

International Guest Lecture

Thursday, 27th April 2023
EB-206, 15:00 – 17:00



**Pacing Adult Womanhood:
Young Women, Aspirations, and Expectations in Newly Independent Kosovo**

Guest speaker: Rozafa Berisha, University of Prishtina (Kosovo)



Abstract: In the newly independent state of Kosovo, notions of adult womanhood have been reconfigured along the lines of the nation-state building project and its Europeanising agenda. In much of the state discourses and representations, the ideal female national subject appears as an empowered and Europeanized young woman. Taking an ethnographically informed analysis, this presentation looks at how the redefinitions of the notions and models of adult womanhood have resulted in conflicting expectations and contradictions for young women. The lecture will show that these contradictions often manifest in temporal terms as the idealised pace to adult womanhood is a complex endeavour that intersects with gendered and socio-economics constraints. Therefore, young women attempt to navigate the temporal tensions through social technologies of managing the right kind of movement to adult womanhood. The analysis brings into view both temporal and classed aspects of self-formation, and it links the wider political projections of new national womanhood to the everyday realities of young women.

Rozafa Berisha, PhD (Manchester 2022), is a social anthropologist whose research interests revolve around questions of the state, youth, gender, and the future. She currently teaches at the Department of Cultural Anthropology at the University of Prishtina, Kosovo, and is visiting BU through the Erasmus+ K107 staff exchange mobility programme in April 2023.