

## Serbian Folklore Summer School

6-20 July 2014

University of Novi Sad, Faculty of Philosophy, Department of Serbian Literature, Centre for Folklore Research and Homeland Museum in Knjaževac

### Meaning and Function of Plants and Herbs in Serbian Traditional Culture and Literature

**Length:** 2 weeks

**Working languages:** Serbian, English

**Target group:** All interested applicants from Serbia and abroad can apply. Preference will be given to students (at BA, MA and PhD levels) from the following fields: literature, linguistics, ethnology, ethnomusicology, anthropology, sociology, philosophy, history, journalism, political sciences, tourismology, botanics and similar disciplines.

**ECTS credits: 10**

Those who are not students and do not need the ECTS credits can also apply.

**Thirty applicants will be accepted.**

**Deadline for applications: 15 May 2014**

**Final list of accepted students will be known on 1 June 2013**

**Application documents:** Motivation letter (up to 1000 characters) and short CV in Serbian or in English. The documents should be sent in an email addressed to [zoja@ff.uns.ac.rs](mailto:zoja@ff.uns.ac.rs) (Zoja Karanović) or [tatjanavujnovic@gmail.com](mailto:tatjanavujnovic@gmail.com) (Tatjana Vujnović).

**Summer school fee:** 850 EUR (in Serbian dinars). The fee includes tuition fees, field trip activities, field trip travel, board and lodging, excursions and museums and archaeological sites entrance fees. Some of the applicants can be exempted from paying tuitions fees and board and lodging fees, so please indicate that you would like to be exempted when sending your application.

## DESCRIPTION OF THE SUMMER SCHOOL

1. Theoretical Part
2. Practical Part (Field Research)

### Teachers:

- Suzana Antić, curator of ethnology (Zaječar National Museum)
- Dr Stanoje Bojanin, senior research fellow (Serbian Academy of Sciences and Art, Byzantine Institute)
- Tatjana Vujnović, PhD student (Faculty of Philosophy, University of Novi Sad)
- Dr Jasmina Jokić, assistant professor (Faculty of Philosophy, University of Novi Sad)
- Dr Zoja Karanović, professor (Faculty of Philosophy, University of Novi Sad)
- Milena Milošević Micić, curator and art historian (Homeland Museum in Knjaževac)
- Dr Neda Mimica Dukić, professor (Faculty of Sciences, University of Novi Sad)
- Ljiljana Mihajlović, president of the Association for cherishing tradition - *Izvor*

- Dr Sonja Petrović, assistant professor (Faculty of Philology, University of Belgrade)
- Nataša Polovina, MA, teaching assistant (Faculty of Philosophy, University of Novi Sad)
- Dr Danijela Popović, assistant professor (Faculty of Philosophy, University of Niš)
- PR specialist Aleksandra Savić, Head of Sector for Exhibitions, Education and PR (Natural History Museum, Belgrade)
- Dr Snežana Samardžija, professor (Faculty of Philology, University of Belgrade)
- Dr Biljana Sikimić, senior research fellow (Institute for Balkan Studies, Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts, Belgrade)
- Dr Mirjana D. Stefanović, professor (Faculty of Philosophy, University of Novi Sad)
- Svetlana Čaldović Šijaković, senior curator (The Open-Air Museum *Old Village*, Sirogojno)

### **THEORETICAL PART - LECTURES**

Theoretical part will consist of 25 lectures and will include the basic notions related to the traditional culture. They will also discuss the meaning and function, i.e. the symbolism of herbs in traditional culture. Special lectures will be devoted to the cult and magic of herbs and plants in various rituals (weddings, spring festivals etc.), their function in love magic, as well as to some specific herbs (e.g. rose, *Hipericum perforatum*, *Geranium macrorrhizum*, blackberry etc.) and their characteristics in the traditional culture, according to the old Serbian folk medicine (*Lekaruša*), ethnographic inscriptions and contemporary use of herbs. A special block of lectures will be devoted to the cult of trees and beliefs connected to it, as well as to the influences of those beliefs in folk literature.

The second part of lectures will be devoted to the techniques and methods of field research (preparing of the field, devising the questionnaire, choosing of the informants, methods and techniques of the interview, collecting and preserving of the material).

The third part of lectures will be devoted to the geographical position and the flora of Stara planina, as well as to the historical and ethnological facts which are important for the preliminary introduction to the field where practical part will be held).

### **PRACTICAL PART - FIELD RESEARCH**

The field research will take place on the mountain of Stara planina in the period from 13 to 19 July 2014. The research will include the field conversation with the informants and local herb collectors, and the ethnological-ecological field trips around Stara planina (to the mountaintop of Babin zub) and other places around (Tupižnica, Rtanj). The students will have the opportunity to directly get in contact with different types of herbs at their natural habitats, their effects and the way they are collected, with the goal to find out how to achieve the best results in healing and to preserve the plants. During field work, the students will get help from the members of the Association of medicinal plants and nature lovers and phytotherapists – *Mellisa* from Zaječar and local herb collectors who will organise small herb exhibitions that will be the integral part of the lectures on their effects and use in traditional healing. These will also include the degustation of herbal tea. The students will also get in contact with the locals from the nearby villages that will be visited during the field work. The participants will also visit and get acquainted with several, so called, *trunk inscriptions* in villages Inovo, Balta Berilovac and Vrtovac on the slopes of Stara planina which are very important places in this region. They will then visit the herbal pharmacies in the *Ravanica* and *Temaska* monasteries. During the past several years the monastery pharmacies became famous for their herbal products (tea, balms, tinctures etc.) prepared by the nuns. Finally, the exhibition of

clothes and textile object for home use (weaving and knitting with plant embroidery) from the end of 19th and beginning of 20th century will be organised in Ravna by Mrs Ljljana Mihajlović, the president of Association for cherishing tradition – *Izvor* from Knjaževac.

## WORK PLAN

<b>7-11 July 2014</b>	<b>Theoretical part in Novi Sad</b>
<b>12 July 2014</b>	<b>Leaving for the practical part</b>
<b>13-18 July 2014</b>	<b>Field Work</b>
<b>19 July 2014</b>	<b>Return to Novi Sad</b>

## DETAILED PROGRAMME

### 7 July 2014

8.00-9.00	Breakfast
9.00-10.00	Registration
10.00-11.00	Reception / Opening ceremony
11.00-12.00	Cocktail
12.00-13.30	<b>Introduction to traditional culture of Serbs (<i>Zoja Karanović</i>)</b>
13.30-15.30	Lunch break
15.30-17.00	<b>Exhibition on the topic of Ritual and Magic Use of Herbs during the orthodox religious holiday <i>Ivanjdan</i> (<i>Svetlana Čaldović Šijaković</i>)</b>
17.00-18.30	<b>Plant codes in traditional culture (<i>Jasmina Jokić</i>)</b>
19.00-20.00	Dinner

### 8 July 2014

8.30-9.30	Breakfast
10.00-10.45	<b>Evergreens in folk literature (<i>Snežana Samardžija</i>)</b>
11.00-11.45	<b>Healing under trees (<i>Jasmina Jokić</i>)</b>
13.00-16.00	Lunch Break
16.00-17.30	<b>Strands of immortelle, speargrass and savory (<i>Mirjana Stefanović</i>)</b>
18.00-18.45	<b>Herbs in rituals connected to birth - function and meaning (<i>Tatjana Vujnović</i>)</b>
19.00-20.00	Dinner

### 9 July 2014

8.30-9.30	Breakfast
10.00-10.45	<b>Herbs in myths on demons (<i>Danijela Popović</i>)</b>
11.00-12.30	<b>Symbolism of lilies in Serbian medieval literature (<i>Nataša Polovina</i>)</b>
13.00-16.00	Lunch Break
16.00-16.45	<b>Trees as landmarks in medieval charters (<i>Stanoje Bojanin</i>)</b>
17.15-18.00	<b>Healing power of plants and phytotherapy today (<i>Neda Mimica Đukić</i>)</b>
19.00-20.00	Dinner

### 10 July 2014

8.30-9.30	Breakfast
10.00-13.00	<b>Exhibition and lecture on old fruit species in Serbian culture (<i>Aleksandra Savić</i>)</b>

13.00-16.00	Lunch Break
16.00-17.30	<b>Communion with herbs and herb fruits (<i>Sonja Petrović</i>)</b>
17.30-19.00	<b>Blackberry in Serbian traditional culture and folk poetry (<i>Zoja Karanović</i>)</b>
19.00-20.00	Dinner

#### 11 July 2014

8.30-9.30	Breakfast
10.00-11.30	<b>Traditional beliefs on herbs (field research methodology) I (<i>Biljana Sikimić</i>)</b>
12.00-13.30	<b>Traditional beliefs on herbs (field research methodology) II (<i>Biljana Sikimić</i>)</b>
13.30-16.00	Lunch Break
16.30-18.00	<b>Geographical and historical description of the terrain &amp; flora of Stara planina (<i>Tatjana Vujnović, Zoja Karanović</i>)</b>
19.00-20.00	Dinner

#### 12 July 2014, leaving for the field research

8.00	Leaving for Stara planina field research
12.00-14.00	<b>Visit to the fungi and herbs collectors <i>Carski plodovi</i></b>
14.00-15.00	Lunch in the restaurant <i>Koliba</i> in the valley of the river Grza
20.00	Arrival to the archaeological and ethnological park in the village of <i>Ravna</i> (accommodation)
20.00-21.00	Dinner

#### 13 July 2014, Sunday

8.00-9.00	Breakfast
10.00-12.00	<b>Exhibition and performance of the handmade works with floral motive (Association for cherishing tradition - <i>Izvor</i> (Eng. spring))</b> <b>Lecture on the topic: Floral motive on clothes and objects in the region of the town Knjaževac (<i>Ljiljana Mihajlović</i>)</b>
13.00-14.00	Lunch in the village of <i>Ravna</i>
15.00-17.00	<b>Talk with the herb collector Predrag Sibinović, the exhibition of medicinal plants</b>
17.00-19.00	Free time
20.00-21.00	Dinner

#### 14 July 2014, Monday

8.00-9.00	Breakfast
10.00-13.00	<b>Visit to the archaeological excavation <i>Felix Romuliana</i> near the town of Zaječar and visit to the museum in Zaječar, lecture <i>When in the dream comes... a flower</i> (<i>Suzana Antić</i>) followed by the projection of the ethno-film recorded by <i>Suzana Antić</i></b>
13.30-15.00	Lunch Break
16.00-18.00	<b>Visit to the herb collector from Rtanj</b>
19.00	Dinner

#### 15 July 2014, Tuesday

8.00-9.00	Breakfast, leaving Ravna afterwards
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10.00-12.00	<b>Visit to the Homeland museum in Knjaževac, sightseeing in Knjaževac (tour-guided)</b>
12.30-13.30	<b>Visit to the church in Gornja Kamenica (14<sup>th</sup> century) (tour-guided)</b>
14.00-15.30	Accommodation in village houses at <i>Stara planina</i> , lunch
16.00-19.00	<b>Informant on spot: Vrtovac, Inovo; lecture on the topic of <i>Cult Places and the Cult of Herbs in the Municipality of Knjaževac (incriptions)</i> (Milena Milošević Micić)</b>
19.00-20.00	Dinner

#### **16 July 2014, Wednesday**

8.00-9.00	Breakfast
9.30-11.00	<b>Lecture and the exhibition of herbs in the old school (<i>Balta Berilovac</i>) at the bottom of <i>Stara planina</i></b>
11.00-16.00	<b>Introduction to traditional methods of plant collection and preservation in practice (Association of medicinal plants and nature lovers and phytotherapists - <i>Melisa</i>, lecturer: <i>Živorad Jeremić</i>)</b>
19.00-20.00	Dinner

#### **17 July 2014, Thursday**

8.00-9.00	Breakfast
9.30-13.00	<b>Herbs collecting, helping the herb collector Miloje Golubović from the village of Štrbac</b>
14.00-15.00	Lunch Break
15.00-18.00	<b>Interview with informants</b>
19.00	Dinner

#### **18 July 2014, Friday**

8.00-9.00	Breakfast
10.00-12.00	<b>Interview with the tellers</b>
12.30-13.30	Lunch Break
14.00	<b>Visit to the Temska monastery, its herbal pharmacy, and the interview with the informants</b>
19.00	Dinner

#### **19 July 2014, Saturday**

8.00-9.00	Breakfast
9.00	<b>Return to Novi Sad</b>
	<b>Visit to the Ravanica monastery, its herbal pharmacy, and the interview with the informants</b>