



Practicing Solidarity for the Future

- CONFERENCE PROGRAM AND BOOK OF ABSTRACTS -

14 – 16 September 2022
Zagreb, Croatia

International conference
PRACTICING SOLIDARITY FOR THE FUTURE:
BOOK OF ABSTRACTS

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Conference

ORGANIZED BY

Institute for Anthropological Research (INANTRO), Zagreb

Project team of the Croatian Science Foundation funded project
„Solidarity Economy in Croatia: Anthropological Perspective” (SOLIDARan)

CONFERENCE VENUE

Oris, Kuća arhitekture / House of Architecture
3 Kralja Držislava St., Zagreb, Croatia

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- Institute for Anthropological Research, Zagreb

About *Practicing Solidarity for the Future* Conference

The solidarity economy comprises an array of very diverse initiatives and movements focused on creating and practicing alternative ways of living, producing and consuming and thus also on transforming the dominant economic system. This includes practices such as communal living, communal kitchens, workers' co-operatives, urban gardening, community-assisted agriculture, eco villages, ethical financing, alternative currencies, LETS, fair-trade initiatives and others. Research on the solidarity economy is important not only in the Croatian context, but on a global level as well, particularly because this subject brings together a complex field of scholarly research and the social and economic influence of the researched phenomenon itself. By including an anthropological perspective and a diachronic view of the conceptualization of solidarity in the presocialist, socialist and postsocialist period, the project "Solidarity Economy in Croatia: Anthropological Perspective (2020-2024; Croatian Science Foundation) wishes to contribute to understanding solidarity economy practices in the specific Croatian context. The central research questions regard the different and often mutually exclusive conceptualizations of solidarity in the contemporary moment, new forms of communities of practice and new ways of imagining communities, as well as perceptions of the solidarity economy as a way of creating a utopia of reconstruction. The project outcomes will hopefully contribute to understanding the processual nature and the multiple intra- and intergroup dynamics among the actors of the solidarity economy, as well as to the theoretical consideration of the important anthropological concepts of solidarity, reciprocity and communities. The project conference, "Practicing Solidarity for the Future" is not only important milestone of the project but also a meeting point for scholars from diverse disciplines to engage in discussion and collaboration on the topic.

Interest in SSE practices and initiatives has significantly increased following the economic crisis in 2008, when many people personally experienced inequality and injustice, generated by the contemporary capitalist system. While certain similar practices had already been established and known to researchers (Laville 2010), during and after the crisis there was a proliferation of new initiatives "from below", aimed at achieving sustainability and fairness. Their goal was not only to alleviate the negative effects of capitalist structures and practices, but also to create and sustain economic alternatives to capitalism (Kawano et al 2009). However, recent times brought some new and a lot of old problems on the agenda. Climate change, conflicts, poverty, food insecurity and other negative influences (like the Covid pandemic)

continued affecting humans and all other living beings, as well as our planet, forcing people to continue developing various strategies for coping with these challenges and uncertainties.

The main generator of global inequalities and environmental and societal damage has been recognised as profit-oriented capitalist entrepreneurship with almost no civic regulation. Therefore, it is opposed by diverse approaches aiming at fostering changes in the present, in order to pave the way toward a more just and sustainable future. These efforts include numerous alterglobalisation movements, degrowth and yet another quite broad umbrella term - social and solidarity economy (SSE).

Scholars from various disciplines, but especially in the social sciences and humanities, have been engaging in theoretical and applied research resonating with the above mentioned agenda of fighting global inequality and developing economic activities in a way that has benefited both people and the planet. The broad, heterogeneous and growing body of research on the social and solidarity economy has built important links between the complex field of academia and the social and economic influence that the researched phenomenon itself have effectuated.

We hope that the Croatian Science Foundation project “Solidarity economy in Croatia: Anthropological Perspective” and this conference will not only contribute significantly to this growing body of research but to better implementation of solidarity economy practices in everyday lives.

Organizing team of Practicing Solidarity for the Future Conference

CONFERENCE PROGRAM

WEDNESDAY, 14 September 2022

- 09:00 – 09:30 REGISTRATION
- 09:30 – 09:45 OPENING SESSION
- Saša Missoni, Director of the Institute for Anthropological Research, Zagreb
- Olga Orlić, Principal Investigator of the SOLIDARan Project
- 09:45 – 11:00 PLENARY LECTURE
- Cristina Grasseni: **Ambivalent Solidarities**
- 11:00 – 11:15 COFFEE BREAK
- 1st SESSION** Moderator: Olga Orlić
- 11:15 – 11:45 Jelena Vasiljević: **Reactive and Institutional Solidarity**
- 11:45 – 12:15 Davorka Vidović: **The Meaning of Being Social Entrepreneur in Multi-Transitional Society**
- 12:15 – 12:45 Ana Tomičić, Anamaria Malešević, Anto Čartolovni: **Blending the Social and Solidarity Economy with Corporate Social Responsibility? Barriers and Opportunities in Context of Digital Healthcare in Croatia**
- 13:00 – 14:00 LUNCH
- 2nd SESSION** Moderator: Duga Mavrinc
- 14:00 – 14:30 Orlanda Obad: **The Price of Doing Good: An Ethnographic Account of Solidarity Economy Organizations and Initiatives in Croatia**
- 14:30 – 15:00 Nataša Bokan: **Solidarity Economy from Rural Periphery**
- 15:00 – 15:30 Mojca Ramšak: **Volunteering in Health Care during the COVID-19 Epidemic in Slovenia**
- 15:30 – 15:45 COFFEE BREAK

- 3rd SESSION** Moderator: Jelena Seferović
- 15:45 – 16:15 Anja Iveković Martinis: **Social Support for Self-Employment: Ethnography of a Community Association**
- 16:15 – 16:45 Mirna Jernej Pulić: **Local Initiatives and Practices in Search of Sustainability and Solidarity: Case Study of the Community Centre Rojc in Pula**
- 16:45 – 17:15 Duga Mavrinac: **Building Networks and Practices of Care – Social Solidarity and Trust in the *Moje mjesto pod suncem* Project**

THURSDAY, 15 September 2022

- 10:00 – 11:15 PLENARY LECTURE
Peter Simonič: **Histories from Below**
- 11:15 – 11:30 COFFEE BREAK
- 4th SESSION** Moderator: Mirna Jernej Pulić
- 11:30 – 12:00 Jelena Seferović: **Analysis of the Solidarity Economy on the Example of the City of Dubrovnik**
- 12:00 – 12:30 Juliana Ajdini, Rudina Rama: **Coping with COVID-19 Pandemic as an Elderly: The Case of Solidarity in the Municipality of Tirana**
- 12:30 – 13:00 Katarina Kušić: **Political Ecologies of Land in South East Europe: Development, Conservation, and the Remaking of Human-Soil Relations**
- 13:00 – 14:00 LUNCH

5th SESSION	Moderator: Anja Iveković Martinis
14:00 – 14:30	Alex Gavranich: Smallholder Food Sovereignty in Post-Socialist Croatia
14:30 – 15:00	Veronika Gamulin: Beginnings of Cooperatives on the Island of Hvar - Maintaining the Identity of the Collective in the Village of Velo Grablje
15:00 – 15:30	Domagoj Račić, Paula Damaška: Negotiating Multiple Territories to Achieve Viability and Impact: The Case of Green Energy Cooperative
15:30 – 16:00	Marijana Bokun, Danijel Baturina: Fostering Solidarity through Education: Social Entrepreneurship Education in Europe and Croatia
16:00 – 16:15	COFFEE BREAK
16:15 – 16:45	Ivan Šišak, Aleksandar Lukić: Cartographic Visualization of Solidarity Economy Practices in Croatia Using GIS
	SIGHTSEEING (OPTIONAL)
19:30	CONFERENCE DINNER FOR PARTICIPANTS

FRIDAY, 16 September 2022

6th SESSION	Moderator: Orlanda Obad
10:00 – 10:30	Olga Orlić: Exercising Solidarity at Contemporary Common-Pool Resource: The Case of the Gajna Pastoral Community
10:30 – 11:00	Lana Peternel, Dan Podjed: Solidarity or Isolation: A Comparative Perspective on Marginal Spaces of Croatia and Slovenia
11:00 – 11:30	Natalia Mamonova: Solidarity in Times of War: Food, Shelter and Everyday Bravery in Rural Ukraine

PLENARY LECTURES

Cristina Grasseni

Leiden University, Leiden, The Netherlands

Cristina Grasseni is the Professor of Cultural Anthropology at the University of Leiden, the Netherlands. She received her Bachelor degree in Philosophy, M.Phil. in History and Philosophy of Science, and Ph.D. in Social Anthropology with Visual Media from universities of Pavia, Cambridge and Manchester respectively. She is the Principal Investigator of the ERC Consolidator project “Food citizens? Collective food procurement in European cities: solidarity and diversity, skills and scale” (www.foodcitizens.eu). Since 2018 the project’s Blog has been publishing monthly blog posts on food activism, alternative logistics, the rediscovery of food preservation, digital food collectives, food sovereignty, food governance networks, etc. Her comparative ethnography of solidarity economy networks in Lombardy (Italy) and Massachusetts (USA) were funded by the Wenner-Gren Foundation for Anthropological Research (2013-2014). Grasseni’s latest book, *The Heritage Arena. Reinventing Cheese in the Italian Alps* (2017) studies the politics of heritage foods in Lombardy. Her monograph *Beyond Alternative Food Networks. Italy’s Solidarity Purchase Groups* (2013) analyses Italy’s Solidarity Economy Networks as models of grassroots innovation for sustainability. Another line of research concerns visual anthropological methods, including the volumes *Skilled Visions* (2007); *Developing Skill, Developing Vision. Practices of Locality in an Alpine Community* (2009); *Audiovisual and Digital Ethnography* (2022) and the journal special issues *Skilled Mediations* (*Social Anthropology*, 2019) and *Digital Visual Engagements* (*Anthrovision* 2014).

Ambivalent Solidarities

Collective food procurement may fall under the rubric of social and solidarity economy networks, but what are the limits and potentials of initiatives “from below”? These initiatives may aim in diverse and even conflicting manners at achieving sustainability, social inclusion, and a fairer circulation of food, addressing for example issues of pollution, labor exploitation, food miles and food’s ecological footprint, (the downsides of) intensive agriculture, capital monopoly over the global food system, etc. However, in their daily practice, their aim is not (only) to change the global food system, but also to address and alleviate social, relational, and psychological unease. Often self-improvement or self-betterment goals deliver socially appreciable results, but whether and how this would happen depends on context, histories, habits, and cultural meanings which are necessarily rooted in place and position themselves vis-à-vis local movements, societal debates and challenges, including competing visions on sustainability and solidarity.

Examples from ongoing research will attempt to clarify the complex and sometimes ambivalent undertones of multiple types of solidarity emerging from anthropological participant observations in the Netherlands, Italy and

Poland, with the goal of contributing to ongoing reflection and conceptualizations of social and solidarity economy and its practices in Europe's past, present and future.

Peter Simonič
University of Ljubljana, Ljubljana, Slovenia

Peter Simonič is an Associate Professor at the Department of Ethnology and Cultural Anthropology of the University of Ljubljana, Slovenia. After receiving his BA in Ethnology and Sociology of Culture, he received his Ph.D. in Ethnological Sciences at the University of Ljubljana. His fields of research and teaching include Economic Anthropology, Ecological Anthropology, Political Anthropology, Cultural Anthropology and Applied Anthropology and Cultural Management. Prof. Simonič was the editor of a monography entitled „Anthropological perspectives of solidarity and reciprocity”, published in 2019. He participated as researcher in ten scientific projects.

Histories from Below

When dealing with different forms of sociality, anthropology should be interested in the socio-environmental conditions and contexts of their creation, their arguments and practices, their transformative power. Solidarity ideologies and practices, which today are once again attractive to society and anthropology, are not new, but have appeared throughout history in different forms and scopes, in different geographical longitudes and latitudes, with different ontologies of nature, they could reinforce one another or were in conflict, etc.

The lecture will discuss contemporary developments in the field of belonging and solidarity economies in the light of past crises of European society. The analysis will reveal various mechanisms that can be transformed into a methodology for the study of contemporary social processes and solidarity economies and networks in them.

CONFERENCE ABSTRACTS

Reactive and Institutional Solidarity

In this paper I want to contribute to discussions on solidarity, and particularly its role within the present neoliberal citizenship regimes, by arguing for a need to distinguish between reactive and institutional solidarity. Not only has solidarity become a word in vogue, connoting a necessary social glue holding communities together in times of crises, it has also revealed its intrinsic relationship with political notions of (inter)national institutions, citizenship, rights, and democracy. How are we then to understand its political value and meaning, its rhetorical power and its legitimizing potential? If there is a notion that solidarity is something more than sharing resources, something sustaining political communities and underpinning its institutions, it needs to be adequately defined and differentiated from – and put in a relation to – similar notions like care, charity, altruism, but also social justice and political equality. Relying on existing body of work conceptualizing the pertinence of solidarity for functioning of political communities I will argue for a need to conceptually differentiate between reactive solidarity (mobilization of citizens to provide help for those in need) and institutional solidarity (which calls for institutionally sustained approaches). This demarcation seems especially relevant today in a global age of welfare state's demise where individual responsabilization is taking a higher moral and political ground than collective and organized burden-sharing.

On one hand, a “do-it-yourself” imperative is emblematic of neoliberal structural reforms and ideology. This demands of citizens to be “proactive” and entrepreneurial—in every aspect of their lives—and even engage themselves in mutual cooperation, in order to overcome whatever obstacles they may encounter in their daily lives, without help from the state. In this respect, it could be said that new political elites welcomed examples of solidarity among citizens, because they were seen as an impulse towards acceptance of new political realities. Indeed, many examples of mass solidarity reflect not only the readiness of “ordinary” people to come to aid each other, but also the incompetence or unwillingness of state institutions to offer crucial support. However unintentionally, this reactive solidarity thus becomes complicit in normalizing a new order in which the self-organized actions of citizens fill gaps left by a diminishing institutionalized solidarity. Within this context, reactive solidarity mostly emerges as citizens' reaction, but also as a symptom of political communities toward failing to respond to citizens' needs institutionally and sustainably. On the other hand, institutional solidarity relies on the idea of democratic and socially just institutions as sources and guardians of solidarity within a community. Whereas the former links solidarity to personal and social values and altruism, the latter inscribes it into the foundations of political communities and citizenship.

Davorka Vidović

Faculty of Political Science, University of Zagreb, Zagreb, Croatia

The Meaning of Being Social Entrepreneur in Multi-Transitional Society

The purpose of the paper is to critically evaluate the meaning of being a social entrepreneur in Croatia, a society marked with multiple transitions. The aim is to understand whether the theoretical presentation of social entrepreneurs, including commonly used dichotomies between economic and social, collective and individual, as well as other aspects, reflects in social entrepreneurs' rationale and behaviour.

The study used an exploratory and qualitative approach. Empirical data were gathered during 15 semi-structured interviews with Croatian social entrepreneurs in both urban and rural regions, coming from various types of social enterprises and varying in stages of experience, roles and positions. Thematic analysis was used as an analytical framework.

The study findings suggest complexity of social entrepreneur's rationale and behaviour. Findings showed that social entrepreneurs face many challenges in balancing different goals - income generation and social mission. Democratic and participative governance appeared to be the weakest link of social enterprises. Identity of social entrepreneurs appears fluid and ever-changing. It changes through the continuums from purely social to purely commercial, from more related to civil society to more related to the market, from mostly individual to mostly collective. The main limits of the study are related to sampling strategy and the small sample size. Further to that, generalization is limited by the nature of qualitative research, i.e. study relies on analytical and naturalistic generalization.

This paper focuses on the individual level and provides rare insights in social entrepreneurs' rationale, values and behaviour operating in a complex multi-transitions society.

Ana Tomičić

Digital healthcare ethics laboratory (Digit-HeaL), Catholic University of Croatia, Zagreb, Croatia

Anamaria Malešević

Digital healthcare ethics laboratory (Digit-HeaL), Catholic University of Croatia, Zagreb, Croatia

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Digital healthcare ethics laboratory (Digit-HeaL) /School of Medicine, Catholic University of Croatia, Zagreb, Croatia

Blending the Social and Solidarity Economy with Corporate Social Responsibility? Barriers and Opportunities in Context of Digital Healthcare in Croatia

From the World Wide Web to connected devices, digital technology consists essentially of interconnections. In all likelihood, some aspects of the digital interconnection may spiral traditional power relations, culminating in the Dark Web. Yet, the digital environment could also grow into fostering altruism and solidarity. Public and private health, fashioned through a multitude of interactions based on learning, community development and access to care, have already seen significant benefits: in terms of advanced medical science, imaging and surgery, and most notably with the advent of artificial intelligence (AI). Moreover, the development of digital technologies, which have gradually promoted globalized trade and international competition, has heightened awareness of a pressing need to revamp economic structures towards a social and solidarity economy (SSE).

As a guiding thread for our reflection, we refer to Abdennour Bidar's statement (2016) that "all contemporary crises [...] are crises of social connectedness". How could connection not be central to our lives, which today seem to be complemented by a digital twin operating in multiple modes: as guidance, as warning, as ranking, as direction, as prescription? And secondly, to what extent can the SSE draw upon and foster critical thinking about digital health? If we expect the SSE to adapt to digitalization, can't we also work to ensure that the digital world adapts to the SSE? Have we taken the necessary steps to define the digital world we want, rather than the digital world we are subjected to? Therefore, a subjacent question is: which SSE models are envisaged and promoted in the digital society? A number of entrepreneurs have positioned themselves in the domain of corporate social responsibility (CSR), with the backing of international organizations. Should we regard such initiatives as utopian or do they herald profound transformations of the Western economic system into a *human economy* (Hart, 2013)?

Empirical research can cast light on the unfolding of this process in terms of understanding its drivers, and assessing the risks of ethical drift. We present the preliminary results of an empirical analysis with key stakeholders of the AI-based health ecosystem in Croatia. Respondents (n=75) were identified stakeholders in the digital healthcare context: patients, physicians, engineers, jurists, hospital managers and policymakers. Their knowledge about AI, big data, etc. and associated issues ranges from expert to genesis stage. Our results suggest that levels of involvement, objectives and interests vary considerably from one group to another. Their positions oscillate between the commitment to improve public health and the desire to develop new profitable markets. The question of gender biases, political corruption, of providing digital healthcare for vulnerable groups and in rural areas, the calling into question of public funds, greater democratic transparency, increased international competition and the rise of collaborative and participatory tools in a context of CSR are some of elements that illustrate the changing nature of these ecosystems.

To that end, an economy of social entrepreneurship would do well to heed the watchwords of a platform cooperativism (Papadimitropoulos, 2021), fostering real alternatives and solving “the crisis of social connectedness“.

Orlanda Obad

Institute of Ethnology and Folklore Research, Zagreb, Croatia

The Price of Doing Good: An Ethnographic Account of Solidarity Economy Organizations and Initiatives in Croatia

Based upon interviews and an ethnographic research performed in 2020 and 2021 in several parts of Croatia, this paper examines motivation behind a foundation of several solidarity economy initiatives and organizations as well as tactics and strategies employed to achieve their sustainability. Starting from certain aspects of initiators' and/or founders' biographies, this study focuses on initial and continuous support of friends and family members as well as of fellows in a field of solidarity economy; it also depends on ways how work practices are organized, adapted, and sustained, and on a sort of balance between aspired and achieved entrepreneurial and social practices.

Ethnographic insights suggest that setting up a sustainable organization within at the domain of solidarity economy in Croatia is an arduous task requiring more often than not renouncing one's material security, exhibiting at the same time potential for abundant personal gratification. Interviewees included in

this study indicate that exploring and experiencing a range of possibilities – such as working within a carefully crafted and caring community, diminished hierarchies between manual and intellectual labor, interspersing dull with creative tasks, or achieving immediate and positive changes – fuels perseverance and builds grit. At the same time, finding sense and place within a broader social and economic framework remains a troublesome, which opens questions about the solidarity economy’s role in the “‘interstices’ of decaying order” (Wright).

Nataša Bokan

Faculty of Agriculture, University of Zagreb, Zagreb, Croatia

Solidarity Economy from Rural Periphery

Sprawl of solidarity economy throughout globe comprise a plethora of initiatives in a myriad of fields, from agriculture and food provision to design and IT sector, from community supported agriculture to programmers’ or designers’ cooperatives. Due to an endeavour of mapping solidarity economy actors and pioneers in Croatia, we established the importance of social entrepreneurship. In the last decade, different kinds of social entrepreneurships over the country have emerged. In this paper we will present the example of social entrepreneurship emerged from deep rural periphery of Zadar County. Non-governmental organization (NGO) which founded social entrepreneurship in Gračac, employing several low employable workers addresses a salient however in many aspects invisible issue of interlocked social setting of class, gender, and social environment.

Through the case of the Prospero NGO and its social entrepreneurship we will analyse how rural women employment in hand with socially responsible production in rural periphery changes the perspective of otherwise social excluded women severely exposed to overall lack of perspective other than outmigration. We conducted the qualitative research and collected data using the semi-structured interview with the social entrepreneurship’s head and employees. The field research was conducted in autumn 2021 in the Lika region and its outskirts. The results show that the key proponent of local initiatives is an enthusiastic individual who more often faces obstacles than support from local institutions. However, recognizing the substantial obstacles for unemployed women and building the conditions for some of them to develop the manufacture in solidary and cooperative manner shows the significant indicator of ways how solidarity economy can unlock the perspective of socially excluded social strata in rural periphery.

Volunteering in Health Care during the COVID-19 Epidemic in Slovenia

The outbreak of the viral disease COVID-19 in December 2019 triggered an avalanche of changes in behavioural and linguistic patterns, in addition to concerns about survival. One of the more pronounced behavioural patterns was volunteering. Voluntary work, done by someone of her/his own free will and without expecting personal material benefits, represented various forms of solidarity to stop the epidemic as soon as possible. Some Slovenian hospitals published data on collected financial donations and other goods donated by individuals or companies to hospitals and medical staff on a daily or regular basis.

In the first wave of the epidemic in spring 2020, volunteers collected or made protective equipment (masks), helped in hospitals and nursing homes, provided children from socially disadvantaged families with hot meals, and offered them distance learning. Material aid to hospitals rose and fell simultaneously with the tidal wave of the epidemic. However, help with services and works was more constant due to the lack of personnel throughout the epidemic. Volunteers met needs that society could no longer handle with medication or epidemic measures alone. Individuals or groups helped alleviate the situation with what they had at disposal. There were some deliberately anonymous individuals who donated their own substantial funds for treatments of other people. In addition to the help that came from outside the health care system, we can also talk about volunteering within the health care system. Medical and nursing students had been working under mentorship at the government's new coronavirus information call centre for two years, until March 2022, doing clinical work outside of their studies, they were at the bedsides in nursing homes, and caring for the children of medical staff during the lockdown, offering support to all those who were burned out in the face of overwork.

In the midst of the worst staffing shortages in November 2021, some doctors came to nursing aid in hospital intensive care units after finishing their work. The spirit of volunteerism was also expressed in changing rhetoric, such as neologisms, sports-motivational as well as war metaphors. The coronavirus epidemic revived earlier slogans of solidarity and cohesion in difficult times, even outside the health care system, where solidarity is intrinsic anyway, and even when external divisions and hatreds have reached unimaginable depths and heights.

Anja Iveković Martinis

Independent researcher, SOLIDARan project, Zagreb, Croatia

Social Support for Self-Employment: Ethnography of a Community Association

Rather than individualism and competition, Social and Solidarity Economy principles and practices encourage collaboration, reciprocity, building social ties and the formation of communities (Dash 2014). It has long been recognised in studies of entrepreneurship and self-employment that, although often initiated and led by one person, such ventures need to be viewed as shaped by and reliant on that person's relationships with a number of other people (Johanisson 1998). Social support (emotional, informational and instrumental) provided by people in a person's network has been pointed out as a crucial resource in this regard (Wright et al. 2021). Even in the context of increasing trends towards precarity and individualisation, or precisely because of them, new practices of building supportive networks and communities based on both social and economic bonds have been developed (e.g. co-working, start-up incubators). Some of these practices have faced critique, however, claiming that, while enabling mutual support, they can also encourage (self-)exploitation and the development of power imbalances (ibid.).

This paper will present a somewhat different case - that of a non-profit association in Zagreb which primarily acts as a neighbourhood community centre, while also providing informal support to people looking to start small businesses and move to self-employment. Several important characteristics distinguish this case from those of more mainstream entrepreneurship and self-employment support communities: businesses that are supported need to be socially and environmentally aware and sustainable; a discourse commonly associated with entrepreneurship (success, ambition, risk, individualism...) is almost entirely absent; rather than male-dominated, the milieu is female-dominated; the community does not just consist of people in the same role (business owners), but includes buyers/customers, attendees of workshops (often led by the business owners), volunteers and other association members.

The paper will present the preliminary results of interviews and ethnographic research conducted during the last 9 months, as a part of the SOLIDARan project, focusing on the experiences of people who have started small business projects and moved to self-employment during and through their engagement with the association. The aim of the research is to understand the role played by the association, its founder and leader, and the community that it fosters in providing different forms of social support before and during the early phases of small business projects. As an organisation acting in accordance with the principles of the SSE, the association studied here can be seen as an example of an environment, which stimulates small local businesses by building an open, inclusive local community based on mutual support, while avoiding some of the negative aspects associated with similar communities.

Mirna Jernej Pulić

Institute for Anthropological Research, Zagreb, Croatia

Local Initiatives and Practices in Search of Sustainability and Solidarity: Case Study of the Community Centre Rojc in Pula

The Community centre Rojc in Pula is a unique place in Croatia which brings together more than a hundred civil society and community-based organizations of different social engagement and therefore it represents a kind of a “city of civil society”.

The paper will present the work of associations and local bottom-up SSE initiatives that act on principles of sustainable development of the local community and environment. Such associations promote and develop different SSE practices, circular economy principles, alternative forms of production, exchange and consumption based on ecological awareness, social inclusion of marginalized groups, etc.

The study is based on a qualitative ethnographic research carried out by means of observation and semi-structured interviews with associations’ gatekeepers, representatives and main actors. Different motivations for involvement and work in associations and initiatives are analysed in the paper, as well as problems they are facing, perspectives for the future development and their impact on social, economic and ecological sustainability of the local community.

The paper argues that the studied associations and initiatives act in the direction of positive social change and therefore may be considered as a kind of local social innovations and promoters of principles and practices of social and solidarity economy. Besides, the specific way of a participatory management model through public-civil partnership, as well as joint activities aimed at cooperation and solidarity make this community centre a distinctive locus of SSE.

However, the results show that, in order to be able to continue with their activities, the studied associations are in need of a stronger financial, institutional, political and legal support.

Building Networks and Practices of Care – Social Solidarity and Trust in the *Moje mjesto pod suncem* Project

The *Moje mjesto pod suncem* (English: *My Place Under the Sun*) project took shape after an inspiring and successful campaign in 2014, led by a group of citizens under the wing of the NGO CeKaDe, for the abolition of VAT on donated food called *Mreža hrane*. The campaign was a success and situated the NGO on a wider regional and national scale as one of the leading actors in social activism and building citizen participation in social solidarity. While campaigning, the NGO members decided to focus in future on targeting poverty from a grass root level by focusing on children below the poverty line.

Hence, the new project was launched with the aim to provide activities that will boost self-esteem and self-reflection and help children to realize their full potential. More so, the underlining idea of the project was to build up change into social sector, not only via their own activities, but also through collective actions as well as citizen initiatives motivated by the NGO and the project itself. Beside the thoughtfulness and perseverance of the project leaders, one of key elements that defined their operation mode was the continuous activation and reliance on networks of friendships and acquaintances, followers, sympathisers, and wider community. Which, in my opinion, results in practicing and developing an alternative mode or system of building solidarity in terms of social justice. In this mode trust has been one of the pillar elements in building SSE practices. Hence, this paper seeks to analyse how relationships of trust, solidarity and care have been defined, envisioned and articulated through the activities and practices of *Moje mjesto pod suncem* project and which is their role in building participatory networks and facilitating social resilience and inclusion.

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Analysis of the Solidarity Economy on the Example of the City of Dubrovnik

The presentation will discuss the implementation of the principles of solidarity economy in the context of the “Deša” association and the “TUP - urban district” initiative operating in the City of Dubrovnik. The aim is to clarify

whether their planned activities are based on the postulates of this concept and, if so, to what extent and in what way these norms are implemented. Based on semi-structured interviews with leaders and some of the members of these civil society organizations, it was concluded that the project activities were designed to respect the core values of solidarity economy, such as reducing unemployment, inclusion of former groups into society, transparent business and financial sustainability.

Also, they proved to be satisfied with the acceptance by the local community and the support of the city's political actors. Since the interviewees did not mention the term social economy during the conversation, it has been unknown how they have defined and interpreted it. Therefore, it has still been questionable how familiar they were with the features of the solidarity economy model and whether they could identify with the assumptions of its theories.

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Coping with COVID-19 Pandemic as an Elderly: The Case of Solidarity in the Municipality of Tirana

In the last two decades, in Albania, as in many other countries of the world, there has been an increase in the percentage of older people - 65 years and older. Immigration, increasing life expectancy, demographic movements, decreasing fertility and increasing the age to marry are some of the reasons that have influenced this phenomenon. The Covid-19 pandemic accompanied by a decision to quarantine citizens identified that some of the elderly lived alone, unable to take care of themselves in conditions of complete isolation. For this reason, in many cities of Albania, municipalities were the first to face this issue which they were forced to address in cooperation with non-profit organizations and active citizens.

The purpose of this study is to evaluate the measures taken by the Municipality of Tirana, Albania, to address needs of the elderly during the isolation that came as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. In this study, a qualitative method of data collection was used. Literature review, secondary data anal-

ysis, analysis and interpretation of primary data were part of the study. The sample was composed by key persons and relevant stakeholders in the field of providing social services to the elderly in the Municipality of Tirana. 11 participants took part in this study. The instrument used was the semi-structured interview. The study found that the municipality of Tirana has managed in a very good way the situation of the pandemic (March 2020) with concrete services for the elderly, especially the lonely one, proving a high level of solidarity between all citizens of Tirana. These services included: supply and distribution of ready meals at home; supply of medicines or other supplies; maintaining personal hygiene; meeting other daily needs, as assessed, on a case-by-case basis; psycho-social support (ongoing counselling line, information and support). Many young people, students, families were involved in providing directly or by assisting in providing the necessary tools to address the needs of the lonely elderly. This presented a very high level of solidarity of the city that even in this case showed it could help its citizens.

The study recommends that the elderly in this municipality should be the object of holistic needs' assessment, on the basis of which intervention plans should be drafted based on evidence, priorities identified by the elderly themselves and real resources. Also, the social structures of this municipality should consider the level of civic solidarity, giving them greater opportunities to contribute to the good governance of the city.

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Political Ecologies of Land in South East Europe: Development, Conservation, and the Remaking of Human- Soil Relations

Using, owning, and living with land has become a central topic in scholarly and policy discussions. South East Europe (SEE) and post-Yugoslav are, however, often left out of these discussions. Even despite the strong developmentalist trajectory of post-socialist restoration of capitalism claiming land and encountering resistance along its path. In these dynamics we see the emergence not only of new relations between different groups of citizens and institutions, but also novel solidarities between human and non-human elements: soils, rivers, plants, and animals. In my workshop contribution, I would like to discuss my ongoing post-doctoral project that examines land in South East Europe as human-soil relations differently assembled—as an object of policy,

an everyday experience, and a site of alternative political imaginaries. This approach brings together efforts to capture the ‘strangeness’ of land as an object through its malleability and relationality (Li, 2014), the importance of humanity’s relationship to soil in the unfolding of modernity (Edelman and Wolford, 2017), and an understanding of nature, including its soils, not as given, but as products of specific relations in particular times and places.

Human-soil relations therefore cast land not as property or an object of policy, but as a living engagement that speaks beyond themes of political and economic transformations. In doing this, I hope to position SEE rurality as a specific ‘epistemic space’ that does not ‘fit’ neither Global North nor Global South (Müller, 2020: 2). I use this conceptualisation to study the transformations in rural and agricultural land-use and tease apart ways in which post-socialist transformation, EU integration, and restructuring of global land markets have been reshaping human-soil relations in the post-Yugoslav region.

In this workshop, I would like to discuss two cases. In Serbia I focus on the (lack of) politicisation of large land deals in agriculture in contrast to the more recent protests against lithium mining. In Croatia I investigate an EU funded and locally implemented conservation project that depends on traditional agricultural practices for restoration of grasslands. By asking how social worlds and landscapes are created in these diverse settings, I hope to untangle ways in which humans and soils come together to make (rural) land politics in South East Europe.

Alex Gavranich

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Smallholder Food Sovereignty in Post-Socialist Croatia

Over the past two decades, the transnational food sovereignty movement La Via Campesina has come to represent the antithesis of the corporate food regime, and a rallying point for diverse actors with shared goals for global food system transformation. As the food sovereignty movement seeks to challenge the corporate food regime at multiple scales, the national setting provides an important arena to explore this contestation and address questions around the role of the state. Largely absent from existing food sovereignty literature is an understanding of how the movement is being interpreted and mobilised by smallholder farmers in post-socialist states, where the legacy of socialism and the ensuing neoliberal ‘shock therapy’ of the 1990s continues to shape

the socio-economic and political dimensions of agrarian change. Intending to fill this gap, this PhD project will explore the Croatian smallholder food sovereignty movement through a comparative analysis of the country's two member associations of La Via Campesina; the Croatian Association of Organic Producers (HSEP) and the Association of Croatian Family Farmers (*Život*).

Employing mixed qualitative methods inclusive of semi-structured interviews, participant observation, and document analysis, the intention of this study is to build on and contribute to developing theory and empirical evidence on post-socialist smallholder agrarianism, food sovereignty, and the corporate food regime in Croatia. This conference paper will draw on existing literature and theory, in lieu of future empirical research, to introduce the project's objectives and rationale.

Veronika Gamulin
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Beginnings of Cooperatives on the Island of Hvar - Maintaining the Identity of the Collective in the Village of Velo Grablje

Like other Dalmatian inland villages, the community of Velo Grablje mainly consisted of self-employed farmers. In addition to the traditional cultivation of vines and olives, the inhabitants of Velo Grablje have practiced a long tradition of processing aromatic herbs.

The processing of rosemary at Velo Grablje had been practised since the 16th century and it had continued until the 20th century when the first specialized „rosemary cooperative“ was founded. In the 19th century, the village suddenly prospered with the production of pyrethrum the only remedy for controlling insects right until the appearance of synthetic products in the 1930s. By accumulating capital from the pyrethrum processing, the village has built a new church, a new cooperative building with a library, and private households have been renovated and enlarged. In the middle of the 20th century, Velo Grablje became the center of lavender production for the whole of Dalmatia.

Although today the village has only ten inhabitants and almost no agricultural production, the local association Pjover, which deals with the protection of the cultural and natural heritage of this region, continues to maintain the cooperative identity of the place. In this paper, I will present Velo Grablje and local history of its cooperative movement.

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Negotiating Multiple Territories to Achieve Viability and Impact: The Case of Green Energy Cooperative

Social enterprises in many countries face the lack of legal recognition and insufficient institutional and financial support: ecosystems that support their emergence and development are thus weak. Social enterprises respond to important societal challenges that are relevant to multiple stakeholders at different territorial levels. This multi-territorial nature of stakeholder networks in which social enterprises are embedded often stems from the ecosystem gaps, which prompt social enterprise to overcome weaknesses at one territorial level by utilising opportunities at other levels - and thereby seek overall viability and impact.

The paper outlines a conceptual framework of the process of managing stakeholder networks at local, national and international levels. Each territorial level entails identification of key stakeholders (defined by their level of salience - based on Mitchell, Agle and Wood, 1997) and by the material and symbolic resources a social enterprise obtains from them and/or provides to them. The framework is developed on the basis of a case study of the Green Energy Cooperative (GEC) from Croatia. GEC was founded to facilitate local communities in planning, development, management and financing renewable energy sources and energy efficiency projects. However, given the underdevelopment of the relevant ecosystem in Croatia, fulfilling this 'localised' mission also simultaneously required strategic engagement of GEC with policymakers at the national level, as well as with EU and other international funding sources and advocacy organisations. Each of these territorial dimensions (related to local projects, national policies and international funding and advocacy) involves relationships with multiple stakeholders which need to be developed and maintained over time, if viability and impact are to be achieved.

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Fostering Solidarity through Education: Social Entrepreneurship Education in Europe and Croatia

The inclusion of social entrepreneurship and related phenomena in formal education has been initiated for a few decades. Although, its spread in most EU member states became visible only recently. In the EU, both in countries with a long-standing tradition of social entrepreneurship and in those where social entrepreneurship has been a relatively new trend, curricula on social entrepreneurship and related fields now exist in high-level educational institutions.

As we already know education has a positive effect on the social well-being of an individual and thus of society as a whole. Along with health, in modern societies it represents an essential resource for every individual, and therefore education represents an important program of social policy, while benefits for society from education are multiple. Furthermore, the high level of unemployed young people represents a loss of potential human resources and talents and negatively affects prospects for economic growth. The social costs of high youth unemployment are significant.

This paper will present social entrepreneurship education in Europe and Croatia. Methods would be desk research, including relevant research, official data and reports, policy and other relevant documents about the topic. Paper will look at social entrepreneurship education in Europe and Croatia through the lenses of entrepreneurial learning concepts and education for entrepreneurial competencies. It is believed that the engagement of young people in entrepreneurship increases their life chances and means of living, while increasing employment, security, and stability. On other hand, education is crucial for the development of social entrepreneurship, and education for social entrepreneurship is important to encourage people to start their entrepreneurial endeavours.

This paper will focus on presenting characteristics of education for social entrepreneurship in the EU. In the paper we will analyse practices of 34 European countries included in the social entrepreneurship ecosystem mapping exercise (Borzaga et al., 2020). Education on social entrepreneurship in different countries ranges from courses and modules to complete programs and it is available via online learning or through distance learning and blended learning platforms and ranges from regular undergraduate subjects to graduate and postgraduate levels. After that, we will analyse in-depth education

for social entrepreneurship in the Republic of Croatia (Baturina and Babić, 2021, Vidović, 2019) which exists at higher education levels and within civil society as a more informal aspect of education on this topic.

In the end, paper will conclude how social entrepreneurship education in Europe and Croatia is developed. Besides, paper will give remarks on current and future potentials of this education to develop and foster the evolution of the field but also solidarity practices throughout Europe, which is especially relevant in these turbulent times.

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Cartographic Visualization of Solidarity Economy Practices in Croatia Using GIS

Cartographic visualization is an important part of understanding spatial reality because it helps us understand the complex real world in which we live. However, the opportunities that cartographic visualization offers in disseminating scientific research to the public (especially using Cloud GIS) are still far too little appreciated. As part of the SOLIDARan project, cartographic visualization of examples of solidarity economy practices in Croatia was created using the capabilities of Cloud GIS. Technological developments have brought significant advances to cartographic visualization, particularly through the development of geographic information systems. Geographic information system (GIS) is an automated system for acquiring, storing, searching, analyzing and displaying spatial data. GIS works with specialized software solutions, and in recent years, the so-called Cloud GIS has become more and more developed.

This is a geographic information system that can be accessed via the Internet and has all the functionalities that classic software solutions GIS also offer. The advantage of Cloud GIS is the possibility of sharing the cartographic visualization with users who do not need to have knowledge of GIS, offering a much more advanced and interactive overview of spatial reality. In the first phase of the research, the addresses or areas where individual solidarity econ-

omy actors operate were identified and basic data on the nature, type and motives of their actions, the persons responsible, the time of their existence, barriers to their actions and contact details were collected. These data are systematized in a table that is geopositioned by adding geographic coordinates for each solidarity practice. Such a table was imported into the cloud system GIS and a preliminary map was created visualizing the spatial distribution of all solidarity economy actors and showing the collected data on the actors. In the second phase, which is still pending, a special interactive interface will be created that will provide advanced possibilities for reviewing and filtering examples of a solidarity economy.

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Exercising Solidarity at Contemporary Common-Pool Resource: The Case of the Gajna Pastoral Community

Well known Garrett Hardin' explanation of "tragedy of the commons", related in fact to an overpopulation problem, takes place on a common pasture and refers to a situation happening when one of pasture users decides to bring to the pasture one more animal, thus increasing his own gain. And while this individual gains more benefits, the effects of overgrazing would be shared by all herdsmen (Hardin 1968:1244). If every herdsman comes to the same idea (opportunistic, not rational!) - benefits of sharing the commons would be lost, and the tragedy of the commons inevitable. However, Elinor Ostrom pointed out the simplistic approach taken related to the described situation and stressed that there have been always many different settings of the commons or the common-pool resources (hereafter CPRs), with different problems and therefore different solutions (Ostrom 1990: 14).

Based on various global examples she showed that actors dealing with CPRs have been encountering various appropriation and provision problems, and therefore had to move across different arenas in order to overcome them (Ostrom 1990: 45). Some have been successful, some not and reasons for each case triggered Ostroms' curiosity. There are not many examples of still existing CPRs in Croatia, and this is especially true about the common pastures. However, it seems that one case - the Gajna common pasture in Slavonian village of Oprisavci - still functions under the, what Ostrom calls, internal operational and collective-choice rules of the Pastoral community – the veteran cooperative "Eko-Gajna" (hereafter the Gajna pastoral community) and the Brod Ecological Society NGO. However, while strong sense of an internal

group solidarity seems to be quite important for the successful managing of the Gajna common pasture, its main problem remains the external one. It is related to, what Ostrom calls, constitutional – choice rules, in this particular case to the national legislation concerning the fact that a land next to a water body belongs to the state-owned company *Hrvatske vode*. The Gajna actors have always been negotiating and defending their case at different levels (from local to national) in order to safeguard the common pasture they have been using and having created an added value – the ecologically significant landscape.

Its maintenance is inextricably connected to activities of grazing the pasture organized by the Gajna pastoral community. In this paper I will analyze the role of an inter-group solidarity as a base for such success (however, always on a verge of a disaster) of the Gajna pastoral community that has managed to create and maintain, reap and show benefits of the commons in this particular case.

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Solidarity or Isolation: A Comparative Perspective on Marginal Spaces of Croatia and Slovenia

The Covid-19 pandemic has brought several relevant issues to the forefront, including physical and social isolation. By explaining isolation as a form of social marginalization, we aim to understand how people living at margins of societies define solidarity. Through ethnographic studies in isolated social spaces and abandoned areas, we will show how isolation shapes experiences of solidarity among individuals and communities in Slovenia and Croatia. We will also explore how different modalities of isolation shape practices and experiences, values, and attitudes related to their notions of solidarity.

Our main scientific contribution is a conceptualization from a bottom-up perspective, of the experience of solidarity expressed by people living in remote and desolated areas. Moreover, we will highlight not only negative aspects of isolation but also a kind of an innovative power related to solidarity that arises in remote places and isolated communities.

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Solidarity in Times of War: Food, Shelter and Everyday Bravery in Rural Ukraine

On February 24, Russia has launched a full-scale military invasion into Ukraine. Contrary to Putin's plans to wage a blitzkrieg, the Russian army faced outstanding courageous resistance from the Ukrainian people. It is currently unclear when and how this war will end, but the consequences of the war are already huge and dramatic. Across Ukraine, we see the violence and destruction caused by the Russian military, including missile attacks on civilian targets. There are hundreds of deaths and more than 2 million people have fled Ukraine – with many more to come.

Although the Russian army struck primarily at the large cities of Ukraine, it was the small villages that were on the borderline of the war. Meanwhile, while urban dwellers have weapons to fight and basements to hide, villagers have nothing of the kind. However, the scarce videos and information that come to us from rural Ukraine show the courageous actions of Ukrainian rural dwellers to defend their motherland.

The Ukrainian countryside has also become a refugee destination for many urban dwellers who did not leave the country, but instead moved in with their rural relatives or relocated to their secondary country houses (dachas) in search of a safer place as the cities are being bombarded by the Russian army.

The war in Ukraine has caused exceptional unity, solidarity and mutual support within the country and beyond its borders. People in the neighbouring EU countries wholeheartedly receive Ukrainian refugees and offer them food, shelter and help. However, the next food crisis is just around the corner. Ukraine is known as the “breadbasket of the world”, but Ukrainian farmers cannot sow this year. Those areas of Ukraine that are most productive in terms of agricultural production are now constantly subjected to air and artillery shelling. This will lead to food shortages in the coming months. How will the global community solve this crisis? Will this lead to the emergence of new forms of food activism?