

CALL FOR PAPERS

2nd International Conference

Balkan Express

Southeast Europe in
an interdisciplinary
perspective

Conference language

Czech & English

Application deadline

SEPTEMBER 25, 2014

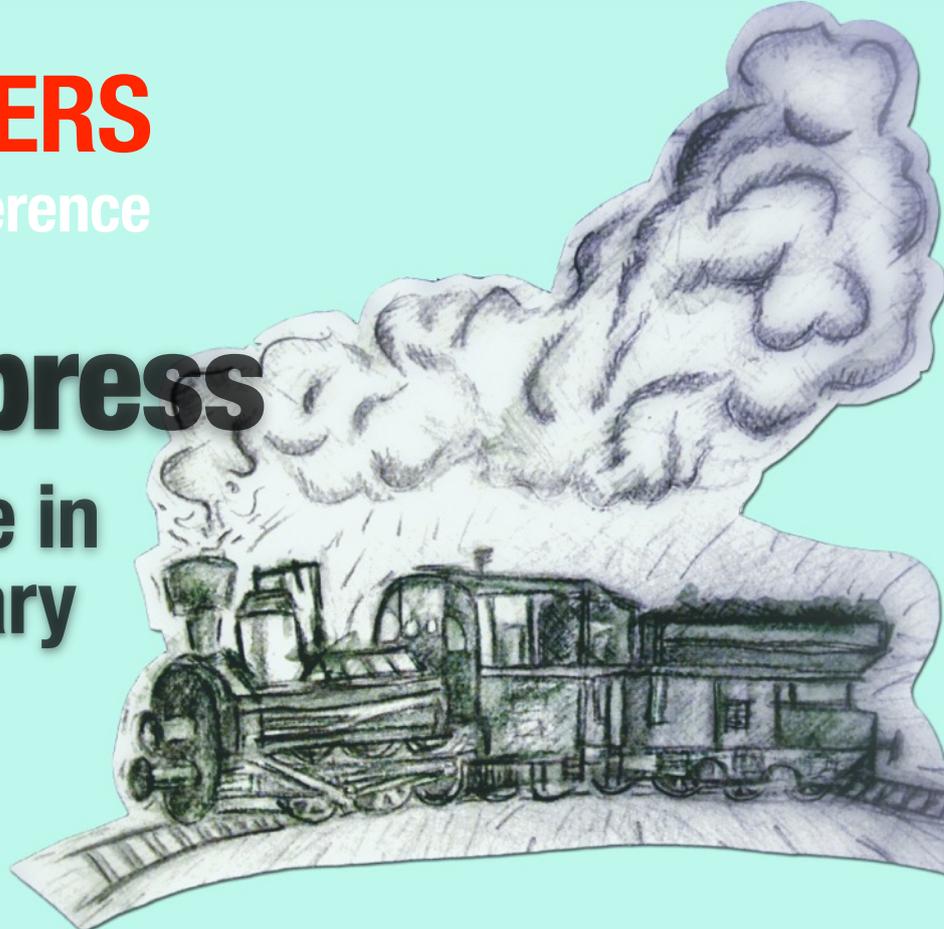
Abstract submission

konference.balkan@gmail.com

More info

www.facebook.com/KonferenceBalkan

www.rakijatour.cz/balkan-express



24-25/10/2014
Faculty of Humanities
Charles University
PRAGUE

Conference venue
FHS UK, U Kříže 8
158 00 Praha 5 - Jinonice
CZECH REPUBLIC

Organising committee

★ **PhDr. Mirjam Moravcová, DrSc.** ★ **PhDr. Dana Bittnerová, CSc.** ★

★ **Bc. Ivana Skenderija** ★ **Mgr. Markéta Slavková** ★

Under the patronage of the dean of FHS UK in Prague, CZ doc. PhDr. Ladislav Benyovszký,CSc., we would like to invite you to our conference Balkan Express, which will take place at the Faculty of Humanities in Prague, September, 24-25, 2014.

The aim of the conference is to open up a space for discussions concerning both the presence and the past of the Balkans as of distinctive cultural region. The metaphor of the Balkan Express train does not only refer to this particular region but it should also evoke the interconnectedness of places within the region, as well as to emphasise the linkages with other parts of Europe and possibly even other world's areas.

Yet, this delimitation hardly exhausts the possible chain of imagination that the Balkan Express metaphor associates. Illusion of the speed of change brought by the "globalised world" leads on an everyday level to the feeling of a loss of authenticity that is based on collective sharing of culture. It seems that the contemporary world does not strive for continual construction of cultural experiences and identities stemming out of various experiences. On contrary, man in postmodern situation somewhat volatilises and longs for exhilaration – events that for a moment demarcate one's borders and offer type of individual authenticity. This is one of the reason why we perceive post-modern mankind as globalised – increasingly one becomes man of improvisation, one, who perpetually and flexibly absorbs different impulses about which he had no idea yesterday and that he now anticipates so they are no longer the matter of surprise.

Social sciences map, describe and interpret processes of establishing and/or negotiating of social reality from various perspectives. One of them, despite the trend to focus on discontinuity, seeks to understand the "disappearing" or on the other hand "reappearing" social roots, or more precisely cultural and social bases. Researchers don't cease to ask questions to what extent is the global world global, how the transformative social reality is determined by the geographical borders or on contrary how the continuity of geographical space gets constructed by accentuating and making visible particular historical moments or cultural elements.

Balkan Express conference aims to support such research focus and facilitate a space where these and similar topics can be opened for discussion. We suggest that nothing in the "globalised" world stays only inside as the meaning of inside is inevitably constituted by the outside world.

At the Balkan Express conference we are interested in dealing with wide spectrum of questions concerning the role of the Balkans in relation to the globalised world, namely, when it comes to issues of: 1) constructed memory, 2) negotiation of collective identities, and 3) glocality (thus, linking of global and local cultural influences that shape the local cultures). We hope that such a broad topic will help us to delimitate specifics of the Balkans and clarify till what extent is globality determined by geographical space – a region that can be imagined by some as a distinct multicultural and multi-ethnic space, or a part of Europe, by others as near East, a contact zone with/of southern Slavs, a region of war, a vacation retreat, source of inspiration, the place where one has put down roots, once upon a time etc.

CONFERENCE APPLICATION

Full name, title	
Phone number	
Email address	
Institution	

Abstract title	
Abstract (200 words max.)	

Presentation format	Academic presentation	Film	Other

Are you interested in having a presentation (active participant)?	YES	NO
Are you interested in collective publication?	YES	NO