

Music History and Cosmopolitanism / abstract & bio
Gligorijevic, Jelena (University of Turku, FI)
Session 4c / Thursday June 2, 2–3:30 pm

**Cosmopolitan Imaginations of Finnish National Identity in Balkan Music Performances:
Helsinki's Club Balkan Fever as a Meeting Point between Ethnic Finns and Diasporic
(Ex-Yugoslav) Community**

In the present study, I explore a variety of spaces, narratives, and cultural practices centered around performances of broadly defined Balkan music against the double backdrop of the ex-Yugoslav and Finnish cultural history and national identity politics respectively. More specifically, I approach to Balkan music as a cultural interface between Helsinki-based ethnic Finns, on the one hand, and the diasporic community of ex-Yugoslavs (mainly Serbs), on the other, so as to examine its potential for cosmopolitan imaginations of their respective national identifications. Following Delanty (2006: 25) in his formulation of critical cosmopolitanism as ‘a form of cultural contestation in which the logic of translation plays a central role’, I intend to map out and interpret the discursive space of such translations as those between inclusion and exclusion, self and other, local and global, particular and universal, past and presence, and the like, as they continue to be (re)constructed and negotiated through the narratives and practices surrounding selected public performances of Balkan music. Or put differently, what interests me here is to investigate how the ideas of national identity, Finishness, and belonging to the Finnish nation are played out and articulated in and through such music and its performative contexts in the minds of both ‘ethnic’ and ‘diasporic’ Finnish nationals.

For the purpose of this presentation, I focus on ethnographic evidence from the musical events in Helsinki's Club Balkan Fever to tackle the issues of national identifications and self-understandings afforded by the music played therein from both the musicians' and audience's perspective.

Jelena Gligorijević

Research Fellow, University of Turku (UTU), Musicology Department
Doctoral Program in Popular Culture Studies (UTU, 2012–2014)
Doctoral Program in Music Studies (Sibelius Academia, Helsinki, 2015)