

## 2011 Hayward R. Alker Student Paper Award

Presented to Konstantin Kilibarda, York University

for his paper “Clearing Space - An Anatomy of Urban Renewal, Social Cleansing and Everyday Life in a Belgrade *Mahala*”

Konstantin Kilibarda's “Clearing Space - An Anatomy of Urban Renewal, Social Cleansing and Everyday Life in a Belgrade *Mahala*” is a theoretically sophisticated examination of politics in hard-to-see spaces. Training his lens on the Roma of the Gazela Bridge in Belgrade, Kilibarda lays bare the process by which a translocal embrace of neo-liberal economics marks the Roma for displacement to make way for better transport links.

The paper is thoroughly researched: using textual and other evidence, Kilibarda produces a powerful analysis of the discourse of both transnational and local institutions—how they construct the Roma as “passive, defeatist” objects in need of the social improvement policies sponsored by these institutions. At the same time, he reconstructs the voice of the Roma themselves through texts like hip hop lyrics and press conference transcripts.

Lucidly written, the paper showcases the best features of interpretive research--problematizing what otherwise might seem unproblematic, laying bare multiple layers of power relations and their disconcerting consequences, and showing that the outcome only “makes sense” when one considers some very intensely political practices of meaning-making.

For these reasons, we are honored to award Konstantin Kilibarda the 2011 Hayward R. Alker Student Paper Award.

Ido Oren, University of Florida, Chair  
Ed Schatz, University of Toronto  
Peregrine Schwartz-Shea, University of Utah