

## **Changing State Borders in Eastern Serbia and Western Bulgaria - Changing Dialect Landscapes: a Dialectometric Approach**

The paper presents some results of the pioneering dialectometric experiments dealing with the Torlak linguistic landscape contested between Serbia and Bulgaria since 19<sup>th</sup> ct. The digital version of the “Linguistic Atlas of Eastern Serbia and Western Bulgaria” (1998) created in 2020-2021 provides dialectology with deep insights into correlations between political borders and dialect landscape in South Slavia. The general problem of attribution of Torlak to Serbian or Bulgarian is addressed, the data and new digital research methods presented. Central attention is paid to the administrative and state (and ethnic) borders of 1833, 1878 and 1919 which created subsequently new divisions in the formerly genetically unified but politically divided dialect.