

# DUBROVNIK DAILY

**Date: Friday the 20<sup>th</sup> of April 2012**  
The Dubrovnik Daily is the official newspaper for all the participants and resource persons of the Dubrovnik Course. All the information presented is checked and double checked. In the case of any complaints, please address the course directors.

*The last (afternoon) edition of the appreciated Dubrovnik Daily! Thank you all for your responses! The editor.*

## **Consultancy as flexible power or consultancy as postmodern concept?**

Paul Stubbs had the first lecture on the last day of the Dubrovnik conference. As a perfect example of the combination between an consultant and a postmodernist: he raised a lot of questions: Is there a dominance of technical knowledge above political knowledge? How are international development consultants 'managed' and how do they 'manage' their activities? What is the relationship between 'charismatic' and 'competence-based' claims in transnational consultancy encounters? How are consultants' abstract ideas of 'reform' or 'change' territorialized in specific 'assemblages in translation'? How is transnational consultancy enacted as a site of the exercise of agency in emerging and flexible spaces of governance, authority and rule?

The answer to all of these question is: the world is complex!

### **Quote:**

*Bart:* 'Future studies are almost as strange as postmodern studies.'



## **From Yugoslavia to Yugosphere**

According to Radmila, the Yougoslav conflict cannot be explained by internal affairs only. She recommended a book by Susanne Woodward: 'the Balkan Tragedy'. This book has an objective approach that includes all aspects of all external actors and their interventions in the history of Yugoslavia. A paper about this theme will be posted on our website as well!

She mentioned three dimensions with which she gave us an insight and understanding in the complex situation in former Yugoslavia. Besides that, she talked about the crucial achievements but also the current challenges of this region.

Due to negative experiences from the past, it is difficult to make large changes in former Yugoslavian region. However, let stick to optimism: if we stop blaming

and shaming and learn lessons from the past, we can avoid a similar case in future!

### **(serious) Quote:**

*Radmila:* 'Facts will release us from history and hate.'



## **The final battle**

Two gladiators in the battle:  
*Frans & Godfried*

Today, just before the synthesizing address of Wieger, two resource persons challenged each other on fortress Europe.

Godfried mentioned several arguments to defend that we need to demolish fortress Europe: it is all about justice, the need for skilled, fresh and young people (braingain instead of braindrain), avoiding the unintended consequences of closed borders and creating

interactions high and low culture of different countries.

Frans completely disagreed with Godfried: according to him, we need borders! We should control, screen and filter the people in order to get in. Besides that, any group has boundaries: even our Dubrovnik course. He emphasized the advantages of borders, for example the ability to control what goes out (in order to help his wife, who searches the European tax-gap). Frans is in favour of freedom, but freedom requires protection.

From an academic view: we need borders, otherwise, we will not be able to talk about inclusion and exclusion anymore. Luckily, both parties agreed upon one position: we should exclude the chair out of the debate!

### **Quotes:**

*Frans:* 'I am an atheist. I do not believe God. First of all, he does not exist. Secondly: Borders only exist in heaven.'

### **Quotes:**

*Godfried:* "Borders are for boys, trying to keep people out of borders, while

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airplanes fly above their heads. It is a gender dimension.'

## To squeeze or not the squeeze? That is the question!

At the beginning of the course, the course directors informed all participants they invited several resource persons with one reason only: to be squeezed! Participants were expected to extract all the knowledge and experiences the resource persons have. Successfully? That is the question! We look forward to the papers you are going to write after this course... But one thing is already certain: the gathering of this diverse and special group of participants and resource persons for the international course on inclusion and exclusion in contemporary European societies was definitely a wonderful and inspiring experience!

### Quote:

*Frans:* 'For this course, we have not picked the people from the streets.'

### Quote:

*Paul:* 'Guilt is a stupid feeling.'



*To squeeze or not to squeeze?*

### Did you know...

... the principle of killing with kindness?  
... analysing a joke is like dissecting a frog? Few people are interested and the frog dies of it.

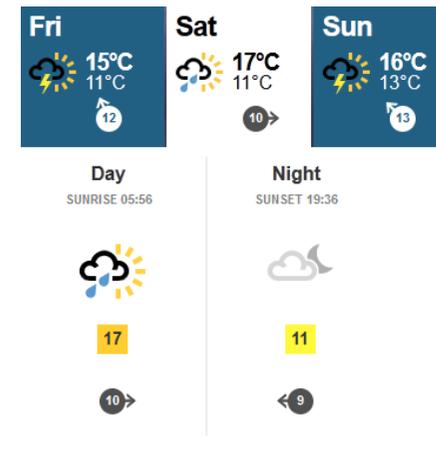
... neo-liberalism is not dead at all after the crisis? At least one thing Brigitte and Paul agree upon.

... when a NATO conference is held in former Yugoslavia, the really hire translators in order to translate between the same languages, even when they decided to speak English to each other?

... consultants are not at all responsible for the work they do, and that they are expected to ask a fee?

### Weather forecast

The weather gives us an additional argument to come back to Dubrovnik another time. However, we have seen the sun today, neither a postmodernist nor a futurist is able to predict the weather of tomorrow. Next time, we will organise a course in summer and skip the academic programme each day!



**ADVICE OF THE AFTERNOON:**  
Enjoy your last moments in the city of Dubrovnik and please stay in touch! We will use our website, e-mail, Linked-In and Facebook to communicate. All seasoned participants and resource persons, can stay in touch making use of pigeon (definitely an example of culture high in the air).

## GOODBYE!



*Fortress Europe?  
Dubrovnik definitely is...*