The 6th MASN Conference
Borders, Boundaries and Frontiers
Oslinica/Slovenia
August 19-24 2008
Dear MASN-ers!

Our summer is ruined, our holidays are practically non-existent, our nerve-systems can barely stand the tension, ... but we are extremely proud to present you with our first Newsletter. Here you will find some useful information on our forthcoming conference, basically concerning two major questions:

- How to get to the conference venue?
- What can you look forward to?

A) TRAVEL

MASN en route

As majority of places located in the middle of nowhere, Osilnica (more precisely, small village Sela, located 300m out of it) may be reached from a variety of directions: South, West, North, East and many-many more. Do not give up, every chosen possibility offers you many curiosities on the way or just nearby. Your MASN Slovenia Team offers you this incredible menu of choices, as follows, being pretty sure that you will be able to find your own and original way of approaching the conference. You do not need a 4x4 vehicle for making any of the ways described - some of them just need (a considerable amount of) patience, plastic bags for sensitive stomachs, and careful driving. Pay attention to animals, both domestic and wild ones, please. Approaching Osilnica, the road is narrower and narrower, but you will make it. Eventual peasant mechanisation and children (there are many summer camps along the Kolpa/Kupa valley, so there might be scouts or guides on roadsides) may also ask for some special attention.

All of you travelling by buses, trains, airplanes - whenever you will appear at the last station, MASN Slovenia Team will react and pick you up as soon as possible. But remember: although the registration desk will be open throughout 19 August, we have scheduled a welcome drink and dinner for 18:30 (or perhaps a bit later), which will immediately be followed by a special welcome fringe event ... Hence, do not admire natural beauties too long while travelling - majority of the jewels are waiting for you at the end of the journey, as usual.

Bon voyage,

Your MASN Slovenia Team

Special warning for the drivers!

The Slovenian government has adopted a (very questionable!) plan replacing the current system of motorway toll stations for personal vehicles with a toll sticker (vignette) as of 1 July 2008. Similarly to the system in Switzerland, there are (only!) annual and half-yearly toll stickers available. The former costs €55 and the latter €35 for cars, and half the price for motorcycles. You can buy toll stickers at any gas station in the country, as well as before entering Slovenia (this should be an option in Italy, Austria, perhaps even Germany). Penalties for not using them are quite high (from €300 to €800). Moreover, follow instructions for sticking the vignette to your car window very closely, as nice policemen can charge you for that, too (top left corner of your front windshield). If you want to avoid this toll fee, choose regional roads instead of the motorway system (including high-speed roads!).
1.

COMING BY TRAIN TO LJUBLJANA

Get off your coach... Yes, you are on the right station. All those, who travelled last year to the opuszna conference, do not be confused, if something looks too familiar to you: both Kraków and Ljubljana railway stations were made following the very same architectonic plan. Continue walking: do not miss a very unusual and cute little sculpture on the floor on your right side while taking the stairs up. It is dedicated to the great James Joyce who once, while travelling to Trieste, went a bit confused, as well. Both he and his wife namely thought they already reached Trieste, so they got off the train, and poor as they were, spent their night in the bush nearby. - The Ljubljana bus station is located just in front of the main building of the railway one. From this point on, follow the instructions how to continue your journey to Kočevje by bus.

2.

COMING BY PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION VIA LJUBLJANA AIRPORT
(formerly Brnik, now officially “Jože Pučnik” Airport …)

Get yourself on the airport monopoly-holding bus (€4-5) and after approximately 45 minutes, you will land at the central train & bus station in Ljubljana, which is awaiting its new futuristic look, i.e. “Emonika - the multipurpose complex” (see http://www.emonika.si/en - not!). Do some sightseeing, if you are early, or take a bus to Kočevje (see the timetable below).

When in Ko evje, the first possibility is to catch the official bus to Osilnica - it leaves at 15:40 and its final destination is in the “centre” of the Osilnica “city” (arrival 17:03). Continue on foot (in the opposite direction of where you came from) - there is only one road worth mentioning - and after 4 minutes you will enter village Sela. Keep your head turned left and you will notice Hotel Kovač. We are waiting for you at the reception desk. Please note that this official “bus” is in fact a van, capable of transporting about 8-9 people.

The second option is that you wait in Kočevje for our special MASN bus (free of charge) - sponsored by the Integral Ko evje bus company (many thanks!).

VERY IMPORTANT! If you decide for this option, make sure you let us know the approximate time of your arrival to Ko evje as soon as possible! In this way, we can arrange with the bus driver to start his engine when the majority of MASNers are in Ko evje. We will send you the exact time of the MASN bus's departure, as soon as we collect your travel info.

And the third option: if your transport connections somehow fail to work smoothly and on time, and you arrive to Kočevje late and miss our MASN bus, we have a couple of cars and a van on stand-by. Do not worry: we will pick up all latecomers. Those of you, who will have their travel itinerary already worked out in detail and will know in advance that they will be late for the MASN bus, will be informed when the van/car will pick them up at the Ko evje bus station. If you miss the MASN bus by pure coincidence, call one of the Emergency Numbers written below (section C).

| AIRPORT LJUBLJANA - CITY LJUBLJANA (regular) - €4 (buy tickets at the bus cash desk, OR on the bus) - 45 min |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| DEP. | 5.00 | 6.05 | 7.00 | 8.00 | 9.00 | 10.00 | 11.00 | 12.00 | 13.00 | 14.00 | 15.00 | 16.00 | 17.00 | 18.00 | 19.00 | 20.00 |

| AIRPORT LJUBLJANA - CITY LJUBLJANA (private) - €5 (buy tickets ON the bus) - 30 min |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| DEP. | 5.45 | 6.40 | 10.55 | 12.40 | 14.30 | 16.00 | 17.30 | 18.25 | 22.55 | 00.00 |
**COMING BY PLANE TO RijeKA/Krk AIRPORT (croatia)**

The airport closest to the location of 6th MASN conference is the one of Rijeka (Croatia), located on the Adriatic island of Krk. As there is a variety of cheap flights connected to Rijeka, some of you might choose coming to Osilnica via that airport (http://www.rijeka-airport.hr/index-enq.asp).

Once at the airport, take a bus and get off at the Rijeka central bus station. Then you need to travel to a small town of Delnice (41km). There are buses going from Rijeka to Delnice actually every hour, as Delnice is located on the Rijeka-Karlovač-Zagreb bus route. If you prefer travelling by train, there are also many trains going from Rijeka in the direction of Delnice-Karlovač-Zagreb (see the trains timetable section!).

Once in Delnice, the situation might become slightly complicated, as you need to take another bus (see the buses timetable section!). You may choose between two directions – Čabar or Brod na Kupi. If you find yourself - after some 30km of quite unpleasant mountaineering (by bus) - in Čabar, you are actually 800m from Osilnica. The border crossing is not an international, but a local one, and it is open non-stop, though. The unpleasant thing of local border crossings is charging couple of tens of cents (€0.80) as a crossing fee; besides, you have to wait for special written permission.

If you decide to travel by bus from Delnice to Brod na Kupi (25km), there is a much better road. Get off in Brod na Kupi, cross the Croatian border on foot, cross the bridge on the Kupa/Kolpa river, pass the Slovenian border control on the other side (Petrina), and immediately, 10m on the left, there is a sign directing you to Osilnica (19km). Call somebody of the MASN Slovenia Team and we shall appear as soon as possible and pick you up. As there is only one bus from Delnice to Brod na Kupi, but it is only a short drive, hitchhiking is also a possibility.

Alternative: if you catch the official “bus” (i.e. van) coming from the direction of Koevje, which stops on the border crossing (the Slovenian side) at 16:18, hop on, and you’ll soon be landing in Osilnica. Take a walk and find us at the reception desk in Hotel Kovač (village Sela)

*Nota bene:* All EU citizens may cross the Croatian-Slovenian border with ID cards only, whereas all the others need valuable passports.

### Train Rijeka - Delnice

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<tr>
<th>departure</th>
<th>00:20</th>
<th>04:30</th>
<th>05:45</th>
<th>07:30</th>
<th>11:15</th>
<th>13:35</th>
<th>15:20</th>
<th>16:55</th>
<th>19:45</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>arrival</td>
<td>01:33</td>
<td>05:48</td>
<td>06:55</td>
<td>08:50</td>
<td>12:24</td>
<td>14:54</td>
<td>16:42</td>
<td>17:58</td>
<td>21:10</td>
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The fare costs 34.70 HRK – approximately 5 euro.

### Bus Delnice - Brod na Kupi

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<tr>
<th>departure</th>
<th>15:25</th>
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(Approximately 15 minutes drive.)

### Bus Delnice - Čabar

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<th>departure</th>
<th>14.15</th>
<th>16.30</th>
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</thead>
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(Appproximately 90 minutes drive.)
4. COMING BY CAR VIA RIJEKA

If you find yourself in Rijeka by car, follow these directions: leave Rijeka on the E61/E65/A7/3/8 motorway and drive in the direction of Rijeka/Iscot/Rijeka-istok. Keep driving on the motorway E65/A6 and after 46 kilometres, you will come to the exit Brod na Kolpi/Delnice - you will pass Bobovo and Hreljin bridges, the Tuhobi tunnel, the Bajer bridge, the Sleme tunnel, the Golibinjak bridge, and finally - the Sopa tunnel. When in Delnice, continue in the direction of Brod na Kupi. Enter Slovenia at the Petrina border crossing. Once on the Slovenian soil, make a sharp turn left (only metres from the border crossing!) towards Osilnica, then follow instructions from chapter 6, paragraph 3.

5. COMING BY PLANE TO ZAGREB AIRPORT (CROATIA)

Take a bus/train to Delnice (116 km). From there, follow previous instructions (CHAPTER 1).

BUS ZAGREB - DELNICE

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<th>05.30</th>
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<tr>
<td>Arr</td>
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<td>18.45</td>
<td>19.55</td>
<td>21.55</td>
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The fare costs are between 96 and 114 HRK - approximately 13.50 - 16 euro.

TRAIN ZAGREB - DELNICE

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>departure</th>
<th>01:05</th>
<th>04:06</th>
<th>09:13</th>
<th>11:34</th>
<th>15:34</th>
<th>16:48</th>
<th>20:02</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>arrival</td>
<td>01:10</td>
<td>06:50</td>
<td>08:07</td>
<td>12:45</td>
<td>13:32</td>
<td>17:15</td>
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</table>

The fare costs 71.40 HRK - approximately 10 euro.

6. COMING BY CAR VIA ZAGREB

If you have a car and are coming to Osilnica from Zagreb - follow these instructions: you have to drive along Jadranjska Avenija in the direction of the motorway. You have to continue along the E65/A1 motorway and drive in the direction of Pula/Rijeka. You will be driving on the E65/A6 motorway and after you will pass the tunnel Veliki Gloac, bridge Zeeve Drage than again two tunnels Ro man Brdo and ardak and than another bridge Zalesina you have to take the exit Brod/SLO/Delnice. After you exit the motorway and pay the toll (42 HRK - a little less than 6 Euro), turn right and head towards the city of Delnice and enter Slovenia on the border crossing Brod na Kupi. The border is located on a bridge; having crossed it, you have to turn left at a crossroad and continue on the regional road for another 19 kilometres. You have to pass the village of Kuželj and Ribjek and the next village is Osilnica. And now, you are only 300 metres away from your welcome drink! (Village Sela, hotel Kovac).
7. COMING BY CAR FROM THE WEST (ITALY) - DIRECTION EAST

Avoid Ljubljana, as it will be enough opportunity to hang around over there during EASA days and nights. Much shorter – and more beautiful – way is as follows: when you pass the city of Trieste and cross the state border, drive on A3 and then take the A1 highway (direction Ljubljana). Leave the A1 highway on the exit called Unec, located couple of kilometres after the town of Postojna. Pass small towns of Rakek, Cerknica, go on towards Stari trg pri Ložu, then follow the direction of Prezid.

Pretty soon, you will cross the Croatian border, and once in the town of Čabar, you will enter Slovenia again. After this last crossing, you will find yourselves only 800m of our MASN location (village Sela, Hotel Kova – cannot miss it). And believe us, you will surely not regret the ride, as some of the natural jewels of Slovenia are located nearby (nice Carst area and the “vanishing” Lake of Cerknica, for instance)! The road is a regional one, all the way wide enough and in a perfect condition.

Nota bene I: All EU citizens might cross Croatian-Slovenian border with ID card only, all the others need valuable passports.

Nota bene II: As border crossings with Croatia on the route just described are not international, but local ones, the police officers will ask you for a modest crossing fee: couple tens of cents (€0.80) per capita only. You need to wait for a special written permission, as well.

8. COMING TO MASN BY CAR FROM THE NORTH (AUSTRIA) - DIRECTION SOUTH:

When passing (or leaving) Ljubljana, you will find yourselves on either A1 or A2 highways, then on the H3 ring. Firstly, follow the signs directing you south: Novo Mesto, Zagreb, Croatia, but you need to pay attention: some 5km out of the centre (or after exit to the centre of Ljubljana), you need to leave the highway and continue your ride on the regional road. Direction: Kočevje.

Pass Ribnica, Kočevje, and then choose direction Delnice, Croatia. The international border crossing is actually the bridge over the river of Kolpa/Kupa and will appear soon after you might notice a sign announcing a small town of Kostel. The crossing is called Petrina/Brod na Kupi. Do not cross it! Just couple of metres before border objects turn right towards Osilnica.

Drive on for another 19 kilometres. The road is pretty narrow, but in a good condition. Take care, as there might be some cyclists, tractors, and other local mechanisation on the road! Pay attention to animals, wild and/or domestic ones, please! If you are very lucky, you might meet not only a deer, but also a brown bear or even a Lynx lynx (wildcat) nearby. You will easily find the MASN conference location 300m outside the village of Osilnica. The village is called Sela, your temporary accommodation - Kovač.

Nota bene I: All EU citizens might cross Croatian-Slovenian border with ID card only, all the others need valuable passports. But note again – do not cross the border, if coming from the north!
9.

COMING TO MASN HITCHHIKING

This way of travelling is still quite safe in Slovenia, although "post-socialistic" values might offer you some time spent on still hot roads of the late August. The Slovenian population is obsessed with cars, so do not be surprised, if certain types of vehicles (most of them brand new) do not fit certain types of people driving by. Besides listening to some sporadic bullshit or too loud square-minded music (what a choice!) while sitting next to the driver, nothing happens most of the time. Having in mind that a majority of the Slovenian population is of peasant origin, you might even tolerate eventual stupid remarks and generalised opinions about your country of origin. "My car is my only world," namely says an infamous Slovenian proverb. Last but not least, there is right-wing government over Slovenia after more than 70 years, so people could be confused, for they apparently still need more time to get used to it. A driver showing self-confidence actually does not mean so much over here, as it is more or less connected with some outer factor that has nothing to do with the person himself/ herself.

B) COMING EARLY, LEAVING LATE

If you arrive to Ljubljana (or elsewhere) earlier than 19 August due to (non) available travel options, let us know the exact date and time of your arrival. We will accommodate you at our homes. Anyhow, we will be leaving for Osilnica already on 18 August, so you can either go there with us (if you are already in Ljubljana), or you come to Osilnica by yourself (if travelling via Croatia, for example) – see upper transport options. The same goes for departure dates. If you do not stay for EASA, but have to spend another night or so in Ljubljana, we will find you a place to sleep. If you do stay for EASA, but have your flight (etc.) later than 30 August, we will do just the same.

C) PROGRAMME

At the bottom of this Newsletter is the programme, finally. If you are having trouble reading it (due to the very dense schedule, we will have to endure in those 5 days), just print it out, and it should be easier to read.

As some of you will notice, we had to change your status from "paper presenter" to "workshop organiser". This is the consequence of majority of you applying for the paper section. If this is true in your specific case and you do not agree with our authoritarian, but benevolent move, please let us know.

Major differences between a paper and a workshop are in the time you have for your thing (paper: 20 min presentation + 30 min discussion; workshop: 90 min), as well as in the form of your presentation. Workshops offer more creativity and greater involvement of the audience (which is by the way smaller than in the paper section, since there are 3-4 workshops running at the same time), but it is entirely up to you to decide how you will conceptualise your own workshop.
D) EMERGENCY CALLS

Anuša +386 51 319 420 (has a car)
Eva +386 31 842 916 (solves personal problems)
Helena +386 40 557 635 (has a car)
Janja +386 41 940 395 (has a car)
Lina +386 41 223 650 (is willing to chat just about everything)
Miha +386 31 505 610 (philosopher’s advice)
Sara +386 41 385 264 (can call someone else)
Tea +386 31 523 588 (if you’re stressed out)

E) MASN & EASA

As you all probably already know by now, the 6th MASN conference offers you a possibility to attend the EASA (European Association of Social Anthropologists) conference, which will be held in Ljubljana between 26 and 29 August, organised by our Department of Ethnology and Cultural Anthropology, Faculty of Arts, University of Ljubljana. What will be our role during those intensive days?

- On Monday (25 August), we will have a “rehearsal” at the Faculty of Arts, where most of the EASA workshops will be held. We will meet at 8am, have breakfast and then each of us will locate his or her “own” room, check the infrastructure, technology, locate the person responsible for each floor etc. All MASNers will help the EASA organisers during the conference by being present at workshops and helping solve any problems that might occur during the workshops (technology etc.). You will decide which room you would like to take during our MASN conference (on your preferences as to which topic interests you the most). Our “work” will last for a day and a half, as it seems now, and for the other day and a half, we will be “free”.

- On Monday afternoon, we will have a “student programme” on EASA – we have decided to organise a public “Open MASN ‘Expert Session’”. We will conceptualise this together during MASN.

- On Monday evening, we have a very special MASN Party at Metelkova mesto. But let us keep the details a secret for a while longer …

- On Tuesday (26 August), there is not much work for us, except perhaps at the registration desk. We will only have to set up our MASN poster, which is part of the official “Poster Session” on EASA (see http://www.nomadit.co.uk/easa/easa08/panels.php5?PanelID=439). At certain hours between Wednesday and Friday, some of us will stand next to the poster, attracting EASA visitors to notice our work and ask questions.

- Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday – we “work” and (mostly) listen to the workshops. There are also a plenty of extra evening/night activities organised. Again, we have decided to keep the details a secret – for now …

- In exchange for our help, accommodation for ALL MASNers is free of charge. You will be accommodated at the Beigrad student dormitory (10 minutes bus drive from the Faculty of Arts, or about 20 minutes on foot). Some of you will sleep at our homes. You also get breakfast at the Faculty of Arts every morning at 8am (yes, 8). We are still not sure about lunch.
F) USEFUL LINKS

http://www.movinganthropology.de
http://masnslovenia.wordpress.com
masn.slovenia@gmail.com

http://www.lju-airport.si/eng/default.asp (Ljubljana Airport)
http://www.rijeka-airport.hr/index-eng.asp (Rijeka Airport)
http://www.zagreb-airport.hr/en/index.aspx (Zagreb Airport)

http://www.viamichelin.co.uk/viamichelin/gbr/dyn/controller/Itineraires?strStartCityCountry=1752&strStartAddress=&strStartMerged=Rijeka&strDestCityCountry=1746&strDestAddress=&strDestMerged=Osilnica&choiceType=1&x=42&y=3&ie=UTF-8 (from Rijeka by car)

http://www.viamichelin.co.uk/viamichelin/gbr/dyn/controller/Itineraires?strStartCityCountry=1752&strStartAddress=&strStartMerged=Zagreb&strDestCityCountry=1746&strDestAddress=&strDestMerged=Osilnica&choiceType=1&x=0&y=0&ie=UTF-8 (from Zagreb by car)

http://www.viamichelin.co.uk/viamichelin/gbr/dyn/controller/Itineraires?strStartCityCountry=1752&strStartAddress=&strStartMerged=Delnice&strDestCityCountry=1746&strDestAddress=&strDestMerged=Osilnica&choiceType=1&x=68&y=13&ie=UTF-8 (from Delnice by car)
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<tr>
<td>9:00</td>
<td>Mitróvica – the “Serbian-Albanian” Border</td>
<td>Map and Territory: A Suggestion for a Laboratory on Symbolic/Semiotic Interpretation of Spaces and Places in South Balkans.</td>
<td>Exploring Boundaries.</td>
<td>Elin Grothe</td>
<td>Preparation for EASA</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Boryana Ivanova Raynova</td>
<td>Damiano Gallinaro</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:05</td>
<td>Two Communities Struggle for Identity.</td>
<td>Die besten Falschen Russen: Exploring Diversity and Mutuality in the Russenparteryszenze in Berlin.</td>
<td>Metrosexuality as a Type of Border Personality.</td>
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<td>Extra sleeping time</td>
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<tr>
<td>15:00</td>
<td>ARRIVALS</td>
<td>Bounded Men: Negotiating Masculinities in Ethnographic Research.</td>
<td>Bounded Men: Negotiating Masculinities in Ethnographic Research.</td>
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<tr>
<td>18:30</td>
<td>DINNER</td>
<td>&quot;The City is Nothing.&quot;</td>
<td>Rationality of Politics and People Mobility.</td>
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<tr>
<td>20:30</td>
<td>Permanent Waiting Room (Kitch)</td>
<td>&quot;The City is Nothing.&quot;</td>
<td>Rationality of Politics and People Mobility.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(PHOTO EXHIBITION)</td>
<td>Preliminary Notes on Sagara Group.</td>
<td>Rationality of Politics and People Mobility.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Giovanni Melillo</td>
<td>Elisabetta Campagnola</td>
<td>Rationality of Politics and People Mobility.</td>
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**Open MASN 'EXPERT SESSION'**

**FIELDWORK**