

DEMOCRATISATION AND STATE-BUILDING

conference

May 26—27th 2026
Budva, Montenegro

Hotel Splendid
/ Academy of Knowledge

DAY 1

Tuesday, May 26

TIME		VENUE	ROOM
8:30 - 9:00	Registration of participants	Hotel Splendid	Petrovic Room
9:00 - 9:30	Opening of the conference		
9:30 - 10:30	Keynote speech by Rachel Beatty Riedl		
10:30 - 11:30	Introductory Panel: Democracy in the Post-liberal International Order Daniel Serwer Professor and Senior Fellow, Foreign Policy Institute, Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies Zsolt Enyedi Professor at the Political Science Department of Central European University (CEU) Kenneth Greene Professor at the University of Texas at Austin Panel Chair: Srdan Darmanović Professor at the University of Montenegro		



MoPSA
Montenegrin Political
Science Association

UNIVERZITET CRNE GORE
20⁰⁶
FNP
26
FAKULTET POLITIČKIH NAUKA

**Friedrich
Ebert** 
Stiftung



11:30 — Coffee Break

TIME	BOOK PRESENTATIONS	VENUE	ROOM
12:00 - 13:00	Abandoning Democracy for the Nation by Filip Milačić	Hotel Splendid	Petrovic Room
13:00 - 14:00	Chinese infrastructure diplomacy in the Balkans by Mladen Grgić		

14:00 — Lunch break

Following lunch, MoPSA will organize transportation for all participants to the Academy of Knowledge, where the conference will continue.
A transfer will be provided at 15:10 in front of Hotel Splendid.

TIME	SESSION	PANEL	VENUE	ROOM
15:30 - 17:00	I	Panel I Who Shapes Democracy? Parties, Voters and System Design	Academy of Knowledge	C8 (2nd floor)
15:30 - 17:00		Panel II Contesting Democracy: From Nationalism to Hybrid Threats		D8 (3rd floor)
15:30 - 17:00		Panel III Rethinking State-Building in an Era of Global Uncertainty		D10 (3rd floor)
17:00 - 18:30	II	Panel IV Formative Rifts and Democratic Backsliding in Montenegro	Academy of Knowledge	C8 (2nd floor)
17:00 - 18:30		Panel V Populism, Polarization, and Power		D8 (3rd floor)
17:00 - 18:30		Panel VI Protest, Repression, and Political Mobilization		D10 (3rd floor)

20:00 — Reception Dinner



MoPSA
Montenegrin Political
Science Association



DAY 2**Wednesday, May 27**

TIME	SESSION	PANEL	VENUE	ROOM
9:00 - 10:30	III	Panel VII Voting Behaviour, Ideology, and Democratic Support	Academy of Knowledge	C8 <i>(2nd floor)</i>
9:00 - 10:30		Panel VIII Foreign Influence and Democratization		D8 <i>(3rd floor)</i>
9:00 - 10:30		Panel IX Social Structure, Inequality, and Historical Legacies		D10 <i>(3rd floor)</i>
10:30 - 12:00	IV	Panel X Postgraduate panel		C8 <i>(2nd floor)</i>
12:00 — Coffee Break				
12:30 - 13:30	Lecture by Kenneth Greene		Academy of Knowledge	D10 <i>(3rd floor)</i>
Closing of the Conference				

SESSION I

PANEL I

15:30 – 17:00
Academy of Knowledge

WHO SHAPES DEMOCRACY? PARTIES, VOTERS AND SYSTEM DESIGN

Panel Chair: **Zlatko Vujović**

Democracy captured - only if it is "our" game: state-building and dominant party systems

Srđan Darmanović

University
of Montenegro

How Parties and Party Competition Shape the Process of Democratization: The Case of Croatia

**Goran Čular and
Dario Nikić Čakar**

University
of Zagreb

Peripheralization of electoral support for political parties in the Czech environment

Michal Pink

Masaryk
University

Born into Dispossession: Inherited Wealth and Extreme Voting in Reunified Germany

Evelyne Brie

Université
de Montréal

Gender Quotas versus Preferential Voting: Lessons from Kosovo's Open-List System

Luka Pavičević

Centre for Monitoring
and Research

PANEL II

15:30 – 17:00
Academy of Knowledge

CONTESTING DEMOCRACY: FROM NATIONALISM TO HYBRID THREATS

Panel Chair: **Olivera Komar**

Thenationalism-and-democracy symbiosis and its legacy: the role of independence nationalism

**Daniel Bochsler
and Andreas Juon**

Central European University
University of Fribourg

Exploring the Democratic Potential of Digital Gen Zs in Southeast Europe

Borjan Gjuzelov

Institute for
Democracy 'Societas
Civilis' Skopje

Contested Places of Memory in Montenegro: "The Battle over Mount Lovćen"

**Ivan Vuković,
Milivoj Bešlin and
Nemanja Batričević**

University of Montenegro
University of Belgrade



MoPSA
Montenegrin Political
Science Association

Democracy Shield and Hybrid Threats in Montenegro

Đorđe Krivokapić

Faculty of
Organizational Sciences,
University of Belgrade

PANEL III

15:30 – 17:00
Academy of Knowledge

RETHINKING STATE-BUILDING IN AN ERA OF GLOBAL UNCERTAINTY

Panel Chair: **Slaven Živković**

State and Nation Building:
Post-Yugoslav Perspective

Milan Podunavac

University
of Donja Gorica

Post-totalitarianism
in a Globalized World

Sonja
Tomović Šundić

University
of Montenegro

Is Diplomacy Still a Significant
Ally in the Reconfigured
Global Order?

Miljana
Đurčević Cucić

University
of Belgrade

Post-Soviet Georgia in Transition:
Navigating Between Regional
Integration Models and National
Interests in Contemporary
International Relations

Giorgi Pareshishvili

Caucasus
International
University

SESSION II

PANEL IV

17:00 – 18:30
Academy of Knowledge

FORMATIVE RIFTS AND DEMOCRATIC BACKSLIDING IN MONTENEGRO

Panel Chair: **Nemanja Batričević**

Backsliding Through
Formative Rifts: Two Decades
of Montenegro's Democratic
Journey

Olivera Komar

University
of Montenegro

Varieties of Polarization and
Democratization: Trajectory
of Montenegrin political
development since 2006

Nemanja Stankov

University
of Montenegro

Elites, Formative Rifts,
and Democratic Backsliding
in Montenegro

Zlatko Vujović

University
of Montenegro



MoPSA
Montenegrin Political
Science Association

Formative Rifts, State Weakness,
and Democratic Backsliding in
Montenegro: The Interplay of
Internal Structural Vulnerabilities
and Foreign Influence

Marko Savić and
Anđelka Đikić

Montenegrin Political
Science Association
University of Zagreb

Social Policy, Poverty Reduction
and Democratic Consolidation
in Post-Independence
Montenegro (2006–2026)

Uglješa Janković

University
of Montenegro

Gospel 2.0 – How to Make State
Sovereignty Meaningless with
the Help of the Cross

Nikola Radunović

Independent
researcher

PANEL V

17:00 – 18:30
Academy of Knowledge

POPULISM, POLARIZATION, AND POWER

Panel Chair: **Ivan Vuković**

From Protest to Power: Populist
Radical Right Governance at the
Local Level in Czechia

Michal Pink and
Šárka Pittnerová

Masaryk
University

Populism in a post-ideological
context: The transformation of
political legitimacy in the Western
Balkans and Central Europe

Filip Denda

University
of Donja Gorica

The Rise of Eastern European
Geopolitical Polarization

Ivan Pokatilov

HSE University

Why Contested Identities
Resist Absorption: Hegemonic
Nationalism, Institutional
Pressure, and the Limits
of Identity Politics

Ljubomir Filipović

Arizona State
University

Geopolitical Orientation
as a Political Divide:
Explaining Support for
Protests in Serbia
(2024–2025)

Sofija Ljubišić

Institute of
Social Sciences



MoPSA
Montenegrin Political
Science Association

PANEL VI

17:00 – 18:30
Academy of Knowledge

PROTEST, REPRESSION, AND POLITICAL MOBILIZATION

Panel Chair: **Srđan Darmanović**

Strategic repression in hybrid regimes: State responses to student protests in Serbia

Jelena Lončar

University of Belgrade

Zbor as an alternative form of political organizing in Serbias competitive authoritarian context

Dušan Spasojević
and Jelena Kleut

University of Belgrade
University of Novi Sad

Deliberation After Violence: Citizens' Assemblies and Deliberative Quality in Post-Conflict Bosnia and Herzegovina

Damir Kapidžić

University of Sarajevo

Public Preferences for Democracy Aid in Post-Conflict States

Leonie Reicheneder
and Magnus Lundgren

University of Gothenburg

SESSION III

PANEL VII

09:00 – 10:30
Academy of Knowledge

VOTING BEHAVIOUR, IDEOLOGY, AND DEMOCRATIC SUPPORT

Panel Chair: **Nemanja Stankov**

Importing Urban Politics: Suburbanization and Electoral Behavior in Central Europe

František Reitter

Masaryk University

Demslide or Republican Resilience? A political history forecast of 2026 US congressional elections

Steven Quinlan and
Michael Lewis-Beck

GESIS Institute,
University of Iowa

Party Targeting with Electoral Clientelism: Vote Buying during the 2024 Elections in North Macedonia

Jovan Bliznakovski

Ss. Cyril and Methodius
University in Skopje



MoPSA
Montenegrin Political
Science Association

Regime Performance
and Democracy Support
in Central-Eastern Europe

Andrija Henjak and
Bartul Vuksan-Ćusa

University of Zagreb

Between class conflict and
culture war. How left-right
self-positioning reflects elite
conflict and social-economic
context

Simon Othes,
Slaven Živković and
Alexia Katsanidou

Leiden University,
DeFacto Consultancy,
GESIS Institute

PANEL VIII

09:00 – 10:30
Academy of Knowledge

FOREIGN INFLUENCE AND DEMOCRATIZATION

Panel Chair: **Marko Savić**

Abandoning the Stability Myth:
Democratic Backsliding as a
Strategic Liability for the EU

Anđela Mićanović

European Strategy
Institute Luxembourg
– ESILUX

Rethinking EU Enlargement
Policy in a Geopolitical Era
– Gradual Integration
v. Staged Accession

Nemanja Purić

University
of Belgrade

Enlargement as Security Policy:
Montenegro's EU Accession
Between Democratic Consolidation
and Geopolitical Urgency

Nenad Koprivica

Independent
Researcher

Political Conditionality
or Geostrategic Choice?
Explaining Divergent EU
Accession Outcomes in
Post-Communist Europe

Momčilo Radulović

University Mediteran

New black knight
in the region: China's
interference in Montenegro

Danilo Kalezić

University
of Montenegro



MoPSA
Montenegrin Political
Science Association

PANEL IX

09:00 – 10:30
Academy of Knowledge

SOCIAL STRUCTURE, INEQUALITY, AND HISTORICAL LEGACIES

Panel Chair: **Uglješa Janković**

The socio-economic and ideological predictors of national and European attachment in comparative perspective

**Bojan Todosijević,
Emilija Mijić and
Ljubomir Hristić**

Institute of Social
Sciences, Belgrade

The Ethno-Economy of Roma in Montenegro: A Vicious Circle of Exclusion

**Danijela Vuković-Čalasan
and Rajka Đoković**

University
of Montenegro

Variation of Democratic Belief System (DBS) Across Europe: The Role of Network Structure in Democratic Resilience

Nemanja Batričević

University
of Montenegro

Important Demographic Changes for Social Policy Planning in Montenegro: Based on Last Three Censuses

Mehmed Đečević

University
of Montenegro

Why Some Post-Communist Countries in Europe Punished While Others Forgave: Explaining Divergent Approaches to the Communist Past

Marko Krtolica

Ss. Cyril and Methodius
University in Skopje

SESSION IV

PANEL X

10:30 – 12:00
Academy of Knowledge

POSTGRADUATE PANEL

Panel Chair: **Mehmed Đečević**

Democratic Backsliding and the Welfare State: Friends or Enemies? Case Study: Viktor Orbán's Hungary

**Vedran Vujisić and
Maša Jovanović**

University
of Montenegro



MoPSA
Montenegrin Political
Science Association

Economic Statecraft and
Democratic Resilience:
The Political Consequences
of Tariff Policies

Marina Todorović

University
of Belgrade

Between Subjection and
Participation: An Analysis
of Youth Trust in Institutions
and Civil Society in the Process
of Montenegro's Democratization

**Nina Krivokapić
Bakrač**

University
of Montenegro

De-Montenegrification of
Montenegro: Content and
Narrative Analysis of the
Serbian Orthodox Church
According to the portal "Vijesti"

Jakov Popović

Catholic University
of Croatia



MoPSA
Montenegrin Political
Science Association