comprehensive knowledge of the region reveals similarities, differences, peculiarities, and sub-regional preferences regarding symbols.

The book consists of two main parts. The first part presents the corpus of symbols in Kullas (18th-20th century) textually, through statistical documentation, spatial distribution, and aims to explain the practice and meaning of symbols based on oral history and previous studies. The second part provides visual documentation of symbols and Kullas, as well as views collected during fieldwork. The combination of these parts creates space for researchers to explore the same phenomenon from various interdisciplinary angles.

This book is supported by the European Union and UNDP.

- Kaltrina Igrishta, Anduena Halilaj, Lekë Shala



Fieldwork photo “Memory in Stone”

The Seminar of Anthropology

1.

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Mikaela Minga, ethnomusicologist, IAKSA/ASA, Tirana

“Aurality and Ethnomusicology in Albania: Vocal Recordings of Elbasan as a Case Study”

(October 26, 2023, at 4:00 PM, Room 127)



2.

Prof. Dr. Regina Bendix, anthropologist, University of Göttingen, Germany

“Intangible Heritage: Knowledge, Experience and Unequal Value”

(November 30, 2023, at 4:00 PM, Room 127)

3.

Prof. Dr. Adam Drazin, anthropologist, UCL, London

“Extreme Fashion: The Sensuality of Digital Experiences and Materials”

(December 14, 2023, at 4:00 PM, Room 127)

4.

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Florina Jerliu, architect, Faculty of Architecture/UP

“Continuity and Change” as a Response to the Challenges of “Conservation and Management”

(January 11, 2023, at 4:00 PM, Room 127)

5.

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Zanita Halimi, anthropologist, Department of Anthropology/UP

“Preserving Cultural Heritage Through Family Photography”

(February 29, 2023, at 4:00 PM, Room 127)

6.

Prof. Dr. Cord Pagenstecher, historian, Freie Universität Berlin, Germany

“Oral-History.Digital: A platform for the archival, curation and presentation of biographical interviews”

(March 28, 2023, at 4:00 PM, Room 127)



7.

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Angela Labrador, John Hopkins University, USA

“Leveraging Anthropology: Shaping the Future of Cultural Heritage Education”

(April 25, 2023, at 4:00 PM, Room 127)

8.

Dr. Premtim Alaj, archeologist, Institute of Archaeology, Pristina

“Dardania (Kosova) During the Iron Age: Characteristics of Settlements, Burial Practices, and Material Culture”

(May 23, 2023, at 4:00 PM, Room 127)

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Sincerely!

Enis Bytyqi dhe Tringa Sefedini



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