

FATIGUE

Comparative Analysis Workshop

11 June 2020

ESR 10 - TIRIL ELLINGSEN THUE
WORK PACKAGE 4



Anti-Semitism in the post-Yugoslav space: the case of Croatia and Serbia

Research aims

- To investigate the increase, the changing nature, different manifestations of anti-Semitism through a comparative approach between Serbia and Croatia
- Contributions to research on anti-Semitism and populism in the specific context of these post-Yugoslav states
- Contributions to contemporary research on the lack of comparative historical research on anti-Semitism in Europe
- Collaboration with other ESR's

Current stage of research

LITERATURE REVIEW

- Clarification of theoretical concepts and definitions
 - Populism in the post-Yugoslav states
 - Party politics – no classic left-right spectrum
 - “Illiberal regime with populist tendencies” – characterised by low levels of institutional trust, lack of independence of the judiciary system, lack of transparency and media freedom
 - Radical and extreme right
 - Clerico-fascist groups
 - Neo-nazi groups

RESEARCH STRATEGY

- Comparative historical analysis
- Document and text analysis
 - Official statements, documents and media appearances of Serbian and Croatian Church
 - Fanzines, media websites, media appearances and manifestos of extreme / radical right-wing groups
 - Legislation on discrimination and hate crime
 - Available statistics; hate crime and discrimination (ODIHR), public opinion polls
 - Historical text books
- Interviews
 - The Jewish community
 - Members of extreme / radical right-wing groups and left-wing groups
 - Members of the Serbian Orthodox Church and Croatian Catholic Church
 - Scientists and experts working with Anti-Semitism in post-Yugoslav space

Studying Anti-Semitism

“Antisemitism is a set of negative attitudes, ideologies, and practices directed at Jews as Jews, individually or collectively, but based upon and sustained by a persisting and potentially self-fulfilling latent structure of hostile erroneous beliefs and assumptions that flow from the application of double standards toward Jews as a collectivity, manifested culturally in myth, ideology, folklore, and imagery, and urging various forms of restriction, exclusion, and suppression” (Marcus 2013)

- Anti-Semitism as racism
- Anti-Zionism
- Religious Anti-Semitism
- Anti-Semitism and conspiracy theories
- Anti-Semitism and historical revisionism / Holocaust distortion

Anti-Semitism in the post-Yugoslav space

SERBIA

“The contemporary ideological and political revisionism in Serbia is the result of syncretism between academic revisionism and the revision of the past on the part of state politics, and it is based upon systematic deletion from collective memory and persistent negation and distortion of historical sources, which are discredited as a part of the “ideological times” or “remains of the communist historiography” (Škorić & Bešlin 2017)

CROATIA

Holocaust Revisionist Report (2019) lists Croatia as one of the most problematic countries in Europe in terms of historical revisionism

- Systematic revisionism and distortion of historical past
- Rehabilitation of fascist and collaborator movements during WWII

Main focus of research to be on historical revisionism/distortion/negation, far-right groups and left-wing groups and the role and influence of Serbian Orthodox and Croatian Catholic churches on contemporary anti-Semitism

FATIGUE

- Literature review
- Research Design
- Substantive chapter
- Fieldwork

PhD – enrolment 09/20

- Longer historical trajectory
- Qualitative comparative analysis
- Archival studies

Thank you for your attention!

