

Proceedings of the Final Conference

“LONG-TERM EFFECTS OF FORCED MIGRATION IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA, SERBIA AND KOSOVO -GENDER PERSPECTIVE OF PSYCHOSOCIAL HEALTH AMONG RETURNEES, REFUGEES AND INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS held at Hotel Europe in Sarajevo, 15th of November, 2016 .

Since 2014, a comparative scientific research has been taking place in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) entitled ‘Engendering Forced Migration, Socio-Political Transition and Mental Health in BiH, Serbia, and Kosovo’, designed and implemented by dr. Selma Porobić in cooperation with the Foundation for Women’s Empowerment and in partnership with nongovernmental organizations in Serbia and Kosovo – Grupa484 (Serbia) and IPOL (Kosovo). This research project gathered 28 researchers in areas of psychology, migration studies, social work and social anthropology, and lead to supervision and professional cooperation with dr. Brad Blitz and scholars from the Middlesex University and dr. Stef Jansen from the University of Manchester in Great Britain.

Project was aimed at contributing insights into the long-term effects of war-displacement by exploring challenges faced and the strategies employed by displaced women in the post-Yugoslav region today. Moreover, due to the under-representation of empiric multimethods and integrative research in knowledge production within the region, project aimed to strengthen domestic research capacity through training and practice.

Final Conference was aimed at presenting and publicly discussing projects striking findings and gathered researchers and academics involved in researching forced migration, representatives of International organizations working with forced migration issues (UNHCR, IOM), their partnering organizations in BiH and governmental and nongovernmental representatives working with displaced populations, returnees and psychosocial health issues.

OPENING WORDS were given by Mrs Sanela Ademović, representative of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) in BiH, providing an overview of support to scientific work that SDC has been offering over the years as well as to other social reforms in the country that relate to the project such as mental health reform. Project Coordinator Dr. Selma Porobić, introduced the project aims, objectives and outputs and Mr.sc. Alen Vodopijevac, Data archivist on the project introduced the open webresources and E/learning Platform as an open access to data from the project .

OPENING REMARKS '**Past and present of forced migration in the Western Balkans region**' were given by Dr. Brad Blitz, Project mentor and International relations professor from the University of Middlesex, UK, in which he pointing to the lessons learned from post-Yugoslav displacements in the region and its relevance for the current forced migration issues of out-of-regional refugee populations.

CONFERENCE PROGRAMME: Conference consisted of two Panels in which results of the study were presented and discussed together with an audience.

First Panel moderated by Dr. Brad Blitz, entitled **MENTAL HEALTH, PSYCHOLOGICAL WELL-BEING AND LIFE SATISFACTION OF WAR-DISPLACED AND RETURNEES: DISTRESS, COPING AND RESOURCEFULNESS** addressed the findings from studies conducted in BiH and Serbia and included the following participants: Dr. Anela Hasangić (BiH), Dr. Selma Porobić (BiH) Mr.sc. Siniša Volarević (SRB), B.A. Gordana Balaban (SRB), B.A. Liljana Đajic (SRB). Second Panel, entitled **PROVISION OF PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT TO FORCED MIGRANT WOMEN - PAST, PRESENT AND WAYS FORWARD IN EMPOWERING DISPLACED AND RETURNEE POPULATIONS** was held after the lunch break and moderated by dr. Selma Porobić. It involved following participants: Dr. Jagoda Petrović (BiH), Mr.sc. Danica Ćirić (SRB), Ružica Atanacković, Udruženje „Zajedno“Banja Luka, Dr. Zlata Paprić, Centar za mentalno zdravlje, Brčko, Aldijana Trbonja Tule, Udruženje „Žena BiH“, Mostar, Seida Kurbašić, Udruženje Prijedorčanki „Izvor“, Prijedor, who jointly addressed the current

issues of psychosocial service provisions in BiH and Serbia as well as psychosocial needs of displaced and returnee women today.

The conference was concluded by DOCUMENTARY FILM SCREENING - **'Transforming War Shattered Lives-Building Peace to Return Home'** and Q & A with directors **Selma Porobić and Daniel Hitchens Samson**. This specially commissioned film included first-hand and heart-felt accounts from Bosnian women in Prijedor who have been rebuilding their war-shattered lives during the 20 years of post-war period. It shows how some have found a way to transform the trauma of war and displacement into engaging activist work and community rebuilding, offering positive insights for the future of today's displaced.

CURRENT PUBLICATIONS: During the conference an edited book volume in Bosnian/Serbian/Croatian, entitled **'Rodna studija prisilne migracije I psihosocijalnog dorostanja u Bosni I Hercegovini'**, based on studies conducted in BiH, was presented and promoted. We also presented and promoted the Policy brief, **'Clearing the path to wellbeing:Improving provision of psychosocial services for forced migrant women in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia and Kosovo'**. Electronic publication of both are found on the Project Website.

You can find more information about the project, its implementing organizations and outputs on the following webresource pages:

- **Official website:** www.rpp-efm.net
- **Interactive E-learning platform:** www.rpp-efm.net/elearning