

## Editorial

Over the course of the past five years, academics and students from different universities in the Balkans have established the *Border Crossings Network*. This network aims to develop cross-border co-operation in the field of Balkan studies with an emphasis on the social sciences and humanities by regularly organizing student conferences and other forms of academic exchanges.

Student co-operation is a missing element in the attempt at cross-border understanding and interethnic tolerance. So far the network has organized four conferences in different countries with a total number of participants exceeding three hundred and fifty students and staff members from all over the Balkans.

The idea of organizing a Summer School at the University of Ioannina, where one of the conferences was held, developed within this academic context and was immediately put into practice. The enthusiastic support of University authorities and the municipality of the nearby town of Konitsa gave us the courage to undertake such a task. Thus the first *Konitsa Summer School in Anthropology, Ethnography and Comparative Folklore of the Balkans* took place from July 30th to August 12th, 2006. Nearly one hundred students and more than twenty professional scholars took part in the academic, social and cultural activities.

On the academic level, nine courses were offered covering a wide range of topics - from *Anthropological Understanding of the Balkans and Ethnographic*

*Research in Border Areas to Economic Anthropology and Social Transformation and Music and Dance in the Balkans.* Five lectures were also delivered by visiting academics that addressed a number of relevant issues, such as recent developments in anthropological theory and ethnography of the Balkans. Students also had the opportunity to do fieldwork on both sides of the Greek-Albanian border and present their papers after the completion of their coursework.

The successful outcome of this endeavor has served as a great impetus to further develop the Konitsa Summer School. The edition of an annual became *sine qua non* to such an effort. The zeal shared by the organizers at the close of the first Summer School session inspired us to undertake the task of editing the present volume, meant to be representative of the institution we are trying to establish. Thus the content of this publication is divided into five parts, corresponding to the different academic dimensions of the whole organization. It includes the following essays: lectures delivered by guest professors; articles written by the academic staff relating to the courses offered; papers written by students based principally on fieldwork carried out during the Summer School; presentations of ongoing Ph.D. theses by students; and, finally, the syllabi of the subjects of instruction.

We hope this edition to be not only the Annual of the Konitsa Summer School but, more importantly, a forum for academic dialogue concerning the anthropology of the Balkans open to all Summer School participants, academics and students alike. Our emphasis on the