



## ***Psychosocial well-being of women forced migrants in the Western Balkans - then and now***

Wednesday 23 November  
10.00- 17.00

**Room Henri Dunant - Musée international de la Croix-Rouge et du Croissant-Rouge  
Av. de la Paix 17, 1202 Genève, Switzerland**

How do the experiences of war and forced migration affect the mental health and well-being of the displaced? This is one of the questions at the heart of a the research project *'Engendering forced migration, socio-political transition and mental health in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia and Kosovo'* focusing on the nexus of forced migration, social transitioning and mental health in BiH, Serbia and Kosovo. Drawing upon the findings of a two year project including a team of 28 researchers, this conference examines gendered personal and social dimensions of stressful mobility patterns and health of internally displaced people, returnees and refugees, and their eventual integration in the post-conflict states in the former Yugoslavia. The conference also includes the screening of a specially commissioned film, 'War-shattered lives 20 years after – Bosnian Women telling stories of displacement and emplacement' and concludes with a session asking how experiences of past displacement may inform contemporary initiatives aimed at protecting Syrian and other refugees stranded in the Western Balkans corridor today.

### Programme:

- 10.00 Welcome note – Jasmina Opardija-Susnjar (RRPP Programme Manager, University of Fribourg) /TBC
- 10.15 Engendering forced migration - key findings from Bosnia, Serbia and Kosovo  
Dr. Selma Porobic, Project leader and Coordinator
- 11.00 Researching gender and wellbeing in a protracted displacement and post-return contexts - methodological challenges.

*The project and the conference are funded by the Regional Research Promotion Programme (RRPP), which is aimed at fostering and promoting social science research in the Western Balkans (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia). RRPP is coordinated and operated by the Interfaculty Institute for Central and Eastern Europe (IICEE) at the University of Fribourg (Switzerland). The programme is fully funded by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs.*

Dr.Anela Hasanagic and Mr.sc Sinisa Volarevic (Senior researchers, BiH and Serbia)

- 11.30 Contemporary refugee scenarios in the Western Balkans. Project Mentor, Dr. Brad Blitz, Middlesex university, UK
- 12.30 Building on research - developing data banks and social media sources on gender and forced migration. Alen Vodopijevec, Research Data archivist
- 13.00 Lunch
- 14.00 Film screening - 'War-shattered lives 20 years after – Bosnian Women telling stories of displacement and emplacement'; followed by Q&A with directors Selma Porobić and Daniel Hitchens Samson.
- 15.00 Concluding session: then and now - learning from the past to inform contemporary refugee reception and integration in the Western Balkans.
- 16.00 Tour of the Museum.
- 17.00 Conference ends