

PASTS AND FUTURES OF PUBLIC SPACES

WORKSHOP ON ETHNOGRAPHIC METHODS

AND HISTORIC URBAN SPACE

21–26 September 2022

Faculty of Humanities, University of Primorska, Koper/Capodistria, Slovenia

The workshop is organized under the aegis of the
UNESCO Chair for Interpretation and Education for promoting Integrated Heritage Approaches
(University of Primorska)

and within the research projects

Urban Futures: Imagining and Activating Possibilities in Unsettled Times

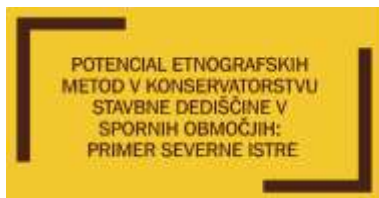
(ARRS, J6-2578, and HRZZ, IPS-2020-01-7010)

and

**The Potential of Ethnographic Methods in the Conservation of Built Heritage in Contested Sites:
The Case of Northern Istria**

(ARRS, Z6-3226)





PASTS AND FUTURES OF PUBLIC SPACES:

WORKSHOP ON ETHNOGRAPHIC METHODS AND HISTORIC URBAN SPACE

The workshop PASTS AND FUTURES OF PUBLIC SPACES aims to introduce a specific set of ethnographic methods (TESS, REAP) for exploring the values and meanings of public space. The methods have been developed by Prof. Dr. Setha Low who is an invited distinguished lecturer of the workshop and will act as supervisor and discussant of students' practical work. Master and Ph.D. students in anthropology and ethnology, conservation, history, and geography will carry out the case-study research of "Giardinetto", a site in the heart of the historic city of Koper/Capodistria (Slovenia), which is permeated by various historical uses, cultural practices, meanings, and contestations while currently awaiting a thorough renewal. In the workshop, central attention will be placed on the specificities of historic urban spaces, particularly their contested nature (ethnicity, class, gender, economic activities, usage, etc.), and discussing possible futures. The research will connect several academic fields, namely urban anthropology, anthropology of space and place, anthropology of futures, and critical heritage studies.

Key lecturer and workshop supervisor:

Prof. Dr. Setha Low, The Graduate Center, City University of New York

Workshop organizers and introductory discussants:

Assist. Prof. Dr. **Neža Čebren Lipovec**, Faculty of Humanities, University of Primorska (Slovenia)

Prof. Dr. **Valentina Gulin Zrnić**, Institute of Ethnology and Folklore Research (Croatia)

Assist. Prof. Dr. **Saša Poljak Istenič**, Research Centre of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts (Slovenia)

Students' work will be moderated and discussed by:

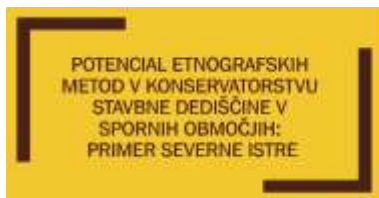
Prof. Dr. Setha Low, Assist. Prof. Dr. Neža Čebren Lipovec, Prof. Dr. Valentina Gulin Zrnić, Assist. Prof. Dr. Saša Poljak Istenič as well as

Prof. Dr. **Joel Lefkowitz**, Emeritus Professor of Psychology, Baruch College and the Graduate Center, City University of New York

Assoc. Prof. Dr. **Katja Hrobat Virloget**, Faculty of Humanities, University of Primorska (Slovenia)

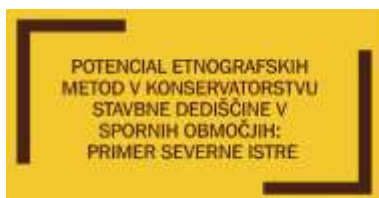
Prof. Dr. **Nevena Škrbić Alempijević**, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Zagreb (Croatia)





PROGRAM

21.9.2022 Wednesday	15.00	Arrival of participants
	15.30–16.00	Welcome and introduction to the workshop: Prof. Dr. Irena Lazar, dean of Faculty of Humanities; Assist. Prof. Dr. Zrinka Mileusnić, vice-dean for international cooperation and quality; Assoc. Prof. Dr. Katja Hrobat Virloget, vice-dean for research; and organizers
	16.00–17.00	Introduction: PASTS AND FUTURES OF PUBLIC SPACES Neža Čebren Lipovec, Valentina Gulin Zrnić, and Saša Poljak Istenič
	17.00–17.15	<i>Break</i>
	17.15–19.30	Guided tour of Koper
	19.30	<i>Dinner</i>
22.9.2022 Thursday	10.00–11.00	Presentation of the methods and procedures - TESS and REAP procedure Setha Low
	11.00–11.15	<i>Break</i>
	11.15–11.45	HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE CASE-STUDY SITE AND THE HISTORIC CENTRE OF KOPER Neža Čebren Lipovec
	11.45–13.00	Historical records analysis
	13.00–14.00	<i>Lunch</i>
	14.00–15.00	Introduction to specific methods – Mapping and participant observation Setha Low
	15.00–19.00	Students' fieldwork
	evening	Get together (intermediary insights of fieldwork)
23.9.2022 Friday	10.00–11.30	Keynote lecture: WHY PUBLIC SPACE MATTERS* Setha Low
	11.30–11.45	<i>Break</i>
	11.45–13.00	Introduction to specific methods – Interviews Setha Low
	13.00–14.00	<i>Lunch</i>
	14.00–19.00	Students' fieldwork
	evening	Get together
24.9.2022 Saturday	10.00–11.00	Introduction to specific methods – Analysis Setha Low
	11.00–13.00	Students' fieldwork

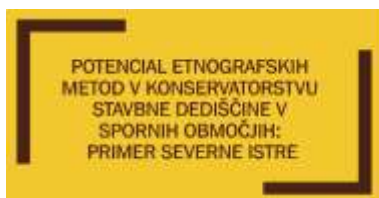


	13.00–14.00	<i>Lunch</i>
	14.00–19.00	Students' fieldwork
	evening	Get together
25.9.2022 Sunday	10.00–16.00	Group/teamwork – preparation of presentations
	16.00–	Get together with the organizers
	21.00	Documentary film: Fragmenti Izole (N. Križnar, 28', 1978) (optional)
26.9.2022 Monday	10.00–13.00	Students' presentations Discussants: Setha Low, Joel Lefkowitz, Katja Hrobat Virloget, Nevena Škrbić Alempijević, and organizers
	13.00–14.00	<i>Lunch</i>
	14.00–16.00	Students preparing presentations for the public
	16.00–18.00	Public presentation of the workshop's results (in Slovene, Italian and Croatian)
	18.00	<i>Farewell dinner buffet</i>

*Keynote lecture will be held in a hybrid form on-site and online as an event of URBAN FUTURES TALK (www.citymaking.eu)

Zoom link: <https://upr-si.zoom.us/j/6047675907?pwd=MUN1enNwaVpUQytqUUh6d0Z3QnZ0Zz09>





KEYNOTE LECTURE

Setha Low: WHY PUBLIC SPACE MATTERS

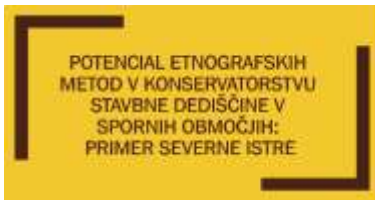
This presentation on “Why Public Space Matters” examines how public space contributes to individual and societal flourishing. Based on thirty-five years of ethnographic fieldwork on plazas, walkways, parks, markets, and beaches in the United States, Costa Rica, Argentina, India, Kenya, and France, it presents a new understanding of the role of social contact, public culture, and affective atmosphere in the creation of places essential to everyday urban life. This multimethod inquiry emphasizes the importance of public space to social justice and democratic practices sustained through people’s experience of representation, recognition of difference, inclusion, and care, as well as opportunities for contestation and resistance. Case-studies demonstrate how public space provides a context for socialization of children and improves physical and mental well-being by encouraging walking and sports as well as access to natural landscapes. Sidewalks, parks, and plazas offer business opportunities through public markets and informal selling, and locations for festivals and celebrations that promote a sense of belonging and place attachment as well as transmit cultural practices. Parks, urban gardens, and waterways construct sustainable greenways for water retention and wildlife and improve ecosystem services. During disasters, public spaces become locations of social solidarity and support. This talk aims to realign urban priorities by highlighting the importance of public space for socially just cities and encouraging local activism.

INTRODUCTION

Neža Čebren Lipovec, Valentina Gulin Zrnić and Saša Poljak Istenič: PASTS AND FUTURES OF PUBLIC SPACES

Public spaces operate as the setting for scenes of everyday urban life and sociability but also as arenas for struggles over various contested social, political, economic, cultural, and environmental issues that impact futures. The introductory lecture on the pasts and futures of public spaces aims to open the questions which may come to the forefront during the students’ fieldwork and to provide the participants with the basic conceptual tools through which to observe the case-study area.





WORKSHOP PARTICIPANTS

Keynote lecturer and workshop supervisor



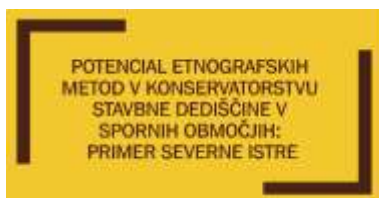
Setha Low began her career in Landscape Architecture and Regional Planning at the University of Pennsylvania and is currently a Distinguished Professor of Environmental Psychology, Geography, and Anthropology, and Director of the Public Space Research Group at the Graduate Center, CUNY. She received a Getty Fellowship, an NEH Award, a Fulbright Senior Research Grant and a Guggenheim Fellowship for public space research in Latin America and the U.S. Recent books include *Why Public Space Matters* (2023), *Spatializing Culture* (2017), *Anthropology and the City* (2019) and *Spaces of Security* with M. Maguire (2019).

Organizers, coordinators, and discussants



Neža Čebtron Lipovec is an assistant professor at the Department of Archaeology and Heritage, as well as a research fellow at the Institute for Archaeology and Heritage, both at the Faculty of Humanities, University of Primorska (Slovenia). Areas of her research are critical heritage studies, built heritage conservation, architectural history, ethnographic and cultural anthropological methods for heritage conservation in contested areas, which she mainly researches in her central case-study area in Northern Istria. She collaborated in several national, Interreg, and international projects related to heritage studies and conservation. Currently, she is vice-chair of the UNESCO Chair on Interpretation and education for promoting integrated heritage approaches at the University of Primorska, vice-chair of the Institute for Archaeology and Heritage (UP FH).



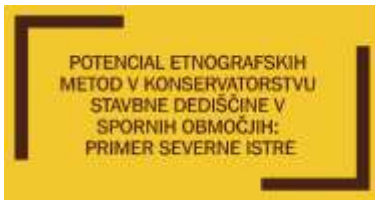


Valentina Gulin Zrnić is an ethnologist-cultural anthropologist working as research advisor at the Institute of Ethnology and Folklore Research (Croatia) and she teaches Urban Anthropology course at the University of Zagreb (titular professor). Some of her publications are a coauthored book with Nevena Škrbić Alempijević on transformations of public spaces in Zagreb by public events (2019; National Science Award), co-edited volumes on city-making by art interventions (2016), urban gardening (2015), Croatian everyday life (2013), and doing contemporary fieldwork (2006). Her research on place-making and community building in Zagreb housing estates built during socialism (2009) is awarded by Croatian Ethnological Society for scientific work. She is a PI of the Croatian team of current bilateral project *Urban Futures: Imagining and Activating Futures in Unsettled Times*.



Saša Poljak Istenič is a researcher at the Institute of Slovenian Ethnology ZRC SAZU and an assistant professor at the University of Maribor, Faculty of Tourism (Slovenia). She is engaged in research and applied projects covering topics of urban life, creativity, sustainability, social inclusion, and heritage. She has been the most renowned for her work on urban initiatives resisting the current social system and testing social models to overcome its anomalies. She is the editor-in-chief of the scientific publication *Glasnik SED* and has been a guest editor for several thematic issues of Slovenian and Croatian ethnological journals. She is a PI of the Slovenian team of current bilateral project *Urban Futures: Imagining and Activating Futures in Unsettled Times*.





Presentations' discussants

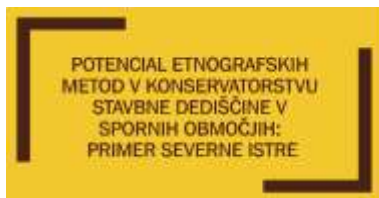


Joel Lefkowitz is Professor Emeritus of Applied Psychology at the Bernard M. Baruch College and the Graduate Center of the City University of New York (CUNY). He was head of the Ph.D. program in Organizational Psychology at CUNY until 2009. His areas of concentration include interpersonal relations, values and ethical issues in applied social science practice, and the promotion of economic and social justice. The 3rd Edition of his book *Ethics and Values in Industrial-Organizational Psychology* will be published shortly.



Katja Hrobat Virloget is associate professor and a lecturer and researcher at the Faculty of Humanities University of Primorska (Slovenia), where she is currently Vice-Dean for Research and Head of the Department of Anthropology and Cultural Studies. Her research interests include migration and population movements, anthropology of memory, heritage studies, narrative tradition, mythical landscapes, and interdisciplinary research. Her book *In the Silence of Memory. "Exodus" and Istria* (2021) aroused great interest in the general public due to the breaking of national taboos. Recently she received several awards: Murko prize from Slovenian ethnological society (2021) for the book *In the silence of memory*; Faculty's award (2020) and University's award (2021) for the excellence in science; and for the *Mythical park* Prometheus of Science Award for Excellence in Communication (2020) and together with the team Valvasor prize (2021) from the Slovenian museological society.





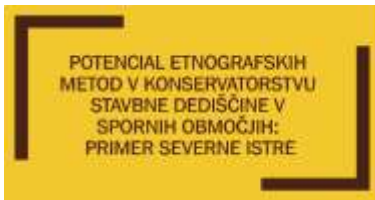
Nevena Škrbić Alempijević is a professor at the Department of Ethnology and Cultural Anthropology, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Zagreb. Areas of her research are social memory, place and space, urban anthropology, area studies, and performance studies. She received several awards from the Croatian Ethnological Society and the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences. Together with Valentina Gulin Zrnić, she received the National Science Award for 2019, for the book *A City as an Encounter. The Ethnography of Zagreb Squares*, published in Croatian. For two mandates she was the president of the International Society for Ethnology and Folklore (SIEF).

Students



Lea Biličić is currently studying for an M.A. degree in Comparative Literature and Ethnology and Cultural Anthropology at the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Zagreb. Her research on moving/walking through the center of Zagreb in the pandemic and post-earthquake contexts, conducted within the Urban Anthropology course, was included as part of the urban mobility exhibition where she presented her study (*Dabac: Meeting Point*, Museum of Contemporary Art, 2021). She attended *How to Think through Urban Planning and Public Spaces*, Vizkultura's research and educational program. Thanks to the Erasmus+ Mobility program, she spent a semester in Thessaloniki, Greece, at the University of Macedonia, the Department of Balkan, Slavic and Oriental Studies. Her main fields of interest are urban anthropology and sensory ethnography, cultural heritage interpretation and the feminist literary criticism.



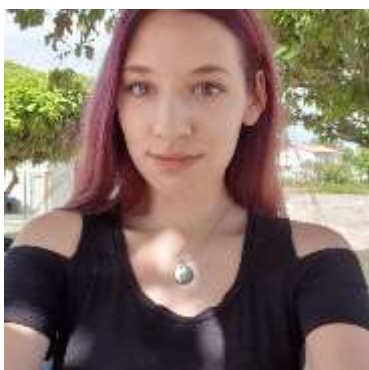
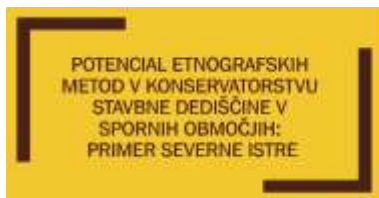


Benedetta Fabbrucci completed her Master's degree in history at the University of Trieste, with a thesis on the Polish community in Trieste during the 1920s and 1930s. She obtained a first level Master in Sociology of Migrations at Ca' Foscari University. She is currently a first-year PhD student in History at the Department of Humanities, University of Trieste. Her research project aims to analyze the social and political conditions of asylum seekers from Croatia and Serbia who arrived in Trieste in the 1950s and 1960s, and the relations on the Italo-Yugoslav border.



Iva Grubiša is a PhD Candidate and a research and teaching assistant at the Department of Ethnology and Cultural Anthropology, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Zagreb. Her research interests include urban anthropology, refugee studies, anthropology of place and space, and anthropology of everyday life. Her MA study on migrants' social cooperative has been published in a book *Okus doma: kulturnoantropološki osvrt na integraciju migranata u Zagrebu / The Taste of Home: cultural anthropological reflections on integration of migrants in Zagreb* (2019). In her PhD project titled *Creating a Home: Contemporary Experiences of Refugees in the City of Zagreb*, she aims to bring a better understanding of home and placemaking processes in the context of refugeehood.



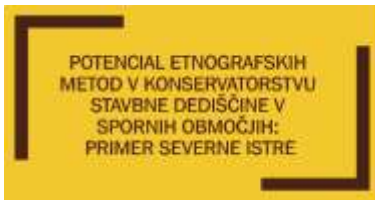


Ivona Kos finished her undergraduate studies in ethnology and linguistics at the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Zagreb in 2021. Currently is a graduate student of ethnology and comparative linguistics at the same Faculty. In 2021 she participated in the fifth student workshop *Pazi što jedeš Laboratorij* (Watch what you eat Laboratory). For that year's focus on honey, she followed the work of a beekeeper in the Istrian town of Labin and wrote an article about her field reflections, titled *Apiary Alibašić* in the project's publication. Research interests include anthropology of migration and urban anthropology.



Tina Krašovic is currently enrolled in the second year of the postgraduate program at the Department of Ethnology and Cultural Anthropology at the Faculty of Arts in Ljubljana and will complete her study in September with a Master's Thesis on the conservation practices in the Landscape Park Logarska dolina in the face of environmental changes. For the next four academic years, she will be working as a young researcher at the same Department, carrying out research in the field of ethnological conservation. As part of her PhD studies, she will observe, among other things, how modern heritage studies understand the role of (ethnological) conservation as a professional authority and, consequently, how (ethnological) conservation is systemically organized.



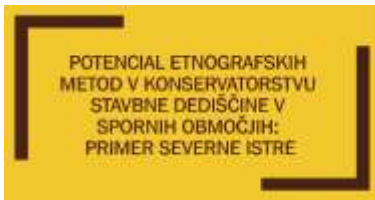


Francesca Luigia Massaro is a student on the master's degree course in "Historical Studies. From Ancient to Contemporary" at the University of Trieste. Her master's thesis project, entitled "The Use of Romanity for a Reinforcement of Fascist Identity in Trieste through Public History" intends to investigate the public manifestations and representations implemented in the urban space of Trieste during fascism. In 2022 she participated in the Summer School in her Department entitled "Upper Adriatic Borderlands Transitions, Identities and Urban spaces in the port city of Trieste and Hinterland (from XIXth to XXith century)". From September 2022 to January 2023, she will attend the University of Paris XII to obtain a double degree.



Tim Mavrič is a graduate of history and cultural heritage from the Faculty of Humanities (University of Primorska) and graduate of art history from the Faculty of Arts (University of Ljubljana). In the past he worked as assistant curator at the Regional museum of Koper. Currently he is employed as a research assistant at InnoRenew CoE, while also being a PhD candidate at the Faculty of Humanities (University of Primorska) with a research project that is centered on historic timber structures in the historic urban cores of Slovene Istria. He is also a member of the COST action CA18204 *Dynamics of placemaking and digitalization in Europe's cities*.



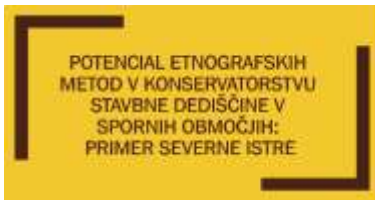


Tara Milčinski is a student at the Department of Ethnology and Cultural Anthropology, Faculty of Arts, University of Ljubljana. She is finishing her Master thesis that explores the historical development of Rečica, Bled, and the spatial heritage of the place. With the help of Institute for the Protection of Cultural Heritage of Slovenia the thesis will also serve a basis for examination of cultural heritage of Rečica. Areas of her research are place and space, heritage studies, interdisciplinary research.



Melody Robine is finishing her Masters in History of Art at Sorbonne universités – Paris IV. She previously studied Political Sciences at Sciences-Po Paris (Department of public affairs) and University of British Columbia (Vancouver); and worked at the Villa Medici in Rome (2020-2021). Her current field of research concerns art in public space in the Balkans. More specifically, she is currently interested in the reappropriation of the socialist heritage by contemporary artists in Bulgaria.



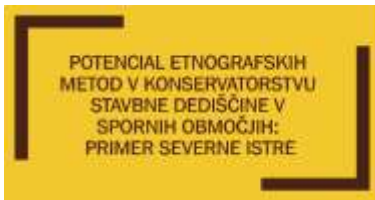


Marko Senčar Mrdaković is a research assistant at the Anton Melik Geographical Institute ZRC SAZU. He studied at the Faculty of Arts, University of Ljubljana, and received his master's degree in Ethnology and Cultural Anthropology and German studies in 2021. In 2021, he became a doctoral student at the Postgraduate School ZRC SAZU (module 'Human Geography'). As a cultural anthropologist and human geographer, he is mainly interested in issues related to heritage and spatial studies. Recently, he is developing an idea for a PhD thesis on conflicts and collaborative practices in public space.



Leon Seršen is a student of Cultural studies and Anthropology at the Faculty of Humanist Studies, University of Primorska. His undergraduate education was in the field of tourism studies, specifically tourism enterprise management. In his first year of MA in Koper, he contributed data to an interregional study concerning Genocide Denial of Roma People during the Second World War, which was headed by his university professor, dr. Alenka Janko Spreizer. During the second semester, he devoted most of his free time as a volunteer/activist to one of the largest voter turnout mobilization campaigns in Slovenia's history, while juggling with various academic responsibilities.



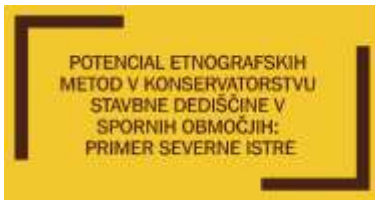


Mirna Tkalčić Simetić is a research assistant at Institute of Ethnology and Folklore Research in Zagreb and a PhD student at postgraduate doctoral study programme Humanities (ethnology and anthropology) at the University of Zadar. Her MA research on Zagreb's flea market was published in 2015 (*Hrelić – antropologija prijepornog mjesta / Hrelić – the Anthropology of Contested Place*). In the course of her PhD studies, she is conducting a qualitative research on temporal dimension of affective-emotional landscapes in post-earthquake Croatian cities of Zagreb and Petrinja.



Sara Vukotić is currently a first-year MA student of Cultural Studies and Anthropology at the Faculty of Humanities in Koper (Slovenia). She completed her BA at the Faculty of Philology, University of Belgrade (Serbia). Main research interests are comparative study of South Slavic literatures, anthropological approach to popular culture topics, literary anthropology. She participated in the International Student Conference »Cankar i(n) mi« and published a scientific paper as a result; she spent the summer semester 2018/2019 on a student exchange in Rijeka; in 2021/2022 she participated in the international project »Walk the Line«. Subjects of her current studies are gender and postcolonial studies, heritage studies, and cultural studies





IMPORTANT NOTES

Material collected in the course the workshop

Audio and video recordings, photographs, field notes, etc.

Due to the fact that the workshop and students' attendance is organized through research projects which are financed by national agencies (Javna agencija za raziskovanje Republike Slovenije and Hrvatska zaklada za znanost), all the material will be curated by respective projects and all relevant information about the research and collaborating students will be mentioned in case of using material for the publications by included researchers. For the students who would like to use the material for their further research, a formal query to organizers of the workshop is required.

Both research and publishing of the material will be guided by ethical standards of Croatian Ethnological Society and Institute of Ethnology and Folklore Research; University of Primorska and ZRC SAZU.

Recording

Key-lecture will be recorded.

During the course of the workshop a filming will be made occasionally for the purpose of making a documentary on fieldwork research.

Language

Language of the workshop is English – for lectures and students' presentations (except the presentation in Slovene, Italian and Croatian on the last day).

Slovene, Italian and Croatian will be used for the interviews.

Transcriptions of the interviews should be in original language; quotations from the interviews in presentations may be translated to English.

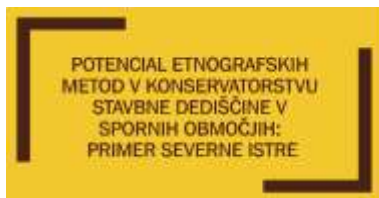
Equipment

Students are asked to use their cell phones for audio and video recording and taking photographs, optionally dictaphones for audio recordings, as well as their PCs for preparing presentations.

Meals

Those listed in the Program will be provided by the organizers.





READER

[Methodology]

Low, Setha M., Troy Simpson, and Suzanne Scheld. 2019. *Toolkit for the Ethnographic Study of Space* (TESS). New York: Public Space Research Group, Center for Human Environments, CUNY.

Low, Setha M., Dana Taplin, and Suzanne Scheld. 2009. Anthropological Methods for Assessing Cultural Values (Chapter 8). In: *Rethinking urban parks: Public space and cultural diversity*. Austin: University of Texas Press, pp. 175–194.

Čebren Lipovec, Neža. 2021. "Etnografske metode in ohranjanje stavbne dediščine." *Glasnik Slovenskega etnološkega društva* 61(1), 17–29.

[Other articles, in alphabetical order]

Čebren Lipovec, Neža. 2015. "'I'm Telling the Story of the Town': Places in a Contested Space", in: *At Home But Foreigners. Population Transfer sin 20th Century Istria*, ed. K. Hrobat Virloget, C. Gousseff, G. Corni. Koper: Annales University Press, pp. 189–207.

Hrobat Virloget, Katja. 2019. "The 'Istrian exodus' and the Istrian society that followed it." *Dve domovini / Two homelands* 49, 163–180.

Low, Setha M., and Kurt Iveson. 2016. "Propositions for more just urban public spaces." *City* 20(1), 10–31.

Oomen, Jeroen, Jesse Hoffman, and Maarten A. Hajer. 2021. "Techniques of futuring: On how imagined futures become socially performative." *European Journal of Social Theory* 25(2), 252–270.

Poljak Istenič, Saša. 2018. "Green Resistance or Reproduction of Neoliberal Politics? Grassroots Collaborative Practices in Slovenia's 'Green Capital' Ljubljana." *Ethnologia Europaea* 48(1), 34–49.

Poljak Istenič, Saša, and Valentina Gulin Zrnić. 2022. "Visions of cities' futures: A comparative analysis of strategic urban planning in Slovenian and Croatian cities." *Urbani izziv / Urban challenge* 33(1), 122–133.

UN–Habitat. 2015. *Global Public Space Toolkit: From Global Principles to Local Policies and Practice*. Nairobi: UN-Habitat.

Texts are available via Dropbox.

