

Liquid reconciliation: Global perspectives, Glocal realities.

Global Campus
of Human Rights
International
Conference 2017

4–6 April 2017

Sarajevo,
Bosnia and Herzegovina

Organised by

This project is co-funded by the European Union
and the MFA of the Republic of Italy



Ministero degli Affari Esteri

Description

The Global Campus of Human Rights International Conference 2017 is focused on the nexus between human rights protection and the perspective of reconciliation in divided societies. The conditions under which reconciliation and the defense of human rights are treated depend on a variety of aspects, according to the historical events and individual tragedies experienced in each country/region. Therefore, the comparative approach is the mark for each proposed panel of the conference. The key concepts the conference will tackle are memory, justice and the role of the truth and reconciliation commissions, dealing with the past as well as empathy, forgiveness and the social cleavages.

The Conference is organized by the University of Sarajevo, with the Center for Interdisciplinary Studies, and the University of Bologna, with the Institute for Central-Eastern and Balkan Europe, through their joint activity "European Regional Master's Programme in Democracy and Human Rights in South East Europe (ERMA)"

This conference is realized within the framework of the Global Campus of Master's Programmes and Diplomas in Human Rights and Democratisation, coordinated by the European Inter-University Center for Human Rights and Democratization, funded by the European Union. The Global Campus of Human Rights is a unique network of more than one hundred participating universities around the world, seeking to advance human rights and democracy through regional and global cooperation for education and research. This global network is promoted through seven Regional Programmes which are based in Venice for Europe, in Sarajevo/Bologna for South East Europe, in Yerevan for the Caucasus, in Pretoria for Africa, in Bangkok for Asia-Pacific, in Buenos Aires for Latin America and the Caribbean, and in Beirut for the Arab World.

Programme

Tuesday, 4 April

Opening ceremony

Venue: Conference Hall of the Parliament of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Sq. Bosnia and Herzegovina 1, Sarajevo

[12:30-13:00 Registration](#)

[13:00 – 15:00 Opening Ceremony](#)

Chair:

Stefano Bianchini, ERMA Co-director, University of Bologna (Italy)

Opening note:

Semiha Borovac, Minister for Human Rights and Refugees (Bosnia and Herzegovina)

Welcoming addresses:

Rifat Škrijelj, Rector of the University of Sarajevo (Bosnia and Herzegovina)

Francesco Ubertini, Rector of the University of Bologna (Italy) (tbc)

Representative of the Delegation of the European Union to BiH (tbc)

H.E. Nicola Minasi, Ambassador of the Republic of Italy in Bosnia and Herzegovina

Keynote speeches:

Nataša Kandić, Humanitarian Law Center Belgrade (Serbia) (title tbc)

Manfred Nowak, Secretary General, EIUc - European Inter-University Centre for Human Rights and Democratisation (Italy) "Truth, Justice and Reconciliation in Post-Conflict Societies"

[15:00 – 16:00 Cocktail](#)

Visit to the National Museum of BiH

[16:30-17:30](#)

Introduction by:

Ines Tanović-Sijerčić (ERMA alumna)

The visit will shed a light on the story of civic courage and engagement which unfolds behind the existence of the museum. Due to lack of funding caused by an enduring legal vacuum, in 2012 the Museum closed the doors to the public. Despite that, for three years its employees

volunteered to take care of its heritage, alighting a vivid citizen's awareness. The museum re-opened its doors to the public in 2015.

Wednesday, 5 April

Conference day

Venue: Rectorate of the University of Sarajevo,
Celebrations Hall - Obala Kulina Bana 7/II, Sarajevo

09:00 – 10:45 PANEL 1
Memory, Empathy and Forgiveness

The first panel refers to historical memories. The issue is very controversial, not only because memories are often mutually in conflict, but also because politics (states, ideologies and so on) is encouraging opposite and/or irreconcilable memories. Textbooks are also treating the past events according to narratives that are mutually incompatible. On the contrary, we would like to understand whether a reconciliation of memories is achievable, to what extent a revision of textbooks is realistically possible (and how), if empathy can be helpful for re-establishing broken bonds, and creating the conditions for crimes recognition and forgiveness. Participants in this panel are therefore invited to express their views in relation to the experience of their own region/country.

9:00 – 10:45 PANEL 1
Memory, Empathy and Forgiveness

Chair:
George Ulrich,
Eiuc - European Inter-University Centre for Human Rights and Democratisation (Italy). EMA Director

Speakers:
Vesna Teršelić,
Documenta, Zagreb (Croatia)
"Transgenerational transfer of memories, trauma and trust building"
Christina Koulouri,
Panteion University, Athens (Greece).
"To forget or to Remember? History Teaching as a Mean of Reconciliation in Post-Conflict Balkans"
Wessel Le Roux,
University of the Western Cape, Cape Town (South Africa)
"The Constitution as History Textbook: Human Rights Litigation, Reconciliation, and Public Memory in Post-Apartheid South Africa"

Discussant:
Arevik Anapioşyan,
Yerevan State University (Armenia)

10:45 – 11:00 Coffee Break

11:00 – 12:45 PANEL 2
Morality of the Truth and Reconciliation Commissions

The second panel discusses the legal (and political) tools that have been, or might be established in order to create the conditions for overcoming tensions in deeply divided societies. The truth commission was experienced in South Africa while similar attempts took place in other regions with different outcomes. The ICTY was also supposed to play a similar role in the Yugoslav successor states, nonetheless failed to achieve this result. Instead, in other countries alternative tools might have been identified and/or employed in order to reinforce a morality of truth and

a shared truth against crimes, violations of human rights, conflicts that persecuted a peaceful civil life. The speakers of this panel are called to have their say about these issues, in relation to the cultural, legal, and political experiences/tools (both effective and ineffective) in order to achieve the pacification of societies.

Chair:
Arevik Anapioşyan,
Yerevan State University (Armenia)

Speakers:
Joseph Marko,
University of Graz (Austria)
"Power-Sharing Without Reconciliation? Lessons from Bosnia-Herzegovina and Cyprus"
Jasna Dragović Soso,
Goldsmith University of London (United Kingdom)
"Truth and Reconciliation Commissions as Nation-Building Projects: Lessons from the Post-Conflict Balkans"
Marouane Laouina,
University of Grenoble (France)
"Reconciling with what? Truth, Justice, and Forgiveness in the Case of the Moroccan Equity and Reconciliation Commission"

Discussant:
Jorge Taiana,
San Martin University, Buenos Aires (Argentina)

12:45 – 14:00 Lunch break

14:00 – 15:45 PANEL 3
Justice and Social Cleavages

The third panel refers to the social cleavages, as the number of deep social dichotomies that affect a country. They may concern the role of the media, the economic polarisation, the cultural access to knowledge and information, the role of bias and prejudices like racism, xenophobia and anti-Semitism etc. The participants in the panel will present some of the pressing cleavages in the respective regional contexts, and elaborate further about the conditions which can allow to bridge the gaps.

Chair:
Wasantha Seneviratne,
University of Colombo (Sri Lanka)

Speakers:
Remzi Lani,
Albanian Media Institute, Tirana (Albania)
Dividing lines in Balkan Media

George Andreopoulos,
John Jay College of Criminal Justice, New York (USA)
"Establishing the Truth about Human Rights Violations: Issues and Challenges"

Jorge Taiana,
San Martin University, Buenos Aires (Argentina)
"The Road to Justice for Serious Human Rights Violations and State Terrorism in Latin America: Cleavages and Bridges"

Discussant:
Carole Rizkallah Alsharabati,
Saint Joseph University, Beirut (Lebanon)

15:45 – 16:00 Coffee break
16:00 – 17:00 Closing Addresses

Keynote speeches:

Mary Kaldor,

London School of Economics (United Kingdom)
(title tbc)

Wasantha Seneviratne,

University of Colombo (Sri Lanka)

"Fostering Transitional Justice to War Affected Societies:
Challenges and Prospects with Special Reference to Sri
Lanka"

Closing note:

Asim Mujkić,

ERMA Co-Director, University of Sarajevo
(Bosnia and Herzegovina)

Thursday, 6 April

**Round Table: "The Role of Education in Achieving
Justice, Truth and Reconciliation"**

Venue: Rectorate of the University of Sarajevo,
Celebrations Hall - Obala Kulina Bana 7/II, Sarajevo

The final round table will see the participation of the directors/
coordinators of the all the regional master programs of the
Global Campus of Human Rights. The discussion will focus
on the role of education (especially higher) in contributing to
reconciliation by training young generations of activists and
leaders, who will be able to instill into the consciousness
of their societies the values of tolerance, respect of human
dignity, diversity and coexistence in plural contexts. The
roundtable will be opened by a short presentation of each
regional master focusing on their main features, targets, the
impact on the regional dimension and the major achievements.

Opening Note:

Aida Hodzic, Pro-rector for Education
of the University of Sarajevo (Bosnia and Herzegovina)

**09:05 – 10:30 Presentation of the Seven Regional Masters
of the Global Campus of Human Rights**

Participants:

Regional Programmes Directors
and Coordinators

Veronica Gomez,

San Martin University

(Buenos Aires, Argentina)

LATMA - Latin America Caribbean

Carole R. Alsharabati,

Saint Joseph University Beirut (Lebanon)

ARMA - Arab World

Asim Mujkić,

University of Sarajevo

(Bosnia and Herzegovina)

ERMA - South East Europe

George Ulrich,

Inter-University Centre

for Human Rights and Democratisation

EMA – Europe

Wasantha Seneviratne,

University of Colombo (Sri Lanka)

APMA - Asia-Pacific

Kristine Gevorgyan,

University of Yerevan (Armenia)

CES – Caucasus

Ashwanee Budoo,

University of Pretoria (South Africa)

HRDA - Africa

10:30 – 10:45 Coffee break

10:45 – 12:30 Discussion

Moderator:

Manfred Nowak,

Secretary General

EIUC, European Inter-University Centre for Human Rights
and Democratisation (Italy)

12:30 Lunch

Social Event

16:00-18:00

Venue: Kino Meeting Point, Ulica Hamdije Kreševljakovića, 13

"The Choice" is a documentary film based on true stories
of the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina, inspired by the
interviews included in the book "Good People in an
Evil Time" authored by Svetlana Broz, the granddaughter
of Josip Broz "Tito". The movie was sponsored by the
European Regional Master's Programme in Democracy
and Human Rights in South East Europe (ERMA) and
the Master in Interdisciplinary Research and Studies on
Eastern Europe (Mirees). The movie is subtitled in English.
The event will be followed by a cocktail.

Introduced by:

Alina Trkulja,

University of Sarajevo (Bosnia and Herzegovina)

Hosting Institutions:

U. of Sarajevo, with the Center for Interdisciplinary Studies
and the U. of Bologna, with the Institute for Central-Eastern
and Balkan Europe in the framework of their double degree
"European Regional Master's Programme in Democracy and
Human Rights in South East Europe" (ERMA).

Conveners:

Stefano Bianchini, U. of Bologna

Asim Mujkić, U. of Sarajevo

Scientific committee:

Stefano Bianchini, U. of Bologna

Asim Mujkić, U. of Sarajevo

Gvozden Flego, U. of Zagreb

Francesco Privitera, U. of Bologna

Anna Krasteva, New Bulgarian U.

Milan Podunavac, U. of Belgrade

Wolfgang Benedek, U. of Graz

Panagiotis Liargovas, U. of Peloponnese

Nikolas Tzifakis, U. of Peloponnese

Hans-Joachim Heintze, Bochum U.

Nina Belyaeva, Moscow National Research U.

Federico Sicurella, U. of Tor Vergata

Adriano Remiddi, IECOB - U. of Bologna

Conference organiser:

Adriano Remiddi, IECOB - U. of Bologna

(adriano.remiddi@unibo.it)

Organisation Team:

Valentina Abita, Elisa Aquino, Giacomo Ottonello,

Isotta Esposito, Alina Trkulja, Marjan Icoski, Mariana

Hadzijusufović, Ilcho Cvetanoski, Zerina Zahirović.

More info at:

www.pecob.eu/GCconference2017