

## Folk Studies and Anthropology: Recommended Resources

Faculty: Brent Bjorkman and Kate Horigan

1. *A Problem From Hell: America and the Age of Genocide* by Samantha Power. Explanation: This work has been instrumental for my understanding of the complexities of the Bosnian conflict. There is a chapter on Bosnia but also one dedicated solely to the Srebrenica Massacre. It is a book that is full of historical information on US policy throughout this period and accessible to any reader that has a deep interest in understanding this period. Other chapters include other sites of 20<sup>th</sup> century genocide, including Rwanda, Iraq, Cambodia, Armenia and The German Holocaust.
2. *A Centennial of Bosniaks in America* by Senad Agic. Explanation: This book was given to me by an elder in the Bowling Green Bosnian community after he learned of our project as his way to share his pride in the long history of Bosnian culture in the United States. It covers themes of early migrations (diaspora) to North America as well as the history of community-building, including the creation of federations, societies, and cultural centers and the personalities instrumental in their development. A good work for WKU cohorts before and after the trip to better understanding the migration, settlement patterns and growth trends here in the U.S. and Canada.
3. *Logavina Street: Life and Death in a Sarajevo Neighborhood* by Barbara Demick. By presenting the lives of a set of Bosnians living on one particular street during the three plus year siege of Sarajevo, Author Demick uses an ethnographic approach sharing the intimate unfolding of daily life. This work is engaging and powerful in its visceral approach as we see history through the eyes of those who lived the experience. In my opinion this is also the best (first?) work WKU IYO Bih cohort should read to gain a concise historical explanation for the unfolding conflict over time, between the Serbian, Croatian, and Bosniak groups. This book would also be a great addition to teaching courses in folklore and journalism as it presents the power of one person's work getting to know a community over a long period of time.
4. *Nana's Shoes* by Aisa Softic. Explanation: In this book, Softic, a Bosnian refugee living in Cincinnati, Ohio, tells her family's story of survival during the Bosnian crisis of the early 1990s. When our WKU Bosnian Oral History project first began in August of 2015, I asked our Bowling Green Bosnian cohorts if they could recommend a first-person narrative written by a Bosnian whose story resonated with them. *Nana's Shoes* was the unanimous answer. This work would be a great compliment to my Folk Studies faculty cohorts teaching courses such as Cultural Connections (undergraduate) or Folk Narrative (Graduate course).
5. *Love Thy Neighbor: A Story of War* by Peter Maas. One of the recent oral histories I conducted for our KFP project was with Azmir Hodzic, a Bowling Green-based Bosnian businessman. Prior to our interview he asked me "why is it that, at the beginning of the most intense times of genocide, that the US did not come to the aid of the Bosniak people"? Like most Americans, I did not have a good answer. Peter Maas was a reporter in the early 1990s covering Bosnia who does give a good answer and his book works to shed great light on the complexity of this issue. Maas' approach is journalistic and he helps to unfold to a greater degree.
6. *Dancing Memory: Heritage and the Post-War World-Making in Central Bosnia-Herzegovina* by Maja Lovrenovic. Explanation: Discusses relationships between cultural heritage, as seen in enactments of folk tradition, and post-war identities in Bosnia-Herzegovina.
7. *Cultures of Remembrance in Sarajevo, or the Protracted Search for Multiperspectivity and Integration* by Ljubinka Petrovic-Ziemer. Explanation: Describes expressions of cultural memory, though primarily in institutional rather than vernacular forms, especially regarding the siege of

Sarajevo and the Srebrenica genocide.

8. *Oral Tradition Emplaced in the Landscape: The Skakava Monastery in Bosnia* by Mario Katic. Explanation: Explores the relationships between folklore and community knowledge about places, using a Bosnian case study.
9. A chapter from *Narrating Trauma*, either "Claiming Trauma through Social Performance" by Elizabeth Butler Breese, or "The Trauma of Kosovo in Serbian National Narratives," by Ivana Spacic. Explanation: The first compares dramatic performances of *Waiting for Godot* in post-Katrina New Orleans and post-war Bosnia. The second looks at one of the primary nationalist narratives that Serbians tell about themselves.
10. *Performative Commemoratives: Spontaneous Shrines and the Public Memorialization of Death* by Jack Santino. Explanation: Explains more broadly some of the characteristics of folk commemoration of violent death.