6th STUDENT CONFERENCE

ON INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

7 - 8 May 2026

THE 6th STUDENT CONFERENCE ON INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

PROGRAMME OF THE CONFERENCE

Thursday, May 7 2026

8.30 - 9.00 | Registration

9.00 - 9.30 | Opening ceremony | 21

9.30 - 11.00 | Panels | 20, 21

Narratives, Memory, and Power: Politics of Meaning-Making: Political narratives, populism, discourse construction
(Assist. Dr. Melika Mahmutović & Dr. Polina Zavershinskaia)

Marco Gurin, *Leiden University*: **Narrating the State Against Multilaterism: Far-RIght Populist Constructions of Globalized Multilaterism in Europe**
Jinjing Tong, *Charles University*: **Chinese Communist Party Discourse and China–European Union Diplomacy: A Constructivist Account**
Lev Soklič, *University of Ljubljana*: **Small places, big issues: rising nationalism and changing political dynamics in Kosovo**
Pavel Brada, Charles University: **Discursive Analysis of Sovereignty: Development Nexus in Xi Jinping's Speeches**

International Peace and Security
(Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ljupcho Stojkovski & Assist. Prof. Dr. Marko Kovačević)

Petra Kartela, *University of Vienna*: **The Impact of Veto Power Abuse on the United Nations Security Council's Role in Global Peace**
Arij Kenaan, *University of Miskolc*: **Collective Security versus National Interests in United Nations Security Council Decision**
Evgenija Ilievska, *University in Skopje*: **Political deadlock and Power Politics in the United Nations Security Council: Reassessing the Uniting for Peace Resolution as a circumvention mechanism on the P5's veto power**
Nicole Kasa, *University of Trieste*: **BRICS' Peacekeeping: an Illiberal Alternative to a Western-led International Order**
Katarina Gajić, *University of Belgrade*: **Too Big to Fail: How the United Nations Trades High Politics for Functional Survival**
Stefan Mandić, *University of Belgrade*: **Nature and Meaning of Serbia's Neutrality: A Matter of Identity or Strategic Necessity?**

11.00 - 11.30 | Coffee break

11.30 - 13.00 | Panels | 20, 21

International Environmental Politics
(Assist. Prof. Dr. Danijel Crnčec & Sara Cosattti, PhD candidate)

Dunja Trifunović and Ksenija Todorović, *Union University*: **Economic-Cost Disinformation Narratives in the 2025 German Federal Election**
Jos Breznik, Rosa Erb and Rieke Mampaey, *University of Ljubljana*: **The rhetorical divergence between the United States and Chinese interpretations of the principle of Common but Differentiated Responsibilities and Respective Capabilities and its effects on the international community since 2015**
Lea Fabjan, Teja Pejić and Izidor Slapnik, *University of Ljubljana*: **Planned Relocation and International Law: Addressing Protection Gaps for Climate-Affected Populations**
Lin Gombač, Šarka Tomečková, Neža Ferlinc, *University of Ljubljana*: **The First of Its Kind: United Nations Compensation Commission's role in environmental damage reparations following the 1991 Gulf War**

The Future of European Integration: Closing the Capability-Expectation Gap?
(Assist. Prof. Dr. Jure Požgan & Assist. Prof. Dr. Alice Cunha)

Andrej Chochoski, *University of Pécs*: **EU Identity (Geo)politics: The Case of the Western Balkans amid the War in Ukraine**
Matuš Bušniak, *Charles University*: **From Rhetoric to Reality: The Capability-Expectations Gap in EU Defence Policy after the Invasion of Ukraine**
Maria Parthena Moula, *Malmö University*: **Sustaining European Integration through Regional Cooperation: The Italy-Slovenia case during COVID-19**
David Tomažič, *University of Ljubljana*: **Capability-Expectations Gap in European Space Policy: EU-ESA Institutional Fragmentation**
Francesco Marassi, *University of Trieste*: **Youth Perceptions of the Legitimacy and Effectiveness of the European Union in a Time of Global Change**

13.00 - 14.00 | Lunch

14.00 - 15.30 | GEM podcast | ČAD

15.30 - 16.00 | Coffee break

16.00 - 17.30 | Panels | 21, 18

International Political Economy
(Assoc. Prof. Dr. Josip Lučev & Assoc. Prof. Dr. Brian Schmitt)

Melisa Durkhal, Central European University: **The Sterling Stag Hunt: Geopolitics, Swap Lines, and the Temporal Politics of Moral Hazard**
Jaša Potočnik, University of Ljubljana: **Internal Accumulation Pressures and Semi-Peripheral Constraint: China in the 2024 Sicomines Renegotiation**

Julian Szyburski, University of Łódź: **The emergence of the Migration State: Poland's Political Economy Response to the Ukrainian Refugee Crisis**
Phuong Le Đo Hong, Zagreb University: **Cost-of-living crisis or price stability: Why the UK and Japan responded differently to post-COVID price pressures?**
Marie Dudek, Lund University: **Colonialism's Quiet Success? Critically Assessing the Impact of Japanese Colonial Rule on South Korean Development**
Ondřej Kujal, Charles University: **Infrastructure vs. Political Agency: Comparing Energy Decoupling Strategies in Lithuania, Czechia, and Hungary**

Phd roundtable
(Assoc. Prof. Dr. Josip Lučev & Prof. Dr. Julija Brsakoska Bazerkoska)

Paula Núñez-Guerra, University of Madrid: **Terrorist propaganda and digital actors: the algorithmic impact on radicalisation and power in the contemporary international order**
Aljoša Poljšak, University of Ljubljana: **Russian foreign policy and strategic influence in the western Balkans: evolution and regional dynamics (1991-2021)**
Jakub Hrdina, VŠE Prague: **The European Union's Transforming Actorness in Global Climate Governance: The Externalisation of the European Union Emissions Trading System**
Joana Treneska, Ss. Cyril and Methodius University in Skopje: **Aid Dependency and Democratic Resilience: Civil Society Adaptation in the Western Balkans After International Funding Shocks**
Robert Montgomery, VŠE Prague: **Domestic Resettlement Services Policy as a Tool of LIO Norm Contestation**
Kaewchuea Danuporn, University of Pécs: **The role of Migrants in Economic Growth: Indian Migration in Germany**
Mohammad Mohseni, University of Ljubljana: **Iran's Narrative of Europe During the 12-Day War: A Discourse Network Analysis of IRNA Coverage**

THE 6th STUDENT CONFERENCE ON INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

PROGRAMME OF THE CONFERENCE

Friday, May 8 2026

8.30 - 9.30 | Academic breakfast at FDV | ČAD

9.30 - 11.00 | 4 concurrent GEM workshops | 18, 19, 20, 21

11.00 - 11.30 | Coffee break

11.30 - 13.00 | Panels | 20, 21

Narratives, Memory, and Power: Politics of Meaning-Making: Youth movements
(Assist. Dr. Melika Mahmutović & Dr. Polina Zavershinskaia)

Enrico Decesari, University of Trieste: **Will the Youth fall for Autocracy to avoid falling into Chaos? Collective Memories in Anti-System Movements in Contemporary Italy**
Milica Ilic, University of Belgrade: **A little president on our shoulder: How presidential narratives placed in the media affect the making of young political activists in Serbia**
Anastasia Stanković, University of Ljubljana: **Inherited Antagonism in Serbian Student Movement: Us vs Them**
Jovana Šeremetović, University of Belgrade: **Remembering the Yugoslav Wars: Why today's Students in Serbia See the Past Differently**
Faris Zurub, American University of Science and Technology in Beirut: **How National Identity Affects the Political Ideology of the Youth in Lebanon**

International politics in Multiplex World 1
(Prof. Dr. Ana Bojinović Fenko & Assist. Prof. Dr. Anastas Vangeli)

Dalai Buarque Cavalcanti, University of Pécs: **The United States' Nouveau Imperialism in the Coming Age of Multipolarity**
Jack Merret, Central European University: **Russian Data Centres: An Exploratory Geopolitics**
Sofiia Lohosha, Charles University: **The tragedy of small powers: decline of the protective capacity of international law**
Hazem Moukalled, American University of Science and Technology in Beirut: **EU Migration Policy, State Capacity, and Political Outcomes: Germany and Lebanon in Comparative Perspective**
Gerges Abou Faisal, American University of Science and Technology in Beirut: **Sanctions, Supply Chains, and the Return of Power Politics**

13.00 - 14.00 | Lunch

14.00 - 15.30 | Panels | 20, 21

International politics in Multiplex World 2
(Prof. Dr. Ana Bojinović Fenko & Assist. Prof. Dr. Anastas Vangeli)

Aljaž Praznik, University of Ljubljana: **Why do close partners diverge? The Visegrad Group and EU policy towards Russia under CFSP**
Luka Zorko and Jan Bevk, University of Ljubljana: **Alliance of Sahel States Combatting Neo-colonialism in an Emerging Multiplex World Order**
Gjorgji Hadji Vasilev, University of Skopje, **and Filip Trajkovski**, University of Ljubljana: **Between Brussels and Washington: Has North Macedonia's Foreign Policy Alignment: Shifted since Donald Trump's Return to the Presidency?**
Anej Bevk Peternelj, University of Ljubljana: **Principled but Realistic: Middle Power Foreign Policy Strategy in a Multiplex World Order**
Maciej Drążczyk, University of Łódź: **Polish foreign policy towards Trump's first administration 2017-2020.**

Technology, Power, and the Digital World
(Assist. Dr. Ajda Hedžet & Assoc. Prof. Dr. Brian Schmitt)

Federica Santandrea, University of Trieste: **Digital Hedging as a Path to Digital Sovereignty in Morocco and Egypt**
Ana Marija Naumovska, Ss. Cyril and Methodius University: **Command Responsibility without a Subordinate Revisiting the Doctrine's Conceptual Foundations in the Age of Autonomous Weapons Systems**

15.30 - 16.00 | Coffee break

16.00 - 17.30 | Panels | 21, 18

Narratives, Memory, and Power: Politics of Meaning-Making: Historical memory, memory governance, reconstruction of remembering
(Assist. Dr. Melika Mahmutović & Dr. Polina Zavershinskaia)

Alberto Rosada, Padua University: **The dictatorships of the Cono Sur in the memory policies literature: a systematic comparative approach**
Giorgia Gamba, University of Padua: **The Governance of Memory: Mapping Power Dynamics in Francophone Memory Policies Literature**
Angelina Svishchenko, University of Pécs: **Inventing Legitimacy: Historical Narratives in Greek and Turkish Nationalism**
Skye Warner-Mackintosh, University of Belgrade: **Belgrade as an Emotional City: The Generalštab and Competing Identities in Serbia**

European Union Normative Power: Legal vs. Political Considerations
(Prof. Dr. Julija Brsakoska Bazerkoska & Assist. Prof. Dr. Francesco Spera, PhD)

Jiří Brychta, Charles University: **The Power of Law vs. the Power of Bombs: Balancing EU Legal Principles and Flexibility Under Geopolitical Pressure**

Jana Andreska, Ss. Cyril & Methodius University: **Between Normative and Hard Power: The European Union's External Action in a Changing International Order**
Isobel Williamson, Central European University: **Shifts in the European Commission's LGBTQ+ Rights Framings Toward Ukraine Following Ukraine's EU Candidacy**
Mohammad Ehsan Behbahani, Miskolc University: **"From Soft Norms to Hard Rules: The Extraterritorial Impact of EU Strategic Sovereignty on Labor Relations along the EU-China Corridor"**
Valentina Barone, University of Passau: **EU Normative Power under Pressure: When Law Confronts Geopolitics in Serbia and Albania**

17.30 - 18.00 | Closing ceremony | 21

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PROGRAMME OF THE CONFERENCE

Thursday, 7 May 2026

8.30 - 9.00		REGISTRATION
9.00 - 9.30	21	OPENING CEREMONY
9.30 - 11.00	20 21	NARRATIVES, MEMORY AND POWER: POLITICS OF MEANING-MAKING: POLITICAL NARRATIVES, POPULISM, DISCOURSE CONSTRUCTION | INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY
11.00 - 11.30		COFFEE BREAK
11.30 - 13.00	20 21	INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLITICS | EUROPEAN UNION NORMATIVE POWER: LEGAL VS POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS
13.00 - 14.00		LUNCH
14.00 - 15.30	ČAD	GEM PODCAST
15.30 - 16.00		COFFEE BREAK
16.00 - 17.30	21 18	INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL ECONOMY | PHD ROUNDTABLE

GLOBALLIS

POLITOLOŠKO DRUŠTVO SLOVENSKO

GEM

UNIVERSITY OF LJUBLJANA | FDV Faculty of Social Sciences | Centre of International Relations

THE 6th STUDENT CONFERENCE ON INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

PROGRAMME OF THE CONFERENCE

Friday, 8 May 2026

8.30 - 9.30	ČAD	ACADEMIC BREAKFAST AT FDV	
9.30 - 11.00	18, 19 20, 21	4 CONCURRENT GEM WORKSHOPS	
11.00 - 11.30		COFFEE BREAK	
11.30 - 13.00	20 21	NARRATIVES, MEMORY AND POWER: POLITICS OF MEANING-MAKING: YOUTH MOVEMENTS	INTERNATIONAL POLITICS IN MULTIPLEX WORLD 1
13.00 - 14.00		LUNCH	
14.00 - 15.30	20 21	INTERNATIONAL POLITICS IN MULTIPLEX WORLD 2	TECHNOLOGY, POWER, AND THE DIGITAL WORLD
15.30 - 16.00		COFFEE BREAK	
16.00 - 17.30	21 18	NARRATIVES, MEMORY, AND POWER: POLITICS OF MEANING-MAKING: HISTORICAL MEMORY, MEMORY GOVERNANCE, RECONSTRUCTION OF REMEMBERING	THE FUTURE OF EUROPEAN INTEGRATION: CLOSING THE CAPABILITY-EXPECTATION GAP?
17.30 - 18.00	21	CLOSING CEREMONY	

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