

*Goals and Methodology: From Bond to Border: The Transformation of the Adriatic in the Nineteenth Century*

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The aim of this paper was to offer an overview on my current research which examines a network of writers and community leaders living in Venice, Trieste, and Dalmatia, who, from the late 1830s to the 1850s, promoted a multinational vision of the Adriatic. This movement, which I have termed Adriatic multi-nationalism, foresaw the mutual development of more than one national community throughout an area where it was believed that at least three of Europe's peoples or nations overlapped. By focusing on six of the most prominent figures in this network, I show the origins of this Adriatic multi-national ideology, how it spread to incorporate activists from different geographical and intellectual climates, and how the ideology transformed from one which posited the Adriatic as a forum for communication and harmonization between Europe's nations to one which defined the Adriatic as a natural "no-man's-land" or buffer zone between different peoples.

In the paper and talk I emphasized the need for greater attention to be paid to early-nineteenth-century actors' sense of territoriality when trying to understand political and economic goals of the time. Through an analysis of early modern, nineteenth century, and twentieth century maps of the Adriatic I tried to show that while the Adriatic has been seen as a border on the geopolitical map of Europe since at least World War II (if not before), in the centuries prior it was seen as meeting point not a divider between peoples and lands. Finally, my presentation demonstrated how nineteenth-century Adriatic agents thought a land (and a world) of overlapping nations could function. For this presentation, I chose one of the more outrageous projects, that of the amateur linguist and Dalmatian politician Stipan Ivičević (1801-1878) and his plan for an *interlingua* between all peoples' languages called "Pangrafia Universale".