Bridging the Divide? Crossing Borders for coexistence in the divided city of Mitrovica: A narrative ethnography
Anne Kauhanen

The once flourishing and multicultural city of Mitrovica was divided after the Kosovo war along the river Ibar to the Kosovo Serbian and to the Kosovo Albanian side, creating space and opportunities for negating the existence of the other, for manifesting the nationalistic self-images, claim and narratives and for parallel structures without coexistence.

The question posed by this research is whether encounters between the Kosovo Serbian and Kosovo Albania sides beyond the political, ethnical, religious and everyday polarized situation in Mitrovica can take place. In addition, the study discusses under which circumstances these encounters can be involved als also if oder how these (transcultural) encounters can contribute to a peaceful coexistence in Mitrovica in the context of a highly conflicting history. The dissertation attends to emphasize the challenges, and the possibilities of coexistence and of pluralistic society in the Mitrovica. Thefore the research highlights the narratives, experiences and ideas of unique stakeholders from the Mitrovica (civil) society, who keep putting effort in re-uniting Mitrovica.