State of the Media in SE Europe: From Crisis to Corruption
A Media Symposium Featuring Scholars and Journalists from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Serbia

March 11, 2015
New York City

Keynote Address to be delivered by Dunja Mijatovic, the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media

During the course of the Yugoslav Wars, media in Southeast Europe was virtually synonymous with “disinformation” and “propaganda.” In the years since the end of the Bosnian War (1992-1995), the Kosovo War (1998-1999), and the fall of Slobodan Milosevic in Serbia (2000), much has changed—or so it would appear.

Today, the post-Yugoslav media space is shared by international media conglomerates and local networks, while tabloids and broadsheets compete for readers with a growing number of online publications and blogs. Yet media monitors, investigative journalists, and foreign and local observers alike continue to raise red flags. Politicians still dictate the boundaries of acceptable speech, they argue, government critics are smeared and attacked on front pages, the yellow press dominates the discourse.

After a year of diplomatic breakthroughs and setbacks, riots, elections, and natural catastrophes, what is the state of the free press in South East Europe heading in 2015? Who truly owns the media space in the former Yugoslavia? And is telling the facts and naming the names still grounds for intimidation and censorship of journalists and reporters even with much of the region on the cusp of European integration?

Join us – journalists and scholars with deep Balkan media experience and scholarship on March 11, 2015 at the Harriman Institute for a one-day symposium, as we discuss media space and freedoms in South Eastern Europe today. The symposium will be held at Columbia University’s School of International and Public Affairs, Room 1512, located at 420 W. 118th Street and Amsterdam Avenue.
Symposium Agenda

9:00 a.m. Breakfast and Coffee

9:25 a.m. Welcome and Introductions by Tanya Domi, Harriman Institute

9:30 a.m. Dunja Mijatovic, OSCE Representative on Freedom of Media, Keynote Address

10:15 a.m. Panel I: Free Media & Soft Censorship in South Eastern Europe

11:45 a.m. Panel II: Media Space & Ownership, Censorship Exerted by Political & Business Interests in Southeastern Europe

1:15 p.m. Conclusions, Tanya Domi

Panel I: Free Media & Soft Censorship in Southeastern Europe?
Moderated by Marija Sajkas, journalist and Head of Operations for the Media Diversity Institute.

Speakers:

- Milka Tadic Mijovic, U.S. correspondent, The Monitor
- Lily Lynch, Co-Founder and Editor, The Balkanist
- Aida Cerkez, AP Bureau Chief, Sarajevo; President of the Board of Directors, Center for Investigative Journalism (Sarajevo)
- Rosemary Armao, Associate Professor of Journalism, University of Albany at SUNY

Panel II: Media Space & Ownership, Censorship Exerted by Political & Business Interests in Southeastern Europe
Moderated by Jasmin Mujanovic, Visiting Scholar, Harriman Institute, Columbia University

Speakers:

- Rosemary Armao, Associate Professor of Journalism, University of Albany at SUNY
- Erol Avdovic, United Nations and US correspondent, Dnevni Avaz daily
Keynote Speaker Bio

Dunja Mijatović, OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media

Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe - OSCE

- Expert in human rights, media law and regulation, regulatory and policy framework and institution building in transition states particularly for the media in a complex post-war society. Extensive experience in new technologies with the emphasis in digitalization, convergence and Internet technologies.

Dunja Mijatović, who was appointed OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media in early 2010, is an expert in media law and regulation from Bosnia and Herzegovina. In 1998, as one of the founders of the Communications Regulatory Agency of Bosnia and Herzegovina, she helped create a legal, regulatory and policy framework for the media in a complex post-war society. She was also involved in setting up a self-regulatory Press Council and the first Free Media Helpline in South East Europe.

In 2007 she was elected President of the European Platform of Regulatory Agencies – EPRA, the largest media regulators’ network in the world. She held this post until her appointment as the OSCE Representative. She has chaired the Council of Europe's Group of Specialists on freedom of expression and information in times of crisis, during which the CoE Committee of Ministers adopted the Declaration by the Committee of Ministers on the
protection and promotion of investigative journalism and Guidelines on protecting freedom of expression and information in times of crisis. Mijatović has written extensively on “new media” topics. She also has served as a consultant on projects relating to media regulation and new technologies in Europe, North Africa and the Middle East. Mijatović is a graduate of the University of Sarajevo. She has a M.A. in European Studies, 2002, awarded by the University of Sarajevo, the University of Sussex, the University of Bologna and The London School of Economics
Master’s Thesis: The Internet and Freedom of Expression

The OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media observes media developments in all 57 OSCE participating States. She provides early warning on violations of freedom of expression and media freedom and promotes full compliance with OSCE media freedom commitments. Learn more at www.osce.org/fom, Twitter: @OSCE_RFoM and on www.facebook.com/osce.rfom.

Speaker Bios

- **Rosemary Armao** an Associate Professor of Journalism, University of Albany at SUNY. For more than 32 years she was a reporter and editor at various wire services and newspapers. She has trained journalists and worked on media development projects throughout Eastern Europe and Africa. She is a former Executive Director of Investigative Reporters and Editors and former President of the Journalism and Women Symposium. Currently, she is an advisor to the Organized Crime and Corruption Reporting Project and is an advisor and editor at the Center for Investigative reporting, based in Sarajevo, Bosnia-Herzegovina.

- **Erol Avdovic** is an award-winning journalist from Sarajevo and author professionally based in New York since 1993. He is an author of two books. Avdovic served two terms as President of the United Nations Correspondents Association (UNCA). Avdovic is currently United Nations and US correspondent for "Dnevni avaz" daily from Sarajevo where he contributes commentaries and regular weekly column. He was US and UN contributor to radio and TV outlets in Bosnia, Croatia, Macedonia, Montenegro and Germany (Deutsche Welle and WDR Radio). Avdovic reporting has been cited by the New York Times and has appeared on Al-Jazeera International and Al-Jazeera Balkans as an analyst of UN and Balkan affairs.

- **Aida Cerkez** is a writer, manager and editor with 20 years’ experience in covering the Balkan region for major international media organizations. She was born in Sarajevo, Bosnia-Herzegovina in 1962, and grew up in the former Yugoslavia and Germany. Aida Cerkez became chief of the Associated Press (AP) Sarajevo bureau in 1994, while the Bosnian capital was under siege.
She assumed responsibility for the AP's coverage of the ongoing conflict in words and images, as well as managing logistics and security for more than and dozen local employees in three field offices, and for visiting correspondents. In 1995, Ms. Cerkez won the Associated Press' Gramling Award for best managed media operation. In 2005 Cerkez joined the board of directors, where she is now the president of the Center for Investigative Journalism, based in Sarajevo.

- **Tanya Domi** is an Adjunct Professor of International and Public Affairs at Columbia University’s School of International and Public Affairs and is an affiliate faculty member of the Harriman Institute. Ms. Domi is also a Fellow with the Emerging Democracies Institute based in Washington, D.C. She teaches human rights in the Western Balkans. Prior to her faculty appointment at Columbia in 2008, Domi worked internationally for more than a decade on issues related to democratic transitional development, including political and media development, human rights, gender and sexual identity issues and human trafficking. She was the chair of the OSCE’s Media Experts Commission in 1998, while serving in the OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina. She is currently writing a book on the emerging LGBT human rights movement in the Western Balkans.

- **Lily Lynch** is the publisher, co-founder and editor-in-chief of Balkanist since it launched in the fall of 2013. She ran the magazine when it was still headquartered in Belgrade, Serbia, and has continued to run it with the help of a small but trusted international team after Balkanist moved to Odessa, Ukraine in May 2014. She was educated at UC Berkeley and the London School of Economics.

- **Milka Tadic Mijovic** is the U.S. correspondent for the Monitor, an Independent Weekly (based in Montenegro and the first independent media outlet there) [Ms. Mijovic has been a target of actions by the Montenegrin government and was named as one of the “100 Information Heroes” by Reporters Without Borders];

- **Jasmin Mujanovic** is a Visiting Scholar at the Harriman Institute and a PhD candidate in political science at York University in Toronto, Canada. His dissertation concerns the development of the state in the Balkans, in particular, Bosnia and Herzegovina. He is also an editorial board member and policy advisor of the Culture Shutdown civic initiative and a Fellow and Social Media Director at the Emerging Democracies Institute (EDI).

- **Marija Šajkaš** is Head of Operations for the Media Diversity Institute. She has over 20 years of experience working as a journalist and editor with a focus on inclusive reporting. She has contributed to various Yugoslav and international media outlets including NON, Politika Ekspres, Zena, Nezavisne Novine, Blic and Vesti. During and after the wars in the former Yugoslavia, she worked as a Press Officer for International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), as an Editor of Serbian page of news website One World Net, and as a Deputy-editor in Chief of multilingual (English, Bosnian, Croatian and Serbian) The Bridges Magazine produced by UN Stabilization Forces in Bosnia. After
coming to the US, Mrs. Šajkaš worked as a Balkan media consultant and the researcher for organizations such as *International Commission for Transitional Justice* (ICTJ) and the *Center for War, Peace, and the News Media* at New York University (NYU), and as a foreign correspondent to the *Reporter* magazine (Bosnia and Serbia) and *Status* Magazine (Serbia). She also worked as a program coordinator for a New York based CBO *Reconciliation and Culture Cooperation Network*, focusing on the Balkans and women’s issues, and as a senior associate of health advocacy in the *New York Immigration Coalition* (the NYIC) overseeing a community development projects.

- **Jorgen Samso** is a journalist specializing in the Balkans. Before joining Columbia University in 2014, he was based in Belgrade covering the Balkan region for Scandinavian media outlets and working for The Balkan Investigative Reporting Network (BIRN). As a multimedia foreign affairs correspondent with The National Danish News Agency (2007-2013) he reported from the Kosovo, Albania, Bosnia, Serbia and the rest of the Balkan region as well as from Eastern Europe. Mr. Samso works for The Delacorte Center for Magazine Journalism and is currently writing a long form narrative profile on Serbian Prime Minister Aleksandar Vučić.