**Viktoras Iliopoulos**

This PhD thesis attempts to investigate the construction of national identities of Greek, Albanian and Macedonian communities in all three countries around the Prespa lakes based on people’s narrations, collective memory and evidence from relevant archives (newspapers, local historiography, school material etc.). Furthermore, the construction of their national identity and their perception of the “others” are investigated diachronically, taking into consideration two major events. Firstly, the influence of state nationalisms on constructing identities between 1944-1990. Secondly, the fluidity of these identities in the contemporary framework after the fall of existing socialism in 1990.