“It is decided in Brussels for our wishes”: Competing Discourses of Decentralization in Kosovo

Laura Wise, Political Settlements Research Programme
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www.politicalsettlements.org
Decentralization

‘Decentralization means the delegation of executive and administrative powers to local levels of government.’
(Stefan Wolff, 2013: 33)

Devolution, De-concentration and Delegation
(Joseph Siegle and Patrick O’Mahony, 2006: 2)
Decentralization

• Inclusion vs. stability

• Effectiveness as conflict management, challenges of implementation

• Popular policy, global collection of cases
Decentralization, Discursive Exchanges and Signalling

Credit: Levizja Vetevendosje! / Twitter
Decentralization, Discursive Exchanges and Signalling

• Minority-Majority-International bargaining

• Consent and acceptance of decentralization

• Peacebuilding’s local turn
Multi-level Network for Minorities

- Nationalizing State (Kosovo Albanian parties)
- Transnational Actors (EULUX, UN, OSCE, NGOs)
- Ordinary Minorities
- Local Minority Activists (Kosovo Serb Municipal Mayors/Assembly Members)
- External National Homelands (Albania, Serbia)

Adapted from Pickering, 2007: 16
Credit: Varjačić Vladimir
Serb-to-Serb Dialogue

Credit: Srpsko Srpski / Youtube
Ongoing Research Challenges

• Comparable dataset of majority voices?
• Serb-to-*Serb*
• Other, non-Serb minorities in Kosovo
• Studying the local, but from afar
Thank you for your attention!