



*Engaging Southeastern Europe.
American, European, and Broader Global Partnerships*

Transatlantic Students Conference

Addressing Diplomatic, Economic and Migration Challenges in Southeastern Europe

*James Madison University
Florence, 23 – 27 April 2018*

Organized by:



In collaboration with:



UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI
FIRENZE

CSSII
Centro Interdisciplinare
di Studi Strategici, Internazionali
e Imprenditoriali



With the support of:





MONDAY
23rd
April

9:00-9:30

Conference Opening

Caterina Paolucci (*On-Site Director, JMU Florence Programs*)

John Scherpereel (*Executive Director, JMU Florence Programs*)

Session 1

Workshop: Emerging Security Threats in the Western Balkans

Chair: Silvia D'Amato (*University of Florence & JMU*)

Title: Promoting security in the Western Balkans through further NATO expansion

Speaker: Elsa LANG (James Madison University)

Time: 9:30-10:00

Discussant: Goranka Lalic Novak

Title: The security of the Balkans states and the current threats

Speaker: Rinor GECAJ (University of Pristina)

Time: 10:00-10:30

Discussant: Silvia D'Amato

Title: Violent non-state actors in the Western Balkans' region

Speaker: Fabio SEFERI (University of Florence)

Time: 10:30-11:00

Discussant: Tijana Vukojičić Tomić

Title: Cyber security and public administration in Croatia

Speaker: Petra BANICEVIC (University of Zagreb)

Time: 11:00-11:30

Discussant: Silvia D'Amato

Title: Security and Rule of Law- a case study of EUFOR Althea and EULEX Kosovo

Speaker: John HOOD (James Madison University)

Time: 11:30-12:00

Discussant: Remzije Istrefi



12:00-14:00 Lunch Break

Title: Declining numbers of Foreign Fighters in the Balkans
Speaker: Alexis HOLLON (James Madison University)
Time: 14:00-14:30
Discussant: Tijana Vukojić Tomić

Title: The Development and Management of Security Risks Along the Western Balkans Migration Route
Speaker: Jonathan HARSH (James Madison University)
Time: 14:30-15:00
Discussant: Vesna Hart

Session 2 Workshop: Infra-Balkan Relations and External Influences on SEE Countries

Chair: Serena Giusti (*Sant'Anna School of Advanced Studies, Pisa*)

Title: The Turkish Moonwalk: who is responsible for the backsliding of Turkish accession into the EU?
Speaker: McKenzie OTUS (James Madison University)
Time: 15:00-15:30
Discussant: John Hulsey

Title: European Union Accession and Migrant Smuggling in Serbia
Speaker: Robert STOKKA (James Madison University)
Time: 15.30-16.00
Discussant: John Scherpereel

16:00-16:30 Break



- Title: Accession of Serbia and Montenegro to the EU- the frontrunners or laggards in public sector reforms?
 Speaker: Dora LAPAINE (University of Zagreb)
 Time: 16.30-17.00
 Discussant: Serena Giusti
- Title: Serbian and Russian relations: the future implications for Serbia's Accession to the EU
 Speaker: Richard SHAPIRO (James Madison University)
 Time: 17.00-17.30
 Discussant: John Hulsey
- Title: Taking the Temperature of Public Opinion: U.S. Intervention in Bosnia and Herzegovina
 Speaker: Ciara WATSON (James Madison University)
 Time: 17.30-18.00
 Discussant: John Scherpereel
- Title: Kosovo's external relations and their impact on peace and stability in Balkan
 Speaker: Eldemina BAJGORA (University of Pristina)
 Time: 18.00-18.30
 Discussant: Serena Giusti

TUESDAY
 24th
 April

Session 3 **Workshop: Migration - Patterns, Effects and Responses in the Western Balkans**
 Chair: Chiara Steindler (*James Madison University*)

- Title: Migration. Opportunity or problem? Why and how Europe is dealing with migration
 Speaker: Meliza QORRAJ (University of Pristina)
 Time: 9:30-10:00
 Discussant: Chiara Steindler



Title: The use of military forces in the protection of the borders and prevention of irregular migrations- case study of selected SEE countries
 Speaker: Benjamin SADRIĆ (University of Zagreb)
 Time: 10:00-10:30
 Discussant: Chiara Steindler

Title: Analyzing Public Opinion: The Citizens Response to the 2015 Migration Crisis in the Balkans
 Speaker: Jessica PARKER (James Madison University)
 Time: 10:30-11:00
 Discussant: Vesna Hart

Title: Conditionality Measures in the EU: On Human Rights Violations of Migrants in the Western Balkans
 Speaker: Victoria_LEE (James Madison University):
 Time: 11:00-11:30
 Discussant: John Scherpereel

Title: An assessment of the EU-Turkey agreement
 Speaker: Sara LEMING (James Madison University)
 Time: 11:30-12:00
 Discussant: Vesna Hart

12:00-14:00 Lunch Break

Title: Migration and its impact in South East Europe
 Speaker: Donika BUNJAKU (University of Pristina)
 Time: 14:00-14:30
 Discussant: John Hulsey

Title: Serbian Development and Economic Migration Patterns
 Speaker: Marisa CAMPANELLA (James Madison University)
 Time: 14:30-15:00
 Discussant: Goranka Lalic Novak



Session 4 Workshop: Administrative, Economic and Social Reforms in SEE

Chair: Akisato Suzuki (*European University Institute, Max Weber Programme*)

Title: Weaponization of social media and Islamic extremism – the case of Kosovo
Speaker: Lyra CELA (University of Pristina)
Time: 15:00-15:30
Discussant: Akisato Suzuki

Title: Foreign Direct Investment in Kosovo and possible avenues for change
Speaker: Kyle CONAHAN (James Madison University)
Time: 15.30-16.00
Discussant: Goranka Lalic Novak

16:00-16:30 *Break*

Title: Administrative capacities for integration of refugees – case study of selected cities in Croatia
Speaker: Luka ABRLIC (University of Zagreb)
Time: 16.30-17.00
Discussant: Akisato Suzuki

Title: Ethnic Identity in Yugoslavia and its Role in the Balkan Wars of the 1990s
Speaker: Carl ANDERSON (James Madison University)
Time: 17.00-17.30
Discussant: Tijana Vukojičić Tomić

Title: Seeking Democracy- Bringing legitimacy to Balkan institutions through lobbying reform
Speaker: Nicholas D'AMBRA (James Madison University):
Time: 17.30-18.00
Discussant: Remzije Istrefi



Title: Security sector reform in the Western Balkans- An economic perspective
 Speaker: Rachel YOUNG (James Madison University)
 Time: 18.00-18.30
 Discussant: Remzije Istrefi

Thursday
26th
 April

**Session
 5**

Keynote lecture

Loretta Dell'Aguzzo (*University of Florence*)

“European Integration and Nationalism in Eastern Europe”

(45 min, followed by Q&A)

10:00-12:00

12:00-14:00 *Lunch Break*

**Session
 6**

Film screening

“On the other side”, a film by Zrinko Ogresta, Croatia and Serbia, 2016.
 (85 min, with English subtitles)

14:30-16:00

16:15-18:30

Movie debate and
 Preparation
 of Friday Conference

Friday
27th
 April
 Open to the
 Public

**Session
 7**

Presentation of the project and **Film Screening** of **“On the other side”** (with Italian subtitles) with selected classes from Florentine high schools

8:30-11:00

(takes place at: Le Murate, PAC Progetti Arte Contemporanea, Piazza dell Murate, Firenze)

11:00-11:30 *Coffee Break*

11:30-13:00 Movie team work and final plenary debate

13:00-14:30 *Lunch*