



Katja Hrobat Virloget

Born: 1976

Education: university diploma in archaeology in 2003, PhD in ethnology in 2009, Faculty of Arts, University of Ljubljana.

Academic, science-research title: full prof. for ethnology, senior research fellow.

Employment:

Department of Ethnology and Cultural Anthropology, Faculty of Arts, University of Ljubljana: 2004–2009: young researcher; 2009 - researcher/coordinator of the international project Researchers Night 2009 (European Commission).

University of Primorska, Faculty of Humanities (UP FH): from 2010 on.

Pedagogical work:

2004 – 10: assistant on Faculty of Arts, Ljubljana; 2015/16: lecturing The Culture of Architecture and Living.

From 2010: Faculty of Humanities University of Primorska (FH UP) on departments of anthropology, history, archaeology and heritage, and heritage tourism: Selected chapters from ethnology, Time and space in ancient civilizations, Regional ethnographies: Europe, Ethnology of Slovenia, Ethnology of Europe, Migrations, globalisation and transculturality, Historical anthropology, Between Archaeology and Ethnology, Intangible Heritage, Concepts of Heritage Management and Presentation, Ethnological Heritage.

Mentor of doctoral dissertations (2, 2 in course), masters (7), diplomas (16); 2 master awarded by University award (2023).

International pedagogic work: Guest lecturer on Faculty of Arts, University of Zagreb 3 months (2017-2018). Lectures on foreign universities: University of Jordan (23.-28.5.2023, 4 lectures), University of Genova (4 hours 5.10.22); University Alpe-Adria, Klagenfurt, Austria (2.6.22); Vilnius University (16.3.22); Urgench university, Uzbekistan (4 lectures in 2021); Zagreb-Croatia (2 lectures 23.3.16; 27.5.19), Paris-France/EHESS (23.1.19); La Laguna-Spain (3 lectures in May 2019); Beograd-Serbia (2.12.14); Besançon-France (22.10.2010); Skopje-Macedonia (2005). Course Methodology of Heritage Research in Bosnia and Herzegovina on three universities (Sarajevo, Tuzla, Banja Luka; 108 academic hours) - international project Tempus IV – BIHERIT (2012/13–2013/14). Lectures in Vrgorac, Croatia in the frame of INTERKRAS (Long Life Learning Program ERASMUS-IP, 2012, 2013). Active in European university alliance Transform4Europe (10 universities).

Scientific work (2005-16): 2 scientific monographs (and one translated in English), 30 scientific articles, 1 review article, 29 scientific chapters in monographs, 53 registered citations in WOS.

Bibliography:

https://bib.cobiss.net/bibliographies/si/webBiblio/bib201_20250819_100545_a23640163.html

Interests: Since her post-doctoral project on the taboo topic of Istrian exodus her main research area is anthropology of memory, population transfers, besides topics of intangible heritage, beliefs, interdisciplinarity.

Her recent book *In the silence of memory. "Exodus" and Istria* (in Slovenian) received a big echo in wider public and received several awards. It was published by an internationally renowned publisher Berghahn books, Oxford, New York in English. In process is the publication in Italian by BEE.

Her successful scientific activity is evident in the fact that she is currently leading two research projects and a programme: Ethnography of Silences (2023-26) financed by the Slovenian National Agency of Research and Innovation and RE4Healing: Crossborder Remembrance, Reconnection, Restoring, and Resilience (CERV-2024-CITIZENS-REM-HOLOCAUST); programme Heritage as an Object and Reflection of Social Processes (ARIS P6-0460, 1/1/2025 - 12/31/2027); The fact that she is successfully transferring the results of her scientific activity to the wider public is evidenced by the highly successful and award-winning project Mythical Park (INTERREG V-A: Slovenia - Croatia), which was developed on her initiative and based on her research on the mythical landscape in Rodik.

Awards:

- *Golden Plaque of the University of Primorska* (2023) for a group of UP FH colleagues for the establishment of a *UNESCO Chair of interpretation and education for enhancing integrated heritage approaches*;ž
- *Excellence in Research Award 2022* by the Slovenian Research Agency for the book *In the silence of memory* (2021).
- *Murko's prize* by The Slovenian Ethnological Society for the book *In the silence of memory* (2021);
- *Award for scientific excellence of the University of Primorska* (2021);
- as part of the team of Mythical park *Honorary Valvasor prize* for a special presentation of the narrative tradition by the Slovenian Museum Association (2021);
- *Prometeus of science for excellence in communication* (2020) for the idea and realisation of The Mythical park by Slovenian Science Foundation;
- *Bartol Award for Scientific Excellence at the Faculty of Humanities UP* (2020);
- *The Ambassador of the Karst Biosphere Reserve* in the Human and Biosphere Program (UNESCO) (Škocjan Cave Park, 2014);
- *Valvasor's honorary award 2006* for the exhibition the Škocjan Cave Park (UNESCO);
- *Prize of the Faculty of Arts* of the University of Ljubljana in 2008 for Claude Lévi-Strauss centennial tribute exhibition and contribution to the organization of the EASA international conference.

Managment functions, skills:

Vice-dean for research of the Faculty of Humanities UP (2021-2025);

Head of the Department of anthropology and cultural studies FH UP (2020–).

Member of the group of 5 researchers who applied and lead *UNESCO Chair of interpretation and education for enhancing integrated heritage approaches* in collaboration with Škocjan Park (2021-).

Head of Institute for Intercultural Studies UP FHŠ (2017–21).

Vice-head of the Department of anthropology and cultural studies (2016–), of Department of Archaeology and Heritage FH UP (2014–15).

Convenor of 20 international/national conferences, panels, and round tables:

- Panel: *Ethnography of silence, Unwriting : SIEF2025 : Aberdeen, Scotland, June 3–6 2025. Aberdeen: International Society for Ethnology and Folklore.*
- International workshop "Trauma and Ethnographic Fieldwork", University of Primorska, Faculty of Humanities, Koper, 29-30 January 2024.
- Round table on *Voices from Silence (Silence, Trauma and People's Memories) : closing event of the project My Story from Silence, FONDA, Pavel (discussant), LUSA, Stefano (discussant), HROBAT VIRLOGET, Katja (discussant), Koper, Small Lodge under the volta of the Pretorska palace, 20.5.2023.*
- Round table. *Border's heritage : migration, memory, (in)visibility : international workshop in the framework of "Interpret Europe Conference 2024: Sustainability: Challenging mindsets through heritage interpretation, Koper, Univeristy of Primorska, Faculty of Humanities, 23.3.2024".*
- *The place of absence and the spaces of the absent: the legacies of the 20th century (de)population movements in Europe and beyond, Paris, CERI, 24. - 25. 3. 2022 with M. Baussant, C. Perron;*
- *Trauma and Ethnographic Fieldwork, University of Primorska, Faculty of Humanities, Koper, 29. 1. 2024.*
- *"Old" vs. "new" towns: memories, histories, and heritage after population transfers and border changes, 11.10.2021, Koper; with A. Kalc.*
- panel on SIEF conference (International Society for Ethnology and Folklore; Santiago de Compostela, 14-17.4.19) with N. Škrbić Alempijević, University of Zagreb *Silencing memories: routes, monuments and heritages;*
- international conference *Population transfers and migration control in transnational perspective, Koper, 8.4.19 with A. Kalc, Koper;*
- *Migration experiences and migration control between reality and memory, Koper, 16.04.2018 with A. Kalc;*
- panel *Empowering the silenced memories: Grassroots practices in urban revitalization politics, EASA (European Association of Social Anthropologists), 20-23.7.2016, Milano, with M. Baussant, S. Poljak Istenič;*
- the conference *Minorities and majorities, marginal and dominant groups: mute memories and praxis of co-existence, Ljubljana, 27.5.2016 (Slovenian ethnological society);*
- with C. Gousseff, *CERCEC CNRS, EHESS, Paris, Populations' transfers in 20th century Europe. The case of Istria (Koper, 25–26.4.2014); key-note speakers P. Ther, University of Wien, G. Corni, University of Trento.*
- with S. Poljak Istenič international round table on minorities *Why do we not hear each other? On the relationship between minorities and majorities (Dolenjske Toplice, 9–11.11. 2014).*
- with M. Baussant, *INSHS/CNRS, Paris, the panel Heritage of Silenced Memories on 12th SIEF conference (Zagreb, 21–25 June 2015).*
- with Maribor Art Gallery international conference *Art That Changes the World: politics, society, culture (Maribor, 21.03. 2015), project "Heroes We Love".*
- Round table *Carved memories. Heroes and monuments of the national liberation struggle and socialism (Koper, 26.11.2015) with N. Čebren Lipovec.*

Editorial:

- co-editor in chief of international scientific journal *Studia mythologica Slavica* (Ljubljana, Udine);
- coedited an issue of the journal *Cultural analysis* on silence in ethnography (Berkley);

- (Co-)Edited 7 scientific monographs: *Mythical landscape* (2021; in Slovenian); *Silent memories: minorities between the periphery and the foreground* (2017); *At home but foreigners. Population transfers in 20th century Istria* with Goussef (Paris), Corni (Trento; 2015); *Intangible landscape of Karst* (in Slovenian, in Italian; 2015);
- Editorial Board of scientific journals: Finish *Ethnologia Fennica* (2018–), Italian *Qualestoria* (2017–18), *Studia universitatis hereditati* (2013–), *Slovenska znanstvena zbirka za humanistiko* (2020–), *Arheo* (2007–8).

Recent research projects:

Leader:

Research projects: four leadership of research projects (one of them bilateral), one mentoring of a Marie-Curie project, twice leader of a partner in international projects, participation in 14 other projects:

Leader:

- *ARIS Ethnography of Silences* (J6-50198; 2023-26).
- *RE4Healing: Crossborder Remembrance, Reconnection, Restoring, and Resilience* (CERV-2024-CITIZENS-REM-HOLOCAUST) (1. 3. 2025-28. 2. 2027).
- *ARIS national programme Heritage as an object and reflection of social processes from 2021 onwards.*
- *Bilateral ARRS project with France Past without history and displaced histories of people without traces with Michèle Baussant: CNRS, CEFRES, Paris (2021-2022).*
- *Postdoctoral project The Burden of the Past. Coexistence of the Coastal Population in the Light of the Formation of Postwar Yugoslavia (2011-14); UP ZRS; Z6-4317.*

The subject of study are memory phenomena related to violent and/or silenced pasts related to mass migrations. After the political reorganization of Europe in 1945, North Africa and other former colonial countries, expulsions or massive emigrations of ethnic minorities were performed, which gives a comparative framework of study.

Partner leader in international projects:

- *The Mythical Park* (INTERREG V-A: Slovenia – Croatia), 1.9.18-30.2.21, leader Municipality Hrpelje-Kozina, 7 partners:

The project is the result of a successful transfer of knowledge of the project manager into an application form. On the basis of her research of mythic landscape it was created The Mythical Park as an innovative form of heritage tourism with a permanent exhibition. The project leader for the park creation 2 awards, it was also awarded as the 2nd best thematic route in Slovenia by Tourist Association of Slovenia (2021).

- *Heroes We Love. Ideology, Identity and Socialist Art in New Europe* (Creative Europe), 2015–17, leader Art Gallery Maribor, 9 partners from Central and Eastern Europe:

It researched the controversial topic of socialist heritage of the 20th century European art with the focus on socialist monuments in its historical, political and social context. Result: a monograph, articles, international conferences, art performances, round tables, and workshops;

Mentor of the international project *Marie Skłodowska Curie Action* (MSCA-CAR, Horizon 2020), European Commission, *OCHER - Owners of a Common Heritage. Commons, Environment and Rights in European Mountains (18th - 20th century)*, 2020-21, leader Giulia Beltrametti, phd, phd:

The project research goes beyond the dichotomy man/nature, trying to understand the historical forms of a non-destructive relation of interdependence in social and ecological systems by historical

and anthropological methodology. It investigates the relation between specific historical forms of lands and resources collective management and the current environmental value of those areas.

Research fellow in recent research national projects:

-Hybrid Heritage: Articulations sedimentation and erosion of the religious landscapes in the contemporary contexts, led by Mario Katić, University of Zadar, Croatia, 1/10:2025-29/9/2029.

- *Geodetic marks as material witnesses of the geodetic networks development in Slovenia*, ARIS L2-50090, 10/1/2023 - 9/30/2026, lead by PhD Mihaela Triglav Čekada.

-*Urban Futures: Imagining and Activating Possibilities in Unsettled Times*, lead by Poljak Istenič, ZRC SAZU, 1.11.2020 - 31.10.2023: This pioneering project aims to contribute to the research of urban futures in ethnology in a comparative way between the cooperating countries, Slovenia and Croatia.

-*Migration and social transformation in comparative perspective: the case of Western Slovenia after WWII*, leader Aleksej Kalc, ZRC SAZU, 1.9.2020 - 31.8.2023: The project examines changes in the population and social development of cities on the western edge of Slovenia after WW II and the new demarcation between Yugoslavia and Italy.

-*Inventory, analysis and evaluation of the primary and secondary sources of Slovene researchers on 'the old faith in the region of Soča river'*"; CRP, 2019-21, leader Ragolič, ZRC SAZU: From an interdisciplinary perspective, the project critically analysed the primary material about the "staroverci".

Control of migrations on Slovenian territory Habsburg-Hungary to the independent Slovenia, 2017-20, leader Kalc, ZRC SAZU: The purpose was to explore systems of state control of migration in Slovenia within a historical perspective running from the mid-19th century to the establishment of independent Slovenia.

Small applicative project: *My story from silence*, with psychotherapists, processing traumatic life stories of difficult historical periods from the Italian-Slovenian border. The idea derives from the book of the project leader (2021). Financed by non-governmental organisation Pina, Ministry of Public Administration, 2023.

Expert committees: National Committee for intangible heritage by Ministry of Culture (2022-); Management Board of the Karst drywall construction (2015-18);

University commissions: President of the commission for scientific research FH UP; Member of the UP commission for scientific research (2021-); President (2020-22) and member (2015-20; 2022-) of the Programme Council of Heritage Tourism study; Member of the study commission UP FHŠ (2016-21).