

My research will address patterns of migration in the period of nation-building in Montenegro after 1945. In this research I will examine the applicability of theoretical premises of Benedict Anderson and Ernest Gellner that refer to overlapping of national with linguistic and educational boundaries, and to the ways this overlapping influences migration patterns (Anderson 1991, Gellner 1983).

Given that Montenegro has been a part of larger political units for ages, sharing political and cultural patterns with some of the neighboring nations, its national borders towards these nations are porous and not stable. Therefore, research on construction and conceptualization of national borders, and their influence on migrations patterns in Montenegro, will represent a challenge but also add an important dimension to the aforementioned theories. One of the aims of this research is to identify how contemporary Montenegrin identity is influenced by patriotism (as in territorial solidarity, local or regional) and nationalism (as in ideology based on ethnic or familial solidarity) and how we could delineate between these two processes.

The objective of my research is to demonstrate how migration patterns are constructed or conceived, both on individual and institutional level. The central questions that I will attempt to answer are to what extent migrations have been historically adopted and to what extent they represent a desire for better economic and cultural surroundings. How does migration reflect national policies, and how important are individual needs? How do the transformations of these patterns resonate with general social and political processes? Further, I will assess Montenegrins' social space and the ways in which different regions and town are described and valued. What is the criteria of the evaluation and how is migration affected by these views?

Migrations themselves represent a specific form of manifestation of national identity. Often migrations display how people react to differences related to social, political, economic and cultural development of particular regions, and therefore reveal important economic, social and political features of a particular nation. Hence, I will use the biographical method paired with participant observation, to discover how Montenegrins living in Serbia socialize and integrate into the new sociocultural environment, and redefine their own identities from the immigrant point of view. By adding some historical research in archives, I will attempt to discover the projected model

of migrations on institutional level. The research will comprise both temporary (seasonal, daily) and permanent migrations. I will analyze the processes of acculturation through ethnic and national distance, ethnic stereotypes, linguistic and religious processes, etc.