

Petra Roter, Ph.D. (Cantab.) is an Assistant Professor of International Relations at the University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Social Sciences, and a researcher at the Centre of International Relations at the same faculty. She has co-ordinated, with Prof. Elzbieta Stadtmüller (University of Wrocław), JERP 5.1.2 The EU and Eastern Europe, and served on the Garnet Management Committee. Her main research has been on international management of minority issues, i.e. on various international regimes, as established at times of major systemic changes, for managing the so-called 'minority problem' as a complex social conflict.

Petra's current research is on the functioning of the post-Cold War international regime for national minority protection, on the regime's impact in practice (minority-related policies) and on its significance for IR theories (in particular normative theories and institutionalism).

As part of her three-month mobility at the University of Warwick, Centre for the Study of Globalisation and Regionalisation, between September and December 2008, she will analyse two issues. Firstly, the scope of the application of the regime, i.e. its principles, norms, rules and decision-making mechanisms, in practice. The regime has been formed for the protection of *national* minorities, as traditional, long-established ethnic communities that have typically found themselves in a minority situation due to border changes, as a result of nation-building and state-formation processes. However, because nation-states perceive nations (and national communities) differently, either in ethnic or in civic terms, they have never reached an agreement on the definition of the term national minority. Whereas this has been criticised by lawyers (as it is not clear which communities are entitled to national minority protection), it has also enabled a certain level of flexibility for international institutions to interpret state obligations towards individual communities. Petra will seek to analyse which communities and persons belonging to them have been protected, or have been singled out by international institutions to warrant such protection. Preliminary analysis has shown that the scope of communities to benefit from national minority protection, at least some aspects of it, has been extended to include also the so-called new minorities.

Secondly, the European Union (EU) has played an important, though somewhat indirect, role in the post-Cold War international regime for national minority protection. As explained elsewhere [P. Roter (2003) Managing the "minority problem" in post-Cold war Europe within the framework of a multilayered regime for the protection of national minorities, in: A. Bloed, R. Hofmann, J. Marko, J. Mayall, and M. Weller (eds.): European Yearbook of Minority Issues, Volume 1, 2001/2, The Hague/London/New York: Kluwer Law International], the EU has played a crucial role as a decision-making mechanism of the international regime, particularly when minority protection was included among the Copenhagen political criteria. Simultaneously, there has been no consensus among EU member states on minority protection and minorities as some 'old' EU members have not signed and/or ratified the Council of Europe's key document in minority protection – the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities. The duality of requiring minority protection from the future members from Central and Eastern Europe (CEE), while some EU members could deny existence of

minorities and even not recognise the concept of national minorities (e.g. France still maintains it has no minorities as it is a unitary state, composed of the French nation), led to perceptions, among the then would be EU-member states, about the dual standards for members and for non-members. In the meantime, all these states have become EU members and the question occurs as to whether or not minority protection as an accession requirement has been transformed (internationalised) into an actual norm, pursued by the newcomers within the EU.

Petra's recent publications include: with A. Ferligoj and A. Mrvar, State support for human rights treaties, in T. Volgy, Z. Šabič, P. Roter and A. Gerlak (eds.): *Mapping the New World Order* (forthcoming 2009, Wiley); *International Relations in Slovenia, Journal of International Relations and Development* (forthcoming 2009); *Designing and teaching a course on academic writing: how can students learn the skill of writing?*, in: M. Brosig and K. Kas (eds.): *Teaching theory and academic writing: a guide to undergraduate lecturing in political science*, Opladen/Farmington Hills: Budrich Unipress, 2008; *Perceptions of Slovenia's integration policy (chapters on defining minorities, integration policy and language issues)* (in Slovenian), 2007; with M. Komac and M. Medvešek, *A study on ethnic heterogeneity in Ljubljana* (in Slovenian), Ljubljana: Faculty of Social Sciences, 2007; with A. Bojinović, *Croatia and the European Union: a troubled relationship*, *Mediterranean Politics*, 2005, 10(3): 447-454; *High Commissioner on National Minorities* (in Slovenian), in Z. Šabič (ed.): OSCE, Ljubljana: FDV, 2005; with Z. Šabič, "New" and "Old Europe" in the context of the Iraq war and its implications for European security, *Perspectives on European politics and society*, 2004, 5(3): 517-42.