

William C. GARTNER*

BORIS VUKONIĆ - SUSRET SA ZNANSTVENIKOM

BORIS VUKONIĆ - AN ENCOUNTER WITH THE SCHOLAR

Ovo nije tekst u spomen životu i vremenu Borisa Vukonića. Za početak, živ je i zdrav u Hrvatskoj. Drugo, Borisa sam upoznao tek 1990-ih, kad je primljen u Međunarodnu akademiju za istraživanja u turizmu. Za mene je u to vrijeme bio nepoznanica jer sam, kao i mnogi Amerikanci, patio od akademске kratkovidnosti. Nisam poznao njegov znanstveni rad. Ako nešto nije bilo objavljeno u časopisima na engleskome jeziku, tada to nije ni postojalo. Veliki dio Borisovih ranih radova, kako sam poslije otkrio, objavljen je na hrvatskome i njemačkome jeziku. Budući da te jezike nisam govorio veliki broj znanstvenih radova o turizmu napisanih na europskim jezicima prošao je neprimijećen, ne samo meni već i drugim znanstvenicima iz Sjeverne Amerike koji su objavljivali u časopisima na engleskome jeziku. Ne sjećam se da sam vidio ikakve reference na njegove radove u časopisima koje sam tada čitao. I tek sam kasnije, slušajući Borisa, otkrio da su mnoge teme koje smo mi tada počinjali istraživati već otprije imale čvrstu teorijsku bazu u europskoj literaturi.

Borisa sam upoznao na jednoj konferenciji Akademije, ali tada nismo imali prilike dugo razgovarati. Kasnije, na jednoj konferenciji u Istanbulu, slučajno smo se sreli na brodu koji je plovio po Bosporu. Prilikom

This is not a memorial on the life and times of Boris Vukonić. For starters he is alive and well living in Croatia. Secondly I did not meet Boris until the 1990's when he was inducted into the International Academy for the Study of Tourism (Academy). He was a mystery to me then as I suffered, as many North Americans do, from academic myopia. I did not know of his scholarship. If it was not in the English speaking journals it did not exist. Much of Boris's early work, as I found out later, was published in the Croatian or German language. Those were languages I was not familiar with so the vast amount of tourism scholarship written in European languages was off not only my radar screen but that of other scholars as well who were from North America and publishing in English language journals. I do not remember seeing any references to his work in the journals I was reading. As I was to find out later when listening to Boris many of the research subjects we were investigating had already a solid theoretical base in the European literature.

I first met Boris at an Academy conference but we did not engage in lengthy conversation at that time. Later at a conference in Istanbul we happened to meet on a boat cruising up and down the Bosphorus Strait. This meeting would end up with me not only

* Professor William C. Gartner, University of Minnesota, USA, e-mail: wcg@umn.edu

tog susreta ne samo da sam postao svjesniji njegovih znanstvenih doprinosa, već je njime otpočelo i naše prijateljstvo. Dogovorili smo se da jednu konferenciju Akademije organiziramo u Zagrebu, u ljeto 1999. Kako sam tada bio član Izvršnog odbora Akademije ponudu da Zagreb bude domaćin jedne od naših bienalnih konferencija s radošću smo prihvatili. U narednih nekoliko godina Zagreb sam posjetio više puta u svojstvu potpredsjednika Akademije zbog planiranja konferencije. Boris je u međuvremenu od profesora na Ekonomskom fakultetu Sveučilišta u Zagrebu postao dekanom toga fakulteta.

U ljeto 1999. Akademija je održala skup pod okriljem Sveučilišta u Zagrebu. Grad sam već poznao od 1984., kada je to još bila Jugoslavija. Od Domovinskog rata ranih 1990-ih Hrvatska i Zagreb pokušavali su se modernizirati, ali financijska sredstva su bila oskudna. Grad Zagreb, živahan kakav danas jest, kasnih se 1990-ih tek počinjao buditi. Ekonomski fakultet mu je svojim radom pomagao jer su Boris i njegovi suradnici na fakultetu davali smjernice tome razvoju. Nas, članove Akademije, lijepo su ugostili i bilo nam je odmah jasno da stari grad ima skriveni potencijal za pretvoriti se u respektabilnu europsku metropolu privlačnu turistima. Posjet Zagrebu danas pokazat će da je grad ostvario znatan dio svojeg potencijala. Sama konferencija Akademije bila je veoma uspješna, ali ono što je slijedilo još mi se više urezalo u sjećanje.

Jedna od Borisovih asistentica, a danas urednica ovoga časopisa, Nevenka Čavlek, organizirala je za mene lov na divlje svinje preko kolege, profesora ekonomije, koji je vodio lovačko društvo dva sata vožnje od Zagreba. Krenuli smo rano ujutro i nakon nekoliko zaustavljanja na kojima je bilo hrane, vina, gemišta i drugih odabranih alkoholnih pića, stigli smo u lovište. Kad smo pješice u grupi krenuli u šumu, bio sam pomalo zbunjen jer prije toga nikada nisam bio u lovu na divlje svinje. Boris je bio odmah pored mene,

becoming more aware of his scholastic contributions but also the seeds of friendship were planted. We agreed to plan a meeting of the Academy in Zagreb, Croatia for the summer of 1999. I was on the Academy Executive Committee at that time and the offer of hosting one of our biennial conferences was very much appreciated. During the next couple of years I visited Zagreb a few times in my role as Vice President of the Academy for conference planning purposes. Boris had meanwhile moved from being a Professor in the Faculty of Economics at the University of Zagreb to being Dean of the Faculty.

The Academy convened at the University of Zagreb in the summer of 1999. I was familiar with the city having visited it in 1984 when it was still part of Yugoslavia. Since the Homeland War in the early 1990's the country of Croatia and the City of Zagreb had struggled with modernization as funds were scarce. The vibrant city of Zagreb one sees today was just beginning to wake up in the late 1990's. The work from the Faculty of Economics was helping with that effort as Boris and his tourism faculty provided development guidance. The Academy Fellows were well treated and we could easily see the potential inherent in the old city to assume its place as a venerable European capital with touristic appeal. A visit to Zagreb today will show it has realized a significant part of its potential. The Academy conference itself was a success but it was the aftermath that provided my most memorable experience.

One of Boris's assistants, now the Editor of this journal, Nevenka Čavlek, had organized a boar hunting trip for me through a fellow Economics Professor who maintained a hunting camp about two hours from Zagreb. We set off early in the morning and after a number of stops to share food, wine, *gemist* and other assorted alcoholic beverages we arrived at the hunting camp. As we marched as a group into the woods I was somewhat confused having never been on a boar hunt before. Boris was right beside me

a ni on nikada prije nije bio u lovu na divlje svinje. Bio je odjeven u lijepe kaki hlače, polo majicu i mokasinke. Dali su mu pištolj kalibra .45 – težak i veoma moćan, ali ne osobito precizan. Kad su u prtljažnik Mercedesa ukrcali bigle, shvatio sam da su psi ključni dio lova. Upitao sam voditelja lova koliko divljih svinja namjeravamo ubiti, a on je na to odgovorio – sve koje vidimo. Rekli su nam da svatko stane pored jednoga stabla. Boris je bio nekih 20 metara daleko od mene i vidjelo se da baš nema strpljenja za lov jer je neprestano koračao gore dolje i mahao svojim pištoljem, kao da bi to moglo pomoći da se divlja svinja pojavi pred nama. Čuli smo kako psi naganjaju divlju svinju i svako malo bi odjeknuo pucanj, ali ni jedan nije dolazio od lovaca koji su u liniji stajali u šumi. Gleđao sam Borisa i primijetio da ga je sa svakim pucnjem sve više zanimalo što će se dogoditi. Ja sam provjeravao svoje drvo tražeći gdje bih se sakrio kad počne pucnjava oko nas i kad meci počnu posvuda letjeti. Kako je padala noć, odlučio sam, ako nešto ugledam, neću pucati jer više nije bilo dovoljno svjetla da bih razaznao metu – mogao je to biti i Boris kojemu je bilo naporno stajati mirno uz stablo. Najednom, čula se intenzivna paljba, a potom - tišina. Nije se više čuo lavež pasa. Nakon svih pucnjeva koje smo čuli, mislio sam da smo ubili 10 ili čak više divljih svinja. Kasnije sam saznao da je ubijena samo jedna divlja svinja, a da su pucnjevi koji su se ranije čuli bili pokušaji da ju se natjera van iz svog skrovišta u gustišu i da prođe uz nas koji smo stajali u liniji pored drveća. Kad u tomu nisu uspjeli jer je pao mrak, lovci su ju sami ubili. Nasreću, u svemu tome ni jedan pas nije ozlijeđen, a divlja svinja je ulovljena. Nakon toga povezli su nas u lovačku kuću i počela je glavna zabava sa živom glazbom, divljom svinjom i janjetinom na ražnju uz gemište, rakije s travama (koju ja zovem „lijekom“) i plesom do zore. U tome je Boris bio sjajan. Uzeli su mu pištolj, što je dočekao s olakšanjem – a, vjerujem, i svi ostali – te su mu, umjesto pištolja, u ruke dali čašu. Svi smo bili sretni i zadovoljni, iako se možda s

also never having been on a boar hunt before. He was dressed in nice khaki pants, polo shirt and penny loafers. They had armed him with a .45 pistol—a heavy handgun with plenty of power but not the best accuracy. I figured out when they put beagle dogs into the boot (trunk) of a Mercedes that the dogs were an essential element of the hunting party. I asked the hunting leader how many boar we were to shoot and he said as many as we could see. We were each instructed to stand by a tree. Boris was about 20 meters away and I could tell he was not the patient type when it came to hunting as he kept pacing back and forth and waving the .45 around as if that would help the boar emerge in front of us. Meanwhile we could hear the dogs chasing boar and every so often there was a shot but never along the line of hunters set up in the woods. I kept watching Boris and I could tell with each shot that he was getting more interested in what was to come. Meanwhile I was checking out my tree to see where I could safely hide when the shooting started and the bullets were flying all around. As the night descended I had decided if I saw anything I was not going to shoot as there was no longer enough light to tell what it might be. Maybe it would have been Boris who had a hard time staying glued to his tree. Eventually there was a volley of shots and then silence. No more barking dogs. With all the shots that had been fired up to that point I figured we had a pile of boar maybe 10 or more. What I found out later was that there was only one boar and the single shots we heard earlier were attempts to get the boar to break out of its brush filled lair and move past the line of hunters stationed by the trees. When that failed and darkness descended the guides stepped in and shot the boar. Fortunately in the process none of the dogs were injured and the boar was taken. We were then driven back to camp and the largest party of the day commenced with a band, spit roasted boar and lamb, more *gemist*, herbal liquor (I call it ‘medicine’) and dancing into dawn. This is where Boris excelled. The gun

time ne bi složila i ubijena divlja svinja – da ju je netko pitao. Čak su i psi zadovoljno spalivali nakon obilne večere. Lov i zabava s Borisom aspekti su života koji znanstvenicima često nedostaju jer se međusobno poznaju samo preko radova i akademskog djelovanja. Bila je to prilika da ga bolje upoznam. Od tada redovito idem u lov i mogao bih vam ispričati još jednu priču o lovu u Hrvatskoj s Rickom Perdueom, kojega je također organizirala Nevenka, a tijekom kojega sam upućao trofejnu divlju svinju od preko 150 kilograma. Ali o tome nekom drugom zgodom. Ne vjerujem da je Boris nakon toga ikada više išao u lov, ali je nama dvojici to druženje daleko od sveučilišta pomoglo da se zblizimo.

Već sam spomenuo da mi je Borisovo poznavanje ranih europskih radova o turizmu pružilo mnoga nova saznanja. Međutim, osim druženja s njime i pretraživanja europskih baza podataka u potrazi za ranim radovima o turizmu, koje mnogi znanstvenici iz Sjeverne Amerike zbog nepoznavanja jezika ne razumiju, na koji je način moguće uhvatiti korak sa znanjima koja on posjeduje? Nasreću, postoji jedna malo poznata publikacija koja i vama može omogućiti da se djelomično upoznate s tim radovima, na engleskome jeziku. Cathy Hsu (Hong Kong PolyU) i ja uredili smo knjigu (1997) u kojoj su objavljena izlaganja s jedne ranije (1993) konferencije Akademije. Knjiga *Routledge Handbook of Tourism Research* sadrži jedan od najtemeljitijih pregleda povijesti teorije turizma iz perspektive prvih europskih znanstvenika u području turizma. To je poglavlje, naravno, napisao Boris Vukonić. U knjizi su i mnoga druga zanimljiva poglavlja koja su uglavnom napisali članovi Međunarodne akademije za istraživanja u turizmu, ali najznačajniji doprinos knjizi upravo je Borisovo poglavlje. Ono se preporuča mladim znanstvenicima koji ne govore strane jezike na kojima su pisani neki europski radovi. Čitanje tog poglavlja može pomoći znanstvenicima da ne 'otkrivaju toplu vodu'. Ono se također preporuča iskusnijim znanstvenicima iz Sjeverne

was removed from his hands which was a relief to him, I believe, as well as the rest of us and it was replaced by a *gemist*. We were all happy and content even though the boar that was eventually shot would have disagreed it if could. Even the dogs were happily sleeping after enjoying a heavy meal. Hunting and partying with Boris is a part of the human condition often missing between scholars who only know each other through their writing and academic contributions. It was an opportunity to get to know him better. Since that day I continue to hunt and I can relate another story of hunting in Croatia with Rick Perdue, also arranged by Nevenka, where I took a trophy boar of over 150 kilos but that is for another time. I don't think Boris has hunted since then but it was that time away from the University that helped bring us closer together.

I mentioned earlier that Boris's grasp of the early European tourism literature opened up new insights for me. However apart from spending time with him or searching European databases for early tourism scholarship, which many North Americans will not be able to read, how does one get up to speed on the knowledge that he possesses? Fortunately there is an obscure publication that can bring some of that insight to you in the English language. Cathy Hsu (Hong Kong PolyU) and I edited a book (1997) based on presentations made at an earlier (1993) Academy Conference. The book "Routledge Handbook of Tourism Research" contains one of the most thorough treatments of the history of tourism theory from the perspective of the earliest European scholars. This chapter is of course written by Boris Vukonić. There are many other interesting chapters in this book contributed mainly by Fellows of the International Academy for the Study of Tourism but its main contribution is Boris's chapter. It is recommended reading for young scholars who do not have the language ability to read some of the European writings. Reading this chapter may save a scholar from 'reinventing' the wheel. It is also recommended read-

Amerike jer daje sveobuhvatno viđenje povijesti teorije turizma koja je bez njeza mogla ostati nezamijećena. Sjećam se kako sam slušao Borisovo izlaganje o tomu i kako sam kasnije uređivao njegovo poglavlje razmišljajući kako postoji toliko puno relevantnih radova objavljenih na raznim jezicima za koje ja nisam znao. Moje sjeverno-američko obrazovanje i nepoznavanje nekih europskih jezika do tada mi je onemogućavalo da doista podignem ljestvicu svojih doprinosa znanosti u turizmu. Mladim bih znanstvenicima savjetovao da ne ponavljaju te greške, a ako žele izbjeći pristranost fokusiranjem na sjeverno-američke izvore, za početak neka pročitaju Borisovo poglavlje u spomenutoj knjizi.

I dalje putujem u Hrvatsku barem jednom godišnje. U ovoj se zemlji osjećam kao kod kuće, najviše zahvaljujući divnim prijateljstvima koja su se razvila tijekom svih ovih godina i ponosan sam što mogu reći da sam danas gostujući profesor na Ekonomskom fakultetu Sveučilišta u Zagrebu. To vjerojatno ne bi bilo moguće da nisam upoznao Borisa. Ni sva ta prijateljstva sigurno ne bih stekao da me upravo Boris nije upoznao s tim ljudima. Zahvalan sam mu za mnogo toga, ali iznad svega za prijateljstva, koja su mi od svega najvažnija. Borisa više ne viđam tako često prilikom posjeta Zagrebu. Uglavnom živi u svojem drugome domu na hrvatskoj obali gdje uživa u zasluženom vremenu za razmišljanje. Ne vjerujem da ide u lov, što je vjerojatno dobro, ali uvijek je spreman za dobru raspravu. Ako se zateknete u Hrvatskoj i ako vas zanima bogato znanje koje posjeduje, možda se možete pokušati naći s njime. Vrijeme koje ćete provesti zajedno sigurno će biti zabavno, a moglo bi biti i prilično prosvjetljujuće.

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ing for more advanced tourism scholars from North America as it provides a well rounded perspective on the history of tourism theory that may have gone unnoticed. I remember listening to Boris's presentation on the subject and later editing his chapter for the Handbook and thinking that there is so much relevant scholarship published in different languages that I did not know about. My North American centric education and lack of some European language abilities had prevented me from truly raising the bar with my own tourism scholarship contributions. I would advise young scholars not to repeat those mistakes and a good starting point to avoiding a North American biased centricity can be found in Boris's chapter in the Handbook.

I still travel to Croatia at least once each year. I feel at home in the country mostly due to wonderful friendships that have evolved over the years and I am proud to say that I am currently a Visiting Professor in the Faculty of Economics at the University of Zagreb. That probably would not have been possible without meeting Boris. The friendships that have evolved definitely would not have been possible without introductions initially made by Boris. I am grateful to him for many things but above all the friendships stand out as most important to me. I don't see Boris very much anymore on my annual trips to Zagreb. He is mostly spending time at his second home along the Croatian coast where he is enjoying some well deserved reflection time. I don't think he is hunting anymore which is probably a good thing but he is always up for a good discussion. If you happen to be in Croatia and are interested in the wealth of knowledge he possesses it might not be out of the question to see if the two of you can meet up. The time you spend together will definitely be entertaining and it could be quite enlightening.

