

## **Lecture on “Europe as Europe’s Otherness”**

By

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Europe is construing Macedonia as its otherness, not a part of Europe, but a country yet to be constituted in the European space. For instance, newspaper headlines such as: “Macedonia Arrives In Skopje”; “Europe Shall Aid Macedonia”; “Europe is With Macedonia” witness this notion of Macedonia.

The first part of the talk analyses the European political discourse towards Macedonia through analyzing media releases and press agencies’ reports. These analyses shall display that the image of Macedonia, as transmitted by Western Europe (‘Old Europe’), is in fact an image of ‘Otherness’ of Europe; a place of bloody encounters caused by nationalism, a country of shadows, a country of contradictions, an “operetta written in blood”. The otherness of this part of Europe in relation to Europe, is not limited only to Macedonia, but it encompasses a whole part of the European continent that is construed as otherness, and this part has its specific name-the Southwest Balkans. Of course, such political discourse of Old Europe is immediately getting an appropriate reaction in the Macedonian artistic discourse. Thus, the attitude towards Macedonia and/or the Balkans is reflected in drama (Powder Keg by Dejan Dukovski; Black Hole by Goran Stefanovski), in literature (Camera Obscura by Lidija Dimkovska; The Eight World Wonder by Jordan Plevnes), as well as in political debates which come down not to the question ‘for or against Europe’, but rather to the question ‘Europe now or later/ sometime/ in future’.

The second part of the talk will be analyzing such artistic discourse, i.e. construe this discourse in contrast to the European political standpoint towards the otherness of Macedonia and/or Balkans.