

Sixth Annual McCloskey Lecture



The Mostar Gymnasium

Empty Nation, Empty State: Living Democracy in Post-Dayton Bosnia and Herzegovina

Azra Hromadzic

Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs

Syracuse University

Thursday, October 27/4:00 pm

IMU Walnut Room

A cultural anthropologist with research interests in the anthropology of international policy in the context of peace-building and democratization, **Azra Hromadzic** is the author of *Citizens of an Empty Nation: Youth and State-Making in Postwar Bosnia-Herzegovina* (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2015), which examines the polarizing effects of everyday ethnic divisions in the wake of the devastating Bosnia-Herzegovina conflicts. Her talk will address the unintended consequences resulting from the consociational (power-sharing) model of postwar state inserted into Bosnia and Herzegovina, including the inability of its citizens, especially youth, to knit their society back together after the war. The principal focus of her remarks will be the discourses and practices at play in the reconstruction of the highly symbolic Mostar Gymnasium in the deeply divided town of Mostar, a context that vividly exposes the international diplomatic visions, local ethno-nationalist projects, and ethnicization of everyday life that have congealed to produce an empty nation in Bosnia and Herzegovina.



The annual McCloskey Lecture honors the memory of the late **Frank McCloskey**, who represented Indiana's 8th District in Congress from 1983 to 1995. As a congressman who took a passionate interest in the Balkan conflicts of the 1990s, he withstood the resistance of his party and the White House by persistently advocating for US action to stop the genocide in former Yugoslavia. His efforts spurred US involvement in the diplomatic process that eventually led to the Dayton Accords of 1995. After an unsuccessful re-election campaign in 1994, McCloskey devoted his energies to the cause of ending ethnic strife in the Balkans, making numerous trips to Bosnia and serving the National Democratic Institute as Kosovo Director.

Sponsors: Russian and East European Institute, Institute for European Studies, Department of Political Science, Maurer School of Law, Department of Slavic and East European Languages and Cultures.

Persons with disabilities who wish to attend the lecture and would like to request assistance should contact the REEI office at least one day in advance (812-855-7309 or reei@indiana.edu).