Intergroup Contact Theory and Albanians’ Attitudes toward Greeks: Ethnicity, Fear, Class, and Exposure
Part of IERES’ Visiting Scholar Roundtable Series

with

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Intergroup contact theory claims that, under certain conditions, contacts help to reduce prejudices among members of different groups. We test the contact theory for the first time in the Balkans, examining the case of Albanians contacting Greeks after a half century of communist isolation motivated by rational migration calculations rather than emotional preferences. We argue that contacts precede prejudice reduction in this case. We find strong evidence that contacts have helped Albanians feel warmer toward Greeks even though most of those contacts took place in conditions of intergroup social inequality. Three control cases help to reinforce our findings: the effect of contacts on Albanians’ feelings toward the Roma and Serbs, and the effect of contacts on Albanian Kosovar feelings toward Greeks. We employ data gathered through public opinion surveys in several Balkan countries in summer 2011.

Thursday, January 12, 2012
4:00-5:00 p.m.
Voesar Conference Room
1957 E Street NW, Suite 412

Please RSVP at http://tinyurl.com/intergrouptheory

This event is on the record