

Marika Djolai (PhD, University of Sussex) is currently a Lecturer in Peace Studies and International Development at the University of Bradford. Her previous role was Senior Researcher and Head of Conflict and Security Cluster at the European Centre for Minority Issues. Dr Djolai holds a PhD in Development Studies awarded in June 2016 for the thesis called 'When the Rooftops Became red Again: Post War Community Dynamics in Bosnia and Herzegovina'. The study draws on 18 months of fieldwork in two small towns, Stolac and Kotor Varoš. Her other degrees include MSc in Anthropology and Ecology of Development from University College London and BSc/ MA in Biology from University of Novi Sad. Her academic interest focuses on post-war community dynamics, peace, minority issues, security and securitisation, informed by extensive ethnographic and qualitative research.

Dr Djolai has participated in numerous international conferences, workshops, and expert roundtables. Her associations and memberships include Europe and the Balkans International Network; British Federation of Women Graduates; Association of Studies of Nationalities, Royal Anthropological Institute, Council for European Studies, British International Studies Association. She conceptualised and was an editor of ECMI Minorities Blog for two years; guest editor at Journal on Ethnopolitics and Minority Issues in Europe and IDS Bulletin. She authored academic articles and book chapters and is a frequent media commentator with more than 40 published pieces and interviews, academic, policy and personal blogs.

Marika's policy work is oriented towards the EU accession of the Western Balkans countries, bilateral disputes resolution, democratisation, and civic engagement. She is a member of the influential Balkans in Europe Policy Advisory Group ([BiEPAG](#)), where she co-authored number of policy briefs and research papers.

She held research and teaching roles at the Institute of Development Studied, was a Visiting Researcher at the Faculty of Political Science in Sarajevo and won a Postdoctoral Fellowship at the Centre for Advanced Studies of Southeast Europe, University of Rijeka. She won prestigious Leverhulme Research Grant with Prof. Justino that funded her PhD.

As an international development expert Marika worked in various roles for global organisations including Eurasia Programme Manager at International Alert, researcher engagements for GIZ, Swiss Development Cooperation, UNDP, UNICEF, the British Council and Global Integrity. Most recently, in the Team Leader/Key Expert role she led "Global Exchange on Religion in Society", a global project implemented by Particip GmbH on behalf of the European Commission, which established global GERIS Network of religious and secular civil society representatives who work on social inclusion and societal resilience. Her geographic expertise cover Western Balkans, Eastern Europe, Central Asia, Africa, Indonesia and the US.

Marika was a co-founder of Charity "Panonija" and NGO "House of Tolerance" in Serbia in 1990s and active member of Civil Society Forum of the Berlin Process since 2015.

She is fluent in South Slavic languages, English and Russian; and speaks Hungarian and German.