

8.00 am **Breakfast**  
**Panel 6: New Opportunities, Old Problems: Southeast Europe in the 1990s**

9.00 am **Discursive Self-Positioning of Romania's Foreign Policy: Europe and the Black Sea**  
*Rebecca Grossi*  
 University of Leipzig

**No Strategy and no Allies: The Security Dilemmas of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (FRY) during the Kosovo War (1998-1999)**  
*Christian Costamagna*  
 University of Leipzig / University of Rijeka

Chair: *Adrian-Daniel Stan*

10.15 am **Coffee Break**

**Panel 7: Small Balkan States in Regional Initiatives**

10.45 am **The Black Sea Region's Strategic Alignment. Can Rhetoric Exercises Gain Traction on the Limes? A View from the Western Bank**  
*Adrian-Daniel Stan*  
 Babes-Bolyai University of Cluj

**Western Balkan States and Their Role in the European Political and Security Architecture – Regional Cooperation, NATO Membership and European Integration**  
*Aleksandar Spasov*  
 University „Ss. Cyril and Methodius“ in Skopje

**Open Balkan, the Initiative That Was Closed Before It Was Opened**  
*Elsa Krasniqi*  
 University of Prishtina

Chair: *Vladimir Vučković*

12.30 pm **Lunch**

**Panel 8: Balkan States and Europe in a Global Context**

2.00 pm **Warmongering as a Foreign Policy Tool. How Montenegro Stays on the Map of International Politics After 1878**  
*Niko Pavić*  
 University of Vienna

**Navigating the International Stage: Albania's Foreign Policy Under Edi Rama Through Discourse Analysis**  
*Alban Reli*  
 European University of Tirana

**You Are either With Us, or Against Us: The Small State of Serbia Between Domestic Ambition and External Pressures**  
*Vladimir Vučković*  
 Masaryk University Brno

**Small States' Non-conventional Strategies in Globalized World: Exploring Albania's Policies as a Security Provider in South-East Europe**  
*Djego Abedinaj*  
 Heinrich Böll Stiftung, Tirana

Chair: *Christian Costamagna*

3.45 pm **Coffee Break**

**Speed Presentations of Research Projects Discussion of research projects/papers in smaller working groups**

4.00 pm **God Save the Mayor: Local Illiberal Structures and Practices in Serbia**  
*Alejandro Esteso Pérez*  
 University of Graz

**Deterioration of Queer Rights Under the Auspices of the European Non-discrimination Regime in Serbia**  
*Bekim Lahi*  
 University of Belgrade

**Enlargement Fatigue in the Western Balkans, Missing Democratization**

*Vladimir Lame*  
 ATC Institute Tirana

**Connection by Reflection: Yugoslav and British Constructions of Belonging during World War I**

*Paula Seidel*  
 Europa-Universität Viadrina Frankfurt (Oder)

**Behaving Like an Ally: Understanding the United States in the Kosovar Parliamentary Discourse**

*Mehdi Sejdiu*  
 Heidelberg University

**Bosnia and Herzegovina – Serbia Collaboration in Southeast European Regional Organizations**

*Tarik Velić*  
 International Burch University

6.00 pm **Dinner**

**Book Presentation and Discussion**

7.30 pm **“Pulverfass Balkan” by Florian Bieber**

Moderation: *Christian Hagemann*  
 Director of the Southeast Europe Association, Munich

Language: German

8.00 am **Breakfast (Check-out until 9.00 am)**

9.00 am **Concluding Discussion, Feedback and Next Steps**  
*Florian Bieber*  
*Dietmar Müller*

10.30 am **Farewell Coffee**

12.00 pm **Lunch, Departure of Participants**

**Conference Committee**

**Dietmar Müller**  
 Senior Researcher, University of Leipzig

**Florian Bieber**  
 Professor, Southeast European History and Politics, University of Graz. Director, Centre for Southeast European Studies

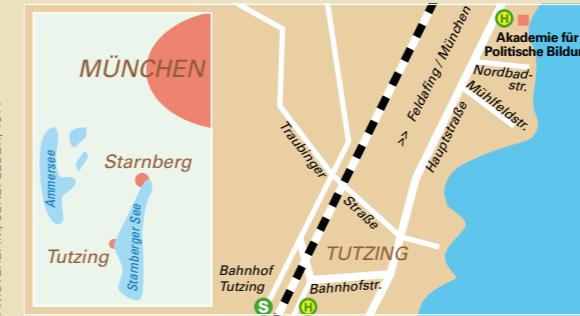
**Conference Organizers**

**Beate Winterer**  
**Michael Mayer**  
 Akademie für Politische Bildung

**Ivana Jerkovic Vukalovic**  
**Viktoria Voglsinger-Palm**  
 Südosteuropa-Gesellschaft e.V.

**Participation upon invitation only.**  
[www.sogde.org](http://www.sogde.org)

TITELLAB.: POLITICAL MAP - FIRST WORLD WAR. RAEMAËKERS, LOUIS - BROSSE, J. G. (UTRECHT), AMSTERDAM, SENEFFELDER, 1914



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# Smallness in International Politics

## The Agency of Small States in Southeast Europe

62<sup>nd</sup> International Academic Week



September 30 – October 4, 2024

In cooperation with



SÜDOSTEUROPA GESELLSCHAFT

Institutionell gefördert durch das Auswärtige Amt.

## INVITATION

The International Academic Week (HSW) is the Southeast Europe Association's (Südosteuropa-Gesellschaft – SOG) annual key event to bring together early-career researchers (MA/PhD/Post-Doc levels) and experienced scholars from all over Europe and beyond to present and discuss their research on the region. This year's conference is hosted by PD Dr. Dietmar Müller (University of Leipzig) and Prof. Dr. Florian Bieber (University of Graz) and will focus on the topic of "Smallness in International Politics: The Agency of Small States in Southeast Europe".

This International Academic Week approaches the "smallness problem" in international politics from a constructivist angle and with methods from international relations and security studies, the cultural history of politics, transnational feminism, and European studies. On different levels of agency, from local, to regional and national, from bi- and trilateral to international and in different fields of policy and society we analyse discourses and policies that tried to mitigate and compensate the smallness of nations and states.

We will analyse the role of agency and position of countries from Southeast Europe in the larger European and international state system, with a particular focus on four historical periods: a) the emergence of modern nation states in Southeast Europe in the 19th century, b) the state-system in interwar Europe, c) Cold-War Southeast Europe, and d) the 21st century.

*Beate Winterer*

Akademie für Politische Bildung

*Michael Mayer*

Akademie für Politische Bildung

*Dietmar Müller*

Senior Researcher, University of Leipzig

*Florian Bieber*

Professor, Southeast European History and Politics, University of Graz. Director, Centre for Southeast European Studies

## MONDAY, 30 SEPTEMBER 2024

4.30 pm **Registration and Welcome Coffee**

5.15 pm **Welcome Addresses**

*Manuel Sarrazin*

President, Southeast Europe Association

*Beate Winterer*

**Award Ceremony**

5.30 pm **Best Master Thesis in Southeast European Studies**

Awardee: *Olga Bostan*

PhD Candidate, Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology, Halle (Saale)

Laudation: *Claudia Weber*

Professor, European Contemporary History, European University Viadrina Frankfurt/Oder

5.45 pm **Introduction by the Conference Committee**

*PD Dr. Dietmar Müller*

*Prof. Dr. Florian Bieber*

6.15 pm **Keynote and Q&A**

*Dimitar Bechev*

Departmental Lecturer, Russian and East European Studies, Oxford School of Global and Area Studies, University of Oxford

7.00 pm **Reception**

## TUESDAY, 1 OCTOBER 2024

8.00 am **Breakfast**

9.00 am **Welcome, Meet and Greet**

including a short introduction of the **Young SOG**, an association of young members of the Southeast Europe Association

10.30 am **Coffee Break**

**Panel 1: Misery and Splendour: Discourses on Smallness**

10.45 am **In Search of Remedy for the "Miseries of East European Small States"**

*Diana Mishkova*

Centre for Advanced Study, Sofia

**Unraveling Epistemological vs. Ontological Security: Insights from the Belgrade-Pristina Dialogue**

*Filip Ejdus*

University of Belgrade

**The Greatness of the Small: Miroslav Krleža's Banners as a Political History of the Smallness of the States in the Western Balkan Region**

*Ethem Mandić*

Faculty for Montenegrin Language and Literature, Cetinje

Chair: *Dietmar Müller*

12.30 pm **Lunch**

**Panel 2: The Agency of Small States in the European Integration Process**

2.00 pm **The Neglected Agency of Western Balkan Countries in EU Enlargement Studies**

*Nikolaos Tzifakis*

University of the Peloponnese, Corinth

**Do Small States Impact the Eastern Partnership? The Forms and Sources of State Agency of the Republic of Moldova**

*Sabina Islamzade*

Bucharest

**Exploring Structure and Agency in Bosnia and Herzegovina's Alignment with the European Union's Common Foreign and Security Policy**

*Amer Kurtović*

International Burch University, Ilidža

Chair: *Sabina Ferhadbegović*

3.30 pm **Coffee Break**

**Panel 3: Small States in International Organizations**

4.00 pm **A Small Nation's Fight: Montenegro's Diplomatic Struggle and the League of Nations**

*Nikola Zečević*

University of Montenegro, Podgorica

**Developing International Criminal Law: Small States at the United Nations War Crimes Commission**

*Sabina Ferhadbegović*

University of Vienna

**Understanding the UN Security Council Candidacies and Small State Strategies in Eastern/Southeastern Europa**

*Marko Kovačević*

University of Belgrade

Chair: *Filip Ejdus*

6.00 pm **Dinner**

7.30 pm **Movie Evening and Discussion with Director**

**"Non-Aligned: Scenes from the Labudović Reels" (2023) by Mila Turajlić (100 minutes)**

*Mila Turajlić* (online)

Movie Director and Producer, Belgrade

*Tvrtko Jakovina*

University of Zagreb

Chair: *Florian Bieber*

## WEDNESDAY, 2 OCTOBER 2024

8.00 am **Breakfast**

**Panel 4: Small States in Cold War**

9.00 am **Beware of Small States! Yugoslavia and its Global Role during the Cold War**

*Tvrtko Jakovina*

**The World Champion of Antifascism: Socialist Yugoslavia's Multidirectional Legitimacy Discourse during the Early Cold War**

*Filip Mitričević*

Indiana University Bloomington, Chicago

**A Rebel and An Ally: Romania and East Germany in the Cold War**

*Iuliana Alexandra Jureschi*

Babeş-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca

**The Last Bastion of Communism: Albania's Foreign Policy and Ideological Posturing Under Enver Hoxha**

*Anjeza Xhaferaj*

European University of Tirana

Chair: *Adrian Brisku*

10.45 am **Coffee Break**

**Panel 5: Political Economies and Trade of Small States**

11.00 am **Varieties of Economic Nationalism in Small (Nation-)States**

*Adrian Brisku*

Charles University Prague

**Supporting Revolution: Balkan Communist's Weapons in Africa and Asia between 1955-1989**

*Rigels Lenja*

Munich

**Impact of European Integration in the Competitiveness of Small Candidate Countries**

*Mimoza Agolli*

European University of Tirana

Chair: *Tvrtko Jakovina*

12.30 pm **Lunch**

2.00 pm **Simulation Game: 10th anniversary Berlin Process**

*The simulation is a condensed version of the 10th anniversary summit of the Berlin Process, to be held in Berlin on 14 October. It involves the countries of the Western Balkans (WB6), plus the chair (Germany), partner countries and the EU. The summit is not just the 10th anniversary of the process but comes at a crucial time. EU enlargement is in crisis and relations in the regions have worsened. A new EU Commission is about to start working, giving the opportunity to change key aspects of EU enlargement, and new ideas have circulated in recent years (such as staged accession or integration into the internal market).*

Participants will be randomly assigned different actor roles. The goal of the simulation is to formulate the conclusion of the summit, traditionally formulated as the "Chair's Conclusion".

3.30 pm **Coffee Break**

6.30 pm **Dinner**