

The Western Balkan's Diversity of Identities: Religion, Language and Education

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.

Goran BANDOVIĆ is associate professor and vice dean at Dag Hammarskjöld University College of International Relations and Diplomacy in Zagreb. He received his PhD from the University of Hamburg and is a European expert in International Relations and International Law with focus on Human and Minority Rights Protection, Peace Studies and Dealing with the Past. Bandov earned his Master in Law at the University of Osijek (2003), Master of Peace and Security Studies at the Institute for Peace and Security Studies in Hamburg (2005), PhD in Philosophy and Social Sciences at the University of Hamburg (2009) and his Postdoc at Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok (2017). He holds the position of Research Fellow at the Institute for Peace



Research and Security Policy at the University of Hamburg, Germany and at the Institute for Research of Genocide (IRGC), Hamilton, Ontario, Canada as well Senior Research Fellow at the University of Zagreb and Associate Professor at the Geneva School of Diplomacy and as well at the Dubrovnik International University. He published the book in Germany “Der Schutz nationaler Minderheiten in der Republik Kroatien als Instrument zur Prävention ethno-politischer Konflikte” and more than 30 papers worldwide on the subjects of International Relations, International Law, Human and Minority Rights, Peace, Sustainable Developments, EU and International Organizations.



Ellen BOS is currently a professor at Andr ssy University. She graduated from the Ruhr-University Bochum in 1986. She worked from 1990 to 1993 as a research assistant at the Geschwister-Scholl-Institute for Political Sciences of the Ludwig-Maximilians-University Munich. In 1991 she earned her doctorate at the Ruhr-University-Bochum. From 1993 until 2005 she worked as a scientific assistant and then as a senior research assistant at the Geschwister-Scholl-Institute. In 2000, she completed her habilitation at

the Ludwig-Maximilians-Universit t Munich. From 2001 to 2002 and from 2003 to 2004 she was a chairperson at the Geschwister-Scholl-Institute. From 2002 to 2003 Prof. Bos worked as a guest professor at the Social Sciences Institute of the Humboldt University in Berlin. Since 2004 she works as a professor at Andr ssy University. Between 2004 and 2011 Prof. Bos was also a long-term lecturer at the DAAD. Since 2009 she is Director of the Doctoral School of the Andr ssy University Budapest. In March 2017 she obtained the position of Vice-Rector for Research and Young Researchers at the Andr ssy University.

Andra-Octavia DRĂGHICIU is a research assistant at the Institute for Austrian History of the University of Graz. She studied history at the University of Vienna, where she graduated with a Herder scholarship in 2011. That same year she received a PhD scholarship from the Austrian Federal Ministry of Science, Research and Economy at the Department for Central European Studies of the German speaking Andr ssy University in Budapest. In 2016 she successfully defended her PhD thesis on youth cultures in the Romanian Socialist Republic between 1974 and 1989.



Christina GRIESSLER is a research fellow for the Network for Political Communication (netPOL) at the Andr ssy 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 primarily interest lies in the field of peace and conflict studies and the communication in managing conflicts. She is currently working on her habilitation project, which looks at the conflict episodes in

the relationship between Croatia and Serbia after the disintegration of Yugoslavia.

Zorica KUBURIĆ is a fulltime professor of Sociology of Religion and Sociology of Education at the University of Novi Sad, Faculty of Philosophy, and president of the Center for the Empirical Research of Religion (www.ceir.co.rs). She is founder and chief editor of Journal Religion and Tolerance (2002-2017). She is also a lecturer at the Center for Women's Studies in Novi Sad, and guest lecturer at the different Theological Faculties in the region. She graduated in psychology and pedagogy, University of Sarajevo (Effects of early learning on personality development). Postgraduate study finished 1989 in Medical faculty, University of Zagreb (The relationship Between Parental Acceptance-Rejection and Psychiatric Problems in Adolescence). She holds a PhD in Faculty of Philosophy, University of Belgrade 1995 (with the thesis: The Self-image of Adolescents in the Protestant Family). In her scientific career, she researched the religious and civic education, religious and social distance, attitudes concerning religious tolerance, religiosity of youth, state policies toward religious minorities, and position of women within religious communities, Reconciliation and Trust Building in Bosnia and Herzegovina.



Etleva LALA is adjunct lecturer of the Albanian Studies at Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest. After a long residency in the Vatican Secret Archives, she completed her dissertation at CEU in 2008 on relations between the kingdom of Albania and the Holy See in the fourteenth century (Regnum Albaniae, the Papal Curia, and the Western Visions of a Borderline Nobility). Her main field of research and teaching over the last years has been centered on different aspects of the Albanian history and identity in the Balkan and European context. She is co-author and editor of some books, and author of many articles in various languages and a member of the ISSOTL (International Society for Scholarship of Teaching and Learning).

Tamara PAVASOVIĆ TROŠT is an Assistant Professor of Sociology at the Faculty of Economics, University of Ljubljana. She received her Ph.D. in Sociology from Harvard University (2012), with a dissertation examining history teaching and identity among Serbian and Croatian youth, and an M.A. in Political Science from Syracuse University (2005). After completing her studies, she taught at the University of Graz as a visiting professor, and spent the 2015-16 year a visiting fellow at Princeton University. Her most recent publication, Changing Youth Values in Southeast Europe: Beyond Ethnicity (Routledge, 2018, co-edited with Danilo Mandić) examines the cultural, political and ideological values of young people living in Southeastern Europe, arguing that new approaches are needed to examine the influence of complex global factors on new identifications and value orientations of youth. She publishes on issues of ethnicity, education, populism, nationalism, and Europeanization, with a focus on youth. At Harvard, she was awarded the Derek C. Bok Award for Excellence in Teaching, while most recently, she received the Nations and Nationalism essay prize for her article on history textbooks in Serbia and Croatia.





Bogdan Mihai RADU is senior lecturer in the Department of Political Science at Babes-Bolyai University in Cluj-Napoca, Romania. His research revolves around conceptualizations of political culture in the context of post-communist democratic transformation and consolidation. Furthermore, he explores how political values and attitudes are formed and how attachment to democracy and the European Union is constructed in East Central Europe. He is also interested in the interactions between political culture and religious identity, education, and different understandings of the political community. More recently, he conducted research on public opinion and international development.

Ešref Kenan RAŠIDAGIĆ is Associate Professor of International Relations in the Faculty of Political Science, University of Sarajevo. He earned his PhD from the same faculty, MA from the American University of Beirut and BA from the International Islamic University Malaysia. Besides University of Sarajevo prof. Rašidagić also taught and cooperated with a number of other universities and research institutes. Most recently he served as the Dean of the Faculty of Economics and Social Sciences, International Burch University. His research interests include political Islam, regional studies, post-conflict and development studies, etc. His published works deal with the role of regional powers in the Balkans, reforms in post-conflict societies, international humanitarian interventions, and so on.



Hana SEMANIĆ is 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.

Norbert ŠABIĆ joined the Strategic Planning Office at the Central European University in 2015. He assists in the implementation of the Intellectual Themes Initiative and supports various activities related to the university's strategic plan. Norbert is also affiliated to the Yehuda Elkana Center for Higher Education, where he conducts research on higher education policies. Norbert obtained a Bachelor of Science with a major in Education from the University of Jönköping (Sweden), and received a joint European Master degree in Higher Education policy and management studies from the University of Oslo (Norway). After his studies, Norbert worked for two years as a technical manager at the College of Applied Sciences in Subotica, Serbia. In 2011, he enrolled at the Doctoral School of Political Science, Public Policy, and International Relations at CEU and defended his doctoral dissertation on the topic of diversification policies in European higher education.



Christopher WALSCH studied history at the University of Vienna (Mag. phil., Dr. phil.), International Relations and European Studies at CEU (M.A.), and Development Studies at the School of Oriental and African Studies at the University of London (M.Sc.). He is a visiting professor at Corvinus University Budapest. His research focus is on regional cooperation in the European Union, on EU enlargement, and on European politics of Central European states. Recent publications: Christopher Walsch, Ellen Bos, Christina Griessler (eds), *Die EU Donauraumstrategie auf dem Prüfstand* [The EU Danube Region Strategy – an intermediary evaluation], Baden-Baden: Nomos 2017. 'Visegrad Four in Bosnia-Herzegovina. State-building and EU Approximation from a Central European perspective', *Society and Economy in Central and Eastern Europe*, Vol. 35, No. 4 (2015). 'Visegrad Four in the European Union. An efficient regional cooperation scheme?', in *International Issues & Slovak Foreign Policy Affairs*, Vol. XXIII, No. 1-2 (2014).

Nikola ZEČEVIĆ is a teaching fellow at the Humanistic Studies, University of Donja Gorica in Podgorica, Montenegro. He obtained BSc and MA (distinction) in International Relations, at the Faculty of Political Science, University of Montenegro. His areas of interest are history of the Balkans and Balkan relations, communication studies and studies of nationalism. He has published a number of research and professional papers related to the field of his expertise and to other related topics. He writes columns for prominent Montenegrin, Serbian and regional magazines and blogs, such as: *Vijesti*, *Peščanik*, *Novi Plamen*, etc.

