

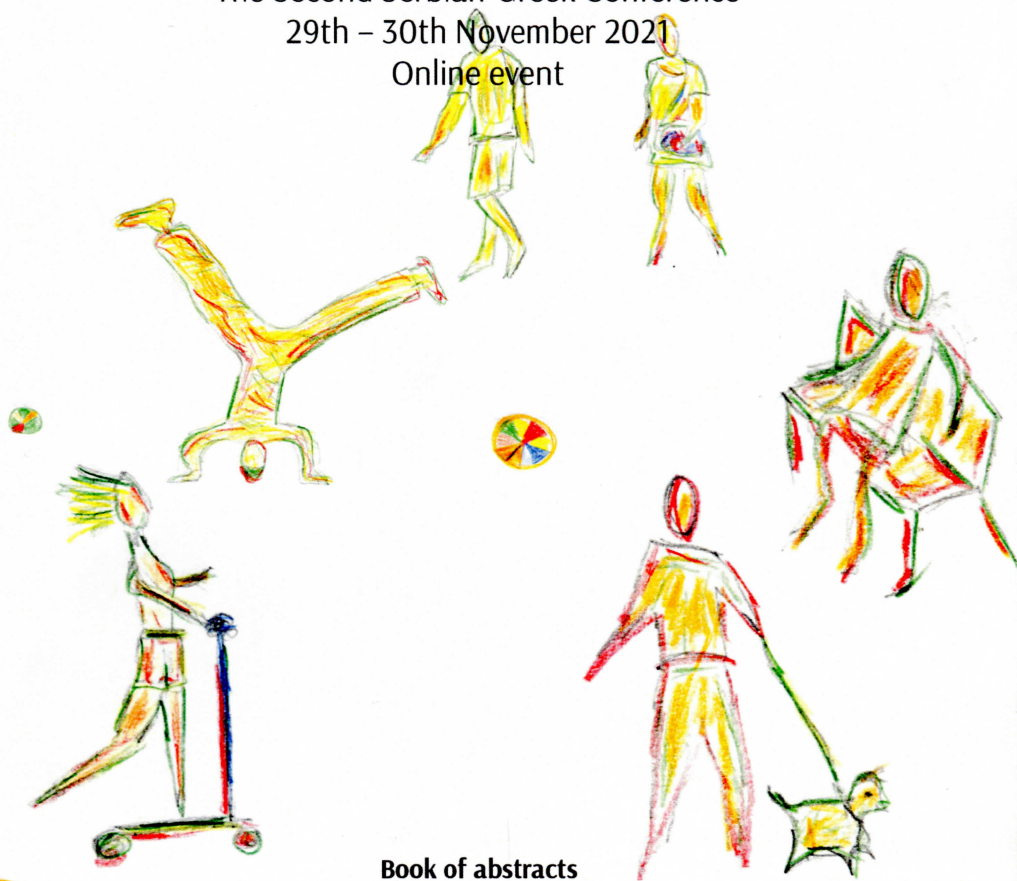


ΕΘΝΟΓΡΑΦΣΚΙ
ΙΝΣΤΙΤΟΥΤ ΣΑΝΥ



Different Identities and Functions of Urban Space: A Comparative Study of the Circumstances in Belgrade and Athens

The Second Serbian-Greek Conference
29th – 30th November 2021
Online event



Book of abstracts



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Institute of Ethnography SASA in cooperation with the Laboratory for Folklore and Social Anthropology, Department of History and Ethnology, Demokritus University of Thrace (Republic of Greece)

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Orthodox lity, identity and space – in Belgrade and in the wider Serbian context

In this paper we study the rituals of the Orthodox lity and the sacralization of space in Belgrade. Recent events have re-actualized the significance of this ritual both in the Republic of Serbia and in the wider Serbian ethnic area.

In Belgrade, during the previous years – for the holiday of Ascension of our Lord, the city's patron day - the lity went from the Church of the Ascension to the Cathedral church and back, by a different route. Thus, a sacral circle was created, which included a part of the core of the old Belgrade town. However, with the completion of the construction of the Temple of Saint Sava, another sacral point of essential importance emerged.

For that reason, unlike all previous years, in 2021, the lity went from the Church of the Ascension to the Temple of Saint Sava. These new events have created two, interconnected sacral units, related to the movement of the lity, with three basic sacral central points. They not only shape the ritual procession paths, but make up the borders of the (sacral) space of the city center. In accordance with various indicators, our paper studies the structural and semantic possibilities of Belgrade, that are directly connected with the field research of a broader character that was conducted during the previous decades.

Also, the paper pays special attention to the symbolism of different parts of Belgrade - which is very clearly emphasized at several semantic levels. Namely, a large number of especially important parts of Belgrade, during some previous, very successful art projects (“Belgrade is the world”), were organically connected into a single semantic whole, which had its analogy with the planet Earth, i.e. with the world map.

The basic and most visible function of the Orthodox lity procession is to sanctify space, but also time, the territory that is of the greatest importance for the population of a certain place. However, the lity also has a pronounced cohesive and identity-related function, as was especially clear in the example of the defense of Serbian Orthodox sacred places through lity processions in Montenegro. We also dedicate appropriate space to this topic and its significance in our work.

Key words: Orthodox lity, sacralization of space, identity, Belgrade, Serbian ethnic area, symbolism

CV

Ivica Todorović (1971) has been employed at the Institute of Ethnography SASA in Belgrade, as a scholarship holder since 1997, and officially since 1999. He graduated (1996), received his master's degree (2000) and his doctorate (2003) from the Department of Ethnology and Anthropology at the Faculty of Philosophy, University of Belgrade. While working at the Institute of Ethnography SASA, he acquired the titles of research associate (2004), senior research associate (2010) and the highest scientific title of scientific advisor (2016). He has worked on several scientific projects and written a large number of papers and lexicographical units, along with five extensive monographs and has acted as an editor for numerous journals (about 200 bibliograph-

ic units) and as a member of editorial boards, managed numerous domestic and international scientific projects, membership in editorial boards of scientific journals, and engaged in extensive field research.