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
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 Vukojičić 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

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**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
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<tr>
<th>Session 4</th>
<th>Workshop: Administrative, Economic and Social Reforms in SEE</th>
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<td><strong>Title:</strong> Weaponization of social media and Islamic extremism – the case of Kosovo</td>
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<td><strong>Speaker:</strong> Lyra CELA (University of Pristina)</td>
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<td><strong>Time:</strong> 15:00-15:30</td>
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<td><strong>Discussant:</strong> Akisato Suzuki</td>
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| 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**
10:00-12:00

**Keynote lecture**
Loretta Dell’Aguzzo (*University of Florence*)
“European Integration and Nationalism in Eastern Europe”
(45 min, followed by Q&A)

12:00-14:00 **Lunch Break**

**Session 6**
14:30-16:00

**Film screening**
(85 min, with English subtitles)

16:15-18:30 Movie debate and Preparation of Friday Conference

Friday 27th April

Open to the Public

**Session 7**
8:30-11:00

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