

International Conference

BOSNIA AS A CONTACT ZONE

Sarajevo | 4-6 July, 2025

OPEN CALL FOR PUBLIC REGISTRATION
Audience & Workshops:

Submission and Registration via the QR Code



FONDACIJA
MEYLI
BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

International Conference
BOSNIA AS A CONTACT ZONE

Foundation Meyli

Sarajevo, History Museum of Bosnia and Herzegovina

July 4–6, 2025

FRIDAY, JULY 4

09:30–10:00 Registration

10:15–12:00 Opening Remarks

Shaykh Khaled Bentounès

(Founder and president of the
AISA Foundation)

Emin Lelić (Salisbury University)

Ćazim Hadžimejlić (Founder and president of
the Meyli Foundation)

PANEL 1: ARCHIVES, MEMORY, AND
CULTURAL HERITAGE

14:00–14:20 **Lejla Kodrić Zaimaović** (University of Sarajevo)
Bosnia as a Contact Zone in the Digital World (on the example of prominent Bosnian-Herzegovinian archives, libraries and museums)

14:20–14:40 **Madžida Mašić** (Oriental Institute, University of Sarajevo)
Work on collecting and preserving written Heritage in Oriental languages as a meeting-point: Examples of Franciscan monasteries, madrasas, and tekkes in Bosnia and Herzegovina

14:40–15:00 **Esma Kučukalić** (Universidad Europea de València)
Contested Pasts, Complex Futures: Re-framing post-war Mem-

ory with Constructive Storytelling in Bosnia's Contact Zone

15:00–15:30 Discussion

15:30–16:00 Coffee Break

PANEL 2: ARTISTIC EXCHANGES

16:00–16:20 **Aida Abadžić Hodžić** (University of Sarajevo)
East Meets West in Wood Design: A Bosnian Experience

16:20–16:40 **Rosana Ratkovčić** (University North in Koprivnica)
Dubrovnik Painters in the Medieval Bosnian State

16:40–17:00 Discussion

17:00–17:30 Coffee Break

19:00 Exhibition “Tragom zlatnog cvijeta”

20:00 Dinner

SATURDAY, JULY 5

PANEL 3: POLITICAL AND INTELLECTUAL
CURRENTS

09:00–09:20 **Samuel Stevens** (Ohio State University)
Parallel Lives of Two Ottoman Bosnians: Hasan Kafi al-Akhisari, Gelibolulu Mustafa Ali, and Late Sixteenth Century Ottoman Crisis

09:20–09:40 **Emin Lelić** (Salisbury University)
Governor-generals and Courtiers: Disastrous Entanglements between Center and Periphery

09:40–09:50 Discussion

10:00–10:30 Coffee Break

PANEL 4: SUFISM, MOBILITY, AND AUTHORITY

10:30–10:50 **Saadet Demiroglu** (The Ataturk Institute for Modern Turkish History, Boğaziçi University)
Ottoman Surveillance of Sufi Mobility in 19th Century Bosnia

10:50–11:10 **Nihad Dostović** (Oriental Institute, University of Sarajevo)
Was Münirī-i Belğrādī a Genuine Sufi?

11:10–11:30 **Garrett Davidson** (College of Charleston)
‘Abd al-Ghanī al-Nāblusī and His Treatise on the Validity of Ijāzas Received in Dream Visions

11:30–12:00 Discussion

12:00–13:00 Lunch Break

PANEL 5: IMAGINATION, OTHERNESS, AND IDENTITY

13:30–13:50 **Mohamed Ayub Khan** (McMaster University)
Bosnia in the imagination of the Urdu speaking world

13:50–14:10 **Emin Alzueta** (Director of the School of Foreign Languages in Motril - Granada, Spain)
From Al-Andalus to Bosnia: European Islam and otherness

14:10–14:30 **Amra Pandžo** (International Organization of Migration, IOM UN)
Living Interreligious Dialogue: The Sarajevo Experience and the Bosnian Identity

14:30–14:50 **Haris Dervišević** (University of Sarajevo)
Genius Loci Bosnensis

14:50–16:00 Discussion and Closing Remarks

20:00 Dinner

SUNDAY, JULY 6

09:00 Meeting in front of History Museum of Bosnia and Herzegovina

CULTURAL TRIP

10:30–12:30 Visit to Travnik

13:00–14:00 Lunch

14:00–15:00 Tribute at Ahmići (Commemoration for the Victims of the Ahmići Massacre)

15:30- 16:00 Visit to the Meyli Foundation and Mesudije Tekke, Kaćuni

16:00–17:00 Visit to the Museum “Musa Kjazim Hadžimejlić”, Vukeljići

17:00–19:00 Coffee and Free time, Kaćuni

19:30–21:30 Sema and Zikr Ceremony at the Tekke, Kaćuni

About the Meyli Foundation

The Meyli Foundation is a cultural and educational institution based in Kaćuni, Bosnia and Herzegovina, established with the aim of preserving, researching, and promoting the cultural, artistic, and traditional heritage of the people of Bosnia and the broader cultural region. The Foundation's activities encompass a wide range of initiatives that connect heritage with contemporary expression through art, science, publishing, and education. The Foundation places particular emphasis on nurturing and reviving traditional arts. Through the organization of international workshops, seminars, and cultural programs, the Meyli Foundation contributes to the preservation of crafts and knowledge that have been the cornerstone of cultural identity for centuries.

In addition, the Foundation supports young talents through scholarships, residency programs, and mentorship, with the goal of building a new generation of artists, researchers, and scholars. It actively collaborates with academic institutions, museums, and research and restoration centers both in Bosnia and Herzegovina and abroad.

As part of its mission, the Foundation publishes scientific and professional works, monographs, exhibition catalogues, as well as annual journals and conference proceedings—thus contributing to the documentation and reflection on cultural heritage and the contemporary challenges of its preservation.

The Meyli Foundation also holds a valuable library with over 14,500 titles, a rich manuscript collection in Arabic, Turkish, Persian, and Ottoman languages, the “Shaykh Hafiz Musa Kjazim ef. Hadžimejlić” museum, and a unique collection of 570 artworks by Bosnian-Herzegovinian artists. Through all its activities, the Foundation promotes cultural diversity, education, and the creation of an open space for the exchange of ideas among different artistic and academic communities. It places special emphasis on intercultural dialogue, and the exploration of symbolism, aesthetic values, and cultural expressions that connect the traditions of East and West.

O Fondaciji Meyli

Fondacija Meyli je kulturna i obrazovna institucija sa sjedištem u Kaćunima, Bosni i Hercegovini, osnovana s ciljem očuvanja, istraživanja i promocije kulturne, umjetničke i tradicijske baštine naroda Bosne i šireg kulturnog prostora. Djelovanje Fondacije obuhvata širok spektar aktivnosti koje spajaju naslijeđe i savremeni izraz kroz umjetnost, nauku, izdavaštvo i obrazovanje.

Poseban fokus Fondacija stavlja na njegovanje i obnovu tradicionalnih umjetnosti Kroz organizaciju međunarodnih radionica, seminara i kulturnih programa, Fondacija Meyli doprinosi očuvanju zanata i znanja koja su stoljećima bila temelj kulturnog identiteta.

Pored toga, Fondacija pruža podršku mladim talentima kroz stipendije, rezidencijalne programe i mentorstvo, s ciljem izgradnje nove generacije umjetnika, istraživača i akademskih građana. Aktivno sarađuje sa akademskim institucijama, muzejima i centrima za istraživanje i restauraciju, kako u Bosni i Hercegovini, tako i u inostranstvu. U svom djelokrugu Fondacija izdaje naučne i stručne publikacije, monografije, kataloške izložbe, kao i godišnjake i zbornike radova, time doprinoseći dokumentiranju i refleksiji o kulturnom naslijeđu i savremenim izazovima njegovog očuvanja.

Fondacija Meyli također posjeduje vrijednu biblioteku sa više od 14.500 naslova, bogatu zbirku rukopisa na arapskom, turskom, perzijskom i osmanskome jeziku, muzej “šejh hafiz Musa Kjazim ef. Hadžimejlić”, kao i jedinstvenu kolekciju od 570 umjetničkih djela bosanskohercegovačkih autora. Kroz sve svoje aktivnosti, Fondacija promoviše kulturnu raznolikost, obrazovanje i stvaranje otvorenog prostora za razmjenu ideja između različitih umjetničkih i naučnih zajednica. Poseban akcenat stavlja na međukulturni dijalog, istraživanje simbolike, estetskih vrijednosti i kulturnih izraza koji povezuju tradicije Istoka i Zapada.