

**RSA** Regional Studies  
Association

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**EEGA**



Leibniz ScienceCampus

**EEGA Annual Conference 2024**

**“Unfinished Statebuilding and  
Contested Democracies”**

**in cooperation with the Regional Studies  
Association (RSA)**

**11–13 September 2024, Dubrovnik, Croatia**

Conference Websites:

EEGA: <https://www.leibniz-eeга.de/events/conferences/2024-rsa-eeга-annual-conference/>

RSA: <https://www.regionalstudies.org/events/2024cee/>

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## Conference Information

After a successful joint effort of the Regional Studies Association (RSA) and the Leibniz ScienceCampus “Eastern Europe – Global Area” (EEGA) in September 2022, this year the cooperation ventures outside the familiar EEGA headquarters in Leipzig and aims to combine both – historically informed research and current political issues in the Western Balkans. The RSA Central and Eastern Europe (CEE) conference themes are renowned for their broad scope, encapsulating an interdisciplinary blend that spans global perspectives and policy-driven discussions. The 2024 Annual Conference of EEGA in partnership with the RSA endeavours to enrich these general RSA themes with a nuanced exploration that is both region-specific and content-focused. This initiative is particularly tailored for professionals in the humanities and social sciences with a keen interest in Southeastern Europe, emphasizing the post-Yugoslav nations and Albania.

Entitled “Unfinished Statebuilding and Contested Democracies”, the conference zeroes in on a curated selection of themes that hold paramount importance for the region amidst the current geopolitical landscape. It delves into critical border policy issues, including migration, global value chains, and the concept of “global connectedness”. The theme “Unfinished Statebuilding” further prompts an examination of the institutional frameworks in place, signalling a comprehensive review of the factors at play. Additionally, the conference will scrutinize demographic trends as potential catalysts for social and economic change within the former Yugoslav territories, alongside an assessment of social movements and the dynamics of urban politics. This confluence of topics aims to foster a deeper understanding and generate scholarly discourse on the intricate processes shaping the region, offering a platform for academic exchange and policy formulation that is both regionally focused and globally aware.

This year’s conference will take place in Dubrovnik, Croatia, and will offer innovative academic work from a range of disciplines (history, human geography, political science, sociology, cultural studies, and neighbouring fields of research).

Participants are welcome to take part in the programme prepared by the RSA. Information on the RSA conference programme, the supporting programme and other practical information can be found on the RSA website: <https://events.rdmobile.com/Events/Details/17567>.

Information on EEGA’s annual conference are available at:

<https://www.leibniz-eeega.de/events/conferences/2024-rsa-eeega-annual-conference/>

## Practical Information

### Instructions for Presenters

The conference is taking place in lecture venues that are equipped for presentations. There will be a computer and a projector in the rooms. If you have a PPT, please bring it with you on a USB stick. Bring your presentation in two formats in case a computer can't read your file. Arrive at least 5 minutes before the start of the panel to prepare the technical setup. Each presenter should present for no longer than 15 minutes, at most. This should leave enough time for questions and discussion.

You can download the EEGA logo for use in the presentations here: <https://www.leibniz-eeega.de/download/>

### Instructions for Panel Chairs

Please maintain good time management, using '5 minute' and '1 minute' warnings. Briefly, introduce yourself and welcome the participants to your session, introducing each presenter. During the discussion kindly manage time and the tone of discussion and try to make sure that each presenter gets some questions. Please feel free to share your views, reflections, observations and comments on the presentation and prepare for meaningful discussions. However, note that a chair is not expected to provide a formal response to the papers. Please ensure that panels do not run after the end time since the venues are in use constantly.

### Registration

All EEGA panellists for whom we are handling registration have been informed. These people do not have to register themselves. All other participants must register via the RSA (<https://lounge.regionalstudies.org/Meetings/Meeting?ID=508>).

A **separate registration** is necessary for the RSA Welcome Reception, RSA Conference Dinner, the Tours of Dubrovnik and the Technical Tours.

### Mobile App

Download RSA's Mobile APP - or click [here](#), for the desktop version. To download the free RSA Hub (Events App) for [IOS](#) or [Android](#) from your phone's App Store, please click on the correct link for your phone. See the RSA's ["How to" video guides](#) for information on downloading RSA Hub App and using it in preparation for the conference.

### Refreshments

The RSA hosts a Welcome Reception and Conference Dinner (these have a separate registration and the dinner incurs an extra cost). Refreshments like Coffee und Lunch Breaks on the terrace (see the RSA programme) are provided by RSA and included in the conference fee.

## **Photography and filming**

During the conference, the conference organisers would like to take photos for public relations and science communication. Images may be published in print, online and social media. If you do not wish you or your content to be pictured in such form, please direct an e-mail to [leibniz-eeega@leibniz-ifl.de](mailto:leibniz-eeega@leibniz-ifl.de) or indicate your disagreement to one of the members of the EEGA team on site. The sessions will not be recorded.

## **Time specification**

All times given in the programme refer to Central European Summer Time Zone (CEST).

## **Wi-Fi**

For information on Wi-Fi access, see [RSA conference programme](#) online.

## **EEGA Information Booth**

11 – 13 September, 09:30 AM – 04:30 PM

Information, annual reports, and promotional material on the Leibniz ScienceCampus "Eastern Europe – Global Area" will be available for all guests at the EEGA information stand every day during conference hours. Individual appointments for consultation with the EEGA team can be arranged on request.

## **Locations**

### **Conference Venue:**

Department of Economics and Business  
University of Dubrovnik,  
Lapadska obala 7,  
20000 Dubrovnik, Croatia

### **EEGA Dinner:**

Pepper's Eatery  
Lapadska Obala 20,  
20000 Dubrovnik, Croatia  
+385 (0)20 487 578  
<https://www.pepperseatery.com/>  
(200m walk along the sea side from the conference venue.)

### **Accommodation:**

Akademis Academia (Sveučilište u Dubrovniku – Studentski Centar Dubrovnik)  
2b Ulica Marka Marojice  
20000 Dubrovnik  
(800m walk to the conference venue.)

## Conference Timetable

### Wednesday, 11 September 2024

01:00 PM – 03:00 PM Tours of Dubrovnik (tbc - separate registration required)

03:00 PM – 05:00 PM *Registration*  
Room: Outside Large Auditorium (E-1 Block B - 1st Floor)

04:00 PM – 05:30 PM EEGA Conference Opening  
Words of Welcome by Judith Miggelbrink  
Keynote by Jelena Dzankic:  
“Democratic struggles in contested states”  
Room: E-1 Large Auditorium (Block B - Ground Floor)

06:00 PM – 08:00 PM RSA Welcome Reception (separate registration required)  
Venue: Terrace of the Department of Economics and  
Business, University of Dubrovnik

### Thursday, 12 September 2024

08:00 AM – 05:00 PM *Registration*  
Room: Outside Large Auditorium (E-1 Block B - 1st Floor)

09:00 AM – 09:15 AM RSA - Welcome to the conference  
Room: E-1 Large Auditorium (Block B - Ground Floor)

09:15 AM – 10:45 AM RSA Opening Plenary – Future Challenges for Cohesion Policy  
Room: E-1 Large Auditorium (Block B - Ground Floor)

10:45 AM – 11:15 AM *Coffee Break*

11:15 AM – 12:45 AM SS 10: EEGA Special Session “Reflections on the Kosovo War: 25  
Years Later”  
Room: B-4 (Block A - 1st Floor)

12:45 PM – 02:00 PM *Lunch Break*

02:00 PM – 03:30 PM SS 11: EEGA Special Session “Wars in the Archives: New  
Perspectives and Opportunities”  
Room: B-4 (Block A - 1st Floor)

03:30 PM – 04:00 PM *Coffee Break*

04:00 PM – 05:30 PM EEGA Panel “Geographies of Identity and Discontent”  
Room: B-4 (Block A - 1st Floor)

06:30 PM EEGA Dinner (upon invitation)  
Venue: Pepper's Eatery

07:00 PM – 10:00 PM RSA Conference Dinner (separate registration required)  
Venue: Kopun Restaurant

**Friday, 13 September 2024**

08:30 AM – 01:00 PM *Registration*  
Room: Outside Large Auditorium (E-1 Block B - 1st Floor)

09:00 AM – 10:30 AM SS 01: EEGA Book Presentation and Discussion "Rethinking the Global during the War on Ukraine. Interventions from around the World"  
Room: B-4 (Block A - 1st Floor)

10:30 AM – 11:00 AM *Coffee Break*

11:00 AM – 12:30 PM SS 14: EEGA Book Presentation and Discussion "Off white - Central and Eastern Europe and the global history of race"  
Room: B-4 (Block A - 1st Floor)

12:30 AM – 01:30 PM *Lunch*

01:30 PM – 03:15 PM RSA Closing Plenary – Smart Specialisation in Central and Eastern Europe  
Room: E-1 Large Auditorium (Block B - 1st Floor)

03:15 PM – 03:30 PM RSA Conference Close  
Room: E-1 Large Auditorium (Block B - 1st Floor)

03:30 PM – 05:30 PM Technical Tour (tbc - separate registration required)

**Saturday, 14 September 2024**

08:30 AM – 03:00 PM Technical Tour (tbc - separate registration required)

Participants are welcome to take part in the programme prepared by the RSA. Information on the RSA conference programme, the supporting programme and other practical information can be found on the RSA website: <https://events.rdmobile.com/Events/Details/17567>.

## Programme Schedule

The details of the papers within this schedule can be found in the preceding *Paper Abstracts* section. The aim of this chapter is to give you a succinct overview of what is happening at any particular time.

Wednesday, September 11

The keynote lecture introduces participants to the EEGA conference theme "Unfinished Statebuilding and Contested Democracies" and opens the discussions. The speaker of the Leibniz ScienceCampus EEGA, Prof. Dr. Judith Miggelbrink (Leibniz Institute for Regional Geography), will say a word of welcome. The guest speaker, Prof. Dr. Jelena Dzankic, will then be introduced by the moderator of the session, Dr. Christian Costamagna, historian and EEGA Postdoc Fellow. Dzankic's lecture will be followed by Q & A with the audience.

### EEGA Conference Opening and Keynote by Jelena Dzankic: "Democratic struggles in contested states"

The twenty-first century has deeply disappointed the promise of democracy for the Western Balkan states. Despite the hopes that the 'democratic moment' of the early 2000s would bring about more open, inclusive, and democratic societies, over the past two decades, the political reality of these countries has been the one of the rule of law backsliding, competitive authoritarianism, and low transformative capacity at the level of society. Why has this been the case? This talk explores the ways in which the contested nation- and state-building projects have curbed the democratic capacity in the Western Balkans. It highlights different mechanisms through which these contestations of borders, identities, and institutions have cemented political power strongholds, and opened up spaces for the rise of dependencies on non-democratic actors, such as China, the Gulf States, or Russia. The talk differentiates among democratic struggles of the different countries in the Western Balkans, reflecting on the broader European and global trends of democratic decline.

<b>Time:</b>	4:00 PM – 5:30 PM
<b>Room:</b>	E-1 Large Auditorium (Block B - Ground Floor)
<b>Chair:</b>	Christian Costamagna, Leibniz ScienceCampus "Eastern Europe - Global Area" (EEGA), Leipzig University, Germany
<b>Speaker:</b>	Judith Miggelbrink, Leibniz Institute for Regional Geography, Leipzig, Germany  Jelena Dzankic, Robert Schuman Centre of the European University Institute, Florence, Italy

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### RSA Welcome Reception

The Welcome Reception takes place on the Terrace of the Department of Economics and Business, University of Dubrovnik. Separate registration is required.

<b>Time:</b>	6:00 PM – 8:00 PM
<b>Room:</b>	Terrace of the Department of Economics and Business, University of Dubrovnik.



Thursday, September 12

### RSA Welcome and Opening Plenary – Future Challenges for Cohesion Policy

For more information see [RSA conference programme](#) online.

**Time:** 9:00 AM – 10:45 AM  
**Room:** E-1 Large Auditorium (Block B - Ground Floor)  
**Chair:** Marijana Sumpor, Euro Ekspertiza, Member of the City of Zagreb Assembly, Zagreb, Croatia  
**Speaker:** Anna Wagner, Head of Unit, European Commission  
Ida Musiałkowska, Poznań University of Economics and Business, Poland  
Representative of the Ministry of Regional Development and EU Funds

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### SS 10 EEGA Special Session “Reflections on the Kosovo War: 25 Years Later”

The panel offers a comprehensive reflection on the Kosovo War, examining its historical significance and enduring impact a quarter-century after the conflict. Through diverse perspectives, the panel addresses the broader implications of the Kosovo War, including its socio-political ramifications, regional dynamics and international interventions.

**Time:** 11:15 AM – 12:45 AM  
**Room:** B-4 (Block A - 1st Floor)  
**Chair:** Lena Dallywater, Leibniz Institute for Regional Geography, Leipzig, Germany  
**Speaker:** Arbër Hadri, Institute of History "Ali Hadri", Pristina, Kosovo  
David Kanin, Johns Hopkins University, Washington DC, United States  
Christian Costamagna, Leibniz ScienceCampus "Eastern Europe - Global Area" (EEGA), Leipzig University, Germany

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### SS 11 EEGA Special Session “Wars in the Archives: New Perspectives and Opportunities”

This panel explores challenges and opportunities with archival materials from conflict-marked regions, focusing on former Yugoslavia. It discusses identifying and preserving documents in Kosovo, emphasizing safeguarding dispersed materials for cultural heritage. The policies of the Clinton Administration regarding the former Yugoslavia are explored through the examination of Presidential Records. This includes accessing unreleased records via the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and the Mandatory Declassification Review process. It also examines archives' role in justice, legal reforms, and memory initiatives and advocating for digital preservation. Emotional dimensions in war-torn archives are discussed, along with challenges of trauma among families and their communities. Moreover, it covers preservation and accessibility of tribunal archives managed by the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals, that is a part of the United Nations system, emphasizing their importance in global discussions on peace, justice, and accountability.

**Time:** 2:00 PM – 3:30 PM

**Room:** B-4 (Block A - 1st Floor)

**Chair:** Christian Costamagna, Leibniz ScienceCampus "Eastern Europe - Global Area" (EEGA), Leipzig University, Germany

**Speaker:** Nevenka Tromp-Vrkic, University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands

Kara Ellis, William J. Clinton Presidential Library and Museum in Little Rock, Arkansas, United States

Suzanne Scott, Mechanism Archives and Records Section, United Nations International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals, The Hague, The Netherlands

Robert Parnica, Senior Reference Archivist, Vera and Donald Blinken Open Society Archives, Budapest, Hungary

Sylë Ukshini, University of Gjilan, Kosovo

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### EEGA Panel “Geographies of Identity and Discontent”

With its focus on geographies of identity and discontent, this panel turns its attention to the social and political consequences of spatial inequalities. The contributions will examine experiences of migration, stigmatization and marginalization as well as the role of architecture and urban structures in the creation of identity. Discussed are processes of urban planning and urban change in cities of Central and Eastern Europe, the intended and unintended effects as well as the creative reactions of citizens to their living spaces.

**Time:** 4:00 PM – 5:30 PM

**Room:** B-4 (Block A - 1st Floor)

**Chair:** Gregory Gan, Leibniz ScienceCampus "Eastern Europe - Global Area" (EEGA), University of Halle, Germany

**Speaker:** Anna Grzelak, Institute of Geography and Spatial Organization Polish Academy of Sciences (IGSO PAS), Warsaw, Poland / Marc Ferch, Thünen-Institute of Rural Studies, Braunschweig, Germany / Frederik Beinvogl, Thünen Institute of Rural Studies, Braunschweig, Germany / Andreas Klärner, Thünen-Institute of Rural Studies, Braunschweig, Germany

Jan Szczepański, University of Warsaw, Poland

Gregory Gan, Leibniz ScienceCampus "Eastern Europe - Global Area" (EEGA), University of Halle, Germany

Ana Aceska, Wageningen University & Research, The Netherlands

Friday, September 13

### SS 01 EEGA Book Presentation and Discussion “Rethinking the Global during the War on Ukraine. Interventions from around the World”

Two years after the beginning of the Russian war of aggression against Ukraine, there is an increasing number of offers that provide basic knowledge about the attacked country and its history, as well as articles which offer interpretations and analyses. In this special session, the editors of a new anthology present their endeavour to add a publication that is devoted to two so far less discussed issues: firstly, the consequences of the war for global interrelation relation and world order, and secondly insights into reflection on the global consequences from around the world. When starting the project, the aim was to compile a collection of texts by international authors who, since the beginning of the war of aggression (2022 ff), have analysed the war as a caesura for world-wide interdependencies, and the interrelation of Eastern Europe with other regions of the world. The focus is on the global embeddedness of the war, the global effects and the possible consequences for the emergence of a new world order. Together with guests and a critical commentator, the editors discuss central claims, lay out what they have developed so far and engage in a discussion with the audience.

**Time:** 9:00 AM – 10:30 AM  
**Room:** B-4 (Block A - 1st Floor)  
**Chair:** Dennis Dierks, Leipzig University, Germany  
**Guests:** Steffi Marung, Leipzig University, Germany  
Lena Dallywater, Leibniz ScienceCampus "Eastern Europe - Global Area" (EEGA), Leibniz Institute for Regional Geography, Leipzig, Germany  
**Discussant** Bohdan Novoshytskyi, Leibniz Institute for Regional Geography, Leipzig, Germany

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### SS 14 EEGA Book Presentation and Discussion "Off white - Central and Eastern Europe and the global history of race"

The volume "Off white - Central and Eastern Europe and the global history of race" (2024) foregrounds racial difference as a key to an alternative history of the Central and Eastern European region, which revolves around the role of whiteness as the unacknowledged foundation of semi-peripheral nation-states and national identities, and of the region's current status as a global stronghold of unapologetic white, Christian nationalisms. Contributions address the pivotal role of whiteness in international diplomacy, geographical exploration, media cultures, music, intellectual discourses, academic theories, everyday language and banal nationalism's many avenues of expressions. In the round table, editors and authors together with guests discuss the new paradigms for understanding the relationships among racial capitalism, populism, economic peripherality and race that the book offers.

**Time:** 11:00 AM – 12:30 AM  
**Room:** B-4 (Block A - 1st Floor)  
**Chair:** Steffi Marung, Leipzig University, Germany (tbc)  
**Panelists:** James Mark, University of Exeter, United Kingdom  
Ivan Kalmar, University of Toronto, Canada  
Monika Bobako, Adam Mickiewicz University, Poland

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## RSA Closing Plenary – Smart Specialisation in Central and Eastern Europe

For more information see [RSA conference programme](#) online.

**Time:** 01:30 PM – 03:15 PM

**Room:** E-1 Large Auditorium (Block B - 1st Floor)

**Chair:** Jozsef Benedek, Babes-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca, Romania; University of Miskolc, Miskolc-Egyetemváros, Faculty of Economics, Hungary

**Speakers:** Maria Giovanna Brandano, Gran Sasso Science Institute, L'Aquila, Italy

Tamás Sebestyén, University of Pécs, Hungary

Ron Boschma, Utrecht University, Utrecht, The Netherlands

Marija Raznatovic, Directorate for Innovation and Smart Specialisation, Ministry of Education, Science and Innovation, Montenegro

## Paper Abstracts (in alphabetical order within the panels)

SS 10: EEGA Special Session "Reflections on the Kosovo War: 25 Years Later"

**Panel Chair:** Lena Dallywater, Leibniz Institute for Regional Geography, Leipzig, Germany

Christian Costamagna, Leibniz ScienceCampus "Eastern Europe - Global Area" (EEGA), Leipzig University, Germany:

### **The Kosovo War: Understanding the US Goals**

Much has already been said and written about the Kosovo War. However, the academic interpretations of NATO's intervention are still diverse. Two main macro-explanations for the NATO intervention exist, with varied emphasis. NATO intervention's humanitarian motives dominate the first trend. The second tendency argues that NATO's underlying goals are founded in US hegemonic ambitions. The controversies among scholars are still open. The current proposal positions itself as an interdisciplinary endeavor at the intersection of the history of Southeastern Europe and American foreign policy at the end of the 20th century. Indeed, through consultation and comparison of recently available primary sources the present paper aims to analyze and challenge one of the most complex thematic nodes related to the Kosovo War, that is, to promote a regime change in Serbia. Specifically, considering new American and Yugoslav sources, it will inquire whether it is possible to argue that one of the goals of the USA was to promote a regime change in Belgrade to remove Slobodan Milošević from power. The paper will scrutinize some aspects of the relations between the United States and the Kosovo Liberation Army. Additionally, some lesser-known aspects of the Rambouillet peace accords will be concurrently analyzed.

Arbër Hadri, Institute of History "Ali Hadri", Pristina, Kosovo:

### **Kosovo state building: US policy**

In his talk, Arbër Hadri presents key aspects and discusses the US policy and the role it played in state-building in Kosovo.

David Kanin, Johns Hopkins University, Washington DC, United States:

### **Toward Polyarchy: The Bombing Campaign's Stunted Impact**

NATO's bombing campaign against Serbia in 1999 brought an end to the wars of Yugoslav dissolution but its resolution – like that of the Bosnian war in 1995 – failed to create conditions for the stability and development Western powers promised would take hold in the Balkans. US and European decisionmakers touted regional nation building, rule of law, democratization, and multi-cultural integration as part of a post-Cold War synchrony of liberal institutions and globalization. Instead, muddled international diplomacy and persistent Serbian resistance frustrated efforts to force mutual recognition or "normalization" on Belgrade and Pristina. Western policies swerved from "standards before status" to failed efforts to enshrine Kosovar sovereignty via a replacement to UN Security Council Resolution 1244 and then to a poorly thought-through American insistence on a unilaterally declared independence that left Kosovo with a stunted sovereignty. The EU-led dialogue pushed on Serbia and Kosovo in 2013 made things worse for Pristina by focusing on creation of an Association of Serbian Municipalities that, no matter its mundane official authorities, likely would become a means for extending Belgrade's hold on Kosovo's Serbs to communities south of the Ibar River. The lack of a

realistic EU enlargement strategy does not help matters. Meanwhile, the West's hegemonic moment has given way to a geostrategic polyarchy that raises the possibility that the current status quo in Kosovo, Bosnia and elsewhere will prove as diachronically temporary as were predecessors forced on the Balkans by serial Great Power constellations since 1878.

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SS 11: EEGA Special Session "Wars in the Archives: New Perspectives and Opportunities"

**Panel Chair:** Christian Costamagna, Leibniz ScienceCampus "Eastern Europe - Global Area" (EEGA), Leipzig University, Germany

Kara Ellis, William J. Clinton Presidential Library and Museum in Little Rock, Arkansas, United States:

### **The Kosovo War in the William J. Clinton Archives**

Of the many realities of a changing, post-Cold War World that President Clinton encountered as he came into office, the conflict in the former Yugoslavia was among the most pressing, particularly the tensions in Bosnia and Kosovo. Indeed, the Clinton Administration was so concerned over the situation that the National Security Council Principals Committee convened their first meeting of the new administration to discuss the conflicts. While the Dayton Agreement resolved the first conflict and established an independent Bosnia and Herzegovina in December 1995, this was not the end of President Clinton's involvement in the region. Tensions between the Serbs and the Kosovo Liberation Army intensified in 1998. In response to the ensuing refugee and human rights crisis, the Clinton Administration again found itself working again with its NATO and European partners in the Balkans. NATO commenced airstrikes against Serb military targets in March 1999 after the breakdown of negotiations. The airstrikes ended in June 1999 upon the Milosevic regime's agreement to an international peace plan. The Clinton Administration remained involved in the peacekeeping efforts through participation in the NATO-led Kosovo Force (KFOR).

The William J. Clinton Presidential Library and Museum in Little Rock, Arkansas, houses the records of the Clinton Administration, from January 1993 to January 2001. Foreign policy archivist Kara Ellis will briefly discuss the Administration's policy in the former Yugoslavia and the nature of the Presidential Records concerning Bosnia and Kosovo. This will include material due for release soon. Kara will also speak more broadly about how to access unreleased Clinton Presidential Records using the United States' Freedom of Information Act and Mandatory Declassification Review (MDR) processes.

Robert Parnica, Vera and Donald Blinken Open Society Archives, Budapest, Hungary:

### **War and Emotions in the Archives – the Role of an Archivist**

In most human rights archival collections, human emotions of various intensities are encapsulated, preserved, and scattered among numerous archival boxes, folders, or analog and digital audiovisual materials that deserve our attention. Some emotional materials are a constant source of trauma that continuously and still profoundly disturbs war-torn families and their communities. Unlike many archival materials in which interpretation can diverge and even change depending on scientific discourse, emotional sources encapsulate trauma that stays as a symbolic emotional monument (personal and collective) and as the only vivid remnants from the traumatic past that need to be preserved and remembered for posterity. Archives thus preserve the memory of individuals but also entire communities and nations. Compared with the historical records and facts they contain, records help reconstruct historical context and give a framework for the narration, in which the emotional accounts of witnesses and victims create microcosmos of individual tragic destinies.

The presentation aims to answer two groups of essential questions. Firstly, what is the meaning of emotional archival materials for historical narration, and what layers of information do they provide in a post-conflict society? Secondly, what is the role of the archivist/curator in preserving archival collections for posterity vis-a-vis 'objectivity' and personal bias? Besides safeguarding the facts, do archivists also need to protect original interpretations in the milieu of a 'culture of denial' and more ubiquitous revisionism?

For example, the presenter briefly elaborates on two human rights collections from Budapest's Vera and Donald Blinken Open Society Archives. The first one relates to the collection of the Physicians for Human Rights and their excavations of mass graves in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the typology of materials they produced. The second collection relates to Records of the International Human Rights Law Institute Relating to the Conflict in the Former Yugoslavia. The author concludes that 'silent' or 'invisible' wars for historical narration about events in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and ex-Yugoslavia still exist in various forms and intensities. Because of this, the value of emotional archival materials will increase.

Suzanne Scott, Mechanism Archives and Records Section, United Nations International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals, The Hague, The Netherlands:

### **Management, Preservation, and Access of ICTY and IRMCT Archives**

The International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals (IRMCT) is responsible for the management of the archives of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR), International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY), and IRMCT. Each Tribunal was established as a measure, under Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter, to contribute to the process of national reconciliation and to the restoration and maintenance of peace in the affected countries. Collectively, the archives of the tribunals are a unique and irreplaceable source of information about what these institutions did, why, how, when, and where; and who was involved in and affected by their work. They document judicially tested facts about events and contain the evidence that underpin those facts. As such, they are internationally significant and of interest to a diverse range of people for many purposes.

Ensuring the archives' continued preservation and enhancing access to them allows these materials to positively influence and shape current and future global discussions about peace, stability, post-conflict justice, and accountability.

The Mechanism Archives and Records Section (MARS) is operationally responsible for preserving and providing access to the archives while ensuring the continued protection of confidential information. MARS has, in its current custody, over 4000 linear meters of physical records and 3 petabytes of digital records.

Nevenka Tromp-Vrkic, University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands:

### **The ICTY Trials as Historical Source**

The record of a trial, finished or unfinished, endures as a valuable historical source, not least because trial proceedings often expose materials that would normally be kept from the public. Indeed, evidence produced because of a court's power to compel individuals and states to cooperate may include production of the confidential documents that would otherwise be concealed for many decades by state laws. By the power of the court the prosecution and the defense alike can get access to sensitive documents from state archives for the evidentiary purpose. At a trial this material is disclosed to outside world as evidence and thus become available to the historians and other researchers. This fact underlines the value of the trial archive as historical source, as they shorten "historical distance"

between the researcher and the topic of the research that has been conventionally accompanying the writing of history. Yet, as detailed, and daunting in quantity the trial archive is, it will not be sufficient for writing a definitive historical narrative of the period it deals with. This paper will explore how historians – and other social scientists – can utilize the evidence from a large-scale atrocities trial as a valuable historical source.

Sylë Ukshini, University of Gjilan, Kosovo:

### **The Victory of Truth and the Sinister Shadow of Mrs. Del Ponte**

The General Assembly on 23 May 2024 adopted a resolution on the Srebrenica genocide, designating 11 July as the “International Day of Reflection and Commemoration of the 1995 Genocide in Srebrenica”, to be observed annually, amid a flurry of abstentions and votes against the measure, including from Serbia, which decried the “highly politicized” nature of the resolution.

It calls for member states to incorporate education about the Srebrenica genocide into their curricula to ensure that such atrocities are never forgotten. The resolution (document A/78/L.67/Rev.1), also emphasizes the importance of bringing the perpetrators to justice and urges the international community to continue its efforts in promoting reconciliation and peace in the Balkans. The Srebrenica genocide, recognized as such by international courts, stands as a reminder of the worst atrocities on European soil since World War II. By adopting this resolution, the UN reaffirms its commitment to upholding human rights and preventing future genocides globally. Yet, it hasn't come without its share of controversy, notably facing strong opposition from Serbia and its allies, including EU member Hungary, which under Orbán has also expressed approval for Putin's aggressive war against Ukraine.

This raises apprehensions regarding how the international community might approach the remembrance of massacres in Kosovo, where justice remains vague for many victims. Kosovo, even though it is not a member of the UN, has welcomed the adoption of the resolution on Srebrenica, as it considers it to be the right step for critically confronting the past and seeking justice for the victims of the aggressive war by the Milosevic regime in the 1990s.

In this paper, the role of former Hague Tribunal prosecutor Carla Del Ponte in hiding the secret documents of the Milosevic regime, so that they cannot be used by Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia or any other party, is also evidenced. at the International Court of Justice (ICJ).

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EEGA Panel: “Geographies of Identity and Discontent”

**Panel Chair:** Gregory Gan, Leibniz ScienceCampus "Eastern Europe - Global Area" (EEGA), University of Halle, Germany

Ana Aceska, Wageningen University & Research, The Netherlands:

### **Looking in, looking out: how ideals of “European city” shape Central and Eastern European cities**

In the last few decades, the European Union (EU) has introduced numerous cultural policies and heritage initiatives with the aim of advancing the project of European integration and the making of what the EU policy rhetoric calls ‘European identity’. The flagship heritage initiatives are the European Capital of Culture, the European Heritage Label, the European Heritage Days, and many others. This presentation will reflect on how the EU cultural policies and heritage initiatives influence certain processes of urban planning and urban change in cities in Central and Eastern Europe. It will show how



the EU bureaucratic machinery in the cultural and heritage sectors steer 'European' heritage towards cities and (re)produces points of reference for what can be defined as 'European city' ideals - ideals that have shaped many urban reconstruction processes in SEE.

Gregory Gan, Leibniz ScienceCampus "Eastern Europe - Global Area" (EEGA), University of Halle, Germany:

### **Decolonial Plattenbauten: Home feelings amongst postmigrant actors living in Berlin's postsocialist panel-block housing**

The proposed research in the anthropology of art will consider the affective afterlives of socialist architecture of former East Berlin, focusing on Plattenbauten — industrially-built, residential panel-block housing, which remains the most ubiquitous architectural legacy of state socialism. If, following German re-unification, citizens of the former German Democratic Republic did not have to travel very far to find their home in a new place, participants of the proposed study would have found themselves in a migration trajectory to a new country when newly-formed independent states had formally broken with the Soviet Union, and when Germany became reunified. They would have arrived in Germany from one of the newly-independent constituent Republics of the former Soviet Union, and experienced state integration efforts as migrants settling in Plattenbauten neighbourhoods. They would have thus been doubly stigmatized as former subjects of a centrally-controlled Soviet power, and again, as "foreigners from the East," meeting restrictive migration and integration policies in Germany. If research participants would have thus experienced marginalization both during state socialism and following their migration, then the housing from which they came was not entirely dissimilar from the one in which they settled—in Berlin's Plattenbauten, they would have mobilized familiar memories to situate themselves in their new homes. This exploratory research project will present several case studies based on preliminary visual anthropology and multimodal research to consider how actors of postmigration consider, remember, and shape these neighbourhoods through through creative means.

Anna Grzelak, Institute of Geography and Spatial Organization Polish Academy of Sciences (IGSO PAS), Warsaw, Poland / Marc Ferch / Frederik Beinvogl / Andreas Klärner, Thünen-Institute of Rural Studies, Braunschweig, Germany:

### **Geographies of Discontent: A Central and Eastern European Perspective**

Within the European Union, there are significant and, in many cases, growing socio-economic disparities among regions. Increasingly, arguments posit regional inequalities as a risk to social cohesion, fostering social and political polarisation, and perpetuating feelings of injustice and marginalisation (Deppisch et al., 2022).

Social geographers discuss the political consequences of both long-standing and emerging regional inequalities, advocating for a framework termed the 'geography of discontent' (Los et al., 2017; McCann, 2020). This framework suggests that regional disparities coincide with growing support for Eurosceptic, right-wing populist and/or anti-establishment political factions, with such support often construed as 'revenge of the places that don't matter' (Rodríguez-Pose, 2018) or of 'left behind places' (Pike et al, 2023).

Thus far, the concept of the 'left-behind places' has predominantly centred on Western Europe and the United States. However, recent calls emphasize the necessity of spotlighting the distinct and multifaceted circumstances in Central and Eastern Europe (CEE) (Dunin-Wąsowicz, Gartzou-Katsouyanni, 2023).

In our collaborative project, 'Regions Left Behind' (<https://regions-left-behind.soc.cas.cz/en>), we explore the social and political consequences of spatial disparities within CEE. Socio-economic inequalities between regions are of a particular nature here. Their emergence and manifestations are related to post-socialist transformation, depopulation, and low-wage work. Additionally, there are significant differences in party systems, which are much more volatile in CEE countries.

Based on a systematic literature review (Arksey & O'Malley, 2005), our presentation offers insights from a CEE perspective on the discourse surrounding the 'geography of discontent.' Through this lens, we contribute nuanced understandings to the broader conversation on regional inequalities and their socio-political repercussions.

Jan Szczepański, University of Warsaw, Poland:

### **Rejecting myths - the formation of identity in the space of Lviv**

Author of this paper will present the main assumptions and most important results of the prepared doctoral dissertation, carried out from 2020 to 2024. The topic of the speech is the formation of the identity of Lviv's space and its appropriation by subsequent states and nations in the context of changing systemic affiliation. The paper based on case studies of subsequent historical periods distinguished from the founding of the city to the present. Due to the multitude of topics, the proposed presentation was limited to highlighting the key changes. The key issues included in the topic are urban and architectural threads and elements of the information layer of Lviv's space. The aim is to present a reconstruction of the most important processes in the creation of Lviv's identity, along with an indication of their causes and effects. The research was based on various historical sources, including legal acts, documents of social and private life, press materials and other archival data. Together with the results, our own cartographic studies, diagrams and proposed theses regarding the reinterpretation of the city's past were presented.

## List of Panel Participants

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