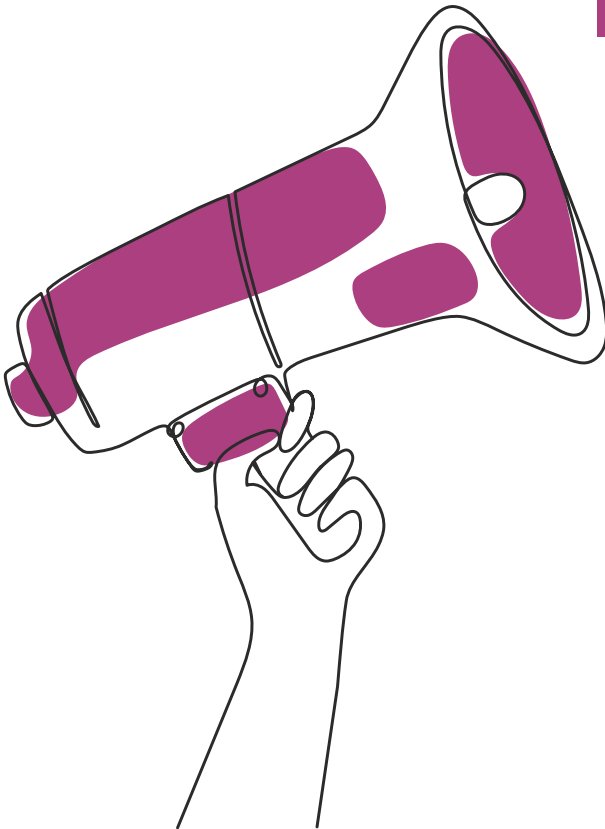




CONFERENCE:

***New Divisions, Struggles,
and Solidarities in South East Europe***

13-14 June 2025



Conference

**New Divisions, Struggles, and Solidarities
in South East Europe**

Belgrade, 13–14 June 2025

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For publisher

Prof. Ivana Spasić, PhD

Editors:

Prof. Milica Vesković Anđelković, PhD
Faculty of Philosophy, University of Belgrade
Milan Urošević, PhD, Research Associate
Institute for Philosophy and Social Theory, University of Belgrade

Reviewers:

Mirjana Bobić, Faculty of Philosophy, University of Belgrade
Dušan Mojić, Faculty of Philosophy, University of Belgrade
Srđan Prodanović, Institute for Philosophy and Social Theory,
University of Belgrade

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<https://orcid.org/0000-0003-0978-0552>

jelena.riznic@hotmail.com

From Medusa to #Metoo: Different Discourses About Sexual Violence and Their Impact on Women Who Have Experienced Sexual Violence Today

This work aims to explore diverse narratives about sexual victimization and their influence on contemporary understandings of sexual violence and its classification within criminal-legal systems. The paper examines pre/anti-feminist narratives about rape alongside the feminist perspective on sexual violence, which has significantly contributed to the criminalization of various forms of sexual victimization. Despite international legal frameworks and recommendations emphasizing the importance of consent in defining sexual violence, much national legislation continues to frame sexual violence through the lens of force and the victim's resistance. This approach conflicts with research findings on the lived experiences of sexual violence survivors. The study employs content analysis and comparative analysis of various sources on sexual violence, as well as an evaluation of their influence on modern legal frameworks regulating sexual violence. Findings reveal that, despite feminist contributions, myths about sexual violence persist, shaping societal and criminal justice responses to women survivors of violence.