

FATIGUE

FATIGUE Meeting

1st-2nd April 2022

SLOBODANKA DEKIC– ESR 13



Research Outline

Aim of the research: to examine potential (and readiness) of local LGBTIQ organizations to substantially challenge conservative, “anti-gender” narratives on the traditional family, and dominant neoliberal family policies in Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia.

Key questions:

- a) How are two family models, i.e. “same sex family” and “traditional family” framed by their advocates: LGBTIQ and “anti-gender” organizations in the respective countries?
- b) Are these two family models conflicted, whether they overlap in some aspects and how?
- c) How these two family models are positioned in the wider context of family reality in these three countries?

Methodology: Interpretative, comparative analysis. **Data sources:** in-depth interviews; media content; relevant documents.

Context of the research

- a) Joint history and circumstances of creating the modern nationhood narratives (Moll, 2016; Vlasisavljevic, 2006; Karacic, Govedarica and Banjeglav, 2012; Calic 2013; Ramet, 2005)
- b) Similar social and economic transition from socialism, with strong social welfare protection and policies, to the impoverished neoliberal peripheries (Mark et al, 2018; Horvat and Stiks, 2015; Radoman, 2015; Deacon and Stubbs, 2007)
- c) Similar development of civil society sector, in the line with “neoliberal variant” (Bilić, 2011, 2015, 2016; Pavlovic, 2006; Dajč and Jarić, 2020; Stubbs, 2007)
- d) Critical demographic situation, with state policies focused on pro-natal policies and increase of birth rate (Reljanovic, 2018; Krek i Vasiljevic, 2019; Vilenica, 2013; Cacic and Levancic, 2018)
- e) Different EU membership status
- f) Different status of legal recognition of same-sex families
- g) Different forms of organizing among conservative, “anti-gender” actors (Dekic, 2020; Zaharijevic and Loncarevic, 2020; Hodzic and Stulhofer, 2017; Hodzic et all. 2012)

Two family models: what is same sex family?

- a) Framed as human rights issue of LGBTIQ persons
- b) Focused on social and economic benefits of registered partners
- c) “Tactical” avoidance of parenthood rights of same sex partners
- d) Same sex partnership laws drafted – adopted as separate laws, with need to be harmonized with other relevant family laws
- e) Narrowed lobbying and advocacy process, focused on current political parties on power
- f) Focus on gay and lesbian partners, living in capital or large cities, with higher economic and social background, living in stable partnerships

Two family model: what is traditional family?

- a) Insisting on the protection of the rights of parents to have control over the upbringing of their children.
- b) Protection of the family and marriage as union between man and woman, and their cultural and biological differences.
- c) Protection of children against promotion of homosexuality and same sex parenthood.
- d) Family as pillar of tradition and survival of our nation.
- e) Exclusive vision of family: heterosexual married couple, with „proper“ national, religious, as well as class background, with children.
- e) Generally disregarding the social and economic aspects of family reality in all countries.

Overlaps and conflicts between 2 family models and actors

- a) No references to the states' official family policies, especially in relation to financial and social support to families with children and women with families.
- b) Fitting into the neoliberal concept of civil society, in terms of organizing (legal entities, donations, nonviolent methods of advocacy and lobbying).
- c) Insisting on being „apolitical“.
- d) Advocating exclusive family models.
- e) Using the human rights narrative.
- f) Lack of/ insistence on contextualization of family model.

Thank you for your attention!

