

“The Western Balkan’s Diversity of Identities: Religion, Language and Education”

Andrássy University, Budapest
Andrassy Room

21 November 2017

Conference program

Identities are constructed on the basis of elements, which define individuals, people and groups. These defining elements can be religion, language, profession, educational background, ethnicity, culture, class, gender, sexuality and many other aspects, which either determine one’s individual identity or people’s social or group identity. Because people have multiple identities, individual identities exist along group identities and national identity. Our interpretation of who we are and how we are perceived by others is based on our “self-identity” and our “self-categorisation” into social groups. Identities dependent on the social, political and historical environment and on other people’s perception and because identity is socially constructed, it transforms and changes over time.

This conference wants to focus on the multiple identities, which define the people of the Western Balkan region and explore how religion, language and education are impacting on peoples’ identities. What role does religion play in the societies of the Western Balkan states? Is the mother-tongue a more powerful identity-marker than nationality or ethnicity? Does education create a new identity, which overlaps and sometimes replace the more traditional elements of identities, such as religion and culture? Hence, the aim of this conference to discuss how elements of language, religion and education define people’s identity and how they influence the people living in the Western Balkans.

09:00 Registration

09:15 Welcome remarks

Péter Balázs, Director of CEU’s Center for European Neighborhood Studies (CENS), former Minister of Foreign Affairs of Hungary

Ellen Bos, Vice-Rector for Research, Professor of Comparative Politics at Andrassy University Budapest, Head of the Centre for Democracy Studies, Director of the Doctoral School

09:30 Panel I. – Religion

Chair: *Christopher Walsch*, Visiting Professor, Corvinus University Budapest

Speakers:

Bogdan Mihai Radu, Lecturer, Babeş-Bolyai University, Romania

Zorica Kuburić, Professor, Center for Empirical Research of Religion,
Faculty of Philosophy, University of Novi Sad, Serbia
Ešref Kenan Rašidagić, Professor of International Relations and
European Integration, University of Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina

11:00 Coffee Break

11:30 Panel II. – Language

Chair: *Andra-Octavia Drăghiciu*, Research Fellow, University of Graz and
Andrassy University Budapest

Speakers:

Goran Bandov, Vice Dean/Associate Professor of International Relations
and International Law, Dag Hammarskjöld University College of
International Relations and Diplomacy, Croatia
Nikola Zečević, Lecturer, University of Donja Gorica, Montenegro
Etleva Lala, Adjunct Lecturer of the Albanian Studies, Eötvös Loránd
University, Budapest

13:00 Lunch Break

14:00 Panel III. – Education

Chair: *Christina Griessler*, Research Fellow for netPOL, Andrassy University
Budapest

Speakers:

Tamara Pavasović Trošt, Assistant Professor, University of Ljubljana,
Slovenia
Norbert Šabić, Strategic Planning Assistant, Strategic Planning Office and
Yehuda Elkana Center for Higher Education, Central European University
Hana Semanić, Research Fellow, Center for European Neighborhood
Studies (CENS), Central European University

15:30 Concluding remarks