

I would like to propose to your Department of History and Ethnology of the [Democritus University of Thrace](#) (Laboratory of Folklore and Social Anthropology) a common research project named:

"Artistic practice and urban promenade (pedestrian zone). Comparative ethnological and anthropological study of Knez Mihajlova Street in Belgrade and Dionysius the Areopagite walkway in Athens", created by senior research associate of the Ethnographic Institute Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts, Gordana Blagojevic, PhD.

Public spaces and in particular the pedestrian zones in the central parts of urban settlements diachronically represented places for a wide array of artistic expressions. The central theme of the project is comparative ethnological and anthropological study of urban public space where there is a variety of artistic practice, based on two case studies - pedestrian zone Knez Mihajlova and Dionysius the Areopagite. These two streets were chosen as the central pedestrian zone in two capitals - Athens and Belgrade-, which attract a lot of artists from different fields, who practice their art in public. Besides, these two walkways are connected with the fortresses, i.e. Acropolis of their cities. The research will include contemporary and diachronic aspects and the semantics of space.

Artistic practices and their actors, artists as well as recipients of the message, passersby, are seen as a medium for the contemplation of a wider network of social, economic and political relations. There is a question about reception of the artist, art, local and global identities. What do different practices of street art say about us? The study will cover large number of arts, such as music, visual arts, applied arts, dance, performances, etc. There is a condition for the artist to be present. So, we do not investigate graffiti or applied arts objects if the seller is not the artist. It is very important to investigate spatial mobility of the artist, the influence of migrations, both internal and external, multiculturalism. While comparing the situation on the ground and doing detailed in-depth research we will try to look at world's global macro processes through the events on micro level.

Estimated project duration is three years, from March 2016 to March 2019. Projection for this period of time covers carrying out preliminary field

research, writing and publishing papers related to the project in Serbian, Greek and English languages, organizing shared international conference and publishing final collection of papers on this topic.

The objective and contribution of this project is to become familiar with various contemporary aspects of culture in the Greek and Serbian environment and to establish better regional ties and cooperation.

Best regards,

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