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Scott Kloeck-Jensen Travel Grant Report  
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I used the funds that I received as part of the Scott Kloeck-Jensen travel grant to perform two weeks of exploratory predissertation research in Bosnia-Herzegovina. I concentrated my research in Sarajevo, where I had the access to spokespersons from the organizations acting in Bosnia-Herzegovina on behalf of the international community. Originally I had planned to stay longer and visit more areas, but budgetary constraints limited my stay. Despite this, the time that I was able to spend in country greatly assisted my dissertation planning and provided me with solid data that I can begin to use in my dissertation proposal and the travel grant writeups that I plan to do this year.

I had originally planned to research the impact of the Zone of Separation (ZOS) on Bosnian-Herzegovinian sovereignty and its implications for the larger body of related research in political geography. The ZOS was a five-kilometer buffer zone that separated the two constituent entities of Bosnia-Herzegovina. It was an area where the actions of local police and military were severely limited, and where international community organizations and agents had extraordinary powers. However, when I arrived in Sarajevo, I learned that the ZOS had become irrelevant in the last two years as a result of political changes and constitutional reforms. The change in the status of the ZOS had not been evident in the archival research I had conducted in the states, and I quickly re-tooled the focus of my research.

Rather than discussing the specific impacts of the ZOS upon the local governments, I attempted to get a larger picture of the contestation between the political parties and the international community actors over the future of Bosnia and the scale at

which power and sovereignty in Bosnia would rest. During the two weeks that I was there I was able to speak with representatives from SFOR (the NATO-led peacekeeping force), the UN mission, OSCE election monitors, and the UN Office of the High Representative, which oversees and encourages political and constitutional reforms in accordance with the Dayton Peace Accords. In addition, I was able to talk with citizens in Sarajevo about their perceptions of the foreign presence in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

With the information I gathered, I determined that I will be able to return in another year to conduct more in-depth research. While the ZOS has disappeared, there is still a struggle between the international community, the central government and the entity governments over the division of power and where sovereignty rests in Bosnia-Herzegovina. These different actors struggle at and between different levels to attempt to realize their particular vision. A case study centered on Bosnia has sufficient material to allow me to address the questions of state sovereignty, scale, the nationalization of territory and the de-territorialization and re-territorialization of identity that occur within the country.

In addition to providing the information to focus my dissertation topic, the time that I spent in Bosnia-Herzegovina improved the language skills that I will need to conduct further research. The opportunity to spend time surrounded by native language speakers who could not understand English gave me the opportunity to practice my language skills in a way that I could not in the US. The two weeks in Sarajevo helped my language skills more than the six-week language course I took in Croatia after the completion of my research.