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**Migration and narration among the Balkan Muslims in Berlin:
Migrants from Serbia in the focus**

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Wo? Dorotheenstr. 65, Raum 5.57

Abstract

The lecture presents the new project entitled “Narration and Migration of the Balkan Muslims in Berlin” which will be carried out in 2016/2017 at the Institute for Slavic Studies of the Humboldt University. The purpose of the project is twofold: to explore social networks of the migrant communities from the Western Balkan residing in Berlin and to carry out a case study based on qualitative analysis of the migrants’ narratives. The case study pertains to the migrants who came to Berlin during the 1960s and 1970s within the so-called “guest-working” program. My point of departure, however, will be the Bosniak Muslims from Serbia. Although they are more or less integrated into the German political society, they are often faced with marginalization in both countries, their “land of origin” (Serbia) and destination land (Germany), as “immigrants” and “Muslims”. By applying methods of participant observation and qualitative interviewing, I plan to analyze the complex set of relationships between migrations, ethnic, religious, and other social identifications that the Bosniak Muslims construct via narrative discourse. In this lecture, I present the basic demographic data with regard to the Muslim population in Serbia and discuss the Serbian official concept of Diaspora which may be described as an ethnocentric and exclusive model. Namely, in the official discourse the Serbian Diaspora is usually conceived as comprising of people of Serbian ethnicity and Orthodox denomination. The case of the Muslim migrants from Serbia, as this project aims to show, challenges the ethnocentric concept of Diaspora and opens a perspective to cultural heteroglossia, i.e. interaction of distinct viewpoints and ideologies.