

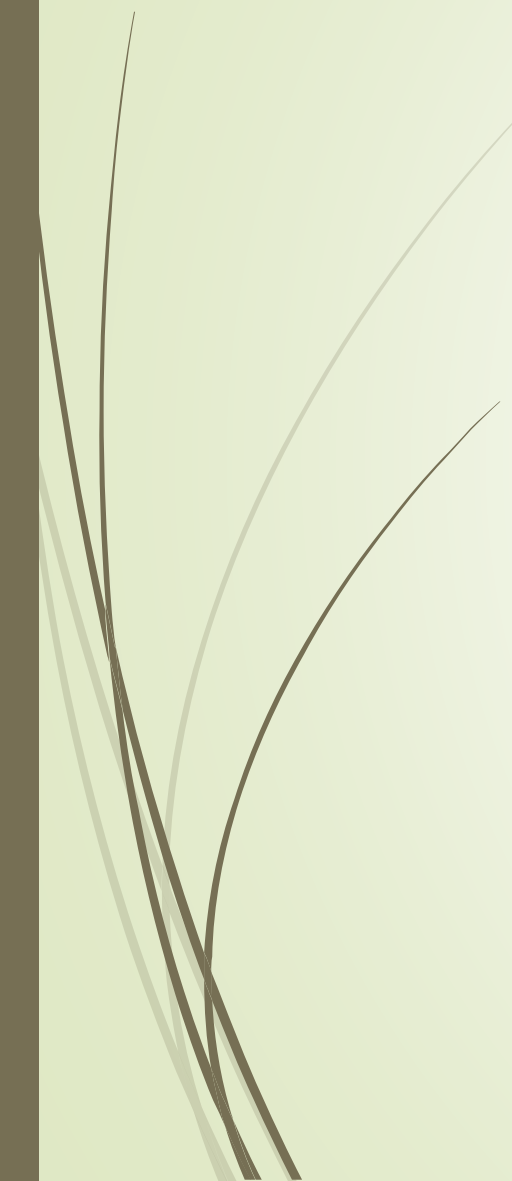
The Path to Sustainability: Economic Practices of Solidarity on Croatian Islands

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Outline

- Introduction
 - Methodologies
 - About the projects and (some) of their results
 - The path to sustainability on the islands ?
 - Concluding remarks
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Projects

- ▶ Contemporary Transformation of Local Linguistic Communities and Cultural Diversity (MZOŠ, 2007-2013, P.I.: Anita Sujoldžić)
- ▶ Agribusiness – Agriculture Heritage Capitalization in Dubrovnik – Herzegovina Cross-Border Region (Dubrovnik Development Agency, 2016, leader: Mia Hrnić (Croatian part))
- ▶ SOLIDARan: Solidarity economy in Croatia: anthropological perspective (Croatian Science Foundation, 2020-2024, P.I.: Olga Orlić)



Methodologies

- ▶ Nataša Bokan
 - ▶ continued her previous Ph.D. research on eco-villages (Bokan 2012, 2018), with new set of interviews on the island of Brač (n=28 (18+10))
 - ▶ Case study on eco-villages within SOLIDARan project
 - ▶ Qualitative methodology
- ▶ Olga Orlić
 - ▶ the results of the research carried out for the Ph.D. thesis carried out on Korčula island (n=112)
 - ▶ Qualitative methodology
- ▶ Joint research (2016)
 - ▶ Agribussines project (Administrative unit: Dubrovnik)
 - ▶ Elafiti Islands, n=12 (Koločep, Lopud, Šipan).
 - ▶ Qualitative and quantitative (total n =53)

Contemporary Transformation of Local Linguistic Communities and Cultural Diversity



Field research carried out in 2008 and 2009

Cca 1800

1672 „Nuovi abitanti”



15th century

Old settlements in the inland





Littoralization processes



Island economy (Korčula)

- Agriculture
 - Wine
 - Olives
- Cattle - breeding
- Fishing
- Sailing
- Shipyards
- Stonemasonry




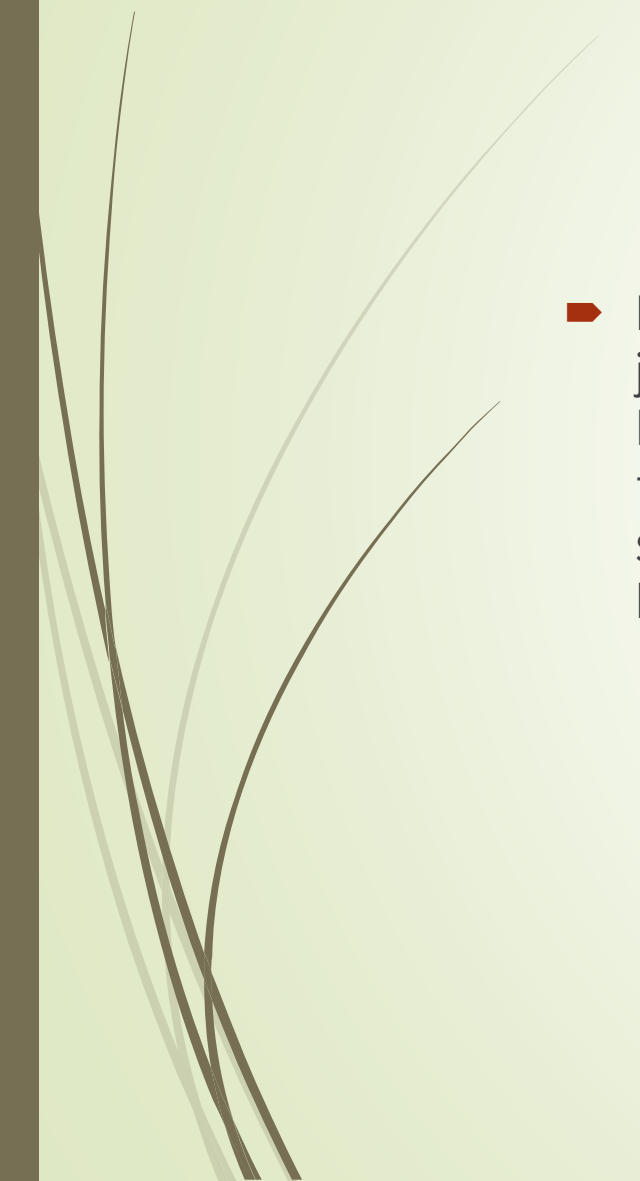
TRADITIONAL


and

- Tourism



„NEW”

- 
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- ▶ I onda, i to je razlog zašto ponekad se osjećate **odsječeno**. Ja znam, meni je bilo najstrašnije kad sam došla...ujutro, tih prvih godina...e...tu je uvijek brod ono...odlazi i onda zna i trubit. I kad sam ja čula da taj brod trubi...meni je bilo tako očajno. Jer ja sam znala...Bože moj, evo ga...do sutra kad ponovno taj brod ne zatrubi, ne postoji šansa da se prebaciš na kopno... (interlocutor from Vela Luka)

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- ▶ Vela Luka **svaštari** od svoga osnutka...Zato je i zadnjih godina, ona je...poloprivredno mjesto dobro, a u prošlosti s vinogradima, sad više manje, ali još uvijek s maslinama, na ulju, dobro stoji...onda ti je...Luka na moru i ribarstvo je razvijeno dosta...(interlocutor from Vela Luka)
 - ▶ **Rade u poduzeću, rade u poljoprivredi. Stalno se žure nekud, imaju još i turizam.** Još ako se bave kakvim ribarstvom, ako dopunski idu na ribe to je za poludit. Mislim to je toliko vredan narod. (interlocutor from Blato)
 - ▶ **Dosta su vridni, ima ovako...sigurno većina njih imaju dva posla.** Znači poljoprivreda, turizam i posla koji radu... (...)... Neko ima svoj posal, neko neće ništa drugo. Ali većina njih, devedest posto, imaju ili vikendice pa imaju turizam, imaju...Ha, devedeset posto u Blatu imaju svoje ulje, vino i to. A to treba...treba dosta rada za to. (interlocutor from Blato)



„Traditional island features”

- Isolation (?)
 - Autarchy
 - Sustainability
- 



AgriBusiness – Agriculture Heritage Capitalization in Dubrovnik – Herzegovina Cross-Border Region

- Social, economic and cultural factors that affect the current state of local agricultural production (small family farmers)
- Find out about the needs for farmers and rural entrepreneurs in Dubrovnik
- **Recommendations** for the sustainable development of local agriculture (**especially ecological**)



DUBROVNIK



Settlements in rural Dubrovnik surroundings


- City of Dubrovnik: Census 2011, 42.615 inhabitants
- 32 settlements
- n:12 (Koločep, Lopud, Suđurađ, Šipanska Luka)


Bosanka	Gromača	Mokošica	Prijevor
Brsečine	Kliševo	Mravinjac	Rožat
Čajkovicica	Knežica	Mrčevo	Suđurađ
Čajkovići	Koločep	Nova Mokošica	Sustjepan
Donje Obuljeno	Komolac	Orašac	Šipanska Luka
Dubravica	Lopud	Osojnik	Šumet
Dubrovnik	Lozica	Petrovo Selo	Trsteno
Gornje Obuljeno	Ljubač	Pobrežje	Zaton


Possibilities for creating an Short Supply Chains on Šipán Island

- Sve imamo. Na otoku vam se ne može živiti ako nisi kombiniran...poljoprivredom, turizmom i ribarstvom. To su vam nekakve tri grane koje su sigurne tu, je li, to imaš imati..Sad, jel imaš sobu ili ne, uglavnom, kroz turizam se tu sve **odvija...nemaš komu što prodat, svak tu ima doma nešto**, svak ima zemlje, pa svak posadi, svak ima...
- Povrća, voća dosta, i ...vino, ulje svak ima, tako tu ne može govoriti o prodaji na otoku stanovništvu. Ili neko nekome pomaže pa **dobije...to se kombinira**, znači poljoprivredne stvari neko drugi mora potrošiti, a to vam je turizam na ovom prostoru...i to se prodava kroz ljeto, jer zimi, zimi...je može se reći sve zatvoreno, radi ovaj kafić...i trgovina, i...to je to...A...ljeti..radi...ne znam , ima 5, 6 restorana, konoba...ima privatnog smještaja, ima hotel u Suđurđu, u Luci, ima tu hotel mali obiteljski 70 ležajeva... **I tako kombinira vam se sve...s turizmom** (interlocutor from Suđurađ)

(interlocutor from Suđurađ)

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- **Otok je specifičan**, ja ne mogu ić ovđe na poštu... ja moram robu stavit u auto, pa otić u Dubrovnik, pa na poštu predat, pa vratit... Zgubit dan vremena. A ako nosite više od dva paket, teško je bit magarac, ovako da se izrazim...to nosit, onda morate ić autom. Onda vas to dođe financijski jako skupo, jer tu ono što kažem ja – država jako se odnosi maćehinski loše prema otocima i poljoprivrednicima... i svemu... A na otocima još teže. Jer tu bi trebalo, uljara ima, ona da otkupiva to u svom pogonu, uz normalnu cijenu i da dobijete deklaraciju i da se stimulira. (Interlocutor from Šipansko Polje)

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- ▶ **Drugačija organizacija otkupa...** Zadruga, koje nisu funkcionirale, ja znam po ocu, ali udruge neke da se stvore...gdje će...ne mora on mene sufinancirati, al da sufinancira udругu...koja će voditi računa o meni, gdje ću ja lakše plasirati svoj proizvod i dobiti neku naobrazbu o tome....Zašto ja ne bi samlio masline i ostavio..Zašto bi ja trebao bidon... Je čist, nečist, pa dok ga ja donese doma već je izgubilo kvalitetu...već 10 dan u plastici, pa dok ga ja pretočim u boce, gubi kvalitetu (interlocutor from Šipansko Polje)
 - ▶ **Treba nam distributor!** Nemam ja vremena da idem do kopna prodavati...želim prodati distributoru! (interlocutor from Suđurađ)

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- ▶ Poteškoće u prodaji? Ako bi ja htjela prodavat na veliko i na maloj cijeni – onda bi ja imala poteškoća. **Ali kako mi gledamo to da prodavamo iz prve ruke, i normalno da držimo neke cijene, onda je male poteškoće, ...**Ali mogu reć da dobro nam je, imamo tri moguća mjesta prodaje...

Ispitivač: Koje su to poteškoće?

- ▶ Pa mogli bi reć da čovjek uvijek proizvede malo više nego što možda ipak može prodati. Nadamo se da će se nešto pojaviti, ali ne pojavi se...Pa ne znam jel to poteškoća?...Kad čovjek uvijek hoće malo više, to nije poteškoća, to je naprosto ljudska mana...Onda je cijena veća... (intelocutor from Koločep)



Preliminary results - types of small family farmers

1. „Farmers - entrepreneurs” (Kahan, 2012, Obad, 2012)
 - Managerial skills,
 - Entrepreneurial spirit
 - „Price - takers” (or willing to become one)
 - „Price – makers”
2. „Traditional farmers”

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- Agriculture provides farmers with a certain level of autarchy
 - Neoliberal market is destroying the successful distribution of local products
 - Ecological products: impetus for sustainable development, but some intervention on the market is required from „above”
 - **Ideas for the future (emic perspective)**
 - Traditional farmers and price takers: Further development
 - Price makers: Degrowth agenda
(**farmers from the islands**, livestock breeders, beekeepers)



Readiness for ecological farming?

- ▶ Traditional farmers
 - ▶ Minimal usage of pesticides and minerals for products that go on the market (olive oil)
 - ▶ Food for their own consumption is usually produced ecologically
 - ▶ Not so enthusiastic about ecological production
 - ▶ (Livestock breeders, beekeepers – ecological)
- ▶ Farmers entrepreneurs
 - ▶ Extremely enthusiastic about ecological production
 - ▶ Numerous obstacles
 - ▶ High prices of monitoring the transfer to ecological production
 - ▶ Distribution channels are uncertain



Problems to be solved

- Small and often disconnected agricultural lots
- Unresolved property-legal relations
- Access to certain parts of agricultural lots
- Nonexistent farmers' cooperatives
- Younger generations are not interested in farming

Problems related to ecological production

- Complicated and expensive transfer to ecological production
- Economic situation in the country (uncertain or nonexistent market)
- Wholesales, supermarkets, profit-oriented hotels and restaurants
- Eco-markets do not exist

Project: Solidary economy in Croatia: anthropological perspective (2020-2024)

- **Objectives of the project**
- To contribute to the theoretical considerations about solidarity economy (theoretical)
- To research the phenomenon of solidarity economy within diachronic and synchronic context in Croatia (empirical)
- To create a model for implementation of solidarity economy into the public policies (applied)
- To advocate for solidarity economy and its agenda (applied)



Solidarity economy, sustainability and islands

- ▶ Solidarity economy is a term for a range of very diverse initiatives and movements focused on creating and practicing “**alternative ways of living, producing and consuming**” (Bauhard 2014), including initiatives such as communal living, workers’ cooperatives, urban gardening, **community supported agriculture, eco-villages**, ethical financing, LETS (Local Exchange Trading Systems), fair trade initiatives and numerous others.
- ▶ The Path to Sustainability?
- ▶ What islands have to do with solidarity economy?



Theoretical issues

Sustainable development

vs.

degrowth

**(solidarity economy, social and solidarity
economy, ethical economy, good
economy, moral economy....)**

SUSTAINABILITY

Ecovillages

■ Intentional communities

3 waves of intentional communities in the past (1600.-1970.) (Schehr, 1997.).

- Members who withdrew from mainstream society because of fast cultural changes
- Rejection of existing societal order
- Attempt to create the unity of men and specific spiritual principle


4th wave (Schehr, 1997.).


- Members try to integrate with wider society (ecovillages and student cooperations)
- These communities prefer cooperating with the society than to isolating from the society, and they are defined as „less alienated from the mainstream culture than previous predecessors” (Smith 2002:111)

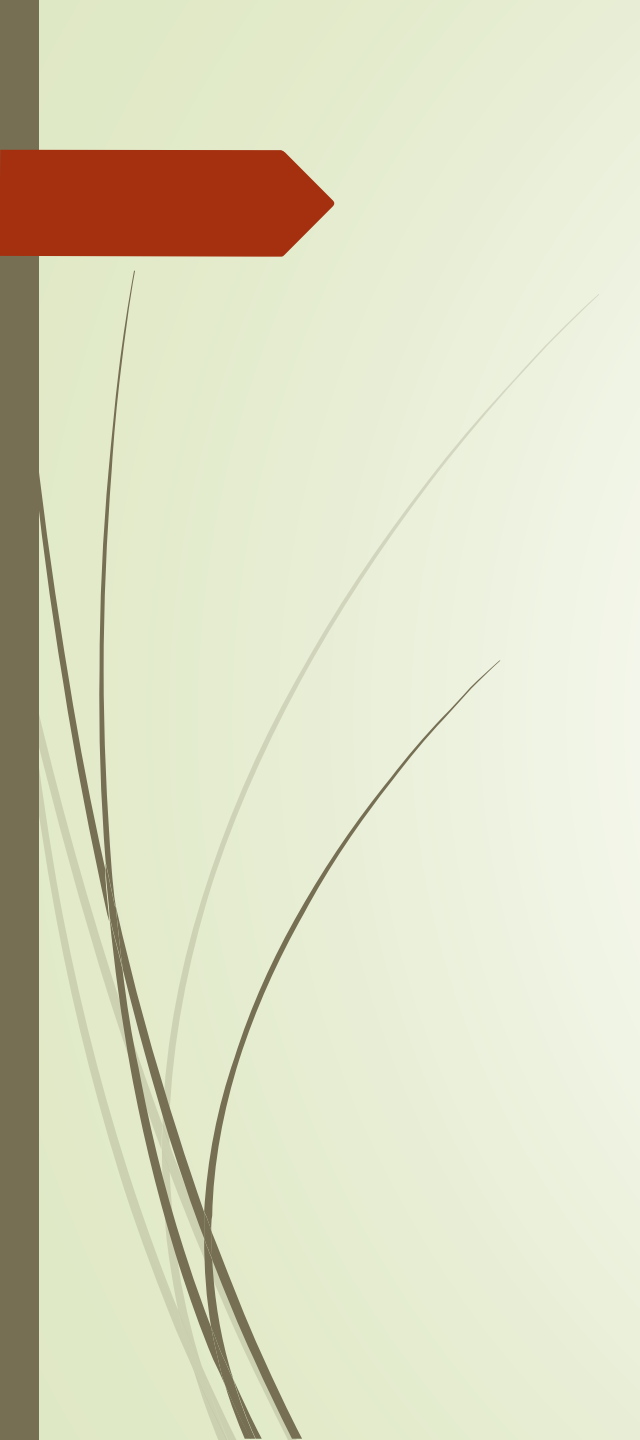


Motivation of the members of Brač ecovillage

- Founded in 2006, 4 km near Sutivan, known as Bračanke, Bračke vještice
- Sustainability as main motivation – dominant society is not sustainable
 - Ecological sustainability
 - Economical sustainability
 - Sociocultural sustainability

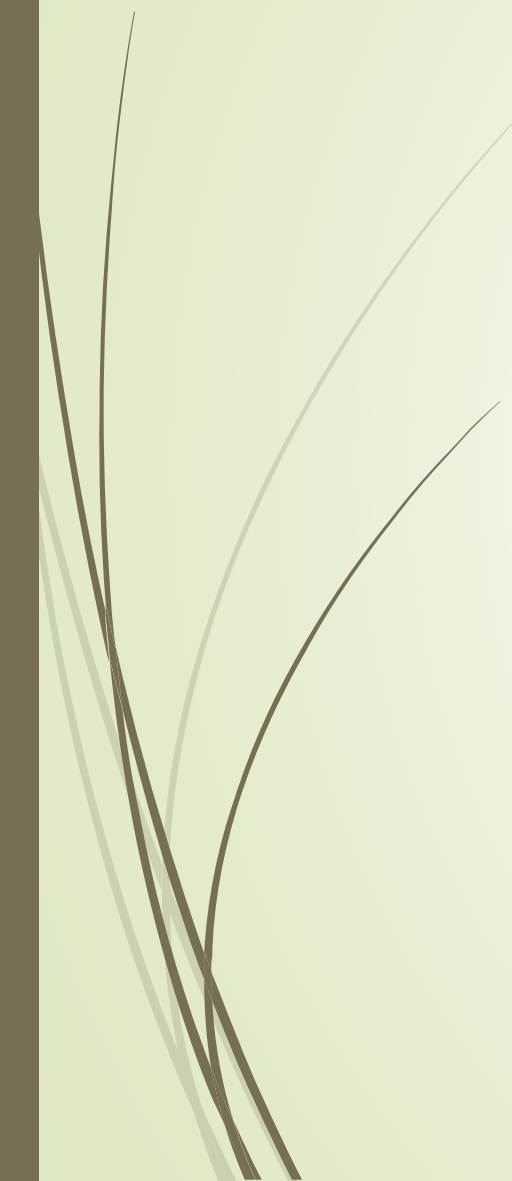
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- ▶ Tu smo počele pričat da bi bilo super da živimo u prirodi, da imamo svoj vrt, da možemo imat svoju hranu, da možemo biti na neki način samoodrživi i neovisni.. . došli smo na Brač, tu smo srele Tonka i on nam ponudio zemlju, pitali smo ga za cijenu zemlje, on je rekao ne moramo pričat sad o novcu, ukratko smo ispričali što smo zamišljali, kako bi živjele od neke naše kreativne crte, da stvaramo hranu, da smanjimo troškove i da se osamostalimo, da radimo na zemlji, samo da smo zadovoljni. Tonko je pristao, i tako smo entuzijastično i mahnito počeli. (Mitja, 36)

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- Wish for life in and with nature
 - Dissatisfaction with life in the cities (addictive, un-free, pollutive, dehumanizing)
 - Community of friends who want to grow their own food and to self-realize through creative work with non-consumerist patterns of behaviours.

- 
- **U prirodi jasno može vidjet smisao.** To je ono što ljude u gradu danas baš izluđuje. (Suza, 32)
 - **Nisam bila zadovoljna, nisam bila ispunjena,** nisam vidjela neku svoju perspektivu u svemu tome. Grad je meni više izazov, ali izazov za ego, nego izazov za duh, a ovaj način života ovde je više izazov za duh (Gita, 28)
 - Zemlja je sve, zemlja je majka. . . blago jedno najveće, jako je volim i poštujem, doživljavam je kao živo biće, ja sam dio nje, ne mogu razdvojiti sebe od nje, ja sam dio... A isto mislim da je umjetničko djelo. (Sanja, 34)



Why Brač?

- A) climate and geographical location – optimal combination of preserved nature and satisfactory connection with mainland
 - B) Dalmatia as a region of emigration
 - C) Dalmatian island as a place where it is more needed to demonstrate that „one can live in a different way”
 - D) Connectedness of one of the member with family heritage
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New developments

- Bračanke 2006
 - Community Earth for Us 2012
 - Solidarity economy example with lots of problems, issues and disagreements
- 



Concluding remarks

- ▶ Islands and its inhabitants (both old and new) as **creators of sustainable practices**
- ▶ Islands as locations that deserve **different approach within every policy decision making process**
- ▶ Islands as „perfect” locations for **practicing solidarity and certain types of solidarity economy**
- ▶ Islands communities as places for **practicing of creating „expert communities”** (D'Alisa et al. 2010)

- ▶ Dijana Šabić. 2020. „Anthropologist turned politician: Illustrating Hage's concept of ethnographic vacillation/ Od antropologinje do političarke: Ilustracija Hageovog koncepta etnografskog kolebanja”
- ▶ Etnološka istraživanja/Ethnological Researches No. 25 , 25
 - ▶ <https://hrcak.srce.hr/247159>

THANK YOU!

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