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Graduate Student Research-Travel Report, Summer 2026

I had planned on going to Europe to conduct research ever since I was accepted into the Master's program at the Institute for European Eurasian and Russian Studies. My topic, the history and development of Serbian Orthodox Schools in the Habsburg lands and the relationship between the Habsburg government and the Orthodox Church, required me to conduct research in Serbia and Austria. There, I was able to access literature and archival materials necessary for my final project. During this trip I was able to access documents in the Austrian State Archives and the Archives of the Serbian Orthodox Church in Sremski Karlovci.

I left Toronto on the 5th of May and traveled to Belgrade, via Zurich. I arrived in Belgrade on the 6th of May. Shortly after arriving, I began working in the National Library of Serbia. There I was able to access pamphlets and older articles on the history of Serbian and Orthodox schooling.

I stayed in Belgrade until the 16th of June. I flew to Vienna and continued my research in the National Library of Austria and the Austrian State Archives. Here, I was able to access literature and other documents related to the Habsburg states and administration that helped deepen my understanding of the period and my topic. In the National Library of Austria, I was able to access the first handbook for teachers in Serbian Orthodox Schools, *Notwendiges Handbuch für Schulmeister der illyrischen nicht unirten Trivial-Schulen in den Kais. Königlichen Erblanden* (Vienna, 1776). I also accessed Johann v. Csaplovics. *Slavonien und zum Theil Croatie*n (Pesth: Hartleben's Verlag., 1819). Both works contain a description of the lands and political structures of the area I am studying.

In the Austrian State archives, I was able to access the government reports and letters relating to the administration of the Serbian people and the Orthodox Church. Particularly, I was able to access the books of record for official acts of the government, including school inspections and the appointment of teachers and supervisors. These documents will help me explain the governing structures in place and how the state interacted and administered Serbian Orthodox schools.

My original return date was the 1st of July; however, I was accepted to participate in a workshop in Riga on the 2nd of July. As such, I worked in Vienna until the 27th of June, after which I worked on my presentation. I returned to Belgrade on the 6th of July. I was given access to the Archives in Sremski Karlovci. There I was able to find visitation reports that showed the state of church buildings and schools. I also found communications between the bishops and the imperial government, as well as edicts and requests to aid the state administration in fulfilling its ambitions, such as an edict that calls upon the Orthodox Church to help convince the people to send their children to the new mandatory schools. I finished my research trip in the archives and flew back to Vienna on the 17th of July, before returning to Toronto on the 21st.

This was my first research trip. It was a complicated and unfamiliar process, and I am very grateful to the Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence for their financial support. Their funding helped me to cover the costs of travel and gave me the time to focus on conducting thorough and quality research. Thanks to the Jean Monnet Centre, I was able to pursue my research. They helped give me the means and support to fulfil my academic research to the best of my ability.