

Abstract:

This master's thesis deals with the geography of the activities and functioning of inclusive groups or organisations in the Republika Srpska, whose political sphere is dominated by an exclusivist ethno-nationalist discourse. The thesis examines non-governmental organizations (NGOs) whose goals are directed towards a more inclusive society in Bosnia and Herzegovina (of which Republika Srpska is a part), to deconstruct the ethno-nationalist narrative propagated by political elites through institutions. The research approach of feminist geopolitics, which focuses on the voices of marginalized groups, contributes to the deconstruction of the dominant discourse. The latter are constrained by the nature of ethno-nationalism, as they do not fit into the paradigm constructed by political elites, especially from an ideological perspective. The thesis also identifies the obstacles and complications that NGOs face in their activities. The research also pays attention to elements of post-nationalism that blur the importance of national boundaries towards a unified society. It uses two qualitative methods to answer the research questions and to achieve its aim: semi-structured interviews and analysis of online texts from the official websites of NGOs and their social networks. The findings revealed that NGOs overwhelmingly tend to embrace a post-nationalist vision of the nation by working to empower marginalized groups and to spread democratic values in an otherwise authoritarian system. This also corresponds with the feminist geopolitics approach, which allows us to look beyond the ethno-nationalist discourse of a unified homogeneous society, thereby showing its diversification and the voices and perspectives suppressed by the regime. Furthermore, it was identified that a certain restriction of the activities of NGOs does not only stem from official institutions, but also from the majority society, which is still largely driven into exclusivist demarcation because of the politics of fear that leads to its expansion. The thesis illustrates more specifically the challenges faced by inclusive organizations in the exclusivist narrative to create a more equitable environment for all groups in society and adds insights into the functioning of ethno-nationalism in authoritarian regimes.

Key words: Republika Srpska, non-governmental organizations, ethno-nationalism, post-nationalism, inclusion