

Statement on main goals of the office of the vice-president

Further efforts to stronger inclusion of SE European countries into the ESEH network

If looking at European regions, there is a clear gap in the inclusion of the southeast of Europe in the environmental history research, education and activities within the ESEH so far. Two years ago in the occasion of the first candidacy for the vice-president of the ESEH I have proposed some goals towards the achievement of stronger inclusion of those countries and colleagues in European environmental history network and activities.

Some of those goals included: mobility of teaching staff and students within those countries and encourage more strongly already existing Erasmus and CEEPUS mobility programs, as well as other visiting professor programs/possibilities from other European countries; linkage at the level of research; to establish topics and research problems of mutual interest in those countries; mobility of doctoral students of SE European region; informational and every other possible support in applying for PhD programme in Environmental history in European countries which have such programmes; and also as a more distant goal the introducing the environmental history in study programs at the universities of SE European countries.

In the last two years considerable effort has been made in such terms:

1. Within the wider frame of the newly proposed enlargement and merging the Region of Croatia with Slovenia and later also Serbia in one common region, the mobility of teaching staff has been established within Slovenian (Ljubljana and Koper) universities and Croatian University of Zagreb. Four lectures were delivered in Zagreb, Koper and Ljubljana by Ž. Zwitter, M. Gabrovec (Slovenia), H. Petrić and B. Fuerst-Bjeliš (Croatia). These steps that started between Slovenia and Croatia are to be continued and to include Serbia, as the third country of the newly proposed common region, as well as other countries in the area, primarily Bosnia & Herzegovina and Montenegro which have already expressed their interest in joint activities.
2. The enlargement and further inclusion of universities in existing CEEPUS network (EcoManAqua) is also in the process of completing, which could act as a frame for numerous activities in promoting environmental history research and education (mobility of students and teaching staff, summer schools).
3. Rethinking what could be the common research area to enable the linkage at the level of research, the karst as the environment appeared as common to a great deal of the SE European space. The environmental histories of karst could be promoted as common research area through e.g. summer schools, run each year in another country with different leading topic. This could be opportunity for strengthening the connections and collaboration of individuals as well as institutions in the region of SE Europe in environmental research and education, but also with other countries in Europe and Mediterranean.

In the line of launching the environmental histories of karst as a common research area and inclusion of Slovenia in the future common region, the preliminary plans have been already made for the first of these *Environmental history of karst summer schools* to be held in Slovenia in the year following the ESEH conference.

4. Related to the above, the possibility of editing a publication on *Environmental histories of karst* that would explore more thoroughly the already existing body of environmental-historical research of (Dinaric) karst has also been discussed among Slovenian and Croatian scholars and the first steps towards the publication proposition have been made.

In conclusion, the main goals of the office of the vice president (2019-21) would be the continuation of the goals presented two years ago regarding the stronger inclusion of SE European countries into the ESEH network, and the continuation of efforts and activities already made and achieved in the meantime, as described above.

Zagreb, 14 June 2019

Borna Fuerst-Bjeliš

Borna Fuerst-Bjeliš, candidate for ESEH Vice-President in 2019

CV

Borna Fuerst-Bjeliš, senior scientist and full professor at the University of Zagreb. She graduated Geography from the Faculty of Science in 1983 at the University of Zagreb, completed her MSc in 1990 and the PhD in 1996. Since 1989 she is the faculty member of the University of Zagreb. For many years she participated in the leadership (e.g. vice-dean for international cooperation, head of the Doctoral programme of Geography and a head/member of numerous bodies).

Her field of expertise is environmental history and landscape change, spatially focused mainly on Mediterranean karst area, including the development of methodologies of research (historical cartography, GIS technology), borderlands areas, spatial perceptions and spatial (regional) identities. She was a project leader on environmental change, cultural landscapes and regional identities, financed by the Ministry of Science and the University of Zagreb (2007-14).

As the result of her research she has co-authored six text books (university and school level). She edited the Croatian editions of two books on environmental history: *What is Environmental History?* by D. Hughes (2011) and *The Global Environmental History* by I. G. Simmons (2010). She conducted research on environmental history research in Croatia and co-authored (as a first author) a chapter *What is environmental history in Croatia?* (together with the bibliography) within the Croatian edition of Hughes' book (2011). She also edited a book *Mediterranean Identities: environment, society, culture* (InTechOpen, London), co-authored the university textbook on *Historical geography of Croatia* (University of Split) and currently preparing the English co-authored edition of *Historical geography of Croatia: Territorial Change and Cultural Landscapes* at Springer.

She has authored or co-authored 90 papers, among which 55 peer reviewed scholarly book chapters or journal articles.

Since the beginning of her academic career, she has taught (and created) more than 20 courses from the bachelor to doctoral level at the University of Zagreb at the study programmes of Geography and Environmental Science, as well as at doctoral programmes of the Universities of Zadar and Mostar (B&H). In 2005 she created and introduced the course of *Environmental history and Historical GIS in landscape change research* in the study programmes of Geography and Environmental sciences at the Faculty of Science, University of Zagreb

Currently she teaches *Environmental history, Mediterranean and Regionalization Principles* at bachelor and master programmes, as well as *The Adriatic in the Euro-Mediterranean Context, Scientific work* and the *Methodology of research* in the module of Environmental Studies of the Doctoral programme. She has been mentor in more than seventy master and ten doctoral thesis so far. She gave a number of invited lectures at universities, conferences and summer schools in Europe, SAD and Canada.

She is the member of editorial and scientific board of the leading Croatian geographic scientific journals, a number of European journals as well as Croatian journal for environmental and economic history (*Ekonomska i ekohistorija*).

She is the member of a number of international and national scientific organizations: ESEH; International Geographic Union (IGU); Association for Croatian Studies; Association of American Geographers; Croatian Cartographical Association; Croatian Geomorphological Society Croatian Geographical Society. Currently she is the member of the Steering committee of the Commission on Marginalization, Globalization and Local and regional response of the International Geographic Union and since 2017 the vice-president of ESEH..

In the year 2012 she was awarded by *Federico Grisogono award* for the scientific achievement and outstanding contribution to the development of geography in Croatia.

List of selected publications

Books and book chapters - selection

Authored and edited books

- 2017 Fuerst-Bjeliš, B. (ed.) (2017) Mediterranean Identities - Environment, Society, Culture. InTechOpen Limited London, Rijeka doi:10.5772/66587.
- 2015 Glamuzina, N. & Fuerst-Bjeliš, B. (2015) Historical geography of Croatia (in Croatian). Split. Sveučilište u Splitu, Filozofski fakultet doi:10.13140/RG.2.1.2077.2883.
- 2011 Fuerst-Bjeliš, B. (ed.) (2011) Što je povijest okoliša? (Croatian edition of What is Environmental History? by D. Hughes). Zagreb, Disput.
- 2010 Fuerst-Bjeliš, B. (ed.) (2010) Globalna povijest okoliša (Croatian edition of Global Environmental History 10, 000 BC to AD 2000. by I.G. Simons). Zagreb, Disput.

Book chapters

- 2018 Fuerst-Bjeliš, B. & Kale, J. (2018) Historical dynamics of cultural landscapes in Šibenik region. In: Kurelac, I. (ed.) Šibenik od prvog spomena. Zbornik radova s međunarodnog znanstvenog skupa "950 godina od prvog spomena Šibenika", Šibenik, 26.-28. rujna 2016. godine.. Šibenik, Zagreb, Muzej Grada Šibenika i HAZU, pp. 545-560. (<https://www.bib.irb.hr/959481>).
- 2016 Fuerst-Bjeliš, B., Cvitanović, M. & Durbešić, A. (2016) Fire Risk Incidence Over the Last 200 Years: Case Study in the Mediterranean Croatia. In: Pina, H., Remoaldo, P. & Ramos, C. (ed.) The Overarching Issues of the European Space/Rethinking Socioeconomic and Environmental Problems, Repositioning Territorial Development Policies. Porto ; Bucarest, Faculdade de Letras da Universidade do Porto ; Milena Press, pp. 161-172. (<https://www.bib.irb.hr/879566>).
- 2013 Fuerst-Bjeliš, B. & Durbešić, A. (2013) Littoralization and Behind : Environmental Change in Mediterranean Croatia. In: Pina, H., Martins, F. & Ferreira, C. (ed.) The overarching issues of the European space = Grandes problemáticas do espaço europeu : Strategies for Spatial (Re)planning based on Innovation, Sustainability and Change = Estratégias de (Re)ordenamento Territorial num Quadro de Inovação, Sustentabilidade e Mudança. Porto ; Bucarest, Fundação Universidade do Porto, Faculdade de Letras ; Milena Press, pp. 136-147.
- 2011 Fuerst-Bjeliš, B., Cvitanović, M. & Petrić, H. (2011) What is Environmental History in Croatia?. In: Fuerst-Bjeliš, B. (ed.) Što je povijest okoliša?. Zagreb, Disput, pp. 175-198 doi:10.13140/2.1.1472.5927.
- 2010 Fuerst-Bjeliš, B. (2010) Why Global Environmental History?. In: Fuerst-Bjeliš, B. (ed.) Globalna povijest okoliša. Zagreb, Disput, pp. 299-306.
- 2006 Fuerst-Bjeliš, B. & Lozić, S. (2006) Environmental impact and change on the Velebit Mountain, Croatia: an outline of the periodization. In: Armiero, M. (ed.) Views from the South, Environmental Stories from the Mediterranean World (19th -20th centuries). Napoli, Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche, Istituto di Studi sulle Società del Mediterraneo, pp. 127-139.
- 2002 Fuerst-Bjeliš, B., Lozić, S. & Perica, D. (2002) Man and the Environment in the Central Velebit Area - Baške Oštarije and Surroundings. In: Bogonar, A. (ed.) Geomorphology of the Dinaric Mountain Belt in Croatia (Some Examples). Zagreb, Hrvatsko geomorfološko društvo, pp. 51-68. (<https://www.bib.irb.hr/628983>)

Journal articles

Scientific papers – selection in the last five years

- 2018 Fuerst-Bjeliš, B. (2018) Deforestation and reforestation in Croatian Dinaric karst : Human-environmental relations and implications. *Ekonomiska i ekohistorija*, 14 (1), 136-144. (<https://www.bib.irb.hr/979209>).
- 2017 Cvitanović, M., Lučev, I., Furerst-Bjeliš, B., Slavuj Borčić, L., Horvat, S. & Valožić, L. (2017) Analyzing post-socialist grassland conversion in a traditional agricultural landscape : case study Croatia. *Journal of rural studies*, 51, 53-63 doi:10.1016/j.jrurstud.2017.01.008.
- Pavlek, K., Bišćević, F., Furčić, P., Grđan, A., Gugić, V., Malešić, N., Moharić, P., Vragović, V., Furerst-Bjeliš, B. & Cvitanović, M. (2017) Spatial patterns and drivers of fire occurrence in a Mediterranean environment: a case study of southern Croatia. *Geografisk Tidsskrift-Danish Journal of Geography*, 117 (1), 22-35 doi:10.1080/00167223.2016.1266272.
- 2016 Durbešić, A. & Furerst-Bjeliš, B. (2016) Types and trends in landscape changes at Svilaja - Ogorje mountain area. *Ekonomiska i ekohistorija*, 12 (1), 208-221. (<https://www.bib.irb.hr/854236>).
- 2014 Tekić, I., Furerst-Bjeliš, B. & Durbešić, A. (2014) Distribution of Aleppo pine (*Pinus halepensis* Mill.) and its effect on vegetation and landscape structure of wider area of Šibenik. *Šumarski list : znanstveno-stručno i staleško glasilo Hrvatskoga šumarskog društva*, 11-12, 593-600. (<https://www.bib.irb.hr/752295>).

Zagreb, 14 June 2019

Borna Furerst-Bjeliš