Beyond Counting:
Theorizing Minorities across Southeast Europe and Connected Regions

Workshop | 23–24 November 2026 | University of Graz | RESOWI, SZ 15.22

Organizers

Dr. Evelyn Reuter (University of Graz)

Prof. Dr. Florian Bieber (University of Graz)

Contact

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Workshop Programme

Day 1: 23 November 2026 – Exchange & Basics

09:30–10:15 Welcome & Thematical Introduction

10:15–12:00 World Café: Experiences, Expectations, Open Questions

12:00–13:00 Keynote

Alexander van der Haven (University of Bergen):
Does Size Matter? Qualitative Conceptual Considerations on Religious Minorities

14:00–16:00 Panel: Disciplinary Perspectives

Chair: Tatjana Petzer (University of Graz)
Presenters:

- Florian Bieber (University of Graz)
- Klaus-Jürgen Hermanik (University of Graz)
- Andreas Leben (University of Graz)
- Roberta Medda-Windischer (Eurac, Research Institute for Minority Rights)

16:30–17:45 Round Table Discussion: "Defining Minorities Beyond Numbers"

Moderation: Maximilian Lakitsch (University of Graz)
Discussants:

- Emma Lantschner (University of Graz)
- Andreas Leben (University of Graz)
- Felix Schulte (European Centre for Minority Issues)

17:45–18:00 Wrap-Up & Outlook on Day 2

Day 2: 24 November 2026 – In-depth Analysis, Case Studies & Theoretical Framework

09:00–09:30 Practical Reflective Impulse

Klaus Poier (University of Graz):
The Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities: Practical Experiences and Challenges in the Council of Europe

09:30–10:30 Panel: Insights into Case Studies

Chair: Franz Winter (University of Graz)

- Tatjana Petzer (University of Graz): *Turning to Modernity: Sephardic Heritage in Sarajevo*
- Jürgen Pirker (University of Graz): *Austria – Old and New Challenges of Minority and Language Protection*
- Christian Promitzer (University of Graz): The Serbs of Bela Krajina: A Historian's Insight into a Hidden Minority

11:00–12:30 Interactive Poster Session

Moderation: Robert Langer (University of the Bundeswehr Munich)

- Ethan Chandler (Newcastle University): *Local Foreigners or Motherland Kin? Spatial Minoritisation through Ethno-Religious Identity in the Eastern Mediterranean*
- Rebecca Fisch (University of Regensburg): *Before, During, After the War? Continuities of Violence against Roma in Bosnia and Herzegovina*
- Aleksandar Jerkov (EDUCONS University Novi Sad): *Reframing Minorities in Transitional Justice: A Relational Approach to "New Minorities" in the Former Yugoslavia*
- Dragana Prvulović (New Europe College Bucharest): *"There are Minorities, and Then There is Us": Towards a Theory of the Enemy Minority*
- Evelyn Reuter (University of Graz): *A Processual-Relational Analysis of Minority Positions in Interreligious Dialogue: The Case of Contemporary Albania*
- Paula Simon (Heidelberg University): *Negotiating Ethnic and Religious Difference and Belonging: The case of (Romani) Muslims in Western Serbia*
- Eglantina Zyka & Linda Mëniku (University of Tirana): *Ethnic Enumeration in Albania: Comparing the Controversies of the 2011 and 2023 Censuses*

13:30–14:15 Plenary Discussion: Theoretical Frameworks – Synthesis or Diversity?

Reflective Impulse: Alexander van der Haven

14:15–15:00 Conclusion & Outlook