

**24<sup>th</sup> Biennial Conference on Balkan and South Slavic  
Linguistics, Literature & Folklore  
Conference Program**

University of Newcastle, NUspace Campus  
Corner Hunter and Auckland St, Newcastle  
All sessions will be held in X803, level 8 of NUspace

**Wednesday, May 20**

**9:15 – 10:00** Registration (NUspace Ground Floor)  
Morning Tea (NUspace Level 8) (catered)

**10:00 – 10:30** Conference Opening (NUspace Level 8 – X803)

**Session 1: The Balkan Sprachbund**

**Chair: Robert Greenberg, University of Newcastle**

**10:30 – 10:55** Brian Joseph, Ohio State University

Variation with ND Clusters in Greek and in the Balkans: Some New Perspectives

**10:55 – 11:20** Andrey N Sobolev, Philipps-Marburg University (Zoom)

Functional Grammar of the Balkan Sprachbund: Current State of the Project

**11:20 – 11:45** Bill Palmer, Jaime Hunt and Nika Zoričič, University of Newcastle

The Assignment of Grammatical Gender to English Loan Nouns in Three Balkan Languages

**11:45 – 13:25** Lunch (self-catered – see appendix for lunch options)

**Session 2: Language and Culture**

**Chair: Mojca Nidorfer, University of Ljubljana**

**13:25 – 13:50** Bavjola Gami Shatro, University of Mississippi (Zoom)

Religious Persecution and the Rhetoric of Resistance in Communist Albania: Fr. Pjetër Meshkalla

**13:50 – 14:15** Paul Foster, Montana State University Billings

Languages, Cultures, and Coexistence: The South-East European University in Tetovo – Then and Now

**14:15 – 14:30** Afternoon Tea (catered)

### **Session 3: Albanian Linguistics**

**Chair: Brian Joseph, Ohio State University**

**14:30 – 14:55 Lindon Dedvukaj, Ohio State University (Zoom)**

The Dialectal Split of Gheg and Tosk Albanian: A Case of Contact-Induced Phonological Change

**14:55 – 15:20 Tom Kingsley, University of Georgia**

Do You Hear What I Hear: Perceptual Merger in the Albanian Palatal Occlusives

**15:20 – 15:45 Ledio Hala, University of Zurich/University of Regensburg and Dr Olivier Winistörfer, University of Zurich**

Measuring Convergence: A Corpus-Based Perspective on the Making of Standard Albanian

**15:45 – 16:15 Session Break**

### **Session 4: Macedonian Linguistics**

**Chair: Grace Fielder, University of Arizona**

**16:15 – 16:40 Victor Friedman, University of Chicago**

Indexing, Marking, and Agreement: On the Syntax of Obscenity in Macedonian and Other South Slavic Languages

**16:40 – 17:05 Elena Petroska, Montana State University Billings**

Borrowed Pragmatic Markers in Macedonian: From Ottoman *demek* to Global *okej*

**17:05 – 17:30 Marija Pandeva and Boban Karapejovski, University of St. Cyril and Methodius in Skopje**

Through the Codicator's Lenses – Inside Koneski's Archives

**17:30 – 17:55 Motoki Nomachi, Hokkaido University**

Nikita Tolstoj's Unpublished 1949 Study of Žinzifov's Idiolect

## **Thursday, May 21**

### **Session 5: Language Contact**

**Chair: Motoki Nomachi, Hokkaido University**

**9:10 – 9:35 Alexander Novik, Russian Academy of Sciences, and Marina Domosiletskaya, Russian Academy of Sciences**

Blueberry (*Vaccinium myrtillus* L.) in Kosovo: Nominations in Ethnic Contacts

**9:35 – 10:00 Paul Wexler, Independent Research Scholar**

The Spread of Chinese Influences to the Balkans by Jewish Silk Road Merchants (10th–13th Century)

**10:00 – 10:25 Morning Tea (catered)**

### **Session 6: Bulgarian and BCMS Linguistics**

**Chair: Ronelle Alexander, University of California at Berkeley**

**10:25 – 10:50 Grace Fielder, University of Arizona**

The Life of a Linguistic Variant in the History of the Bulgarian Literary Language

**10:50 – 11:15 Eleonora Yovkova-Shii, University of Toyama**

Copular Sentences and Information Structure - A Case Study from Bulgarian

**11:15 – 11:40 Andrea Sims, Ohio State University, and Maria Copot, University of Surrey**

A Large-Scale Lexicon of Bosnian, Croatian, Montenegrin, and Serbian Nouns, with Inflectional Information

**11:40 – 12:05 Bojan Belić, University of Washington**

The Fluid Domain of BCMS Animacy

**12:05 – 13:05 Lunch (self-catered – see appendix for lunch options)**

## **Session 7: Folklore and Language**

**Chair: Ksenia Klimova, Moscow State University**

**13:05 – 13:30 Anastasia Floraki, Democritus University of Thrace (Zoom)**

Dialect Identity and Folklore: The Tinian Vernacular in the Context of Greek and Balkan Oral Traditions

**13:30 – 13:55 Mesut Idriz, University of Sharjah**

History and Influence of Arabic and Islam on Balkan and South Slavic Linguistics, Literature, and Folklore

**13:55 – 14:10 Afternoon Tea (catered)**

## **Session 8: Balkan and South Slavic Literature**

**Chair: Alojzija Zupan Sosič, University of Ljubljana**

**14:10 – 14:35 Evgeniia Shatko, Institute of Slavic Studies, Russian Academy of Sciences**

The Image of (Traumatised) Sarajevo in “Besieged” Literature

**14:35 – 15:00 Isidora Belić, University of Novi Sad (Zoom)**

Mediterranean and the Balkans in the Oeuvre of Vladan Desnica: Auto- and Hetero-Images of Space and Cultural Memory

**15:00 – 15:15 Session Break**

## **Session 9: Balkan Linguistic Practices: History, Society, Data**

**Chair: Gleb Pilipenko, Russian Academy of Sciences**

**15:15 – 15:40 Anna Leontyeva, Institute of Slavic Studies, Russian Academy of Sciences, and Maxim Makartsev, Independent Researcher**

The Ottoman Taxation Cadaster of the 1802 (RGB 186/1/15) as a Source for the Sociolinguistic Situation in the East Slavic–East Romance Borderland: Initial Considerations

**15:40 – 16:05 Ksenia Klimova, Moscow State University**

The Lexicon and Structure of Pomak Calendar Rituals in Greece: A Field Study in the Xanthi Region

**16:05 – 16:30 Elena Uzeneva, Institute of Slavic Studies, Russian Academy of Sciences**

Language and Traditional Culture at the Crossroads: Ethnolinguistic Study of Pomaks in Edirne, Turkey

**16:30 – 16:55 Maxim Makartsev, Independent Researcher**

Adjectival and Adverbial Gradation in the Slavic Dialects of Albania: A Corpus Approach

**16:55 – 17:20 Irena Sawicka, University of Warsaw**

Acoustic Correlates of Albanian Stress

## **Conference Dinner**

**18:30 – 21:30 Customs House**

1 Bond St Newcastle, Customs Hall Function Room

Join us for the conference dinner at Customs House, one of Newcastle's most iconic venues, with the evening to be held upstairs in the Customs Hall function room. Dinner will be served as a set alternate drop menu. Attendees will not be charged for food; however, beverages will be available for purchase at guests' own expense.

Customs House is located a short distance from the conference venue. The quickest way to get there is via the Newcastle Light Rail service, which has a stop just outside of NUspace (Civic station). For attendees wishing to make the journey to dinner together, we would recommend meeting at NUspace just after 6pm and then catching the Light Rail from Civic station to Newcastle Beach station. From there, it is a very short walk to the dinner venue.

You can pay for your journey on the Light Rail with a credit card at the station. You will be required to "tap on" before you enter the vehicle, and "tap off" after you leave the vehicle. This will ensure you are charged the correct amount for your journey.

## **Friday, May 22**

**10:00 – 10:25 Morning Tea (catered)**

### **Session 10: Poetry and Theatre**

**Chair: Paul Foster, Montana State University Billings**

**10:25 – 10:50 Ronelle Alexander, University of California at Berkeley**

Back to the Future: Vasko Popa Revisited

**10:50 – 11:15 Alojzija Zupan Sosič, University of Ljubljana**

Reading a Poem as a Literary Ecology

**11:15 – 11:40 Mateja Pezdirc Bartol, University of Ljubljana**

The Secret Life of Trees in the Theatre Productions of Žiga Divjak

**11:40 – 12:05 Anastasia Usacheva, Institute of Slavic Studies, Russian Academy of Sciences**

The Balkan Wars of the 1990s: The Dramaturgy of Trauma and Memory in the Plays of Matei Vișniec

**12:05 – 13:05 Lunch (catered)**

### **Session 11: South Slavic Languages Beyond the Region: The Australian Context and Other Settings**

**Chair: Andrea Sims, Ohio State University**

**13:05 – 13:30 Jasna Novak Milic, Macquarie University**

Shifting Language Practices in the Croatian Community in Australia

**13:30 – 13:55 Jim Hlavac, Monash University**

Croatian and Macedonian Heritage Language Maintenance and Shift in Australia

**13:55 – 14:20 Teon Djingo and Dragica Popovska, University of St. Cyril and Methodius in Skopje (Zoom)**

Expressions of Cultural Identity: The Macedonian Community in Australia

**14:20 – 14:45 Mojca Nidorfer, University of Ljubljana**

Factors Influencing Motivation to Enrol in Slovenian Language Courses or Studies at Universities Around the World

**14:45 – 15:00 Afternoon Tea (catered)**

## **Session 12: Bosnian and Montenegrin Perspectives**

**Chair: Bojan Belić, University of Washington**

**15:00 – 15:25 Tamara Butigan, University of Auckland and Robert Greenberg, University of Newcastle**

Acceptability Ratings of Doublets in Bosnian: Cognitive and Sociolinguistic Constraints on Language Change

**15:25 – 15:50 Biljana Konatar Weber, University of Kansas (Zoom)**

Changing the Script Order: Preferences for and Attitudes Toward Cyrillic and Latin Scripts in Montenegro

**15:50 – 16:15 Gleb Pilipenko, Institute of Slavic Studies, Russian Academy of Sciences**

Dialect and Contact Features in the Speech of the Descendants of Montenegrin Immigrants in the Argentine Province of Chaco (According to Field Research Data)

**16:15 – 16:40 Lejla Vesković, Ohio State University**

Reimagining Community in Exile: The Russian-speaking Diaspora in Montenegro Following the War in Ukraine

**Saturday, May 23**

**10:00 – 10:25 Morning Tea (catered)**

**Session 13: Aspects of Croatian Language and Identity**

**Chair: Robert Greenberg, University of Newcastle**

**10:25 – 10:50 Chloe Castle, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore**

Are Heritage Language Varieties Influenced by Attrition, Attainment, or Grammatical Borrowing? A Project to Examine Croatian in the Diaspora

**10:50 – 11:15 Monika Batur, Ivana Hebrang Grgic and Jasna Novak Milić, University of Zagreb**

Titles as Paratext in Croatian Diaspora Serial Publications in South America

**11:15 – 11:30 Session Break**

**11:30 – 11:55 Eldina Lovas and Ivan Armanda, Croatian Institute for History and Miroslav Krleža Institute of Lexicography**

The South Slavic World Through the Eyes of a Jesuit Missionary: Bartol Kašić's Missionary Journeys in Eastern Croatia, Bosnia, and Syrmia

**11:55 – 12:20 Anđelko Vlašić and Janja Kovac, Josip Juraj Strossmayer University of Osijek**

Evliya Çelebi as a Source for the Folklore and Linguistics of Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina

**12:20 – 13:00 Closing Reception, Thank You and Closing Remarks**

## **Sunday, May 24**

### **Excursion**

#### **10:30am – 14:30pm Blackbutt Nature Reserve**

Carnley Avenue, Newcastle

Join us for a visit to Blackbutt Reserve, one of Newcastle's best-loved natural attractions, with 182 hectares of bushland, free native wildlife exhibits, walking trails and picnic facilities. The area features native wildlife including koalas, wombats, kangaroos, wallabies, emus and native birds, along with green space and picnic shelters.

A Critter Encounter will be included as part of the visit — a 45-minute hands-on learning experience held in the Wildlife Arena, offering the opportunity to meet, touch and handle some of Blackbutt's favourite animals.

The bus to the reserve from NUspace will leave from the University House King St bus stop at 10:30am for an 11:00am departure, with the return bus departing the reserve at 2:00pm. Light catering will be provided.

If you've already checked out of your accommodation, the conference organizing committee can securely store your luggage while you attend this excursion. Please talk to one of your helpful staff for assistance in organising this.

## Appendix

### Lunch and Coffee Options

- **Mama Ally Espresso (ground floor, NUspace)** – The most convenient on-campus option for a quick coffee, snack or light lunch, with grab-and-go food available right inside the building.
- **The Press Book House (462 Hunter St)** – A cosy café-bookstore directly opposite NUspace, known for great coffee, fresh toasted sandwiches and shelves of books, making it a good choice for a quieter coffee or lunch stop.
- **New Slang Coffee Brewers (480 Hunter St)** – A specialty coffee spot almost opposite NUspace, serving espresso and filter coffee alongside a simple brunch menu and house-baked treats.
- **Civic Lunch Delights (389 Hunter St)** – A handy casual lunch bar focused on fast, fresh and affordable lunches, with sandwiches, wraps, and other quick takeaway options.
- **Subway (1A/317 Hunter St)** – A familiar fast-food option for customisable sandwiches, wraps and salads, good if you want something quick, simple and easy to tailor to your taste.
- **Rascal (Ground Floor, 1/266 King St)** – A popular Newcastle burger spot serving burgers, fried chicken, sides and shakes, with a strong local focus and a more indulgent fast-casual feel.
- **Newy Kebab (315 Hunter St)** – A versatile takeaway option for kebabs, snack packs, burgers, wraps, fish and chips, breakfast and coffee, making it a solid pick for a bigger, more filling meal.
- **Finn Poke Newcastle (352 Hunter St)** – A fresh, health-focused option specialising in Hawaiian-inspired poke bowls made with local produce and sustainably sourced seafood, offering a lighter alternative for lunch. The menu includes signature bowls, build-your-own bowls, sashimi, sides and juices, and the venue is open daily from 11am to 8pm.