

**Sandra Grudić**

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Shirley and Ralph Rose Fellow, Grudić is conducting a micro historical study of events in a small town in northwestern, Bosnia, Bosanski Novi, during the Bosnian Genocide. The 1990s conflict in Bosnia was characterized by inter-ethnic neighborhood violence between Serbs, Croats, and Bosniaks. Throughout Bosnia, but especially within its smaller localities, the violence that led to mass detention, murder, and expulsion of unwanted ethnic groups was organized and perpetrated by local actors, who, before the war, generally had cordial relations with their neighbors of different ethnicities. One such place is Bosanski Novi (Novi Grad), whose population was evenly split between Serbs and non-Serbs (mostly Muslims and some Croats) before the war, but by 1995, most local non-Serbs were expelled or murdered. The conflict transformed the town from a highly ethnically integrated space to an ethnically homogenous one.

This micro historical study will examine interethnic relations in Bosanski Novi before and during the episodes of neighborhood violence perpetrated by local Serbs against local Muslims and Croats in 1992-1995. The chief aim is to understand how, why, and to what extent amicable neighborly relations between Bosnians of different ethnic backgrounds before the war turned violent during the war. This project will consider three overarching categories of analysis: ethnic socialization before and after 1990 and the role of social identity and social relations in both, the perpetrators' motives and methods of aggression, and prosocial behaviors of some bystanders. The focus will include an investigation of negative cases as Serbs who chose to help their neighbors rather than attack them may reveal additional details regarding the dynamics of neighborhood violence.

Grudić will work on expanding her primary source database for the research of Bosanski Novi. This will include reading existing testimonies, sifting through court records (international as well as local) relevant to the regional and local study of this conflict, as well as establishing contact with some archives in Banja Luka and Sarajevo to locate more preserved records. During the summer of 2020, Grudić conducted interviews via Zoom in the Bosnian language with survivors from Bosanski Novi.