

Editors' Foreword

This book contains eight scholarly articles whose aim is to analyze the origins, maintenance, and changes of some of the ethnic, linguistic, and regional identities in Southeastern Europe. Both majority and minority groups are discussed; the modern countries dealt with include Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Greece, Kosovo, Macedonia, and Montenegro. In addition to the main languages of the region, the articles discuss smaller languages and varieties such as Balkan Turkish, Pomak, and Romani, as well as Montenegrin, the newcomer among the Balkan standard languages. In these articles, Southeastern Europe presents itself as a multifaceted and multilayered scene, where boundaries between different languages and ethnicities, or indeed borders between countries, are much less ancient and much less permanent than they are often conceived.

New linguistic identities are discussed in the articles by Željko Jozić, who reports on the attitudes of students in Bosnia and Herzegovina with regard to the fact that there are three officially distinct, yet very similar constitutional languages in their country, and Jaakko Kõlhi, who interviewed students of two Montenegrin universities about their attitudes towards the newly drawn distinction between the Serbian and Montenegrin languages. In her article, Johanna Virkkula describes how Bosniak ethnicity is reflected in the present-day name-choice practices of Bosnian Muslims.

Tanja Tamminen's article reports on the Balkans Peace Park project in the border region of Albania, Montenegro, and the newly established state of Kosovo. One of her conclusions is that in order to succeed, the project must seek to empower the local population rather than serve as a tool of the Europeanization process, often "understood as a simple one-way street of transfer of norms and practices."

The local minority groups of Greece are discussed in two articles based upon innovative fieldwork. Evangelia Adamou analyzes the reasons for language shift and language maintenance in the Pomak-Turkish-Greek-speaking community and the Romani-Turkish-Greek-speaking community of Thrace. Kira Kaurinkoski describes the social organization and collective identity of the Muslim communities living on the islands of Kos and Rhodes.

Finally, two thematically connected articles by Jouko Lindstedt and Max Wahlström investigate the role of Greek language and scholarship during the national revival of the Slavs of Bulgaria and Macedonia.

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by the Academy of Finland for the five-year period from 2009 to 2013. Most of the articles originated as papers presented at a common seminar of the project, which was organized at the Finnish Institute in Athens in May 2011. We would like to express our gratitude to the Institute and its director Martti Leiwo for their support and for the smooth organization of the seminar. Special thanks are also due to Professor Juhani Nuorluoto, who had a substantial role in initiating the research project in Helsinki before moving to his present post at the University of Uppsala.

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Jouko Lindstedt & Max Wahlström