H.E. Boris Tadic, President of the Republic of Serbia, announced on October 25, 2008 that he would lead a multi-year fundraising effort in the United States and Serbia on behalf of the Njegoš Endowment for Serbian Language and Culture at Columbia University in the City of New York.

“The Serbian people have long and deep ties with Columbia University,” the President said. “In 1894, our great scientist and inventor, Nikola Tesla, was awarded his first honorary doctorate by Columbia. Another great Serbian scientist, Mihailo Pupin, taught at Columbia from 1889 to 1935. Several of Pupin’s students at Columbia would go on to win Nobel Prizes, and Pupin himself won one of America’s most prestigious literary prizes, the Pulitzer, for his autobiography “From Immigrant to Inventor” which detailed his journey in life from a poor Serb shepherd boy to a world-renowned scientist. Today, the home of the Columbia University Physics Department bears the name Pupin Hall,” President Tadic added.

In 1997, Professor Radmila Gorup and a group of colleagues at Columbia University’s Harriman Institute/East Central European Center created the Njegoš Endowment for Serbian Language and Culture at Columbia University. The purpose of the Njegoš Endowment is to promote the teaching and study of the Serbian language and Serbian literature at Columbia University, one of the world’s greatest institutions of higher learning. “This project is of exceptional long-term value to Serbia and the Serbian people. I look forward to working with Professor Gorup and the leadership of Columbia’s Harriman Institute/East Central European Center to make this effort a success,” said the President.
On October 31, 2008, H.E. Vuk Jeremic, Foreign Minister of the Republic of Serbia, gave a talk at the Harriman Institute entitled “Charting Serbia’s European Future.” In his talk, Mr. Jeremic laid out the country’s successes in moving towards EU accession, and discussed the diplomatic challenges Serbia faced regarding Kosovo. Foreign Minister Jeremic also promised his support to the Njegoš Endowment.

Before being appointed foreign minister, Mr. Jeremic had served as Special Envoy for Euro-Atlantic Affairs at the Ministry of Defense of the State Union of Serbia and Montenegro and later as Senior Foreign Policy Advisor to President Boris Tadic.

On March 5-7, 2009, the Harriman Institute, together with the Hellenic Studies Program, the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures, and the Film Studies Department, hosted a conference and film festival dedicated to the topic of “New Balkan Film.” The directors of five of the films, which have garnered wide acclaim at international film festivals, participated in the event. The films showcased the latest trends, transformations and concerns of a new generation in Balkan filmmaking and society. In general, the films focused on the tumultuous period in the region since the fall of the Iron Curtain and the wars accompanying the breakup of the former Yugoslavia. Additionally, scholars from various disciplines, such as film studies, literary, cultural and gender studies, sociology and art history, came together to discuss the various socio-political changes and concerns of a new generation of Balkan filmmakers.

The festival kicked off with a screening of Cristi Puiu’s *The Death of Mr. Lazarescu* (Romania) and Ognjen Svilicic’s *Armin* (Croatia). The following day academic panels discussed topics such as “Urban Spaces and Planet Yugoslavia” and “Post-War Cultures.” Following a keynote address by Professor Jane Gaines of Columbia University, Srdan Golubovic, a director from Serbia, screened his film, *The Trap*, which was then followed by a reception hosted by the Consulate General of the Republic of Serbia (see photographs below). The final day of the festival closed with a panel on “Projecting Politics” and the screenings of *Snow* and *Correction* (d. Aida Begic, Bosnia and d. Thanos Anastopoulos, Greece, respectively).
On February 17th, Dr. Ana S. Trbovich, author of *A Legal Geography of Yugoslavia’s Disintegration* (Oxford University Press, 2008) gave a talk entitled “The Role of the EU in Stabilizing the Balkans, 1991-2009.” In her lecture, Professor Trbovich examined the successes and missed opportunities of the EU’s Balkan efforts, discussed the lessons learned, and provided recommendations for future policy.

Professor Trbovich teaches European Integration, Negotiations and Management of Public Administration at the Faculty of Economics, Finance and Administration (FEFA), University of Singidunum, Belgrade, Serbia, and serves as the Policy and Workforce Development Director of USAID Competitiveness Project. From 2002 to 2006, Dr. Trbovich served as Assistant Minister of International Economic Relations in the Government of Serbia, charged with coordinating Serbia’s EU accession process and foreign investment policies. She holds a PhD from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, two Masters’ Degrees (MALD, Fletcher School; MPA, Kennedy School of Government, Harvard) and a BA from Tufts University.

**A Legal Geography of Yugoslavia’s Disintegration**

ANA S. TRBOVICH
On March 12, 2009, the Harriman Institute presented a talk by Professor Veljko Vujacic of Oberlin College entitled, “Nationalism, Myth and Politics: Russians and Serbs on the Dissolution of the USSR and Yugoslavia.” Professor Vujacic’s presentation examined the different ways in which the two multinational communist federations disintegrated. Despite many similarities, i.e., similar histories of indigenous communist revolutions and nationality policies; Vujacic explained why the USSR dissolved relatively peacefully along the lines of its constituent republics, while Yugoslavia’s disintegration was violent. According to Vujacic, the different reactions of the elites from the two core nations account for much of the variation, in part driven by different historical attitudes Russian and Serbian political and intellectual elites had towards their respective states.

Professor Veljko Vujacic teaches in the department of Russian and East European Studies at Oberlin College. He specializes in sociological theory, political and comparative-historical sociology, and social movements, and does comparative work on the Soviet Union and Yugoslavia.

Presenting Dejan Djokic’s Elusive Compromise

The 14th Annual Association for the Study of Nationalities (ASN) World Convention took place at the School of International and Public Affairs (SIPA) at Columbia University from April 23rd to April 25th, 2009. During the convention, a book panel was dedicated to Professor Dejan Djokic’s study of interwar Yugoslavia, *Elusive Compromise*, which analyzes various efforts to find an agreement between Croats and Serbs in interwar Yugoslavia.

Dr. Dejan Djokic is Lecturer, Department of History, Goldsmiths University of London. In 2007, he was a Public Policy Scholar at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars in Washington, DC. He is currently working on *New Perspectives on Yugoslavia: Key Issues and Controversies* (London and New York: Routledge, forthcoming, 2010, co-edited with J. Ker-Lindsay) and *Pašić and Trumbić: The Kingdom of Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes* (London: Haus, forthcoming, 2010).

**ELUSIVE COMPROMISE**

A History of Interwar Yugoslavia

Dejan Djokic
David Binder on the Balkans’ Future

On January 30th, 2009, David Binder, the dean of American journalists working on southeastern Europe and long-time reporter for The New York Times, gave a talk entitled “Has ‘Greater’ Vanished from the Balkan Vocabulary? Fragmentation and Cohesion in Southeastern Europe.” Binder analyzed the turmoil following the collapse of European Communist governments, and how this turmoil was exploited by petty nationalists to create ever more mini-republics. According to Binder, this fragmentation – and the emergence of eight small republics on the territory of the former Yugoslavia—was fostered especially by the United States, newly-united Germany, and Austria. Binder then raised the question of whether we can expect any more frontier changes in the Balkans (following the two that recently took place involving Montenegro and Kosovo). He also argued that there are now “soft power” dynamics involving communications, culture, traffic and business that are making borders increasingly permeable. Binder concluded by suggesting that future changes in the map of the Balkans cannot be discounted.

Columbia Scholars

Radmila Gorup (President of the Columbia School Linguistic Society) was chosen in 2009 as a member of the Advisory Board of the Balkans Slavic Studies of BRILL Publishers in Leiden, the Netherlands. For the AAASS annual convention, hosted in Philadelphia, Professor Gorup organized two panels, called “Poet Laureat Charles Simic” and “Serbia Looks Back: Construction of Europe in Serbian Literature.” She also organized and chaired a panel on “South Slavic Literature” for the Mid-Atlantic Slavic Conference, at which her students showcased their papers. At the AAASS conference, she presented a paper: “Goli Otok as Trauma” at the panel “Memories of Tito’s Gulag: Goli Otok (1948-2008).” Her edited edition of The Slave Girl and Other Stories About Women by Ivo Andric (Budapest: CEU Press, 2009) is now in print. Finally, in the last issue of Serbian Studies, two of Professor Gorup’s reviews: “Jewish Portraits in the Works of Ivo Andric,” ed. Dusica Savic Bengiat (Toronto: Serbian Literary Company, 2005) and “Sul mare brillavano I vasti silenzi: Imagini di Trieste nella literature serba” by Marija Mitrovic (Trieste: Il ramo, 2004).
Olivera Grk has recently been admitted to the Graduate School of Architecture, Planning, and Preservation at Columbia. She received her undergraduate degree in architecture and engineering at the University of Belgrade, where she was subsequently employed for two years as an associate architect at the Research and Development Center at the University of Belgrade’s Faculty of Architecture. As an active participant and coordinator of a number of master plans, regulatory and detailed town plans and local studies in Serbia and Montenegro, Ms. Grk worked on projects such as the town plans for Budva Center, Becici, and Petrovac in Montenegro. She was also a part of the planning teams for the Spatial Plan of Golubac and the General Regulation Plan of Viminacium locality in Serbia.

Her primary concern within architectural theory is oriented towards researching specific architectural interventions that challenge spatial and social boundaries within “divided cities.” Ms. Grk came to Columbia to advance her research on this topic (her thesis project was entitled “Integration of the Divided City – Town of Mostar in Bosnia and Herzegovina”).

Ms. Grk is currently involved in a design studio project, called “On Greater China,” by Eric Schuldenfrei and Marisa Yiu.

Ksenija Matijevic is currently a student at the College of Arts and Sciences at New York University and is studying French with a possible major in International Relations.

In addition to being a full time student and summer intern at the Harriman Institute, she is also a theater writer for the Washington Square News. She has recently been selected to join the Presidential Honor Scholars program at NYU and has been recognized for her excellence in the French language by the NYU Undergraduate French department. For the upcoming academic year, Ksenija will be pursuing courses in international relations with a specialization in Russia and Eastern Europe. She will also be a Commuter Assistant during the 2009-2010 year and advise new NYU commuter students with their academic and personal lives.

Marijeta Bozovic is currently teaching Lit-Hum and finishing her dissertation at Columbia in the Slavic Department. The dissertation is on late Nabokov, and examines the “Eugene Onegin” translation project alongside “Ada or Ardor.” Ongoing research projects involve Yugoslav avant-gardes, such as the 1920s mixed media journal “Zenit.” Last year, she traveled to Central Asia and is working on a video art project, which uses footage primarily from Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan.

Her current undertaking centers on the Chinese manufacturing sector. The inspiration comes from Deng Xiaoping’s 1984 dream of “building socialism with Chinese characteristics,” and its ultimate objective is to develop architectural prototypes as a way to augment further engagement while also focusing on socially progressive models.
Gordon N. Bardos (Assistant Director, Harriman Institute) participated in a conference in Athens, Greece, in March 2009 organized by the Defense Analysis Institute, where he gave a talk entitled “Analyzing Putin’s Balkan Policy.” In April, he was on a panel at the Annual World Convention of the Association for the Study of Nationalities (ASN) reviewing the recent book, “Confronting the Yugoslav Controversies: A Scholars Initiative.” In May, he gave a presentation entitled “Historical and Structural Obstacles to the Western Balkans’ EU Accession Efforts” at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars in Washington, DC. In July, he participated in the University of Belgrade Political Science Department’s annual summer academy devoted to the topic “U.S. Security Policy toward Southeastern Europe and the Role of NATO.” His recent publications include “The New Political Dynamics of Southeastern Europe,” *Journal of Southeast Europe and Black Sea Studies* 8 (September 2008); “The Regional and International Implications of Kosovo Independence,” *Mediterranean Quarterly* 19 (Fall 2008); “Serbia’s Democratic Transition: A Comparative Perspective,” *Nova Srpska Politicka Misao* XVI (2008); and “Balkan Ethnoconfessional Nationalism: Analysis and Management,” *Südosteuropa* (forthcoming). He served as Balkans consultant for Freedom House’s *Freedom in the World 2009*, and has joined the editorial boards of Brill Publishers’ Balkan Studies Series and the journal *Nationalities Papers*.

Lidija Bubanja has joined the Program in Economic Policy Management at Columbia. Ms. Bubanja earned her Bachelor’s in Economics and Master’s in Marketing from the University of Belgrade. Previously, she had served as a diplomat with the Permanent Mission of Serbia to the United Nations, where she monitored, researched, analyzed and assessed various economic issues in the UN General Assembly’s Second Committee and Economic and Social Council. She also served as the focal point for disarmament issues to the UN and coordinated activities between the UN and the Serbian Defense Ministry.

Pictured (from left to right): Gordon N. Bardos (Harriman Institute Assistant Director), Vitaly Churkin (Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the UN) and Valery Kuchinsky (former Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the UN) at a roundtable on Kosovo, February 2008.
**Upcoming Events**

**Tuesday, September 22**
The Rotunda, Low Memorial Library

*H.E. Boris Tadic*
President of the Republic of Serbia

“Opportunity amidst Crisis: Consolidating the European Future of the Western Balkans”

Reservations for this event are mandatory. To RSVP, please go to: www.worldleaders.columbia.edu

**Friday, October 2, 6:30-8:30pm**
1219 IAB

*Svetozar Stojanovic, Center for National Strategy, Belgrade*

“Imidgology and Ideology of ‘Humanitarian Interventions’ in Yugoslavia and Serbia”

**Wednesday, November 4, 12-1:30pm**
1219 IAB

“Memories of a Balkan Childhood: Wayne Vucinich in Hercegovina in the 1920s”

*Larry Wolff, New York University*

For more information on the Balkan Studies Program at the Harriman Institute and select meeting reports, please visit: http://www.harriman institute.org/programs/balkan_studies_program.html

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