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are organizing

Interdisciplinary Classroom

Politicized Memories: Battle for the Collective Memory Territory

(Zenica: April 22, 2016)

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Interdisciplinary Classroom

TPO Foundation and University of Zenica are planning to hold Interdisciplinary Classrooms in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia and Croatia in 2016 within the framework of PILAR Programme whose focus is on the affirmation of the interdisciplinary approach in learning and research methods in social and humanistic disciplines in all forms of sociability in the area of former Yugoslavia. The objective of such approach is the building of public good that has been devastated systematically for over 20 years. In order to use human capital and resources in a better manner, particularly the one of young people, it is essential to provide quality knowledge, skills and competences that enable people to improve their own lives and public good through social inclusion of all population categories. An important step in that process is to abolish a fake division between academia and social community and to ensure equal approach to education for all. In this kind of approach, we assemble all existing platforms and initiatives that are interested for team work on public goods through the following programme themes: politics of memory and building of social solidarity, research of trauma in everyday life, cultural production and trauma testimony.

The need to question and cope with the past events, not only those from the recent past, but those that happened centuries ago and left the mark on our cultures is more needed than ever. This is the time when societies from the area of former Yugoslavia show less and less tolerance for the other and different one, when our communities turn to revisionism and, in the end, to the utter right where the dialogue concept of culture does not exist. It means further postponement of coping processes with the previous war, but also justice provision what would give us faith to our judicial institutions again and particularly to the war victims. In such moments, scientific interdisciplinary questioning of all traumas is indispensable in order to begin the process of extensive de-traumatization without superficial crossing over certain events, to count victims exclusively without thinking about injustice they have been living all these after-war years, particularly because the truth and justice should not have double or triple standards.

Societies that began democratization on the multiparty elections in the 90s and ended up in a bloody war speaks in favor of the fact that the struggle for democracy was the struggle for the territorial superiority of one ethnos over another and many people from various scientific fields: history, philosophy, literature and literary theory, sociology, social pedagogy, linguistics, anthropology and culturology etc. agree on this. If the territories of today's states are observed, it becomes clear that the 90s politics was intended to clean, displace,

homogenize territory and erase memories of the former system's good sides and everything else what could possibly shake ethno politics. Demolition of the antifascist monuments is the first sign of the politics that erases the positive aspects of an epoch from the memories of people and opens the path for the new people of our history. We did not replace antifascists with new humane people like Srđan Aleksić. On the contrary, the most important monuments today are mainly those that remind us what *our war enemy* was like, instead of what event or person symbolizes. Today's political elites use new monuments for creation of new myths, intimidation and persuasion of the ethno collective to stay with their leaders. Our societies live a highly politicized reality in which it is completely normal to revitalize criminals from the previous wars and to call them in different names rather than fascists. History, language and literary textbooks' contents are exclusively tailored according to the ideology that does not want any coping with the past, confession of crimes, finding missing people and confession of participation in planning of many crimes. These are certainly sore spots of our living, but without extensive and serious questioning and inclusion of young people in these processes, we can hardly achieve peace in these areas. It should not be forgotten that arms fell silent in the 90s, but the ethnical and religious hatred was transmitted into virtual world and it speaks volumes that citizens from the area of former Yugoslavia cannot cope with the past. It has become completely normal to carry banners as a message to others that everything is going to happen again, to chant fascist salutations, to go to the places of suffering of those who did not fight for freedom and equality of all at public expenses. Fascization permeates all pores of society by virtue of our unwillingness to cope with the past and open the sore historical events and not only those from the 90s, but from the medieval period as well.

Hence we propose the following themes of the Interdisciplinary Classroom:

1. Falsification of the Past - from the Medieval Period to the Present
2. Conversion as One of the Most Painful Moments in Our Farther History - Conversion Once Conversion Forever
3. Re-patriarchalization, De-secularization and Fascisation of Society
4. Language Politics as Precursors of Nationalist Ideologies
5. Trauma in Film and Film in Trauma
6. Theatre Engagement as a Place of Resistance to the Dominant Exclusive Ideologies
7. Educational System as a Place of Distance against Other
8. On the Crossroad of Memory and Oblivion – Challenges in Visual and Fine Arts in Transitional Societies

****** The organizer will pay travel and accommodation expenses when the Interdisciplinary Classroom takes place.*

We invite potential lecturers to submit their abstracts (150 words), and students to apply for participation at the latest by April 01, 2016 to the following email contacts: edisa_gazetic@ymail.com i assist3@tpofond.org

We will inform you on the Interdisciplinary Classroom Programme subsequently by the arrival and evaluation of the abstracts.

Yours faithfully,

Docent Edisa Gazetić, coordinator of the Interdisciplinary Classroom