



## THE 15TH INTERNATIONAL SUMMER SCHOOL

### ON YOUTH AND HERITAGE (ISSYH 15)

4–7. SEPTEMBER 2020.

Stolac

Bosna-Herzegovina



Dok. 575E-2020

**THE 15TH INTERNATIONAL SUMMER SCHOOL  
ON YOUTH AND HERITAGE  
September 4th-7th, 2020.  
on the Zoom platform**

International Forum Bosnia's Centre for Cultural heritage is pleased to announce the Fifteenth International Summer School on Youth and Heritage (ISSYH) will be held online from Stolac on the Zoom platform on September 4th-7th, 2020.

**Program summary**

Fifteen years ago the first International Summer School on Youth and Heritage was held in an improvised tent camp in the war-devastated town of Stolac. Within the framework the school has provided, a major part of the damaged and devalued material and non-material cultural heritage of Stolac has been restored.



*Aerial view of the Stolac centre destroyed in 1993 (photo from 1996)*

We are pleased to announce a new phase in the School's development as a sustainable project of international significance in social awareness and education with the introduction of online methods of working and holding seminars.

By adjusting our approach to the health and safety requirements imposed by the Covid 19 pandemic, this 15th Jubilee International summer School on Youth and Heritage represents a new departure, in which we hope to use new content and openness to embrace change. This will affirm the school's fundamental goals: researching and exchanging experiences of

tolerance and how to strengthen and promote it, how social recovery is connected to the restoration of cultural memory and practices of remembrance after war and other social traumas, and how to build an environment that promotes dialogue and a continuous renewal of trust within society, with due respect for the differences to which Bosnian cultural heritage so eloquently bears witness.

The International Summer School on Youth and Heritage is a forum for establishing networks between individuals and organisations that recognize and cherish the unity within plurality that is constitutive of Bosnia's cultural, social, and political identities and want to work with others on developing models for open societies that foster the diversity that is such a core feature of the world. Young people around the world, at leading universities and institutions in a dazzling mosaic of countries, are taking the lead in such endeavours and many of them are graduates of these international summer schools.

In previous years, the full School programme has included seminars, fieldwork, practical and recreational activities, and learning from master teachers through practical hands-on work in masonry, woodcarving, bookbinding, stone carving, falconry, embroidery, weaving, decorative metalwork, herbology, music, ritual, et cetera and was strictly linked to our geographical location and conducted as a contribution to the post-war recovery of Stolac as a community. Now, we find ourselves facing a new challenge, namely holding the school in the virtual realm and embracing the new opportunity and new phase this represents.

This year's summer school, ISSYH 2020, is envisaged and structured as an opportunity for looking back on what has been achieved to date and investigating new ways of continuing our activities and our commitment to the universal significance of the life of the mind and spirit as experienced through tradition, social practice, and artistic and intellectual endeavour.

The 15<sup>th</sup> International Summer School on Youth and Heritage will be conducted by two groups of teachers – lecturers and master craftspeople from Bosnia and around the world, who, over the course of four days, will lead the students through five study areas or fields and five workshops on traditional bodies of knowledge, introducing them to the skills of cultural and interfaith dialogue, to the conservation, presentation, and political and humanitarian potential of the various forms of cultural heritage, to traditional crafts and to artistic techniques in woodcarving, calligraphy, decorative metalwork, and the Muslim art of geometry.

### **The lecturers at ISSYH 2020**

**Mile Babić**, (Franciscan seminary in Sarajevo) Bosnian Franciscan, priest, professor of theology, and author of multiple books and studies. Through the study of Hegel, Duns Scotus, and Theodore of Syria, Babić investigates alternatives to current European approaches in philosophy and theology, attempting to re-found an approach to philosophy and theology that can help lead us from a world of violence to one of freedom and love.

**Aida Bičakčić**, (Commission to Preserve National Monuments of Bosnia and Herzegovina) art historian and expert on art history. She has published widely, is a frequent participant at conferences, and lectures on Bosnian cultural heritage and conservation.

**Nerin Dizdar**, (University of Sarajevo), a leading Bosnian activist and politician, originally from Stolac, the author of numerous academic works, specialising in sociolinguistics and the pragmatics of languages within Bosnian society and English-speaking countries. His most recent book is *The Politics of Cultural Racism*.

**Amra Hadžimihamedović**, (Chair of the IFB Centre for Cultural Heritage), a conservation architect and historian of architecture who has led strategic projects for the integration of cultural heritage within the process of post-war reconstruction in Bosnia. She works as a consultant for UNESCO, ICCROM, ARC-WH, OSCE, and Welfare in various parts of the world. She has published widely, including her most recent book, *Heritage, War, and Peace*.

**Derviš Hadžimuhamedović**, (the Institute for Archaeology at UCL), archaeologist and coordinator of the International Summer School on Youth and Heritage since 2015.

**Safet HadžiMuhamedović**, (University of Cambridge), anthropologist of landscapes and religion. Research Associate at the Divinity School of the University of Cambridge and a lecturer at SOAS and UCL. He has taught a wide array of courses in anthropology of religion, kinship, politics, gender and landscape, as well as in social theory. Safet has conducted long-term fieldwork in south-eastern Bosnia, on time, belonging and post-war iterations of pastoral cosmologies. He is the author of *Waiting for Elijah: Time and Encounter in a Bosnian Landscape*.

**Rusmir Mahmutćehajić**, (President of International Forum Bosnia), philosopher of politics, religion, and culture. Author of thirty books on political philosophy, the philosophy of religion, and Bosnian religious plurality. He played a central role in the defense of Bosnia and continues to do so in spearheading integrated post-war reconstruction. He is a member of the editorial committee on the philosophy of religions and world religions of the major Dutch academic publishing house *Brill*.

**Desmond Maurer**, (Chair of the IFB Centre for Historical Studies), historian and sociologist, author of a number of publications on Bosnian society, heritage and politics, and translator of dozens of books on Bosnia into English. A former UN official and consultant, he founded the English language service of the national news agency of Bosnia and Herzegovina and was for 10 years a lecturer at the English department of the University of Sarajevo, where he taught history, literature, and literary theory.

**Emma Mazrak**, (University of Sarajevo), art historian whose research focuses on mediaeval Bosnian illumination. Her work on the Codex of Hval and mediaeval Bosnian illumination between the XIV and XV centuries is the most important study in the field to date.

**Krsto Mijanović**, (vice-president of International Forum Bosnia; University of Travnik), a leading researcher into the preconditions for sustainable natural development in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the application of new technologies to that end. He has published widely on Bosnian cultural pluralism and the life and contribution of Orthodox Christians to and the role of the Serbian Orthodox Church in Bosnian political life.

**Elke Selter** (SOAS), researcher in the field of the international politics of heritage and conflict. Elke has worked with different agencies of the United Nations on topics of culture and heritage for nation building, transition and conflict resolution. Since 2002, she has lived and worked in Bosnia, Cambodia, Nepal, Palestine, Haiti, South Sudan, Burundi and Mali. Between 2015 and 2017, she was advising UNESCO on the establishment of its crisis response programme, with a focus on heritage in the Middle East.

**Asim Zupčević**, (University of Sarajevo), expert on literacy and the culture of the book in Bosnia and non-material expressions of Bosnian heritage, including the preservation of the written word. His book on private libraries and their custodians in 18th and 19th-century Sarajevo is currently in press.

### **The Master Craftpersons at the ISSYH 2020**

**Kemal Hidić**, master decorative metalworker, is a specialist in decorative and artistic copper work, having learned the craft from his father as part of a family tradition that goes back more than two centuries. Kemal has a workshop in the central district of Sarajevo old town, in the traditional metalworking quarter, where he has trained his own sons and grandson Ali in his craft.

**Sandy Kurt** is an Italian artist of Bosnian origin who approaches contemporary art through a grounding in the traditional practice of geometry in Muslim art. She pursues her research and artistic development as an independent artist and scholar, is the author of several works, and teaches Islamic geometry.

**Hazim Numanagić** is the leading living Bosnian Master of calligraphy and student of the Bosnian calligraphic tradition. He has a calligraphic workshop in Sarajevo and is the author of a number of projects to document and restore calligraphic works and to interpolate calligraphic inscriptions within Bosnian cultural monuments restored since the war against Bosnia.

**Azer Rudić** is a master woodcarver, having learned the craft from a cousin, as he looked for a way to earn a living in post-war Bosnia. Azer Rudić makes his living from his craft, while at the same time studying the materials, techniques, and artistic forms of Bosnian woodcarving, and of course teaching them to school participants for the past six years.

The wrap-up workshop will discuss what the schools have achieved since their inception in 2006 and what their future goals should be.

Participants at the 15<sup>th</sup> International Summer School on Youth and Heritage will be 20 selected young persons/students from Bosnia and Herzegovina and other parts of the world, from a range of academic backgrounds. The international mix of participants helps ensure a lively exchange of ideas and understanding of the values and views held by members of different cultures around the world.

Participants will be selected on the basis of direct invitation and/or registration via e-mail stolacsummerschool@gmail.com. Application includes: full name, nationality contact details (city, country, e-mail adress), affiliation (University, organisation), occupation, age.

### Timetable of the Fifteenth International Summer School Youth and Heritage

<b>04th SEPTEMBER - FRIDAY</b>
<b>17.00</b>
<b>Rusmir Mahmutćehajić, Mile Babić, Krsto Mijanović</b> Opening of the School: ISSYH and Bosnian Plurality
<b>17.20</b>
<b>Amra Hadžimuhamedović</b> Structure of 15th ISSYH and working methods
<b>17.30 - 18.30</b>
<b>Derviš Hadžimuhamedović</b> Presentation of the ISSYH - 15 years of its work and the road forward
<b>19.00 - 20.00</b>
<b>LECTURE 1</b> <b>Safet HadžiMuhamedović</b> Speaker Stone: From Bosnian Syncretic Landscapes to Anthropological Theories of Agency, Personhood and Nature/Culture
<b>20.00 - 21.00</b>
Discussion moderated by <b>Safet HadžiMuhamedović</b>
<b>05 TH SEPTEMBER - SATTURDAY</b>
<b>11.00 - 12.00</b>
<b>LECTURE 2</b> <b>Emma Mazrak</b> Illuminated mediaeval Bosnian codices - origin, context and analyses of the representative examples
<b>12.30 - 15.30</b>
<b>WORKSHOP 1; WORKSHOP 2</b> <b>Rusmir Mahmutćehajić</b> , Calligraphy and geometry in art - history, philosophy, and meaning Master's talk: <b>Hazim Numanagic</b> , workshop on the art of calligraphy Master's talk: <b>Sandy Kurt</b> , workshop on geometry in the Muslim arts
<b>19.00 - 20.00</b>
<b>LECTURE 3</b> <b>Amra Hadžimuhamedović</b> , Bosnian Heritage - its meaning, destruction and post-war recovery
<b>20.00 - 21.00</b>
Discussion moderated by <b>Amra Hadzimuhamedovic</b> and <b>Emma Mazrak</b>

06TH SEPTEMBER - SUNDAY

**11.00 - 12.00**

**LECTURE 4**

**Desmond Maurer**, Myths and Lies in the Interpretation of Bosnian Cultural Heritage

**12.15 - 13.15**

**WORKSHOP 3**

**Aida Bičakčić**, Introduction to the theory and history of Bosnian metalwork as an art  
Master's talk: **Kemal Hidić**: Bosnian decorative metalwork as an art

**13.30 - 14.30**

**WORKSHOP 4**

**Amra Hadžimuhamedović**, Introduction to the theory and history of Bosnian woodwork as an art  
Master's talk: **Azer Rudić**, Bosnian woodwork as an art

**19.00 - 20.00**

**LECTURE 5**

**Elke Selter**, The International Politics of Heritage and their Impact on Conflict Transformation

20.00 - 21.00

Discussion moderated by **Elke Selter** and **Desmond Maurer**

07TH SEPTEMBER - MONDAY

**10.00 - 12.00**

Reflections on the ISSYH by participants from former schools - moderated by **Nerin Dizdar**

**12.30 - 14.00**

**WORKSHOP 5**

Final presentations by participants

**14.00 - 15.00**

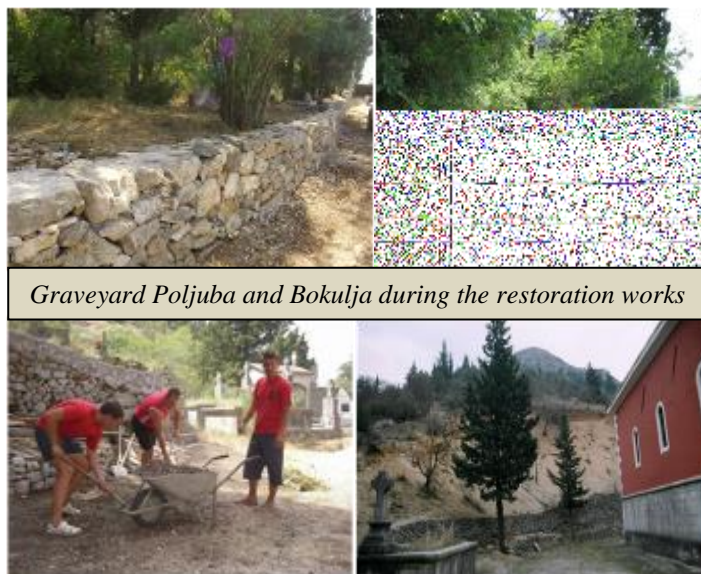
Discussion on the Future of ISSYH - moderated by **Asim Zubčević**  
Closing of the School



## History of the International Summer School on Youth and Heritage

The First International Summer School on Youth and Heritage took place in 2006 (July 23rd to August 9th). It was a unique event, with eighty young participants from seven countries living in a tent city. Thanks to the success of the programme, the organizers and participants committed to developing the project as a long-term annual gathering of young people. Schools have taken place every year since, in late July and early August.

The scale has been considerably smaller than the first one, with between 20 and 30 participants from a variety of different countries. The initial schools used practical examples of cross-cultural cooperation to restore heritage as a tool against segregation and discrimination. This has stimulated local involvement in rebuilding the town's war-damaged cultural heritage, including some of the most valuable gems of traditional Bosnian architecture. The first three schools thus involved major public works elements, including the rehabilitation of the 16th century mosque on the bridge, the mosque and school at Uzinovići, the Poljuba orthodox cemetery, cleaning of the old graveyards at Gorica and Bokulja, clearing and conservation works on the site of the Podgrad watermill, and cleaning the Bregava river bed, under the



*Graveyard Poljuba and Bokulja during the restoration works*

supervision of expert conservationists. A major component was the restoration of old buildings to serve as public spaces. The first three schools rehabilitated the Podgradski Konak and the Hadži Junuz-aga Mehmedbašić Endowment House. Restoration activities included every aspect of rebuilding under the expert supervision of professional conservationists and restorers. The Mosque on the Bridge in Stolac: before destruction, after being razed to the ground, during reconstruction,

and restored. The Podgradski Konak before and after destruction and after rebuilding as the Human Rights Centre Poljuba and Bokulja graveyards during conservation works. ISSYH 14 7 As a result of these activities, the Hadži Junuz-aga Mehmedbašić House has been designated the International Youth Centre for Cultural Heritage and Education, while the Podgradski Konak is now the Human Rights Centre of the Stolac Youth Forum. In addition to the public works, these schools involved lectures, seminars, and workshops on topics of religious and cultural coexistence and reconstruction. Like the earlier schools, the fourth, fifth, sixth, seventh, eighth, ninth and tenth schools included physical reconstruction, but the focus shifted from public buildings to premises for institutionalising the school itself. Work in 2009-2018 focused on the 17th century house and garden complex in the Uzinovići part of the town that now houses the First House for International Dialogue and Reconciliation (HIDR 1/images below). It has been fully rebuilt and restored, in line with the strictest conservation guidelines



for national monuments, including the use of traditional stonework, woodwork, and carpentry. It has been fully functional since the 2012 school. The building belongs to Forum Bosnia and is used for the activities of the school and other activities of Forum Bosnia during the year.



*Ćuprijska džamija u Stocu: prije razaranja, nakon potpunog uništenja, tokom obnove i nakon obnove.*

During 2014, an additional covered, open-air teaching classroom was added in the garden. There have also been rehabilitation activities on two further 17th century houses in Uzinovići, HIDR 2 and 3, one of which belongs to Forum Bosnia, while the other will be the object of a long-term contract of use. Work has continued on preliminary rehabilitation of the Podgrad watermill, a designated national monument in the centre of Stolac town, which has been allocated by the authorities to International Forum Bosnia for use, following restoration. The 4th -13th schools have continued the lectures and seminars of earlier years, while also introducing workshops at which participants gained a basic proficiency in woodworking, bookbinding, copper-working and blacksmithing, carpet-weaving, stone-carving, archery, and falconry amongst other activities. The fruits of their work have been used to outfit and furnish the HIDR 1 and are being incorporated into both HIDR 2 and 3 as part of the ongoing works.

Stolac is in southern Bosnia and Herzegovina, 160 km from Sarajevo, 30 km from the Adriatic and 100 km from Dubrovnik. It lies at the juncture of two valleys, through one of which the Bregava River flows from East to West. During July and August, the Stolac region celebrates the fig and welcomes the ripening grape, watermelon, and muskmelon. Throughout its history, Stolac has been a very open town, renowned for its rich cultural heritage, dating back to the Palaeolithic. Ancient roads lead from Illyrian forts and Roman settlements past mediaeval monuments to the coexisting forms of Christian, Muslim, and Jewish culture. Until the 1992 to 1995 war against Bosnia and Herzegovina, Stolac was a typical plural society. Due largely to the impact of outside forces, the town suffered extensive damage, much of its heritage was laid waste, and a large part of its population expelled. Since the war, Stolac has embarked on a difficult process of restoration and social reconstruction. The restoration of cultural memory and history is crucial to building its future, but for that public opinion and attitudes and behaviour must change. This has required international help and cooperation.

The summer school brings together young people from across the globe, providing an opportunity to contribute to the rehabilitation and reconstruction of a plural community devastated by war and by ideological images of irreconcilable difference. By countering current conceptions of identity and difference, the school strengthens the development of civil society based on mutual tolerance and trust.

The programme has four complementary aspects: 1. a set of coordinated working activities, 2. a series of practical craft or forgotten skills workshops, 3. a number of educational activities, and 4. a recreational aspect for informal socializing and cultural encounter.



*Podgradski konak prije i nakon uništenja te nakon obnove kao Centar za ljudska prava*

The activities of the school will be based around the three buildings restored by the schools in previous years – the Podgradski Konak and the House of International Dialogue and Reconciliation 1, while also using the cleared premises of the Houses of International Dialogue and Reconciliation 2 and 3. 1.

Working activities play a central role in the concept of the school. The aim of the school is to develop social engagement and reconciliation through a combination of

practical activities and discussion-based activities. There is a special sense of achievement to be gained from seeing how the themes discussed in abstract or historical terms can take on concrete form in the restoration of historical treasures or the creation of new works in traditional modes. This sense of achievement is reinforced by the knowledge that the results of group work are put to use for the community, restoring a sense of continuity and providing modernity with roots in the past. In previous years, the schools have involved reconstruction of a number of historic buildings in Stolac, communal works on the Bregava River, the development of town green spaces, and the protection of local natural heritage.

Participants have played a very active role in the reconstruction of the Podgradski Konak, the Hadži Junuz-aga Mehmedbašić Endowment House, a 17th century traditional residential complex in the Brade area of the town, and three 17th century houses in the Uzinovići area of the town, as well as number of mosques, graveyards, and other public buildings.







## **About International Forum Bosnia**

International Forum Bosnia (IFB) is a non-governmental organization that brings together individuals and institutions from Bosnia and Herzegovina and abroad. Our mission is to support the creation of a harmonious and united society in Bosnia and Herzegovina, based on dialogue, trust, respect, and best practice in the fields of human rights protection, the rule of law, and democracy.

IFB members believe in Bosnia and Herzegovina as a sustainable plural society within a unified polity, with a rich political and cultural heritage that exemplifies the best aspects of the European spirit.

We believe that preservation and development of our common Bosnian heritage requires

- The restoration of trust across society, based on:

the development of a new intellectual community and new perspectives, through social and political analysis, and an exploration of the diversity all our traditions. IFB approaches these goals in two ways:

- Deconstructing divisive ideologies based on the abuse of ethnicity, religion, and other identity and belief systems to generate mistrust, intolerance, social tension, social exclusion, and conflict in the region.

- Developing and promoting a new synthesis for Bosnia and Herzegovina, based on a vision of social development free from fear, hostility and intolerance and a political model that mediates rather than exacerbates antagonisms. Just as Bosnia and Herzegovina must be sustained as a whole, IFB believes that any progressive understanding of the country's present condition and future prospects requires an comprehensive and holistic approach, seeking a new understanding of Bosnian unity in diversity that incorporates all aspects of society, but especially geopolitical aspects, education, cultural and religious traditions and dialogue, environmental and ecological perspectives, advanced and information technologies, energy policy and responsible use of natural and renewable resources, gender issues, regional co-operation, distributive justice, sustainable development, the rule of law, human rights, social inclusion, and other issues related to the efficient transition of Bosnia and Herzegovina towards harmonious membership in the community of European countries. One major way in which IFB pursues its objectives is through the organisation of intellectual gatherings and undertakings (workshops, panels, symposia, conferences, public lectures, exhibitions, the advancement of knowledge about Bosnia and Herzegovina, etc.), and the presentation of

significant perspectives on culture, society, scholarship, and politics related to Bosnia and Herzegovina and its place in the world through its journal Forum Bosnae, working documents, and the IFB web page: <http://www.ifbosna.org.ba>. IFB was founded in Sarajevo in 1997. It operates through its members, projects, and associated ventures. There are thirteen thematic-research centres: the Centres for Strategic Studies, Education, Language Studies, Media, Protection of Natural Heritage, Students Programs, Historical Studies, Regional Cooperation, Gender Issues, Cultural Heritage, Interreligious Dialogue, and Technology and Economic Development (with two sections: entrepreneurship and public/private partnership and advanced and information technology), and the Centre of Interdisciplinary Research for Visual Culture.

*Amra Muhamedović*  
Dr Amra Hadžimuhamedović

Director of the Centre for Cultural Heritage