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Institution Name  
International University of Sarajevo



Country  
Bosnia and Herzegovina



Research Area  
Sociology, Politics, Cultural Encounters



The matic Focus  
Migration, social identity, social cohesion,  
Verbal cultural transmissions, Balkan region



Stakeholders involved  
HEIs, online platform participants, practical sociologists,  
decision-makers, people on the move



Research Phase  
In preparation of post-doc

## RESEARCH ASSET

### *Identity Construction of Forced Migrants: Bosnia and Herzegovina*

Due to the identity politics based on 'ancient ethnic hatred' boundaries, the war from 1992-1995 has left tragic consequences like "War migration" (Cvitković, 2017) in the society of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Identity politics which developed a culture of hostility and violence and the political idea of ethnic homogenization of the region, caused the most devastated war in Europe after Second World War, the forced migration and drastic demographic changes in the territory (Cvitković, 2017; Pejanovic, 2005; Andrea And Delaney, 2001; Tabeau, 2009). Furthermore, an epistemological problem was identified based on Hromadžić's (2011) claims that the identity politics culture of hostility and violence between ethnic groups living in BiH permeates all surfaces of the society

(Hromadžić, 2011). In this context, the study, with its qualitative nature, focuses on describing how past experiences and in-group relationships impact the post-war identity of personal social identity based on interviews of Bosniak forced migrants. The study is driven by the scope of the social identity theory, which was developed by Connolly (1991), Tajfel and Turner (1978), Jenkins (1996), Bauman (2004), and Berger and Luckman (2018). Besides, social identity politics inter-group components impact the decision-making process of reconciliation (Karić & Mihić, 2020; Meernik et al., 2016), and this thesis aims to develop impactful discussions and recommendations points for public policy discussions and reconciliation model with its findings.

## POTENTIAL VALORISATION AREAS

- **Collaboration with scientists** – interdisciplinary approach and skills, knowledge, and method sharing on the central focus
- **Collaboration with industry** – offering research and knowledge service to industry of HEIs, funding for projects, workshops, and training for exchanging ideas with scholars
- **Collaboration with government** – primary data resources, public policy recommendations on the study focus, and long-term plan for returning policies
- **Collaboration with a nongovernment** – public lecture, primary data resources for annual report, public debate, change the central focus to the citizen



*A constructed social identity and formed imposed identity politics are the reason for the increasing fragmentation of the personal social identity level, and then, the shadow of war became the political agenda for the public sphere. However, self-aware personal identities with a peaceful mindset made reconciliation and peace in a post-war society possible.*

## DESCRIPTION OF VALORISATION ACTIVITY

**High impact publications**

**Joint research and projects**

**Bringing new collaboration opportunities between researchers and stakeholders**

**Creating a platform for public debate opportunities, focus group/polic**

**Providing a new model based on research findings for long-term reconciliation**

## VALORISATION TARGETS/POTENTIAL FUTURE COLLABORATORS

**Citizens** – as main stakeholders, can help to extend participation in collaboration dynamics.

**National and international research and scientific institutions** – a collaboration with researchers and scientists on joint projects can bring a new perspective.

**Industry stakeholders** – NGOs and organizations that directly initiate reconciliation and peacebuilding, policy decision-makers