

## ATTACHEMENT IN THE STUDENTS FROM THE TOWNS OF THE FORMER SFRY

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**Abstract.** *The motive for research is the assumption about the existence of cross-cultural differences between the young people in the towns of present day different countries (Republic of Srpska, FYR of Macedonia and Serbia), but once collective: SFRY. Having assumed that the transitional occurrences during the nineties had marked differently the generations which grew up at the time, we decided to check the existence of possible differences, based on the available samples in three towns of the former SFRY, in one of the relevant aspects: the quality of attachment.*

*The sample was comprised of male and female students (N=247) from Banja Luka, Skopje and Niš. The instrument for the assessment of the attachment quality (UPIPAV-R, Hanak, 2004) and the List of basic socio-demographic data were applied.*

*The results corroborate the expectation that there are differences between domestic and foreign distributions, warning of the increasing percentage of the subjects with fearful attachment. Furthermore, the results confirm the expectation that there are also differences between the samples in the tested towns. We have tried to interpret the acquired differences in relation to the diversity of the contexts in which the young people grew up.*

**Key words:** *transition, towns of the former SFRY<sup>1</sup>, attachment patterns.*

### 1. INTRODUCTION OR: TRANSITION AS A GROWING-UP CONTEXT

The 1990s were dramatic on the territory of the former SFRY: wars, bombings, inflation. In a few words – suffering and battle for survival. The children who were growing up then are today young people of around twenty years of age. The question which we daily encounter, both as parents and as experts, is: "How much and in what way have the turbulent times marked their development?" Or, to be more precise, where are these young people in the development continuum and how do they solve the development tasks characteristic for their age?

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<sup>1</sup> SFRY: The Socialist Federative Republic of Yugoslavia, existed until the 1990s.

Namely, according to the majority of psychological periodizations of development (Ericsson, 1963), in provisionally normal life circumstances, twenty-year-olds are young people who have mostly worked out the so-called "identity crisis", connected the past with the future, and adjusted the capabilities, interests and tendencies with the surroundings' requests. They should have also worked out the "ideals crisis" and accepted sex, status and ethnic identities. Finally, they should have developed fidelity as a virtue on which to construct marital and family relationships. The theory appropriates all the described processes based on the behavior of the majority of young people in provisionally normal circumstances.

Wishing to find out what happened to young people in Yugoslavia and how the turbulent times affected their development, we decided to test a sample of young people from some of the bigger or capital towns of the former republics of SFRY. We chose Banja Luka, Skopje and Niš, aware of the fact that the transitional occurrences during nineties were much different in these towns and that the differences themselves could be a part of the researched problem. Namely, it is a case of three different former republics of SFRY which took different turns in the nineties: starting with Bosnia (Banja Luka) with its civil, as well as intranational war which lasted for several years, then Serbia (Niš) which was bombarded for months and suffered a fierce inflation, and up to Macedonia (Skopje) in which such dramatic occurrences did not take place, but which endured major consequences in all of the vital functioning aspects after the dissolution of the country.

Of course, not all of the described development aspects could have been tested. The final decision on the research area was influenced by the interests of the researchers, but also by the assumption that the quality of attachment is both an indicator of the early life interactions as well as the basis for the formation of actual partner relationships. Before the showing of the results, it feels necessary to facilitate the following and understanding of the acquired data by a short presentation of the theoretical framework (the attachment theory).

### 1.1. The Attachment Theory

The founder of the attachment theory was the English psychiatrist and psychoanalyst, John Bowlby (1907-1990). Namely, while presenting to the scientific public, in the mid-twentieth century, that a child's need for its mother belonged to the primary, and not secondary needs (which was a part of the psychoanalytical concept of the mother-child relationship), John Bowlby "found" a new term for this relationship: *attachment*. He defined attachment as a specific, asymmetrical relationship which forms in the earliest childhood between a mother and a child and which lasts throughout lifetime. The theoretical argumentation of John Bowlby on the priority of the need for the mother was soon endorsed by empirical, that is, experimental work of the animal psychologist H. Harlow (Zazo, 1980). Based on numerous experiments (let us only mention the most famous of them with just born rhesus monkeys and two surrogate mothers: one a wire construction and the other made of terrycloth), Harry Harlow concluded, just like John Bowlby, in the text "The Nature of Love", that the fulfillment of the need for food did not play an often assigned primary role in the establishment of the affective bond between the mother and the child. Even with the newborns of the earliest age the need for contact and the search for the closeness of the mother go before the hunger. From the birth itself, says Harlow (Zazo, 1980), love does not feed solely on milk!

After defining and establishing the importance of the phenomenon, the followers of the theory have explored the dynamics, that is, the development of attachment, from the birth of a child, through growing up, until the formation of an adult personality. The concept of *internal working model* enables the theory to overgrow the initial "mission" of the interpretation of early relations between a mother and a child and grow into a lifetime development theory. Namely, based on the manners in which a mother reacts to her child's signals (laughter, crying, cooing, etc.), the child forms a so-called internal working model of itself (an image of itself) and internal working models of others (an image of others). These models, relatively unchanged, persist throughout a person's maturing period, influencing the shaping of dominant adult relationships. Mary Ainsworth (1913-1999), the first female researcher of attachment, worked out the first procedure (Strange Situation, Ainsworth, 1978) for the classification of individual differences based on the quality of the internal working model. Upon the basis of this procedure, as well as numerous later procedures and instruments for the assessment of attachment (Cassidy & Shaver, 1999), the initial classification of individual differences has been enriched both with an additional, fourth attachment pattern, and with models of behavior in the later development periods. We will try to present both aspects in the shortest possible form with the following classification:

*Type "A" or avoidant attachment* – Insecure, avoidant babies develop working models of their mothers as consistently resistant throughout their everyday experiences. A mother, therefore, does not react to a child's needs consistently. Therefore, she might be present and care about the child in a certain manner, not connected with the emotions and signals which the child sends. This early emotional deprivation J. Bowlby and the researchers before Bowlby, attached to the separation of a child from its mother, hence it is also known as the phenomenon of *hospitalism*. In the research of Mary Ainsworth (Ainsworth, 1989), for the first time, these symptoms were identified within a formally complete family environment. Taught by repeated experiences of its mother not answering to its needs, a child of this type develops an image of the world as an insecure, unkind place and decides not to send signals anymore and not to expect affection from others. It defends itself by creating a shell, by depending, expecting, but also investing only in itself. If the pattern persists throughout the maturing period, the persons of this type of attachment avoid the closeness with other people (*avoidant* attachment pattern), but reflect the sense of their own value emphasizing the importance of the achieved independence and defensively negating the value of close relationships. They invest in themselves or in material things which will not let them down. They enter partner relationships either rarely and without expectations or often, but superficially.

*Type "B" or secure attachment* – "A secure child has an internal working model of a responsive, reliant parent who can give love and of itself as a being worthy of love and attention and it carries these assumptions as a trademark into all of the other relationships" (Bowlby, 1969). The quality of the early experiences with a mother in the babies with secure attachment can be marked as a consistent availability and responsiveness of a mother to a child's signals. The babies with secure attachment, thanks to the repeated experiences of the mother's emotional responsiveness, become secure with their mothers, that is, develop a model of secure motherly availability. Thus, they form an image of themselves as of beings who deserve love and attention from their mothers, and an image of the world as a secure and comfortable place, in which there is room for them. With trust in the world and themselves these babies grow up into secure children.

They grow up into secure people who are characterized by the ability to enjoy their own autonomy and the satisfying relationships with others. Therefore, the relationships of the secure people are distinguished by trust and readiness for opening. The balance between the need for belonging and the need for autonomy is the quality gained in the childhood.

*Type "C" or ambivalent attachment* – Insecure, ambivalent babies develop a working model of others as inconsistently available. To be more precise, a baby is insecure in the availability of its mother, because the mother reacts selectively to signals. According to the teaching theories, an irregular, unpredictable substantiating regime reflects behavior, in this case attachment. The internal working model is determined by the struggle to which a child must consent, in order to secure for itself the minimum of attention and affection from its mother. The consequences of such working models are manifold: primarily, a baby develops a more expressed emotional attachment to its mother (emotionally dependent, so-called clingy children). Fearing that it will lose its mother, a baby monitors and controls her more. Of course, all this attention directed towards the mother means a lack of attention, interest in the surroundings (a weaker development of exploratory abilities). Some results suggest that there is a connection between the insecure ambivalent attachment and low degree of the development of intellectual capabilities (Cassidy & Berlin, 1994). To sum it up, a baby of this type forms a positive model of others, but a negative model of itself and everything that it does is connected with the futile attempts at bettering the image of its own self.

During the maturing period, if the internal working model does not change due to any circumstances, the individuals of this type try to improve the image of themselves through pronounced closeness in partner relationships. Therefore, we recognize them as symbiotic partners in partner relationships. This pattern is hence most often called *preoccupied* in literature (Feeney & Noller, 2004). Since the internal working model of others is positive, their insecurity searches for a stronghold in their partners, which is sometimes verbalized: "He is so great, but me... I guess I'm worth something when he loves me, if he loves me..." Since the assurances and affirmations of being loved are never really sufficient, they often turn a love relationship into torture, such as: "Do you love me, do you really love me? No, you don't love me." Of course, they control their partners, and of course they are possessive...

*Type "D" or disorganized attachment* – this group did not exist in the initial classifications, but was formed afterwards. Namely, the analyses of the children whose parents were molested (Crittenden, 1989) or suffered from manic-depressive psychosis (Radke – Yarow et al., 1985), showed that some of the children could not have been classified into any of the given categories. That which separated these children was not a new quality, but a different degree of disorganization and disorientation: running towards a wall and leaning against it, as a form of frightened reaction to a stranger, climbing and falling upon a parent's entering the room, stiffness in all movements, stereotypical behavior. The research at the Berkeley University by Mary Main and the so-called "*Charlottesville Studies*" (Ainsworth & Eichberg, 1991), confirm the existence of irrational, unsystematic thinking as a reply to the stress of the parents in type "D" children. Main & Hese (1992) offered an explanation according to which traumatized, chaotic parents preclude their children from forming organized, sensible answers to the situation "problem".

Thus, the children of this type grow up with negative models of both themselves and the world. Most often, this pattern is called *fearful* attachment in adult age. The persons who belong to it are highly dependent on others, because they search for the affirmation of their own value through relationships with others. At the same time, they have negative expectations

from other people, so they tend to avoid closeness, in order to avoid the pain of potential loss and rejection. Therefore, they yearn for closeness, but dare not be close with others. Consequently, their relationships are either rare or chaotic (one-night, under the influence of alcohol, etc.).

Within the described theoretical framework we were interested in the quality of affective relationships, as well as in possible differences in the examinees from the former SFRY territory.

## 2. METHODOLOGICAL FRAMEWORK

### 2.1. The problem and hypotheses of research

The problem of the research could be defined as an attempt at determining the quality of attachment in the samples of students from the towns of former SFRY. Alongside the fundamental problem, a line of specific problems was defined: the comparison of the attachment distributions received in aforementioned towns, the comparison of the attachment dimensions distributions with the distributions from the already conducted domestic researches, and (based on the attempt to reach the attachment patterns through the dimensions) – the comparison of the attachment patterns, both between the towns, and with the distributions gathered in numerous foreign researches.

Defined in accordance with the problem is also the expectation that the distribution of the attachment patterns acquired from the sample of young people who grew up in adverse, that is, transitional conditions will differ from the distributions acquired in the more convenient circumstances in foreign researches. Furthermore, we expect that the distributions of both the attachment dimensions and patterns will differ from town to town of the former SFRY in which the research was conducted, and in accordance with the specific aspects of growing up in those towns.

### 2.2. The Sample

The research sample was comprised of male and female students of the Faculties of Philosophy in Banja Luka, Skopje and Niš (N=247). The sample is not sex balanced. Since it was the case of the Faculties of Philosophy and the Psychology and Pedagogy Departments, there were more female (N=200) than male (N=47) students. The conspicuous imbalance of the sample is the reason for which the results were not treated based on the sex. Unfortunately, due to the sample deterioration, the balancing between the towns was also not achieved (Skopje, N=100; Niš, N=92; Banja Luka, N=55).

### 2.3. The Instruments

The following instruments were used in the research:

- UPIPAV-R, (Hanak, 2004). It is the first domestic instrument that presents the examinee's relation to attachment in seven dimensions. The dimensions are the following: Unsolved Family Traumatization, Fear of Losing the External Security Basis<sup>2</sup>, Negative Working Model of Others, Mentalizing Capacity, Negative Working

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<sup>2</sup> In further text "external security basis" will be signified as ESB

Model of the Self, Use of the External Security Basis and Anger Dysregulation. The metrical characteristics of UPIPAV acquired from the sample N=523, age 20-41:

Table 1 The reliability of the UPIPAV scale

Scale title	N item	Alpha
Unsolved family traumatization	11	.88
Fear of losing the esb	11	.86
Negative working model of others	11	.84
Use of the ESB	11	.83
Negative working model of the self	11	.82
Weak anger regulation	11	.77
Mentalizing capacity	11	.77

- The list of socio-demographic data.

### 3. RESEARCH RESULTS

#### 3.1. The UPIPAV dimensions in the examinees from different towns

Table 2 The seven dimensions of UPIPAV in the examinees from different towns

	Niš		Skopje		Banja Luka		Total		F	Sig
	Mean	SD	Mean	SD	Mean	SD	Mean	SD		
Use of the ESB	61.79	10.785	59.94	10.618	61.25	14.314	60.92	11.58	0.641	.528
Unsolved traumatization	31.80	13.113	31.48	14.599	38.78	10.500	33.23	13.51	6.253	.002
Fear of losing the ESB	45.55	13.988	49.07	11.572	49.09	12.364	47.77	12.76	2.224	.110
Anger dysregulation	32.97	10.749	37.00	10.525	43.42	8.368	36.93	10.86	18.160	.000
Mentalizing capacity	57.01	9.309	60.03	6.486	52.44	13.445	57.21	9.85	11.479	.000
Negative model of others	48.80	12.186	54.18	9.726	47.91	14.524	50.78	12.14	7.008	.001
Negative self	37.97	12.594	32.66	12.650	40.15	10.730	36.30	12.57	8.004	.000

From Table 2 we find out that in relation to the normative sample (Hanak, 2004), the tested young people have a significantly higher *Mentalizing capacity*, which is definitely encouraging. However, the finding that the arithmetic means of the dimensions *Unsolved family traumatization* and *Negative self* are also higher in relation to the normative sample is alarming. Let us mention here that "our" sample differed from the normative in several aspects: the normative sample is sex balanced, the average age of the examinees is higher, and half of the sample examinees have university education.

Also, based on the shown table we learn that the examinees from Banja Luka have more pronounced dimensions *Unsolved trauma* and *Anger dysregulation* than the examinees from Niš (mean diff. = 6.997, sig < 0.005) and Skopje (mean diff. = 7.302, sig < 0.005), and *Negative self* than the examinees from Skopje (mean diff. = 7.485, sig <

0.001). In the examinees from Skopje the dimensions *Mentalizing* and *Negative others* are more pronounced than in the examinees from Niš (mean diff. = 3.019, sig < 0.05; mean diff. = 5.376, sig < 0.005) and Banja Luka (mean diff. = 7.594, sig < 0.001; mean diff. = 6.271, sig < 0.005), while they have more pronounced *Fear of losing ESB* and *Anger dysregulation* than the examinees from Niš (mean diff. = 3.516, sig < 0.05; mean diff. = 4.033, sig < 0.05). The examinees from Niš have only two dimensions more pronounced and these are *Mentalizing* in relation to the examinees from Banja Luka (mean diff. = 4.575, sig < 0.005) and *Negative self* in relation to the examinees from Skopje (mean diff. = 5.307, sig < 0.005).

### 3.2. The relation between the UPIPAV dimensions and attachment patterns

Willing to compare the acquired results with the results from foreign researches we tried to reach the attachment patterns using the cluster analysis. The nonhierarchical K-means method was applied within which we defined four clusters due to the existing four attachment patterns.

Table 3 The cluster analysis of the UPIPAV dimensions

	1	2	3	4
Use of ESB	35	77	32	47
Unsolved trauma	11	45	74	54
Fear of losing ESB	11	73	27	14
Anger regulation	11	65	65	32
Mentalizing	59	35	65	66
Neg. others	17	61	76	42
Neg. self	12	45	17	70

The objectivity of the acquired grouping and the stability of the solution was checked by the discriminant analysis. The results are shown in Table 4:

Table 4 Discriminant Analysis

	Predicted Group for Analysis 1				Total
	1	2	3	4	
Cluster 1	41	0	0	0	41
Cluster 2	2	106	0	5	113
Cluster 3	0	0	16	1	17
Cluster 4	0	0	0	76	76
Total	43	106	16	82	247

The evident overlapping of the cluster analysis results and the predictions of belonging to certain groups guided us towards the next step – the naming of clusters.

The clusters were named in the following manner:

1 – The *secure* attachment pattern. The argument upon which we can take cluster 1 as the secure attachment pattern is the high level of dimensions. Namely, in this cluster the lowest scores are those in dimensions *negative others* and *negative self*, with *weak*

*anger regulation* and *unsolved family traumatization*, which corresponds to the secure attachment pattern.

**2** – The pattern of the so-called *preoccupied* or *ambivalent* attachment easily corresponds to the second cluster which is characterized by the highest scores in the use of *the external security basis*, but also in *the fear of losing* it.

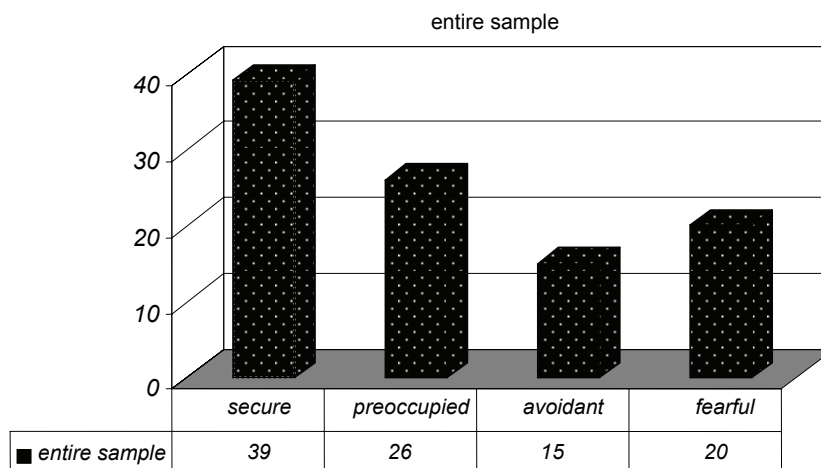
**3** – The *avoidant* attachment pattern. The third cluster could be classified as the *avoidant* cluster also based on the dimensions *Use of the external security basis* and *the fear of losing the external security basis*. Both of these dimensions are the lowest expressed in this cluster. Furthermore, it is characterized by the most positive *image of self* and the most negative *image of others*.

**4** – The *fearful* attachment pattern. The fourth cluster is the hardest to identify. The assumption is that the highest score of the *negative self* could be one of the indicators.

### 3.3. The attachment patterns

The distribution of the patterns in the examined sample is the following:

- The distribution of the attachment patterns

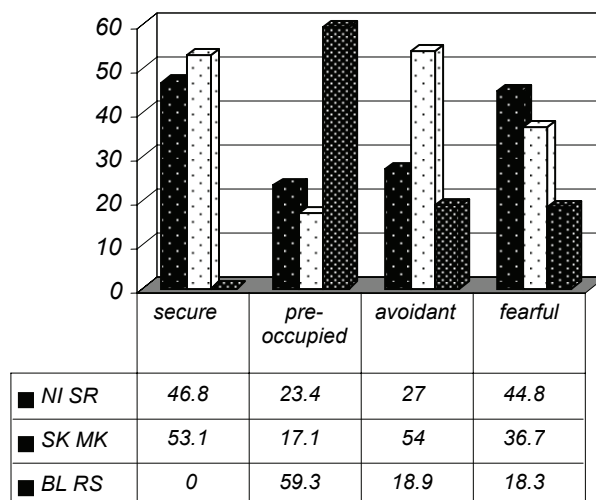


Graph 1 The distribution of the attachment patterns

As it can be seen from the graph, the highest percentage of the young people with *secure* attachment, with a slightly lower percentage of the *preoccupied* attachment pattern is similar to the distributions already acquired in the world (Crowell, Fraley, Shaver, 1999), as well as to some of the domestic researches (Stanojević, 2000). However, the percentage of the persons with *fearful* attachment is higher than usual, and the percentage of the *avoidant* attachment is lower than the expected and already acquired distributions. Before the discussion on the acquired results, let us see whether the distributions differ in the tested towns.



- The distributions of the attachment patterns in the "tested" towns



$\chi^2 = 83.952$   $p < 0.001$

Graph 2 The difference in the distribution of patterns in the towns<sup>3</sup>

Some of the differences seem pretty clear from the graph. First of all, most of the people with the *secure* attachment are from Skopje, then from Niš, while there are none in Banja Luka! As far as the *preoccupied* attachment is concerned, it is most frequent in Banja Luka (maybe because of the danger to which the children were exposed and their parents' efforts to constantly protect them), which is in a way (but not in such a high percentage) similar to the results acquired in, for example, Israeli kibbutzes (Ijzendoorn, Sagi, 1992), while it is the least expressed in Skopje. The *avoidant* attachment is, in fact, most pronounced in Skopje, which might be in accordance with the following of the pro-European trend of children becoming independent early, which could have found new ground only in Skopje since no dramatic war actions took place there. And finally, the most unusual fact is that the majority of people with *fearful* attachment are from Niš! This fact has already been found in some of the domestic researches (Stanojević, 2005, 2007) and has been generally explained by the chaos in which the children grew up during the nineties in Serbia.

#### 4. DISCUSSION

The occurrences in the former SFRY during the nineties, as well as their consequences, have been a subject of many more significant and representative studies. Aware of the disbalance and the unrepresentativeness of the sample we are not even going to try to answer such questions. The discussion will be organized around fundamental research

<sup>3</sup> Legend: NI SR: Niš, Serbia; SK MK: Skopje, Macedonia; BL RS: Banja Luka, Republic of Srpska

hypotheses, and in relation to the towns in which the testing was conducted, but without any pretensions to the generalization of the acquired findings.

The assumption about the differences in the distributions of the attachments in the foreign and domestic researches has been confirmed only partially, which is an encouraging fact. Namely, both in the domestic as in the majority of foreign researches (Crowell, Fraley, Shaver, 1999), the most examinees belong to the *secure* attachment pattern. Next is the *preoccupied* attachment pattern, which is also a fact that can be found in the distributions acquired in Japan, Israel, and some of the African countries (Ijzendoorn, Sagi, 1992), as well as in some of the domestic researches (Stanojević, 2000). The hypothesis on the existence of differences is in fact confirmed by the two remaining patterns: the *fearful* and *avoidant*. Namely, we did not find in any of the available foreign researches that some of the samples had more *fearful* than *avoidant* subjects. This finding can be analyzed in the light of the fact that the growing up of the tested sample was marked by transition.

Much more about the transitional storm tells the information about the confirmed significance of the differences in the acquired patterns and dimensions between the tested towns, that is, the samples from the aforementioned towns.

#### 4.1. Skopje

In Skopje, that is, in Macedonia, unlike in most of the former Yugoslav republics, there were neither wars nor bombings. Even though they felt the economic uncertainty and most of the transitional manifestations, in relation to Niš and Banja Luka, there were no "life endangering" occurrences in Skopje. In accordance with the described situation are the results of the attachment quality assessment. Namely, on the basis of the dimensions of the domestic instrument for attachment assessment, Skopje differed from the other two towns in the more pronounced dimensions: *Mentalizing capacity* and *Negative others*. As far as the attachment patterns are concerned, the so-called *secure* pattern is the dominant in Skopje, more dominant than in other towns. Next in abundance is the *avoidant* attachment pattern. Apart from the fact that this relation of the expressed patterns is characteristic of most of the European countries (Ijzendoorn, Kroonenberg, 1998), it should be emphasized that the number of the examinees who belong to the *avoidant* pattern is bigger than in Niš and Banja Luka. Since the life in Skopje during the nineties was the most peaceful, this data seems expected.

#### 4.2. Banja Luka

During the nineties in the Republic of Srpska, whose capital is Banja Luka, an intranational civil war raged. It is probable that the dominant emotions of parents toward their children, now students, were worry and fear for their lives, which reflected in an overprotective, that is, an overly worrying attitude towards children.

That may be the reason why in Banja Luka (and in relation to Niš and Skopje) the most pronounced dimensions are: *Unsolved family traumatization*, *Weak anger regulation* and *Negative self*. The situation is even clearer if we look at it from the attachment patterns perspective. In Banja Luka, in the tested sample, there are no examinees which belong to the *secure* attachment pattern, the pattern which is dominant in the whole world, but also in the samples from the two other towns! Equally alarming is the fact that in Banja Luka the most dominant pattern is the *preoccupied* attachment pattern, which is also a fact that cannot be found in literature. The parents of the frightened children probably only reacted to

the "life endangering" situations, which fits into the selectively responsive manner of reacting, typical for the formation of the *occupied* attachment pattern. Let us remind ourselves that this pattern was highly pronounced in the Israeli kibbutzes (Sagi, Ijzendoorn, 1992), but also in Serbia (Stanojević, 2000) in a much younger sample. We are left with the monitoring of the younger generations which are growing up in "peaceful" conditions in order to see whether they will contribute to the changing of the distribution of the attachment patterns.

#### 4.3. Niš

Serbia, that is Niš, was certainly not a comfortable place for growing up during the nineties. Although there was no war, like in Banja Luka, the transition was much more dramatic than in Skopje: utter economic uncertainty, inflation, strikes... If we add to this the bombing to which the people of Serbia were exposed to – the image is alarming.

And such are the acquired results. The distribution of the dimensions of the domestic instrument for the attachment assessment in relation to the normative sample, also acquired in Serbia (Hanak, 2004), differs in the increase of the following dimensions: *Mentalizing capacity*, *Unsolved family traumatization* and *Negative self*. The distribution of the attachment patterns is highly specific: after the *secure* pattern, which is the most prominent, comes the *fearful* pattern! This relation between the representation of the attachment patterns is not typical for any of the tested towns, and does not appear in any of the foreign researches results. It is only similar to some of the domestic researches (Stanojević, 2005, 2007), which did not have the same assessment instrument applied. Certainly, it is not possible to conclude further upon such a small sample. However, the results could be warning and become the reason for further research and perhaps intervention measures.

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## VEZIVANJE KOD STUDENATA U GRADOVIMA BIVŠE SFRJ

**Tatjana Stefanović Stanojević, Jasmina Nedeljković**

*Motiv za istraživanje je pretpostavka o postojanju kroskulturnih razlika među mladim ljudima u gradovima danas različitih država (Republike Srpske, Makedonije i Srbije), a nekada zajedničke: SFRJ. Pretpostavivši da su tranziciona dešavanja tokom devedesetih različito obeležila generacije koje su tada odrastale, odlučile smo da u tri grada bivše SFRJ, na dostupnim uzorcima proverimo postojanje eventualnih razlika u jednom od relevantnih aspekata: kvalitetu afektivne vezanosti.*

*Uzorak su činili studenti i studentkinje (N=247) iz Banja luke, Skoplja i Niša. Primenjen je instrument za procenu kvaliteta afektivne vezanosti (UPIPAV-R, Hanak, 2004), i Lista osnovnih socio-demografskih podataka.*

*Rezultati potvrđuju očekivanje da postoje razlike između domaćih i inostranih distribucija, upozoravajući na porast procenta bojažljivo afektivno vezanih subjekata. Takođe, rezultati potvrđuju očekivanje da postoje razlike i između uzoraka u testiranim gradovima. Dobijene razlike nastojale smo da protumačimo u odnosu na različitost konteksta u kome su mladi odrastali.*

**Ključne reči:** *tranzicija, gradovi bivše SFRJ<sup>4</sup>, obrasci afektivnog vezivanja.*

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<sup>4</sup> SFRJ: Socijalistička Federativna Republika Jugoslavija, postojala do devedestih godina prošlog veka.