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“The Shadows of Sandzak in Serbia: Cultural Sovereignty and EU-Turkish relations”

In 1979 the Medieval Monuments of Stari Ras and Sopoćani were recognized as a World Heritage site. This paper explores heritage issues in this region and its multiple identities -- Raška, Sandzak, and Serbia. My analysis focuses on how communities balance transformational and international categorization of and interest in the Balkans, EU members v. candidates, religious (Christian, Islamic, Jewish) heritage, Asian opportunities via the Silk Road, Arab corporatism (Belgrade on Water) and revered memories of Tito and modernism. I explore the entanglements that communities are grappling with as they continue to be subject to the agendas of multiple development agencies and at least five different foreign policies. The case study presented draws from my 2014 research.

Christina Luke’s research examines cultural policies and ethnographies of development, heritage, and sovereignty in the Balkans, Anatolia, and Cyprus. She is editor of the Journal of Field Archaeology and an Associate Professor at Koç University (Fall 2015).