

Call for Participants



13th Annual Summer School on National Minorities in Border Regions

Ethnic Conflict & Reconciliation | 27 August–3 September 2023 | Belgrade, Serbia

CONTEXT

Ethnic conflict has again become a threat to peace in Europe since Ukraine's invasion by Russia has been linked to ethnopolitics and the safeguarding of ethnic minorities. Ethnic conflicts, in addition to the variety of their causes, their actors involved, and their levels of intensity, take a significant toll in terms of human, economic, and social costs. Conflicts can fundamentally change political institutions, social norms, and identities. Equally important are conflict resolution arrangements. So-called "accommodation regimes" for inter-ethnic conflict resolution include minority rights, autonomy arrangements, and power-sharing.

In 2023, the ECMI Summer School will consist of two thematic parts. In the first part, attention will be paid to what our collective knowledge about ethnic conflict – both in Europe and elsewhere in the world – can tell us about why this torment is rising again. Alongside more micro-level precipitators like local disputes or triggers in specific contexts, participants will discuss long-term, structural causes like poverty, discrimination, and exclusion. Here, the Summer School will feature a quantitative component, where scholars linked to the Ethnic Power Relations project (EPR) will introduce the wealth of comparative datasets available to examine conflicts on a more systematic level. In the second part, participants will examine conflict resolution arrangements, including institutional mechanisms and bottom-up programmes.

TOPICS COVERED

- Conceptual Foundations of Ethnic Conflict: Can we define ethnic conflict? How does nationalism precipitate ethnic conflict? What is the role of emotions and grievances in causing ethnic conflicts and insurgencies?
- The Agony of Ethnic Conflict: How does conflict affect ordinary citizens? What role do women play in the course of ethnic conflict? What are the roots of ethnic cleansing?
- Measuring Ethnic Conflict: Can we measure ethnic conflict? How can we analyze ethnic conflicts comparatively using datasets? What approaches exist in measuring ethnic conflict and what are the key conceptual and methodological issues involved?
- Post-Conflict Reconciliation: Does the involvement of international organisations facilitate conflict resolution? What are the types of power-sharing arrangements, and do they work? How do bottom-up peacebuilding initiatives enable reconciliation? Why are transitional justice and the establishment of truth important?



PLANNED ACTIVITIES

The programme will consist of lectures, seminars and workshops given by ECMI research staff and expert guest lecturers, including: Dr. Erika Forsberg (Uppsala University), Dr. Andreas Juon (ETH Zurich), Dr. H. Zeynep Bulutgil (University College London), Dr. Denisa Kostovicova (London School of Economics and Political Science), Dr. Daniel Bochsler (Central European University and University of Belgrade), Dr. Zorica Mršević (Institute of Social Sciences, Belgrade), Dr. Rubin Zemon (American University of Europe, Skopje), Dr. Felix Schulte (ECMI), Dr. Ljubica Djordjević (ECMI), and more to be announced.

The course will include:

- Keynote lectures delivered by prominent scholars, academic lectures and practitioners' seminars;
- Interactive workshops conducted by trained professionals, world cafés and discussion sessions ;
- Meetings and networking with local minority stakeholders, discussion panels on topics such as gender, power-sharing arrangements, and bottom-up peace-building initiatives;
- A study trip to Novi Sad and a visit to the Assembly of Vojvodina (meeting with the local government representatives & minority institutions);
- Presentation and research exchange among the participants ;
- Social events (visits to selected museums/exhibitions, international evening).

ELIGIBILITY AND APPLICATION PROCEDURES

The Summer School team aims to select a total number of 25 junior scholars, researchers or practitioners, having the following professional background:

- Students from relevant fields of studies (MA and PhD students), and/or
- Practitioners from the public sector, NGOs, mass-media.

Applicants are required to submit a completed [online application form](#). To finalise the submission of an application, applicants must also submit their detailed CV via email to summerschool@ecmi.de no later than 28 April 2023. Please state "NMBR SuS23 Application" in the subject line. The application will not be considered for the selection process unless the required documents are submitted via email.

FEES

- 200 EUR if the completed application is submitted until 31 March 2023 (EARLY BIRD discount);
- 250 EUR if the completed application is submitted on or after 1 April 2023;
- 100 EUR (EARLY BIRD discount if applied until 31 March 2023) and 150 EUR for applicants who will not require accommodation.

The fee covers:

- The week-long programme of lectures and workshops;
- All reading materials before and during the Summer School ;
- Accommodation (including breakfast) in shared rooms from 26 August (Saturday) - 3 September 2023 (Sunday);
- Lunches and light refreshments for seven days of the Summer School, plus two dinners;
- A field trip to Novi Sad;
- Participation in all additional Summer School activities (city tour, social activities, visits to museums/exhibition);
- Support with bureaucratic matters during your visa application (if needed). Please note that visa fees will not be reimbursed.
- Travel costs, as well as visa and health/travel insurance costs will not be reimbursed.

Cancellation policy

Cancellation until 30 June 2023: 80% of the tuition fee will be refunded, minus any additional incurred costs. Cancellations after 30 June 2023: no refund.



Venue and Partners

The 13th Annual Summer School on National Minorities and Border Regions is organised together with Coppieters Foundation and in cooperation with the Institute of Social Sciences in Belgrade, Serbia.

