



THE ATHENS INSTITUTE FOR EDUCATION AND RESEARCH

Abstract Book

**20th Annual International Conference on
Politics & International Studies
13-16 June 2022, Athens, Greece**

**Edited by
Yannis Stivachtis & Olga Gkounta**

2022

20th Annual International
Conference on Politics &
International Studies

13-16 June 2022, Athens, Greece

Edited by Yannis Stivachtis &
Olga Gkounta

First published in Athens, Greece by the Athens Institute for Education and Research.

ISBN: 978-960-598-491-5

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored, retrieved system, or transmitted, in any form or by any means, without the written permission of the publisher, nor be otherwise circulated in any form of binding or cover.

9 Chalkokondili Street
10677 Athens, Greece
www.atiner.gr

©Copyright 2022 by the Athens Institute for Education and Research. The individual essays remain the intellectual properties of the contributors.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

(In Alphabetical Order by Author's Family Name)

Preface		7
Editors' Note		9
Organizing & Scientific Committee		10
Conference Program		11
1.	Problems with the Monarchy: The Complexity of the King-Parliament Relationship in the Kingdom of Sweden <i>Barbara Bieniek</i>	15
2.	Self-awareness, Effective Leadership, and Leader Development in the Context of Global Crisis <i>Natasha Brown</i>	17
3.	New Wars - Old Enemies <i>Tatyana Burudjieva</i>	19
4.	Distorting Fundamental Norms of International Law to Resurrect the Soviet Union: The International Law Context of Russia's Invasion of Ukraine <i>Sofia Cavandoli & Gary Wilson</i>	20
5.	Heterarchy: Toward Paradigm Shift in World Politics <i>Philip G. Cerny</i>	21
6.	The Canada-China Game: Re-Working Human Security in the Midst of the Global Pandemic <i>Kenneth Christie</i>	22
7.	Prolegomena for a New Global Politics of "Crime": Language, Transgressions and Standards <i>Michael Coyle</i>	23
8.	Birth Size of Bulgarian Neonates and its Association with Seasonality <i>Albena Dimitrova, Yanitza Zhecheva, Ivaila Yankova, Ivanova-Pandourska, Zoya Mateeva, Racho Stoev, Boyan Kirilov, Aleksandra Ravnachka & Rayna Georgieva</i>	24
9.	Inclusive Global Institutionalism: Conceptualizing Democratic Global Governance <i>Judit Fabian</i>	26
10.	Status Exchange Theory and Same Sex Interracial Unions in the United States <i>Nicole Farris & Danny Malone</i>	27
11.	Double Standards Projected by One Great Power on Another - A Study Based on Recent Cases <i>Viktória Herczegh</i>	28
12.	Middle Powers' Role in UN Peace Operations <i>Katsumi Ishizuka</i>	29
13.	Challenges for Latin-American Democracy: Geopolitics and Social Struggles <i>Guillermo Johnson</i>	30

14.	Narratives of Conceptualization of the Rule of Law in the European Union <i>Krisztina Juhasz</i>	32
15.	Neoliberal Globalization, Social-Demographic Transformation, and Migration: Greek Rigidity and Resilience <i>Brendan Mullan & Athanasios Kizos</i>	34
16.	The Ukrainian Migrant Flows to Greece due to the Russian-Belarus Invasion <i>Gregory Papanikos</i>	35
17.	The Greek Newspaper Coverage of the Ukrainian War: The Pre-Invasion Phase and the Day of the Invasion <i>Gregory T. Papanikos</i>	36
18.	The Ukraine War and the Implications for Mass Media <i>John Pavlik</i>	37
19.	Myths, Fallacies, and Realities of Populism: Towards a New Typology <i>José Pinto</i>	38
20.	Determinants of Spousal Age Difference: A Study on Indian Sub-continent <i>Praveen Praveen</i>	39
21.	China as a Systemic Rival for European Union: Models Projection in Western Balkans <i>Dealan Riga</i>	40
22.	Does Human Capital Compensate for Depopulation? <i>Martina Siskova, Klaus Prettnner, Alexia Fürnkranz-Prskawetz & Michael Kuhn</i>	42
23.	BRI Projects: Case Studies from Nepal, Sri Lanka and Thailand <i>Robert Smith</i>	43
24.	Challengers for Mantle of Hyperpower <i>Adrian Szumowski</i>	45
25.	The Role of Country-pair-related News Sentiment in Foreign Exchange <i>Stephan Unger</i>	47
26.	The Russian Federation as a Trendsetter in International Politics <i>Theodoros Vaniotis</i>	48
27.	The Cultural Aspect of Ethnic Identity - Yucatan Maya Case Study <i>Anna Winiarczyk-Rażniak</i>	49
28.	The Impact of Globalization on International Relations <i>Enayatollah Yazdani</i>	50
References		52

Preface

This book includes the abstracts of all the papers presented at the 20th Annual International Conference on Politics & International Studies (13-16 June 2022), organized by the Athens Institute for Education and Research (ATINER).

A full conference program can be found before the relevant abstracts. In accordance with ATINER's Publication Policy, the papers presented during this conference will be considered for inclusion in one of ATINER's many publications only after a blind peer review process.

The purpose of this abstract book is to provide members of ATINER and other academics around the world with a resource through which they can discover colleagues and additional research relevant to their own work. This purpose is in congruence with the overall mission of the association. ATINER was established in 1995 as an independent academic organization with the mission to become a forum where academics and researchers from all over the world can meet to exchange ideas on their research and consider the future developments of their fields of study.

To facilitate the communication, a new references section includes all the abstract books published as part of this conference (Table 1). I invite the readers to access these abstract books –these are available for free– and compare how the themes of the conference have evolved over the years. According to ATINER's mission, the presenters in these conferences are coming from many different countries, presenting various topics.

Table 1. *Publication of Books of Abstracts of Proceedings, 2010-2022*

Year	Papers	Countries	References
2022	28	14	Stivachtis Y and Gkounta O (2022)
2021	16	11	Papanikos (2021)
2020	14	12	Papanikos (2020)
2019	27	16	Papanikos (2019)
2018	27	15	Papanikos (2018)
2017	40	24	Papanikos (2017)
2016	51	21	Papanikos (2016)
2015	30	22	Papanikos (2015)
2014	26	17	Papanikos (2014)
2013	50	23	Papanikos (2013)
2012	31	16	Papanikos (2012)
2011	34	12	Papanikos (2011)
2010	33	11	Papanikos (2010)

It is our hope that through ATINER's conferences and publications, Athens will become a place where academics and researchers from all over the world can regularly meet to discuss the developments of their disciplines and present their work. Since 1995, ATINER has organized more than 400 international conferences and has published over 200 books. Academically, the institute is organized into 6 divisions and 37 units. Each unit organizes at least one annual conference and undertakes various small and large research projects.

For each of these events, the involvement of multiple parties is crucial. I would like to thank all the participants, the members of the organizing and academic committees, and most importantly the administration staff of ATINER for putting this conference and its subsequent publications together. Specific individuals are listed after the Editors' Note.

Gregory T. Papanikos
President

Editors' Note

These abstracts provide a vital means to the dissemination of scholarly inquiry in the field of Politics. The breadth and depth of research approaches and topics represented in this book underscores the diversity of the conference.

ATINER's mission is to bring together academics from all corners of the world in order to engage with each other, brainstorm, exchange ideas, be inspired by one another, and once they are back in their institutions and countries to implement what they have acquired. The 20th Annual International Conference on Politics & International Studies accomplished this goal by bringing together academics and scholars from 14 different countries (Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, China, Hungary, India, Japan, Poland, Portugal, UK, and USA), which brought in the conference the perspectives of many different country approaches and realities in the field.

Publishing this book can help that spirit of engaged scholarship continue into the future. With our joint efforts, the next editions of this conference will be even better. We hope that this abstract book as a whole will be both of interest and of value to the reading audience.

Yannis Stivachtis & Olga Gkounta
Editors

20th Annual International Conference on Politics & International Studies, 13-16 June 2022, Athens, Greece

Organizing & Scientific Committee

All ATINER's conferences are organized by the Academic Council. This conference has been organized with the assistance of the following academic members of ATINER, who contributed by reviewing the submitted abstracts and papers.

1. Gregory T. Papanikos, President, ATINER & Honorary Professor, University of Stirling, U.K.
2. Yannis Stivachtis, Director, Center for European & Mediterranean Affairs (CEMA) and Professor, Jean Monnet Chair, Director of International Studies Program & Director, Diplomacy Lab Program, Virginia Tech - Virginia Polytechnic Institute & State University, USA.
3. Chris Sakellariou, Vice President of Administration and Finance, ATINER & Associate Professor of Economics, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore.
4. Constantin Colonescu, Academic Member, ATINER & Associate Professor, MacEwan University, Canada
5. Raquel de Caria Patrício, Academic Member, ATINER & Associate Professor, University of Lisbon, Portugal.

FINAL CONFERENCE PROGRAM

20th Annual International Conference on Politics & International Studies,
13-16 June 2022, Athens, Greece

PROGRAM

Monday 13 June 2022

09.00-09.30
Registration

09:30-10:00

Opening and Welcoming Remarks:

- **Gregory T. Papanikos**, President, ATINER
 - **Dr. Barbara Zagaglia**, Head, Anthropology & Demography Unit, ATINER & Associate Professor, Polytechnic University of Marche, Italy.
-

10:00-12:00 TIME SLOT 1 - MORNING PRESENTATIONS

Coordinator: Gregory T. Papanikos, President, ATINER

1. **Philip G. Cerny**, Professor Emeritus, University of Manchester, UK & Rutgers University, USA.
Title: Heterarchy: Toward Paradigm Shift in World Politics.
2. **Kenneth Christie**, Professor, Royal Roads University, Canada.
Title: The Canada-China Game: Re-Working Human Security in the Midst of the Global Pandemic.
3. **José Pinto**, Professor, Lusofona University, Portugal.
Title: Myths, Fallacies, and Realities of Populism: Towards a New Typology.
4. **Dealan Riga**, PhD Student, University of Liege, Belgium.
Title: China as a Systemic Rival for European Union: Models Projection in Western Balkans.

12:00-14:00 TIME SLOT 2 - NOON PRESENTATIONS

Coordinator: Philip G. Cerny, Professor Emeritus, University of Manchester, UK & Rutgers University, USA.

1. **Krisztina Juhasz**, Senior Lecturer, University of Szeged, Hungary.
Title: Narratives of Conceptualization of the Rule of Law in the European Union.
2. **Theodoros Vaniotis**, Lecturer, New Bulgarian University & Sofia University, Bulgaria.
Title: The Russian Federation as a Trendsetter in International Politics.
3. **Judit Fabian**, Visiting Researcher, University of Ottawa, Canada.
Title: Inclusive Global Institutionalism: Conceptualizing Democratic Global Governance.
4. **Viktória Herczegh**, PhD Candidate, Corvinus University of Budapest, Hungary.
Title: Double Standards Projected by one Great Power on Another – A Study Based on Recent Cases.
5. **Barbara Bieniek**, PhD Student, University of Silesia, Poland.
Title: Problems with the Monarchy. The Complexity of the King-Parliament Relationship in the Kingdom of Sweden.

14:00-15:00

Lunch

15:00-17:00 TIME SLOT 3 – AFTERNOON PRESENTATIONS

Coordinator: Olga Gkounta, Researcher, ATINER

1. **Tatyana Burudjieva**, Professor, Sofia University, Bulgaria.
Title: New Wars-Old Enemies.
2. **Albena Dimitrova**, Assistant Professor, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Bulgaria.
Title: Birth Size of Bulgarian Neonates and Its Association with Seasonality.
3. **Natasha Brown**, Adjunct Professor, California State University, Northridge, USA.
Title: Self-awareness, Effective Leadership, and Leader Development in the Context of Global Crisis.
4. **Stephan Unger**, Associate Professor, Saint Anselm College, USA.
Title: The Role of Country-pair-related News Sentiment in Foreign Exchange.

17:00-18:00 TIME SLOT 4 – AFTERNOON PRESENTATIONS

Presentations are part of the project: “How National Media Covered the War in Ukraine”

Coordinator: Olga Gkounta, Researcher, ATINER

1. **John Pavlik**, Head, Mass Media and Communication Unit, ATINER & Professor, Rutgers University, USA. (*Full Paper*)
Title: The Ukraine War and the Implications for Mass Media.
2. **Gregory T. Papanikos**, President, ATINER.
Title: The Greek Newspaper Coverage of the Ukrainian War: The Pre-Invasion Phase and the Day of the Invasion. (Full Paper)

20:30-22:30

Greek Night

Tuesday 14 June 2022

08:00-11:00 TIME SLOT 5 – MORNING PRESENTATIONS

Old and New-An Educational Urban Walk

The urban walk ticket is not included as part of your registration fee. It includes transportation costs and the cost to enter the Parthenon and the other monuments on the Acropolis Hill. The urban walk tour includes the broader area of Athens. Among other sites, it includes: Zappion, Syntagma Square, Temple of Olympian Zeus, Ancient Roman Agora and on Acropolis Hill: the Propylaea, the Temple of Athena Nike, the Erechtheion, and the Parthenon. The program of the tour may be adjusted, if there is a need beyond our control. This is a private event organized by ATINER exclusively for the conference participants.

11:00-12:30 TIME SLOT 6 - MORNING PRESENTATIONS

Coordinator: José Pinto, Professor, Lusofona University, Portugal

1. **Adrian Szumowski**, Assistant Professor, Maria Curie-Sklodowska University, Poland.
Title: Challengers for Mantle of Hyperpower.
2. **Nicole Farris**, Associate Professor, Texas A&M University, USA.
Title: Status Exchange Theory and Same Sex Interracial Unions in the United States.
3. **Brendan Mullan**, Associate Professor, Michigan State University, USA.
Title: Neoliberal Globalization, Social-Demographic Transformation, and Migration: Greek Rigidity and Resilience.

12:30-14:00 TIME SLOT 7 - MORNING PRESENTATIONS

Coordinator: Nicole Farris, Associate Professor, Texas A&M University, USA

1. **Michael Coyle**, Professor, California State University, USA.
Title: Prolegomena for a New Global Politics of "Crime": Language, Transgressions and Standards.
2. **Anna Winiarczyk-Raźniak**, Assistant Professor, Pedagogical University of Krakow, Poland.
Title: The Cultural Aspect of Ethnic Identity – Yucatan Maya Case Study.
3. **Martina Siskova**, Researcher, Vienna Institute of Demography, Austria.
Title: Does Human Capital Compensate for Depopulation?

14:00-15:00

Lunch

15:00-16:30 TIME SLOT 8 - AFTERNOON PRESENTATIONS

Coordinator: Olga Gkounta, Researcher, ATINER

1. **Katsumi Ishizuka**, Dean and Professor, Kyoei University, Japan.
Title: Middle Powers' Role in UN Peace Operations.
2. **Robert Smith**, PhD Candidate, University of New England, Australia.
Title: BRI Projects: Case Studies from Nepal, Sri Lanka and Thailand.
3. **Enayatollah Yazdani**, Associate Professor, Sun Yat-sen University, China.
Title: The Impact of Globalization on International Relations.
4. **Praveen Praveen**, PhD Candidate, Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics, India.
Title: Determinants of Spousal Age Difference: A Study on Indian Sub-continent.

16:30-18:00 TIME SLOT 9 - AFTERNOON PRESENTATIONS

Coordinator: Olga Gkounta, Researcher, ATINER

1. **Sofia Cavandoli**, Senior Lecturer, John Moores University, UK.
Gary Wilson, Lecturer, Liverpool John Moores University, UK.
Title: Distorting Fundamental Norms of International Law to Resurrect the Soviet Union. The International Law Context of Russia's Invasion of Ukraine.
2. **Guillermo Johnson**, Associate Professor, Federal University of Maranhão, Brazil.
Title: Challenges for Latin-American Democracy: Geopolitics and Social Struggles.
3. **Gregory T. Papanikos**, President, ATINER.
Title: The Ukrainian Migrant Flows to Greece due to the Russian-Belarus Invasion.

20:00-21:30

**Greek Home-Made Dinner (includes the traditional Greek household hospitality
and quality)**

**Wednesday 15 June 2022
Educational Islands Cruise**

**Mycenae Visit
Thursday 16 June 2022
Delphi Tour**

Barbara Bieniek

PhD Student, University of Silesia, Poland

Problems with the Monarchy: The Complexity of the King-Parliament Relationship in the Kingdom of Sweden

Modern European monarchies are usually considered to be relics of the golden age when kings and queens were infinite in their reigns. Nowadays, monarchs are primarily the national symbols that unite the nation and represent the country abroad. Nevertheless, are they as powerless as they are claimed to be?

The legislature is one of the most vital segments of a tripartite political system in a country. Parliaments represent people and can rule independently or share power with the monarch. In the latter case, the royal representative can, among others, veto the bills or shorten the parliament's mandate. Among monarchies, the most powerful are principalities such as Liechtenstein or Monaco, in which rulers dominate parliaments and kingdoms limited in their competencies, such as Spain and Denmark. Where does Sweden place among other European monarchies? The Kingdom of Sweden is regarded as the weakest monarchy in Europe. The king has been deprived of almost all of his competencies, even those typical of the crowned rulers, like being a commander-in-chief or the head of the country's church. Nevertheless, it does not mean that the Swedish monarch has never influenced the work of the parliament. Even now, the current King Carl XVI Gustaf Bernadotte is able to influence the work of the parliament through his attitude and speeches. The presentation intends to show how the Swedish relationship between the parliament and the monarch has changed over the years. The main aim of this research is to analyze the transformation of the mighty monarch into an obedient subordinate of the parliament's will and decisions. Subsequently, I will intend to distinguish the main possible factors of this evolution. Finally, I will compare the obtained results to the present condition of the Swedish monarchy in relation to the parliament and mark whether any new significant changes have occurred or it is just a continuation of the historical process. The prime research question – Why is the parliament legally superior to the monarch? – would show the problems and the complexity of having a monarchy in the 21st century. The study mentioned above is a part of my doctoral thesis that concerns the problem of the Swedish monarch's influence on the shape of the political system and decisions made by its organs on the central and regional levels. My presentation deals only with the relation between

the monarch and political bodies that needs to be studied and developed by other scholars interested in the history of kingdoms and the political roles of kings and queens.

To conduct my research correctly, I will analyze the primary legal documents concerning the Swedish political system and studies carried out by other academics. Two methods I intend to include in my research are the historical-legal and institutional-legal.

Natasha Brown

Adjunct Professor, California State University, Northridge, USA

Self-awareness, Effective Leadership, and Leader Development in the Context of Global Crisis

As the COVID-19 pandemic and resulting public health crisis have progressed, the need for strong global leadership has also accelerated. A dissertation study on authentic leadership in crisis scenarios revealed a key finding that self-awareness supports the ability of leaders to lead in crisis, and that the act of leading in crisis serves to strengthen leader capability in self-awareness. The paper and presentation proposed for the 2022 20th Annual International Conference on Politics and International Studies takes a deeper look at the quantitative data collected for the aforementioned study and provides more extensive analysis. The purpose of the paper and presentation is to explore the role of self-awareness in supporting crisis leadership as well as to develop an understanding of how self-awareness is cultivated and the corollary role that leading in crisis plays for leader development.

The presentation and paper are comprised of six main sections. First, the author sets the context of the pandemic, global leadership, and the role of authentic leadership in crisis. Next, a thorough review of the literature on self-awareness in leadership is presented. Third, the author details a tailored and detailed further examination of research on self-awareness collected previously in the dissertation phase in a project on authentic leadership in crisis. Interview transcripts and verbatim quotes from leaders have been analyzed through quantitative research software in order to further elucidate findings specific to self-awareness. Those findings are presented in the context of the new analysis. Conclusions are drawn about these findings, and implications are revealed. Lastly, opportunities for further exploration are shared.

Key findings explored include that leaders serving during the pandemic found that relying on self-awareness was critical to their ability to navigate through crisis and to effectively support their teams and organizations. Of the four components of authentic leadership included in the Authentic Leadership Questionnaire (Transparency, Balanced Processing, Ethical and Moral Conduct, and Self-Awareness), self-awareness was by far the most important for leader success. Leaders detailed the ways in which self-awareness supported their effectiveness. Additionally, through a snowball cycle of self-awareness in crisis leaders came away from the pandemic with a sense of

strengthened skills in self-awareness and other components of emotional intelligence such as empathy.

This examination into self-awareness and leadership development on the global stage is highly timely and relevant. The more we understand about Covid-era leadership, the better prepared we can be as a global community for future crisis and world events.

Tatyana Burudjieva
Professor, Sofia University, Bulgaria

New Wars - Old Enemies

The analysis aims to show the role of the image of the enemy in so-called new wars. The use of classical and new theories about the various forms of organized violence in the global eras is focuses on constructing the terminological and epistemological framework of the analysis. New communication technologies and the globalization of stereotypes in public opinion are present as decisive factors in the new wars. The relationship between the two sides in the armed violence is researches as an imitation of an imaginary modern auto-da-fe /act of faith/ in which the "hero" and the public create a community based on the hatred and the destruction of the enemy.

In the new wars, the civilians are a key factor in victory by creating attitudes and motivating specific public opinion and behavior. The object of analysis are two cases – armed conflict/the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina/and radicalized conflict/the wave of emigrants to Europe after the conflict in Syria/. The subject of the analysis is the construction of a stereotyped image of the enemy and the goal is to find the general and the differentiated characteristics of this image.

The hypothesis that the analysis examines is that new wars build functional strategies of victory by stereotyping the image of the enemy. The result of this stereotyping is the creation of framed images that can be used regardless differences – cultural, ethnic, religious and political – to wage war in today's global world.

Modern communication technologies and the symbolic nature of the political communication are two factors that influence not only the possibility of creating these stereotypical images that are not limited in their impact, but are also a condition for their effective functioning.

The conclusions of the analysis is focused at the effects of the use of the image of the enemy in the new wars – both to accelerate and deepen the political radicalization at the national level and to increase the effectiveness of armed actions. Therefore, in the news wars the tendency is to increase the role of the influence on political attitudes and behavior of citizens through stereotyping enemy image.

Sofia Cavandoli

Senior Lecturer, John Moores University, UK

Distorting Fundamental Norms of International Law to Resurrect the Soviet Union: The International Law Context of Russia's Invasion of Ukraine

Russia's invasion of Ukraine which commenced on 24th February 2022 represented just the latest, albeit most devastating, intervention in a neighbouring former Soviet state. This article considers the legal justifications for Russia's actions and finds them to be far from satisfactory. The claims advanced by Russia closely mirror those made in respect of its prior interventions in the former Soviet space, underlining an attempt to distort some of the most fundamental norms of international law in order to afford an air of legitimacy to its actions. Although it is too soon to conclude with any certainty what the longer term implications of the recent conflict will be, both politically and legally, it is apparent that it can be seen as part of a wider policy objective on Russia's part to maintain and/or reassert influence over its 'near abroad.' While in some respects indicative of the possible emergence of a new 'Cold War,' the international reaction to its intervention in Ukraine suggest that any intention to manipulate or reconstitute legal norms in support of its agenda is meeting with mass rejection.

Philip G. Cerny

Professor Emeritus, University of Manchester, UK & Rutgers
University, USA

Heterarchy: Toward Paradigm Shift in World Politics

“International Relations” theory has been dominated since the study of IR formally began at the University of Wales, Aberystwyth, in 1919 by methodological state-centrism. There have been three mainstream “competing paradigms”—realism, liberalism and constructivism—all of which assume that the dominant independent variables are states and the inter-state system. We argue that this way of conceiving world politics was (a) always problematic and challengeable, and (b) time-bound and increasingly anachronistic. Since the mid-20th century, a dialectic of globalization and fragmentation—political, economic and social processes above, below and cutting across states—has caught states and the interstate system in a complex process of restructuration toward what has been called “heterarchy”. The core of this process is the triangulation of (a) the “disaggregated state” (Slaughter 2004), (b) fragmented global governance and “regime complexes” (Alter and Raustiala 2018), and (c) “sectoral differentiation” in the international political economy, leading to a spectrum of market/hierarchy or public/private de facto policymaking processes and diverse types of “mutual capture” between a range of private actors and meso- and micro-state hierarchies. The result is the decreasing capacity of macro-states to control both domestic and transnational political/economic processes. In this context, the nation-state is increasingly becoming what we call a “reactive state” in a world of multilevel and multi-nodal policymaking and implementation processes. This requires a new and robust paradigm that we call “heterarchism”.

Kenneth Christie

Professor, Royal Roads University, Canada

**The Canada-China Game:
Re-Working Human Security in the Midst of the Global
Pandemic**

Recently China and Canadian relationships have been heightened by the house arrest of Meng Wanzhou in Vancouver BC and the detention and trial of two Canadians in China, seen as a retaliatory move on the part of the Chinese state. However, this is the tip of the iceberg in a fraught historical and political relationship. The Canadian policy establishment, political commentators and the Canadian media in general have been quick to criticize China but slow to offer solutions to the tensions which have arisen between them. We argue a human security policy framework can serve as an effective and practical guide for resetting Canada's relationship with China. Indeed, a human security approach advocates and supports Canadian values while offering a strategic tool for strengthening national interests. We aim to examine historically and contemporarily this problem which these states (one a middle power in International relations and the other an emergent superpower) in terms of their economic, political, and social differentials to see what they have in common, what separates them, and how and why they can overcome this.

Michael Coyle

Professor, California State University, USA

Prolegomena for a New Global Politics of “Crime”: Language, Transgressions and Standards

Given the ubiquity of “crime,” to speak of “criminal behavior” as deviant nullifies the very concept of deviance (abnormal, out of the ordinary, etc.). This has implications for criminology and criminal justice, which propose norm theory (that human beings conventionally follow established norms/laws) and deviance theory (that human beings infrequently deviate from norms/laws and proportionately few act in such ways with any regularity). This also has implications for global politics that reflect attempts to build relations between nations by sharing concepts of right/wrong, normal/abnormal, criminal/law-abiding. After demonstrating that it is empirically impossible to demonstrate that the “crime” and “criminal” paradigm can provide a base for functional relations (nationally or internationally), I argue that penal abolition and transformative justice must become the new global language and theory to both manage harms within individual societies and between them. I argue that by adopting a new “transgression” and “harm” language, and by abandoning the mythological language of “crime,” abolitionists can influence academic and public discourse, as well as global politics. Finally, I argue that these new politics provide an opportunity to challenge the continuity of the past in the present (white supremacy, neocolonialism, racial capitalism, class oppression and gendering enslavement), and the discourse and practice that refuses to recognize, eliminate and stand accountable by rectifying centuries of white privilege, heteronormativity, and the oppression of nonwhite, resource challenged, etc. bodies.

Albena Dimitrova

Assistant Professor, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Bulgaria

Yanitza Zhecheva

Assistant Professor, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Bulgaria

Ivaila Yankova Ivanova-Pandourska

Associate Professor, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Bulgaria

Zoya Mateeva

Professor, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Bulgaria

Racho Stoev

Associate Professor, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Bulgaria

Boyan Kirilov

PhD Student, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Bulgaria

Aleksandra Ravnachka

Associate Professor, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Bulgaria

&

Rayna Georgieva

Associate Professor, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Bulgaria

Birth Size of Bulgarian Neonates and its Association with Seasonality

Birth weight and length are the most important determinants of infant health status. Environmental factors, such as temperature and sunshine exposure during pregnancy, the season of birth, etc. significantly influence the newborn sizes.

To evaluate the relationship between the weight and length of Bulgarian newborns and the season of birth.

The study were based on the data of 6532 (3373 boys and 3159 girls) full-term neonates born in the period 2000-2001, collected from the birth registry of II Hospital of Obstetrics and Gynaecology "Sheynovo", Sofia, Bulgaria. Statistical analysis was performed by SPSS 16 for Windows, and the following analyses were implemented: descriptive statistics, t-test of Student ($p \leq 0.05$) and One-Way ANOVA, as well as Post hoc procedures for multiple comparisons (Tukey, HSD-test, $p \leq 0.05$).

The mean values of weight in Bulgarian newborns are 3320.8 g in boys and 3184.9 g in girls. The average newborns' length is 50.7 cm and 50.0 cm in boys and girls, respectively. The sexual differences are statistically significant at $p \leq 0.05$. A prominent annual periodicity with two peaks in birth weight occurring in autumn and winter for boys and only one peak in winter for girls is established. The boys born in the spring months and girls born in the summer months have the lowest

birth weight. The winter period is also identified with a peak in birth length in both sexes. The infants born in autumn have the lowest values of birth length.

Seasonal fluctuations within a year influence weight and length in Bulgarian neonates. The results obtained would be helpful in prenatal diagnostics, neonatal care, and health prevention of pregnant women and neonates.

Judit Fabian

Visiting Researcher, University of Ottawa, Canada

**Inclusive Global Institutionalism:
Conceptualizing Democratic Global Governance**

To move toward a paradigm shift in world politics, it is necessary to move beyond a conception of world politics limited to relations between states. It is therefore necessary – though not sufficient – to consider governance at the global level, and the possibility of democratic global governance. To this end, the paper defines and explores four ideas of democratic global governance: the democratic global state; ‘multitude’; a new world order of networks; and Inclusive Global Institutionalism (IGI). The paper argues for the superiority of IGI over the other three ideas, most importantly because IGI best fosters the hybridization of hard law and soft law that is necessary to resist the tendency of juridification to proceed beyond provision of access to abuse of power.

Nicole Farris

Associate Professor, Texas A&M University, USA

&

Danny Malone

Assistant Professor, Coker University, USA

Status Exchange Theory and Same Sex Interracial Unions in the United States

Status exchange theory has been a primary theory used to understand how the formation of black/white unions in a society where racial boundaries between the groups has historically been strong. Status exchange is an intriguing subject because it provides insight on how a society places differential values on a variety of status attributes that in turn impacts a partner's desirability. Gullickson and Torche (2014) assert "status exchange tells us about how systems of racial and socioeconomic stratification within a particular society and how these systems of stratification" influence mate selection. Support for status exchange theory has been evident in several studies (Qian 1997; Fu 2001; Gullickson 2006; Hou Myles 2013; Gullickson and Torche 2014). While status exchange theory has been only associated with heterosexual pairs, this current study seeks to examine if same-sex interracial unions engage in status exchange theory? If so, does it mirror patterns noted in heterosexual interracial unions. do same-sex couples, who also have to engage in marriage markets, exhibit status exchange tendencies. This study will use IPUMS-USA ACS samples from 2018, 2019, and 2020 to compare the education mating patterns of same-sex couples to cross-sex couples.

Viktória Herczegh

PhD Candidate, Corvinus University of Budapest, Hungary

Double Standards Projected by one Great Power on Another - A Study Based on Recent Cases

The term 'double standards' in the discipline of international relations can be used for many different kinds of conduct. In the case of great powers projecting double standards, it is generally the re-interpretation, partial ignorance or non-obedience of the rules and regulations of international law. This kind of behavior emerges most often in unequal conflict situations where the powerful state clearly has the advantage over a smaller, weaker one. In such cases, the great power in question tends to expect the lesser one to fully abide by the same rules they chose not to respect - and it usually gets away with that demeanor, coming out of the conflict victorious or at least creating a status quo that is beneficial to its status on the long run. But what happens when a great power uses double standards on another great power, expecting them to honor the same rules they actively do not (fully) take into consideration? In fact, such double standards take place at least as often as their unequal counterpart, and they are a lot less simple to resolve or even ignore. In my presentation I intend to exhibit some recent events where double standards have been used by one great power on another, discovering causes, consequences and future implications. I will attempt answering the question: how lawful it is and more importantly, how much is it worth for a great power to project double standards on another great power?

Katsumi Ishizuka

Dean and Professor, Kyoei University, Japan

Middle Powers' Role in UN Peace Operations

The current stalemate of the UN Security Council and its permanent members as a leading role in international security essentially expect the increasing role of the middle powers. The traditional definition of the middle powers discussed by some academics is still valid and therefore expect their initiative and even innovation of new peace operations and conflict resolution on the whole. The unsuccessful records of great powers' involvement of international conflicts also illustrate the limitations of their coercive measures. This paper will describe the historical background of the creation of the first UN peacekeeping forces in 1956, which was innovated by the two political figures from the middle powers with a considerable enthusiasm. Therefore, this paper will advocate the innovation of a new type of peace operation or conflict resolution which are expected to be practiced by the middle powers which are peace monitoring missions and ocean peacekeeping operations, especially in Asia, including in Myanmar or South China Sea, for example.

Guillermo Johnson

Associate Professor, Federal University of Maranhão, Brazil

Challenges for Latin-American Democracy: Geopolitics and Social Struggles

As we can think Latin America from the dependency theory, linking with the decolonization's theories, its worth to actualize some of these prospects nowadays. The great geopolitical transformations during the two few decades of this new millennium interferes in several ways in the order of the hierarchies in the world scenery. In synthetic geopolitical terms we are coming to a multi-polar hegemony, marked by the rise of China and Russia, which suggests transformations in the international division of labor and the appropriation of wealth. At the same time, a myriad of financial mechanisms in the world economy intensify social inequalities, enhancing ideologies of fragmentation and exclusion, polarizing societies both in peripheral and central countries. In this broaden context, the democratic process were threatened, not only in the substantive form, but indeed the formal one.

During the first decade of the 21st century most Latin-American governments promoted political participation in various state-owned institutions and, less often, induced transformations in national political powers. Shortly after begins a period of presidents far for any democratic mention, increasingly closer to neoliberal economic paradigms, locking down spaces for political participation and criminalizing social protest. Various combinations, at national levels, gathered military, corporate media, jurists along with the old oligarchies landlords and their financialization partners to support leaders who promoted political polarization and did not hesitate in using state force to confront their people when they did not accept the neoliberal directives. The gradual strengthening of individualistic egoism, allied with an avalanche of fake news posted in social networks dissolved the scant solidarity in civil societies, as well as contributing to erosion the foundations of science. Significant sectors of evangelical churches - becoming stronger from the last half century - contributed to the popular insertion of neoliberal ideology. Therefore, the long debate about accountability early in this century were buried.

At the same time, popular democracy has brought together women, LGBTI+, quilombolas, indigenous people - increasingly organized by the violence of dominant sectors, fighting to keep the power -, as well as youths, peasants and workers, resuming mobilizations and their organizations in demand for better living conditions, intense social

transformations in the preponderant values and in defense of the land and the environment.

Nor the authoritarianism of the former century neither this restricted democracy has allowed dignified living conditions to Latin Americans. The rising tension in the global geopolitics could announce an essentialist re-signification of democracy, more autonomous and sovereign.

Krisztina Juhasz

Senior Lecturer, University of Szeged, Hungary

Narratives of Conceptualization of the Rule of Law in the European Union

Rule of law became a hot topic within the European Union in the last few years causing a heated debate among the member states, the EU institutions and social scientists as well. One of the aspects of the debate is the conception of rule of law itself. While some say, mostly on behalf of those member states concerned with the accusation of the violation of the rule of law, that rule of law is a vague and elusive notion, consequently breaches of it (or its danger) cannot be measured on an objective basis. At the same time, rule of law is identified as one of the core values of the EU by Article 2 of Treaty on the European Union (TEU) while Article 21 prescribes that the EU's action on the international scene shall be guided by the principles which have inspired its own creation, development and enlargement, furthermore the EU shall define and pursue common policies and actions in its international relations in order to safeguard its values and consolidate, among others, rule of law. Primary EU law not only identifies rule of law as a core value of the integration, but in case of threatening or violation of the EU's values it provides sanctions as well via the Article 7 procedure. Additionally, in 1993 the EU defined rule of law as precondition of the membership at the Copenhagen Summit which is frequently evaluated by the European Commission in its country reports during the accession negotiations (see Chapters 23 and 24 of the *acquis*). Commission assesses the state of rule of law not only in the accession process, but in the case of the member states as well. In the framework of the Cooperation and Verification Mechanism (CVM) the Commission continues to evaluate Bulgaria and Romania after their accession to the EU on the areas of judicial reform, corruption and (for Bulgaria) organized crime. Rule of law framework introduced in 2014 and the most recently adopted measure, rule of law conditionality mechanism provide additional means for the EU institutions, primely to the Commission, to assess the state of rule of law in the member states and identify systematic threats or violation of it. Series of the above mentioned rule of law means raise question: based on what criteria the EU evaluates the state of rule of law? Is it really a vague notion as some state or there are some core meaning which are shared by the member states legal systems? The paper doesn't intend to evaluate the effectiveness of the rule of law measures, but revolves

around the question of conceptualization of rule of law which was done on one hand by the European Commission during the application of different rule of law means mentioned above giving a non-exhaustive list of the elements of the notion and providing a core meaning of it, and on the other hand by the Court of Justice which has clarified, explained and identified certain elements of the rule of law via its case law.

Brendan Mullan

Associate Professor, Michigan State University, USA

&

Athanasios Kizos

Professor, University of the Aegean, Greece

**Neoliberal Globalization, Social-Demographic
Transformation, and Migration:
Greek Rigidity and Resilience**

This paper explains the dual dilemmas of massive refugee inflows into Greece and the significant native Greek emigration within the context of the long-standing demographic and social transformation embedded within and emanating from the twin processes of neoliberalism and globalization. Following a brief discussion of globalization in general and neoliberal globalization in particular, we review the literature theorizing and explaining demographic changes underlying Greek migration patterns. Building upon this review, the migration/refugee streams into Greece and on to northern Europe, and migration streams of Greeks to northern Europe (or even further afield) are characterized as either “expansion” flows and/or “austerity” flows. The demographically ageing economies of northern Europe attract professionals, executives, and the highly skilled, but also the increasingly marginalized “precariat,” all driven from austerity-riven Greece. Greece has also been a preeminent European Union (EU) receiving and transit country for migrant and refugee flows from the Middle East (especially from Syria Iraq, and Afghanistan), Pakistan and even from sub-Saharan and northern Africa destined for northern Europe. War, social, political, and institutional disintegration in the aftermath of the “Arab Spring,” and pervasive lack of socio-economic opportunity spurs this austerity-driven economic and refugee migration to Greece. We conclude with a discussion of the rigidity of EU government institutions, labor markets, and ethnic communities’ migrant reception contexts and strategies and we assess resilience in the Greek government institutional bureaucracies, labor markets, and communities that doom all attempts to incorporate migrants and refugees.

Gregory Papanikos
President, ATINER

The Ukrainian Migrant Flows to Greece due to the Russian-Belarus Invasion

Migration flows are as old as human history itself. In Greece, the first movements of people are recorded in the 13th century BCE and not stopped ever since. Inflows and outflows of people are a permanent feature of Greek history. However, a distinction should be made between three types of flows. Firstly, people are forced to leave their country because of national agreements of resettlements. A world example of such resettlement was the exchange of population between Greece and Turkey in the first part of the 20th century. Secondly, people flee an area to save their lives because of war and prosecutions, including genocides. An example of such migration was the outflow of Greeks from Asia Minor because of the war between Turkey and Greece. Thirdly, people migrate for social reasons which may include economic, political and educational purposes. This was definitely the case of the post-Second World War period in Greece when many Greeks moved outside of Greece to find better jobs abroad (e.g., Germany); study abroad (e.g., U.K.); and to live in a democratic country (e.g., Canada, Sweden, etc.), because in Greece a dictatorship (1967-1974) had abolished democracy. Greece has also been on the receiving end of many migrants from all over the world for the same reasons. The latest example is the flow of Ukrainians who are coming to Greece due to the Russian-Belarus invasion of their country. These migration flows are examined in this paper.

Gregory T. Papanikos
President, ATINER

The Greek Newspaper Coverage of the Ukrainian War: The Pre-Invasion Phase and the Day of the Invasion

This paper is a first attempt to look at the Greek media coverage of the Russian Belarus invasion of Ukraine. Three daily newspapers are used during the period of December 2021-February 2022 to measure the frequency of coverage of the issue during the pre-invasion phase and the first day of the invasion. In addition, a qualitative content analysis is employed to account for the three newspapers' stance on the Russian-Belarus invasion. One conclusion that emerges, which to many would appear surprising, is that all newspapers unequivocally condemned the Russia-Belarus invasion without any strings attached to their position. Since these three newspapers cover a wide spectrum of the Greek political ideology, it appears that despite Greece's long historical, economic, and cultural (religion included) ties with Russia, this invasion was considered unacceptable.

John Pavlik

Head, Mass Media and Communication Unit, ATINER & Professor,
Rutgers University, USA

The Ukraine War and the Implications for Mass Media

Since the Russian invasion on the 24th of February 2022 the war in Ukraine has been horrific and tragically impactful. The consequences of the Russian invasion of Ukraine are far reaching, ranging from at least 3,496 civilian deaths, including at least 69 children, to the displacement of at least 14 million of persons (confirmed by the United Nations, Office for the High Commissioner for Human Rights, 10 April 2022, Sugden et al., 2022), and to the massive destruction of Ukraine's infrastructure. Similarly profound are the implications of the war in Ukraine for the journalistic media of mass communication. In this paper I examine ten sets of major implications of the Ukraine war for the news media.

José Pinto

Professor, Lusofona University, Portugal

Myths, Fallacies, and Realities of Populism: Towards a New Typology

Since the middle of the nineteenth century, when Herzen created the word in the Tsarist Russia, populism remains as a sort of Cinderella's shoe or Teumessian fox destined never to be caught. In fact, almost all scholars refuse and criticize the existing definitions as a strategy for presenting their own meaning of the concept. Thus far, the conceptual ambiguity leads to myths and fallacies about populism. This conference paper aims at revisiting some of its myths that have already been debunked, namely by Takis Pappas. Moreover, it presents new myths and fallacies at a time when, in an increasing number of countries, populism is no longer content with Canovan's image of being the shadow of democracy. Finally, the paper proves that the phenomenon should be regarded through new lenses because the dividing line between the left and the right side of the political spectrum is not enough to grasp the sense of populism, and a new typology of populism is required. This typology, based on several meanings of the people and the elite, comprises five modalities of populism: antisystem, socioeconomic, cultural, digital, and transnational.

Praveen Praveen

PhD Candidate, Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics, India

Determinants of Spousal Age Difference: A Study on Indian Sub-continent

Using three waves of National sample survey organization (NSSO) unit-level data, an attempt has been made to determine the factors behind the non-declining spousal age difference in the Indian population. The analysis indicates that the marital age gap shares a positive relationship with economic development (proxied by monthly per capita consumption expenditure) and a negative association with modernity or social development (proxied by female education level). These effects are significant in both rural and urban sectors. The result implies that the income effect can bring marriage market equilibrium but at the cost of high intra-household inequality, while the substitution effect, though desirable in terms of bringing social change in Indian society, can act as a deterrent in obtaining the marriage market equilibrium.

Dealan Riga

PhD Student, University of Liege, Belgium

China as a Systemic Rival for European Union: Models Projection in Western Balkans

This research focuses on political economy stakes linked to Chinese's investments in Western Balkans. This region is crucial for European Union as those states are part of its integration policy. In the meantime, China has made of Western Balkans a key area to link the newly acquired "Piraeus Harbour" to Budapest. China has become an actor of the region generating new international stakes and concerns in European Union's institutions. This paper addresses the topic by reflecting on: What are the stakes bind to Western Balkans region causing a Sino-European confrontation?

Several theoretical frameworks bring some insights of those stakes, but none of them offer a holistic answer to this question.

Security studies comprehend Western Balkans as a master piece of Sino-European competition. Geostrategic value of the region is the key to understand foreign investors' actions, all the process being part of a Chinese "grand strategy" on the world chessboard. Such a view offers too simplistic insights as they overlook Western Balkans states' role. Indeed, considering those states as an arena of security dilemma between EU and China neglect their role in the process. Mainstream international theory approaches failed to deliver a clear insight as well. Great power strategy and security dilemma suffer from the lack of military or other material security related elements in the region. On the other hand complex interdependence and economical perspective omit to deliver insights on political stakes confronting EU and China.

Therefore, this research aims to offer a new framework for analysing based on the concept of "state's model projection". The core issue of the region isn't economy, neither security but norms, values and rules carried by the social interaction between stakeholders. In this work the systemic rivalry outweighs security and economy purposes as models are considered from a non-material point of view. This paper will be based on a factual analysis of China, Europe and Western Balkans social interactions through economic cooperation and political coordination. States' behaviours in multilateral forum as "European-Western Balkans summit" or "17+1 forum" will be at the core of the analysis. Official statements and literature review will deliver insights that will be check in the light of interviews made with European decision making actors.

This work will deliver several insights on state's model and their projection. It will also be among the first to give insight on model perception. Indeed, for long Turkey, Russia or Saudi Arabia has invested in Western Balkans region without generating such a perceived systemic rivalry issues in EU institutions. Finally, it will deliver a deep understanding of China-EU relations on the global stage.

Martina Siskova

Researcher, Vienna Institute of Demography, Austria

Klaus Prettnner

Professor Vienna University of Economics and Business, Austria

Alexia Fürnkranz-Prskawetz

Professor, Vienna University of Technology, Austria

&

Michael Kuhn

Director International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis, Austria

Does Human Capital Compensate for Depopulation?

Declining fertility rates together with outward migration from poorer to richer countries have been some of the main contributors to declining population growth over time. In this paper we wish to disentangle how various aspects of population dynamics affected economic growth over the medium to long run. Our focus lies with population dynamics indicators capturing fertility, human capital levels, migration, female labor share and life expectancy. The channel through which fertility impacts economic growth is its quality-quantity trade-off of human capital through more years of schooling. And as the literature shows, the increments in individual level productivity positively affect economic growth. We also include and switch off individual channels of population dynamics in order to determine which of the components plays a key role in impacting economic growth. Moreover, we look at the compensational effect of economic gains as it pertains to fertility decline-related losses.

Robert Smith

PhD Candidate, University of New England, Australia

BRI Projects: Case Studies from Nepal, Sri Lanka and Thailand

The Belt and Road Initiative has proved controversial amongst some members of the international development consultant community. Whilst the concerns are no doubt genuinely held, the questions that need to be answered are: What are the issues

of concern? Are they unique to the BRI, or do they apply to all International Financial Institutions (IFIs)? How might they be ameliorated? Should the concept of *caveat emptor* apply, or should the lender have a higher level of responsibility?

Developing countries desperately need funds to achieve the 17 Sustainable Development Goals. Currently, they are largely dependent on International Financial Institutions (IFIs) such as the World Bank Group, Asian Development Bank, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank. In addition, grants and loans can be provided by individual donor countries. Despite the number of IFIs, funds are limited, especially for major projects such as ports and airports. The Belt and Road Initiative has a role in providing additional funds. The borrower must never forget that the loans are at “commercial” rates and need to be repaid in most cases.

Examples from Nepal, Sri Lanka, and Thailand are provided to discuss the issues surrounding BRI projects in these jurisdictions. In Nepal, the government provided a long list of projects to the Chinese government, which asked the Nepali government to reconsider. At the same time, the Nepali government is split over signing a contract for a grant from the Millennium Challenge Corporation. In the case of Sri Lanka, there has been some international comment about how Sri Lanka overcommitted itself in loans. Thailand agreed to be part of the BRI by participating in the high-speed rail project, eventually connecting Portugal with Singapore. Thailand decided to commit to using Chinese designs and technology, but unlike Lao PDR, they would operate the high-speed rail within Thailand.

The paper will then identify issues of concern from the examples cited above. It will be shown that many of the issues are common to all IFIs, including the BRI. The lending conditions of the IFIs are generally more favourable than those of the BRI, with least developed countries obtaining loans at very low-interest rates. To obtain the most beneficial outcome for its country, the government must ensure that the terms of

the loan must be able to be met, including the potential exchange rate fluctuations. The borrower should ensure that its social and environmental requirements will be met.

The most benefits to the country will come with the maximum level of involvement of all levels of society in the project.

Nonetheless, China has made some miss-steps along the way. China may not have been as prudent as it might in its lending policies, leading some countries to over-commit. At times China, like the United States with the Millenium Challenge Corporation, have tried to interfere in the politics of the potential recipient (e.g., Nepal). In Australia, China negotiated membership of the BRI with a state government, thereby bypassing the national government where the Constitutional power for negotiating treaties rested.

Adrian Szumowski

Assistant Professor, Maria Curie-Skłodowska University, Poland

Challengers for Mantle of Hyperpower

At the beginning of 21st Century the International Environment is undergoing series of severe changes of qualitative and quantitative nature. The scope of those changes and their persistence is still subjected to a research attempts made by IR scholars around the world, but growing part of the community agrees that deterioration of existing institution will lead to emergence of new international environment which will hybridize both elements: new and old alike. This environment bears many names, but for clarification of this presentation it will be labeled as post-Westphalian.

One of the most important notions of contemporary international relations is concept of a change. This could be understood as a redesigning of the basic institutions which will rendered obscure collective institutional experience. It means that all of the participants of international relations need to re-learn their activities in order to remain efficient as an international Actors. The change is composed of three patterns. First are underlying linear processes of progress and development. Second are cyclic processes of repeating circumstances, such as cycles of Power. Third are the unforeseen events and circumstances sometimes labeled as a “black swan” or “wildcard”, for instance COVID-19 pandemic. Very rarely those changes can merge together which will spike the uncertainty and lead to serious civilization breakthrough, like which international community is facing in our times.

This change could be seen in two major spheres of international environment: Power and Actors. On a previous conference there was presented notion of *Hyperpower*, as one of visible signs of this change. This year the results of the change on major challengers to the mantle of *Hyperpower* will be analyzed. This category is known from history records, as in every epoch every major power have their less successful rivals. Even during Cold War, United States competed with Soviet Union, however the latter have very little chances in catching up with the former except for the military plain of international environment. Attempts to surpass United States was the main reason of its eventual downfall. For a time there was an assumption that United States, which were in process of acquiring mantle of *Hyperpower* was devoid of rivals. Among them there could be identified at least five of them: three counted between nation states of first level powers, which were usually

portrayed as a challenger: People Republic of China, Republic of India and Russian Federation. And two additional of new quality Actors: European Union and Islamic State (albeit this one lost all capabilities to challenge the *Hyperpower*). Every part will embrace threefold structure. Firstly the general assessment of current status of an Actor will be presented. Secondly the advantages and disadvantages of an Actors Power will be presented and analyzed. And thirdly the general assessment of probability of its ascendance to the level of *Hyperpower* will be drafted. As a conclusion the general functions of those Actors in post-Westhalian international system will be presented.

Stephan Unger

Associate Professor, Saint Anselm College, USA.

The Role of Country-pair-related News Sentiment in Foreign Exchange

This article explores the relative, explanatory contribution of country-pair-related political and financial news to foreign exchange rates. Contributing political factors are measured through the sentiment scores of published news while contributing financial factors are measured through various economic indicators such as price and volume of USD and CNY oil futures, the Russian IMOEX Index, and corresponding interest differentials. The results show that news sentiment plays a minor role in exchange rate determination while other factors such as prices and traded volumes in oil future contracts and interest differentials are significant contributing factors to the exchange rate determination. Nevertheless, the quality and quantity of news coverage of geo-political or economic events seems to play an important role when it comes to the impact of news on exchange rates. Among the sentiment-analyzed currency pairs, EUR/USD exhibits by far the highest sensitivity to political and economic news, followed by EUR/RUB, RUB/CNY, EUR/CNY, USD/CNY, and USD/RUB.

Theodoros Vaniotis

Lecturer, New Bulgarian University & Sofia University, Bulgaria

The Russian Federation as a Trendsetter in International Politics

The questions of relations with the Russian Federation and formulating foreign policy regarding it have always been a sort of unclear affair for most countries in the West. It would seem that not a lot of experts are willing to dive deep into the Russian mindset. In a sense, Russia has been deemed as an outlier and to some extent an external threat for western countries to unite against. A notion – existing even during the time of the Russian Empire and heightened at the time of the Cold War – mostly characterized by the apparent antagonism between the United States and the Russian Federation.

The paper at hand is aimed at presenting a clear view of what will Russia's priorities and aims be when it comes to conducting foreign relations. To be more precise, the paper will explore what it is that the Russian Federation lacks in order to dominate in international relations – such as it has during its USSR period in the Cold War. The answer to that question could be found in realism theory in international relations. To be more precise, in the work of professor John Joseph Mearsheimer and his theory of offensive realism. In his lectures professor Mearsheimer would go on to explain that the USA are capable of exerting influence in different regions around the world freely because they face no opposition in their own region. Meaning that the US today is a trendsetter around the world – projecting its model of democracy, economic market mechanisms, etc. – because they have no challengers in their geographic region.

During the Cold War the USSR was also in a similar position, hence we observe a clash between two regional dominators on the global stage. The historical outcome is clear, but what is more important for international relations today is that since the 2000s there is an evident attempt by the Russian Federation to project influence and its own model of behavior internationally. This paper is aimed at describing these attempts of becoming a trendsetter, based on – as representatives of the Kremlin have stated on many occasions – cooperation, when possible, maintaining the rule of law, Orthodox Christian values, etc. Analyzing all of this will provide the basis for building a model for future Russian behavior in international relations and, potentially, a better way of understanding and conducting foreign relations with the Russian Federation.

Anna Winiarczyk-Raźniak

Assistant Professor, Pedagogical University of Krakow, Poland

The Cultural Aspect of Ethnic Identity - Yucatan Maya Case Study

The present-day Maya population consists of descendants of a highly developed human civilization. The architectural heritage of the original Maya civilization, which is recognized worldwide in certain forms, may be found in the ancient urban centers of the Maya region in the form of monumental stone structures. Less frequently recognized are structures that used to serve a majority of citizens in the Maya city states. These structures include the homes of Maya peasants. These were constructed of nondurable materials and were the pillars of the Maya homestead known as a *solar*. It is a manifestation of strong linkages with pre-Columbian knowledge and skills and the modern lifestyle of the inhabitants of rural areas across the Yucatan Peninsula.

One's place of residence is a major cultural marker. Many societies consider their own traditional way of living as a major marker of ethnic identity. In slightly modified form, they have survived till this day and represent an important element of cultural heritage for the Maya population of modern Mexico. The cultural aspect of Maya ethnic identity in the Yucatan Peninsula was examined via several different methods. Statistical data were used identify Maya ethnic areas in central Yucatan. The typology used in the study made it possible to identify areas inhabited by populations that use native tongues and inhabit traditional houses. Field surveys were performed in two municipalities: Cuzama and Xiatil. The purpose of the work was to examine the location and number of traditional Maya buildings across the studied area as well as show differences in relation to geographic location and level of development. In 2018 field studies were conducted in the Yucatan in the form of an open interview. The purpose of the study was to determine relationships between traditional lifestyles of the local native community and its sense of ethnic identity, quality of life, and the need to maintain local cultural heritage.

Enayatollah Yazdani

Associate Professor, Sun Yat-sen University, China

The Impact of Globalization on International Relations

Globalization as a process has introduced new opportunities for integration into world markets, access to new technologies and population mobility. Eased flow of goods, people, ideas, culture and capital can create new prosperity. Globalization, indeed, is a transformative process of nation-states that embodies both socioeconomic and political linkages that extend from financial deregulation to technological innovation. These drivers have succeeded in reining in trade barriers, in encouraging trade flows between and among nation-states, in stimulating growth in the global financial markets, and in expanding the purviews of multinational companies. In a nutshell, globalization represents growing international economic interdependence and an exclusive increase in foreign direct investments, international trade, and global movements of people, ideas, and technologies,

As a process of interaction and integration among people, companies and governments of different nations globalization is a process which contributes to development of International Trade and Investment. And particularly international relations. International relations have used globalization to reach its goal: of understanding cultures. International relations focus on how countries, people and organizations interact and globalization is making a profound effect on International relations.

Globalization as an intensification of cross-border interactions and interdependence between countries has brought about major change in the international relations and international system as well. In addition, a very important role in this process is played by the various Intergovernmental Organizations (IGOs) which gained increasing significance through the process of globalization.

Trans-border connections between different regions from different countries have had an impact on international relations over the course of globalization. In regards with the interaction between nations and people-to-people connection in the framework of International relation one can assume that Due to globalization it is now easier for people communication.

Generally, it has been demonstrated, that globalization has made states far more interdependent and interconnected and this changed the international relations quite significantly.

This paper aims to explore the role of globalization in international relations. It address how globalization has contributed to the international relation.

References

- Stivachtis Y, Gkounta O (2022) *Politics & International Studies. Abstract Proceedings of the 20th Annual International Conference*. Athens: Athens Institute for Education and Research (ATINER).
- Papanikos GT (2021) *Politics & International Studies. Abstract Proceedings of the 19th Annual International Conference*. Athens: Athens Institute for Education and Research (ATINER).
- Papanikos GT (2020) *Politics & International Studies. Abstract Proceedings of the 18th Annual International Conference*. Athens: Athens Institute for Education and Research (ATINER).
- Papanikos GT (2019) *Politics & International Studies. Abstract Proceedings of the 17th Annual International Conference*. Athens: Athens Institute for Education and Research (ATINER).
- Papanikos GT (2018) *Politics & International Studies. Abstract Proceedings of the 16th Annual International Conference*. Athens: Athens Institute for Education and Research (ATINER).
- Papanikos GT (2017) *Politics. Abstract Proceedings of the 15th Annual International Conference*. Athens: Athens Institute for Education and Research (ATINER).
- Papanikos GT (2016) *Politics. Abstract Proceedings of the 14th Annual International Conference*. Athens: Athens Institute for Education and Research (ATINER).
- Papanikos GT (2015) *Politics. Abstract Proceedings of the 13th Annual International Conference*. Athens: Athens Institute for Education and Research (ATINER).
- Papanikos GT (2014) *Politics. Abstract Proceedings of the 12th Annual International Conference*. Athens: Athens Institute for Education and Research (ATINER).
- Papanikos GT (2013) *Politics. Abstract Proceedings of the 11th Annual International Conference*. Athens: Athens Institute for Education and Research (ATINER).
- Papanikos GT (2012) *Politics & International Affairs. Abstract Proceedings of the 10th Annual International Conference*. Athens: Athens Institute for Education and Research (ATINER).
- Papanikos GT (2011) *Politics & International Affairs. Abstract Proceedings of the 9th Annual International Conference*. Athens: Athens Institute for Education and Research (ATINER).
- Papanikos GT (2010) *Politics & International Affairs. Abstract Proceedings of the 8th Annual International Conference*. Athens: Athens Institute for Education and Research (ATINER).