

Job opening: Research assistance during fieldwork in the border area between Croatia, Serbia, and Bosnia-Herzegovina

Are you interested and knowledgeable in migration and the situation at external EU borders in Croatia? Would you like to gain experience in ethnographic research? If so, you might be a good fit for joining this project as a research assistant!

Job description

This research project investigates clandestine cross-border movements between Croatia, Serbia, and Bosnia-Herzegovina, and how gatekeeping of such mobility relates to crime. The goal is to learn more about how people in the border area perceive the role of different actors who control and facilitate clandestine cross-border movements both *into* and *out of* the country, as for example in the form of pushbacks or human smuggling. The research builds on ethnographic fieldwork in Zagreb and in the border area between Croatia, Serbia, and Bosnia-Herzegovina. A research assistant is sought to support the fieldwork, which will take place during May and June 2023.

The research assistance includes:

- Traveling together to the border area between Croatia, Serbia, and Bosnia-Herzegovina during May and/or June 2023
- Translating interviews and informal talks with people in Zagreb and in the border area (from Croatian/Serbian/Bosnian to English, and vice-versa)
- Navigating and explaining the social and local context of the border area

The estimated duration of assistance will be ca. 40-120h during the months of May and/or June, which will be agreed flexibly and arranged based on availability (e.g., to ensure compatibility with other commitments), including the suitable start and end date.

Job requirements

To be a suitable fit for this position, you ...

- Are fluent in either Croatian, Bosnian, or Serbian
- Have a good command of English
- Are familiar with the local context and the situation at the borders between Croatia, Serbia, and Bosnia-Herzegovina
- Are empathetic and feel comfortable engaging with people
- Share solidarity with people-on-the-move
- Are emotionally prepared to engage with a difficult border context, and agree to be confronted with the topic of human rights violations
- Are willing and available to travel to the border area together in May and/or June 2023 (incl. cross-border travels to close-by border towns)

Previous research experience or academic training in topics like migration, borders, or ethnography, as well as knowledge of Arabic, Dari, or Pashtu are a benefit, but not required.

Contract conditions

- The research assistant will be hired on a contract-basis (external contractor, not employee of Tilburg University)
- The research assistant will be paid on an hourly basis
- Costs for travels to the border area and potential accommodation (only for travel-relevant overnight stay) will be covered by the project

Information and application

More information about the project and the vacancy can be obtained from Irina Fehr, I.L.Fehr@tilburguniversity.edu. This project is part of her doctoral research at Tilburg University, Netherlands.

Please apply by sending an email to I.L.Fehr@tilburguniversity.edu no later than 21.04.2023, and include the following documents:

- Letter of motivation
- Curriculum Vitae