

Justice Interactions and Peacebuilding Conference Agenda

Date: Friday, 20th October 2023

Venue: The London School of Economics and Political Science, London WC2A 2AE

Room: Yangtze Theatre, Centre Building, CBD, 2nd Floor

09:00 – 09:30 am | Arrival: Coffee/tea is served

09:30 – 10:00 am | Welcome and Introduction

Denisa Kostovicova, LSE

Denisa Kostovicova will introduce 'Justice Interactions and Peacebuilding (JUSTINT)' research programme funded by the European Research Council (ERC). She will present the project's contribution to theorizing transitional justice and peacebuilding. She will also outline the empirical work and evidence produced to inform theoretical claims. This will provide the basis for putting the findings of the JUSTINT project on the Western Balkans in a wider theoretical and empirical context.

10: 00 – 11:15 | Panel 1: Inter-ethnic and Intra-ethnic Interactions

Chair:

Ivor Sokolić, University of Hertfordshire

Panellists:

Jasna Dragovic-Soso, Goldsmiths University

Nora Ahmetaj, Human rights consultant, Kosovo

Dragan Štavljanin, Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty

The panel introduces the topic of face-to-face and virtual interactions with members of the out-group (inter-ethnic interactions) and with members of the in-group (intra-ethnic interactions). It provides empirical examples of the micro-level exchanges between the speakers and raises the question of challenges and opportunities for a critical engagement with the legacy of war crimes and human rights violations. The panel addresses the questions:

- Why a dialogue that considers the perspectives of out-group members is challenging in post-conflict societies?
- How do macro-level considerations impact on micro-level communication and vice versa?
- What constitutes resistance to hegemonic narratives, and how can its effectiveness be evaluated?

11.15-11.30 | Coffee break

11.30 -1.00 | Session 2: Transitional Justice Interactions in the Public Sphere

Chair:

Denisa Kostovicova, LSE

Panellists:

Jovana Kolarić, Humanitarian Law Centre, Belgrade

Dženeta Karabegović, University of Salzburg

Vjeran Pavlaković, University of Rijeka

Serbeze Haxhiaj, journalist, Kosovo

The panel introduces the subject of different deliberative domains where communication about the legacy of war crimes and human rights violations takes place. It distinguishes between the public and the private sphere, while drawing connections between them. It presents interactions about human rights violations as a

space constituted by complex and contradictory dynamics and effects. The panel addresses the questions:

- How do different transitional justice mechanisms and initiatives relate to challenges typical of discussion of human rights violations and their legacy in divided societies?
- Whose views risk being marginalised and/or rendered invisible, and why?
- What explains the dominance and persistence of contestation and denial of in-group responsibility for wrongdoing?

1.00-2.00 Lunch

2.00-3.30 pm | Panel 3: Gender and Agency in Transitional Justice Interactions

Chairs:

Vesna Popovski, LSE

Venera Çoçaj, LSE

Panellists:

Vjollca Krasniqi, University of Prishtina

Marsha Henry, LSE

Heleen Touquet, University of Antwerp

Maja Korać, Institute for Sociological Research, Belgrade

This session introduces the subject of women and men's participation in relation to formal (institutional) and informal (societal) spheres about human rights violations, in general, and about gender-based sexual violence. It raises the question about understanding and framing agency to evaluate impact on transitional justice as a policy and practice, whilst relating it to the issues of voice and silence. The panel addresses the questions:

- How should a gender-sensitive participation in transitional justice be conceptualized?
- What constitutes women's empowerment of female and male victims in relation to transitional justice?
- How can we evaluate voice versus silence for gendered manifestations of transitional injustice?

3.30-4.45 Coffee/tea break

3.45-5.00 pm | Session 4: Data, Methods and Theory-Building in Transitional Justice Dialogues and Discourses

The study of transitional justice has thrived as a field since the early 1990s. Its recent, arguably, rapid expansion has been driven by a parallel development related to data, used both for qualitative and quantitative research. For example, survey and survey experimental research has been used to tackle new questions in transitional justice. At the same time, like other fields, transitional justice research is also benefitting from technological development and availability of new data, such as social media data. The panel addresses the implications of different types of data and their generation to evaluate theoretical developments in transitional justice, and the role of different types of data in evaluating formation and changing of attitudes about past wrongs. The panel addresses the questions:

- How is data used to reflect and shape attitudes towards accountability for human rights violations in theory and practice?
- What are old and new challenges in generating data for use in transitional justice research and practice?
- How does technological change facilitate theory development in transitional justice?

Chairs:

Tolga Sinmazdemir, SOAS and
Sanja Vico, University of Exeter

Panellists:

Predrag Kurčubić, IPSOS, Serbia
Nikola Mokrović, Documenta, Croatia
Vojislav Mihailović, CRTA, Serbia
Ivana Stepanović, Institute of Advanced Studies, Kőszeg, Hungary