



SARAJEVO SCHOOL OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

SSST



In a world that is getting increasingly more complex, it is crucial to understand, explain and predict issues that have, and will have, an impact on societies in all regions of the world. From migration, to poverty, security threats, to human rights violations, University SSST Department of Political Science and International Relations (PSIR) sees in these issues the opportunity to engage in innovative, high-impact research. Our faculty has wide-ranging interests, and approach their work from varying interdisciplinary, theoretical and empirical perspectives. The Department of PSIR believes that when real-life phenomena are coupled with scholarly insights, important results for the discipline, our societies and the world emerge.

In 2015, in hopes to reconcile the cultural, political and historical void between the proliferation of statistical data and the lasting human consequences of the 1992-1995 war, our team of researchers joined forces with one of the leading Bosnian artist Ms. Šejla Kamerić to work on an ambitious **“Ab Uno Disce Omnes”** project. Commissioned by the Wellcome Collection in London, the project approached the role of forensic medicine in a post-conflict society as a lens into the brutal legacy of an all too recent past.

The gravity of living in a post-conflict society is also the focus of an ongoing research concerning the contact intervention effects on intergroup attitudes conducted by the Balkan Institute for Conflict Resolution, Responsibility and Reconciliation in cooperation with the Post-Conflict Research Centre (PCRC) and Dr. Michal Bilewicz from the University of Warsaw. The primary goal of **“Fostering Reconciliation through Moral Exemplars”** is to design contact interventions that would facilitate perceptions of outgroup morality and thus contribute to positive social and psychological changes.

Recognizing the importance of identity expressions in a post-conflict society, the Department of PSIR worked together with the University of Belgrade and colleagues from universities in Banja Luka, Macedonia and Kosovo to successfully finalize a mixed-method research project on social identity parameters, such as complexity and inclusiveness that act as significant predictors of societal and political attitudes. **“From Inclusive Identities to Inclusive Societies: Exploring Complex Social Identity in the Western Balkans”** was financed by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation within the Regional Research Promotional Programme in the Western Balkans.

The intricate links between intergroup dialogue and education form the hub of **“Shared Education in Divided Societies”** project that we are currently implementing in partnership with colleagues from Northern Ireland, Croatia and the Republic of Macedonia. The primary purpose is to develop a strategic network of key educational stakeholders – academics, practitioners, NGOs and policymakers – working in divided societies and consequently create mechanisms and recommendations for facilitating shared education policies and intergroup dialogue in education. The project is financed by the Economic and Social Research Council – the UK’s leading research agency.

Education is also at the center of an impressive **“Erasmus+ Curriculum Development joint European Political Science MA”** project, more commonly known as “euroPS.” Financed by the European Commission, the project aims at employing European standards at Western Balkan universities, supporting their modernization and Europeanization. The Department of PSIR recognizes in “euroPS” the opportunity to enhance standards through regular academic exchange of good practice and sustainable



development. Moreover, the project helps integrate expertise about European politics into our activities in domestic and regional practice in a pre-accession era and, in turn, develop a curriculum that is highly relevant for the contemporary labor markets.

Our commitment to international partnership is also supported by the recent implementation of “**RELco 2016-2017**” project – a joint effort by the Department of PSIR and Dr. Thamer Baazeem from the King AbdulAziz University in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. The project examines the links between religion and consumption in the broadest of senses. The first phase of the project is an ethnographic study of three shopping malls in Jeddah, Riyadh and Sarajevo as central to constructing, maintaining and communicating Muslim women identities. The second initiative is scheduled for the end of upcoming academic year.

The most recent SSST PSIR academic staff commitment is work on a European Commission funded project **MAPS - Migration and asylum policies systems**. MAPS intends to create an international platform of know-how on legal tools and best practices for stakeholders and in order to provide a coherent framework for risk assessment and sustainable management of different implementation systems of reception, asylum and inclusion policies in EU member States and the Corrective Allocation Mechanism (CAM) in the way that involves also local, national and international stakeholders and to make effective the implementation of the principles of substantive equality, dignity, economic and social cohesion and effectiveness of the Community rules relating to European integration.

Furthermore, SSST Jean Monnet Networks project **Democratization and Reconciliation in the Western Balkans** aims at building a consortium of higher education institutions, civil society organizations and research institutions with the purpose of delving into the question of why the EU’s democracy promotion policies have failed to encourage reconciliation in the Western Balkans. In other words, are the EU’s inclusiveness policies able to root out democratic values such as tolerance and diversity in the Western Balkans, in addition to democratic procedures? The institutions selected to be part of this network have been chosen specifically because they either share an interest in delving into this question, come from societies dealing with ethnic reconciliation, or have a thematic expertise on such matters. Thus because such matters are multidimensional in nature, they require a multidimensional approach. Overall, this project proposal aims at using a diversified set of activities, a diversified set of actors, and a diversified set of implementation and dissemination strategies in order to maximize output, impact and success.



Academics programs and courses:

Political Science and International Relations Undergraduate Programme

Religion and International Relations

The course illuminates the complex relationships between religion and international relations. With its focus on scholarly theories and their practical implications, the aim is to provide a fresh take on one of the central problems of our time – the role of religion in domestic, international, and transnational politics. This role has been dramatically underscored by the events of September 11 and an array of terrorist attacks that have followed since, as well as their immediate aftermath, including the eruption of two major wars – the War on Terrorism and the War in Iraq. This course is designed for students interested in the basic patterns of international relations that can, and have been impacted by religion – who the actors are, what they want, what capacities they have to attract support, and what rules they follow.

Multi-Ethnic States

Most, if not all, of the world's states are multi-ethnic states, where multi-ethnicity implies that no group comprises more than 95% of the population. This includes states as different as China, where the Han Chinese comprise approximately 92% of the population, and Tanzania, with over 100 different ethnic groups of which the largest comprises just over 14% of the population. Yet the desire to “live in a territory of one's own” has, since the advent of modern nationalism, been a powerful force challenging the state system and re-making the borders of the world political map. In many cases, such ethno-territorialism involves the political use of ethnic identities, linking an imagined collective identity with a territorial region, and arguing that each group should have its own space.

Nonetheless, some multi-ethnic states function effectively and successfully. The question this module seeks to answer is ‘why that should be’, and whether we can find some way of understanding when a multi-ethnic state will be successful or not, that has both a sound theoretical base and some general application. The module looks at what factors may also lead to ethnic conflict and what factors make a state more viable. This is accomplished through case studies of various multi-ethnic states from different regions in the world, building on the theoretical and conceptual frameworks discussed in previous classes.

Conflict Analysis and Reconciliation (CAR) Master's Programme

The Master Programme in Conflict Analysis and Reconciliation (CAR) offers students a unique and highly interdisciplinary approach to understanding and analysing intergroup conflicts. The courses are taught by highly respected Bosnian and international scholars who will provide students with a comprehensive and



experiential understanding of the processes and conditions leading to various types of intergroup conflicts (ethnic, religious, communal, political conflict resolution techniques as well as post-conflict related processes, such as power sharing, justice and reconciliation). The issues are analysed and discussed from a multidisciplinary perspective, ranging from political philosophy, political science, international law to social psychology. Studying conflict related questions and issues whilst living in a post-conflict setting such as Sarajevo offers a direct understanding and a unique perspective. Students are able to directly relate these to issues discussed in the class.

Conflict, Culture and Democracy

The aim of the course is to offer an insight into the conditions and circumstances of communal conflict in contemporary societies. It focuses on fundamental issues necessary for understanding why ethnic, religious and other identity/culture-based conflicts appear and how to approach their resolution. It helps students understand the conceptual and philosophical background of different dimensions of cultural conflict and disagreement, from ethnic wars in the Balkans to the ban on headscarves in Europe. Interdisciplinary in its approach, it combines insights from political and moral philosophy, cultural studies and sociology.

Psychology of Intergroup Conflict and Reconciliation

The aim of this course is to offer students socio-psychological understanding of intergroup conflicts and processes associated with restoration of intergroup relations. It discusses and offers insight into socio-psychological processes that not only might lead to conflicts (e.g., social identity) but also prolong it (e.g., moral disengagement strategies). It also focuses on processes associated with intergroup reconciliation such as acknowledgment, responsibility acceptance, collective emotions of guilt and shame, forgiveness and re-humanization of the other.