

Call for Papers:

5th International Balkan
studies Conference

Balkan Express

Living together —
Tolerance, Coexistence,
Reconciliation

November 8—9, 2019
Institute of Ethnology
of the CAS, *Na Florenci 3*,
Prague, *Czech
Republic*

Organizing committee:

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The conference is
organized by:

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Faculty of Humanities,
Charles University

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Institute of Ethnology
of the Czech Academy
of Sciences

↳
Institute of History
of the Czech Academy
of Sciences

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With the support
of the Institute
of International Studies,
Faculty of Social Sciences,
Charles University

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Conference language:
English

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Online application

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www.bit.ly/balkanexpress2019

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Application deadline:
May 31, 2019

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Conference fee:
200 CZK (approx. 8 EUR)

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konference.balkan@gmail.com

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[www.facebook.com/
KonferenceBalkan](http://www.facebook.com/KonferenceBalkan)



FAKULTA
HUMANITNÍCH STUDIÍ
Univerzita Karlova



Institute of Ethnology
Czech Academy of Sciences

 ims.fsv.cuni.cz

HISTORICKÝ ÚSTAV

Akademie věd České republiky

INSTITUTE OF HISTORY

Czech Academy of Sciences

Living together –
Tolerance, Coexistence,
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Balkan Express

In 2019, the fifth international Balkan Express conference will aim to rethink the Balkans through the concept of “Living together”. Loosely building on the previous conference (the Invisible, the Overlooked and the Forgotten), this year our thematic focus will be on relations of Tolerance, Coexistence, and Reconciliation.

The goal of the conference is to unveil processes and practices often overlooked within Balkan studies, and to identify and discuss topics/issues that contribute to mutual dialog and strengthening social cohesion in the region. Instead of engaging in mainstream notions and gestures imposed “from above” (e.g. by national governments, the EU, the UN, etc.), we invite papers that will analyze these aspects “from below”. That is, examine how tolerance, coexistence, and reconciliation, are understood, expressed, and practiced on an everyday level by the people of the Balkans in their local and social contexts.

Since the 1990s, academic production has prevalently analyzed the region through nationalist and ethnic frameworks that emphasize social conflict, resulting in a somewhat “negative” and “dark” image of the Balkans. We would like to seek out discourses and practices that transcend these stereotypical perceptions and conceptualizations. To ask how we might rethink the Balkans as a place where many people attempt and even succeed to live a “good life”. And to demonstrate how the experience of the Balkan people is linked to a sense of belonging and the construction of identities that make life together possible.

We perceive the Balkans to be a European region defined by distinct historical and sociocultural contexts. The conference adopts an interdisciplinary approach, enabling different fields of knowledge production and ways of understanding the region to interconnect. In addition to a rich program, the conference will also provide a glimpse into Balkan cultural and artistic production including food, photography, film and music. We look forward to meeting you in person in Prague this November.

Topics of interest include, but are not limited to:

Historic and long-established forms and discourses of coexistence and their current reinterpretations (e. g. common cultural heritage, perceived plurality and tolerance of the Ottoman Empire, the idea of Slavic mutuality, and the socialist principal of “brotherhood and unity”)



The ideas and practices of national, ethnic, and religious tolerance and symbiosis (formal and informal)



Everyday life and coexistence on local and regional levels (e.g. “mixed marriages”, neighborhood/komšilik, kinship/kumstvo)



Practices of downplaying ethnicity and religious differences in everyday life



The practical language of tolerance, coexistence, and reconciliation (words, images, sounds)



Literary, artistic, and media representations



Commemorating and performing tolerance, coexistence, and reconciliation



Policies of tolerance, coexistence, and reconciliation; grassroots initiatives; activism

Application deadline: May 31, 2019

Information regarding acceptance:
June 20, 2019