

The Western Balkan's Diversity of Identities: Political Culture, Minorities and Gender

List of Speakers



Péter BALÁZS is a director of the Center for European Neighborhood Studies (CENS) which he established in 2005. Research activities of Prof. Balázs are centered on the foreign policy of the EU and problems of the late modernization and European integration of the Eastern part of the continent. He also analyzes the questions of European governance including the future of European institutions. Péter Balázs graduated in Budapest at the Faculty of Economics of the “Karl Marx” University (later: Budapest School of Economics, today Corvinus University). He got his PhD degree and habilitated at the same University. He is a ScD of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences. In parallel with his government and diplomatic career, he has been teaching and doing research. He was

nominated Professor of the Corvinus University in 2000 and joined the Central European University as a full time Professor in 2005. He is regularly teaching at various Hungarian and foreign universities, lecturing in English, French, German and Hungarian. After the systemic change in 1990, Prof. Balázs joined the Government of Hungary several times. He was State Secretary for Industry and Trade (1992-1993) and State Secretary for European Integration (2002-2003). He was Ambassador of Hungary in Denmark (1994-1996), Germany (1997-2000) and to the EU in Brussels (2003-2004). He was also the Government Representative of Hungary in the European Convention drafting the Constitutional Treaty, which became later, after several modifications, the Lisbon Treaty. In 2004, he was nominated the first Hungarian Member of the European Commission responsible for regional policy. In 2009-2010, he was Foreign Minister of Hungary.

Anamarija BATISTA is an economist and art historian. She has taught at the Vienna University of Economics and Business, Academy of Fine Arts Vienna, the University of Applied Arts Vienna and Vienna University of Technology. She is the curator of a series of exhibitions including “Bosch & Hofbauer” (The Paintings Gallery of the Academy of Fine Arts Vienna, 2018), “Crisis as Ideology?” (Kunstraum Niederösterreich, 2016), “The Common Which No Longer Exists” (Künstlerhaus Wien, 2012) etc. Her publication “Rethinking Density. Art, Culture and Urban Practices” was released by Sternberg Press as part of the publication series of the Academy of Fine Arts in Vienna in 2017. Since May 2018 she is working on the project “Collective Utopia of Post-War Modernism: The Adriatic Coast as a Leisure and Defence Paradise” together with Antonia Dika supported by FWF (Austrian Science Fund).





Marsela DAUTI is an associate professor at the Department of Social Work and Social Policy at the University of Tirana. Her research focuses on decentralization, local governance, community development, and evidence-based practice in emerging democracies and developing countries. Her work has appeared in numerous journals, such as the *British Journal of Social Work*, *Social Development Issues*, *East European Politics and Societies and Cultures*, *Community Development*, *Global Social Welfare*, and *International Social Work*. Marsela has worked as a consultant for several national and international agencies – United Nations, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, Institute for Democracy and Mediation, Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, and National Democratic Institute. Her current research projects focus on enhancing the accountability and responsiveness of government officials in Albanian communities. She has a doctoral degree from the Brown School of Social Work at Washington University in St. Louis.

Elona DHEMBO is a lecturer of research methods and social policy since 2005 at the Department of Social Work and Social Policy, University of Tirana. She graduated in 2002 as a social worker from the same department. Her further studies, MSc. in Comparative Social Policy, at the Department of Social Policy and Intervention, University of Oxford and PhD thesis defended in 2012 at the University of Tirana, both, combine her main areas of interest – research methods, social policy, and gender issues. For five years (2010-2015) she was granted the Returned Scholar Fellowship by OSI Europe. More recently (2014-2016), she served as Senior Advisor in evidence-based policymaking for Albania under the Swiss Government supported Regional Research Promotion Program in the Balkan. Dr. Dhembo has (co)authored several articles (including in peer-reviewed journals) and books published in Albania and abroad and is an active member of professional networks and civil society agencies.



Christina GRIESSLER is research fellow for the Network for Political Communication (netPOL) at the Andrassy University Budapest, Hungary. She studied political sciences and cultural anthropology at the University of Vienna. Christina graduated from the University of Vienna with a Master's degree and a doctorate in political science. She also obtained a Postgraduate Diploma in Conflict and Dispute Resolution Studies from the Trinity College Dublin (2009) and a diploma in Alternative Dispute Resolution from Dublin Business School (2011). Christina's research focuses on the countries of the so-called Western Balkan region, the EU enlargement process and on the dynamics of identity-based and ethnic conflict. Her primary interest lies in the field of peace and conflict studies and the communication in managing conflicts.



Elissa HELMS is an associate professor at the Department of Gender Studies at the Central European University. Her research areas include Gender and Nationalism, Ethnicity; Gender and ethnic violence; NGOs and social/political activism; Gender in Muslim societies; Ethnography of post-conflict and post-socialist societies; borders, migration, and European identity. Elissa is currently working on several emerging projects, starting with an interest in the gendered effects of non-European migration on Serbia and Croatia as countries along the “Balkan Route.” She is interested in the negotiations of national and regional identity vis-a-vis “Europe” and the EU in countries that have themselves been represented as peripheral, Balkan, and not-quite-European, including in terms of gender relations and state policies. Another project deals with gender, transitional justice and post-war memory through an examination of the Women’s Court, a feminist initiative to approach questions of justice during and after the wars of the 1990s in the post-Yugoslav region. She has a doctoral degree in Cultural Anthropology from the University of Pittsburgh.



Suzana JURIN is a professor at the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Department of German Language and Literature, University of Rijeka, Croatia. Her research focuses on Text linguistics, Text type linguistics, Models and styles of communication, Communication in politics, Text types in media and politics, Prototype semantics and Cognitive linguistics. Suzana published 25 scientific papers; a scientific monograph entitled “Texts and their usage through text linguistic and cognitive linguistic analysis” and she is a lead researcher on the project “Croatia as a virtual tourist destination: A linguistic and sentiment analysis”. In 2010, Suzana obtained her doctoral degree (Text Types in Corporative Management).



Martina MIRKOVIĆ is a PhD candidate at the Ándrassy University in Budapest. She studied history (Bachelor’s Degree) and economic and social history (Master’s Degree) at the University of Vienna where she graduated in 2016. In October 2016, she became a member of the Central European Network for Teaching and Research in Academic Liaison (CENTRAL-Kolleg “Spaces as Artefacts”) where she analyses the culture and politics of remembrance in Croatia. In 2017, she received a four-year PhD scholarship from the Austrian Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research at the Department for Central European History (AUB). The PhD thesis focuses on consumption- and economic history in Socialist Yugoslavia.





Antonija PETRIČUŠIĆ is an assistant professor at the Department of Sociology at the Faculty of Law, University of Zagreb, Croatia. She serves as an expert in the Advisory Committee on the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities and is a member of the Human Rights Council of the Croatian Ombudswoman. Her research focuses on Europeanization of the post-conflict states in South-Eastern Europe, with particular reference to democratization, political culture, inter-ethnic relations, minority rights, migration, and asylum.

Jovana RADOSAVLJEVIĆ is an executive director at the NGO New Social Initiative, based in North Mitrovica (Kosovo). She is a TLP scholar and holds an MA degree in International Studies from the Joseph Korbel School of International Studies, University of Denver, with a specializations in Conflict Resolution and International Development and a BA degree from the Faculty of Political Science, University of Belgrade. Her main interests include conflict resolution, comparative politics, elections, citizen participation, and gender equality.



Regina RUSZ is a director of the Austrian Cultural Forum Budapest since January 2017. She graduated at the University in Vienna (Communication, Political and Theatre Science) in 1996 and finished her studies at the Diplomatic Academy in Vienna in 1997. She entered the Austrian diplomatic service in November 1997. During the past 20 years she held several functions in the Austrian Foreign Ministry in Vienna as well as at Austrian representations abroad. She started her career as a political officer at the Human Rights Department and the Western Balkans department. In 2001 she took over the function as Director of the Austrian Cultural Forum Belgrade, where she focused on intensifying the cultural and scientific relations between the two countries. In summer 2005 she was assigned to work as Press and EU officer at the Austrian Embassy Budapest, where she stayed for three years. In 2008 she took over the function as head of unit in the department for European Integration, Justice and Home affairs. From October 2012 until December 2016 she held the function as deputy head of the Austrian Embassy Bratislava.

Hana SEMANIĆ is a research fellow at the Central European University, Centre for European Neighborhood Studies (CENS). She joined CENS in November 2010, concentrating on SEE-EU relations with a special focus on the Western Balkans. Hana earned her M.A. degree in International Relations and European Studies from the CEU in 2010. Her thesis focused on the security sector reform analyzing the dissimilar forms and modalities of local ownership in defense and police reforms in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Before coming to the CEU, she worked for a development agency (2007-2009) managing cross-border cooperation projects between Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia.



Oliver VUJOVIĆ is one of the founders of the South East Europe Media Organisation (SEEMO) and has been since 2000 SEEMO Secretary General. He worked between 1991-2000 as a journalist and Balkan correspondent for the Austrian daily Die Presse and also as a freelancer for media in Germany, Austria, Switzerland and the UK. He graduated in economics, and is currently working on a PhD at the University of Vienna. He started his professional work as a journalist for Radio Index (Radio Belgrade) in Belgrade (1988) and is one of the founders of Radio B92 in Belgrade (1989). In 2000 and 2001 he was also director of the Balkan publication Südosteuropäischer Dialog, and director of the Kulturzentrum in Vienna. Vujovic is the initiator of the South-East

Europe Media Forum (the leading annual media event in South-East and Central Europe since 2007), initiator of Istanbul Media Days (an annual event) and initiator of Investigative Journalism Days. He organized the first meeting between leading media representatives from Serbia and Kosovo (over 100 editors and media executives) in Ohrid in May 2003.

Damjan ZDRAVEV is a Programme Officer in the Europe Department of Civil Rights Defenders in Belgrade, Serbia. He holds an MA in conflict transformation and peace building from the Eastern Mennonite University in the USA. Before joining Civil Rights Defenders, Damjan worked in the civil society sector in Macedonia and the Western Balkans region with a focus on civil society development, civic engagement and good governance.

