

Call for Papers for the 3rd Student Conference on International Relations

Student Association for International Relations Globallis, in partnership with the Chair and Centre for International Relations at the Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Ljubljana (FSS UL), is organizing its **3rd Student Conference on International Relations**. The international conference will be held during Europe Week, on the **4th and 5th May 2023** at **FSS in Ljubljana**. We cordially invite students of Bachelor and Master's from the wider IR field to participate.

With this conference, we want to give students the opportunity to present their scientific research to experts in the field of IR, and to obtain constructive comments and recommendations on the presentation. The conference will include several thematic sections, which are outlined below. The conference hopes to give students the opportunity to present their own research work in the wider field of IR. Above all, our mandate is to encourage young minds in this field to deepen their academic work and the knowledge they acquire through their studies. We hope that the event will serve not only as a stepping stone for research and academic work, but also as a platform for opening a discourse on current topics and as a bridge between the (national) academic and study spheres.

Thematic issues for research paper submissions:

- Explanatory power of IR theory
- International trade and development models considering global crises
- Strength of international law
- Multi-verse threats to international peace and security
- Current challenges of diplomacy and of foreign policy-making
- Post-conflict reconstruction and reconciliation
- Climate change challenges
- Western Balkans states' European Union accession process
- European integration – state of the art?
- Russian aggression on Ukraine
- Sustainability and sustainable development

Important dates:

10th October 2022: *release of the Call for Papers; see Guidelines for submission [HERE](#)*

15th November 2022: *a non-obligatory indication of students' participation interest*

14th January 2023: *deadline for students to submit a Research Plan*

early February 2023: *submitters receive Academic Board's feedback on their Research Plan – notification of (non)acceptance*

23rd April 2023: *deadline for student authors to submit a Research Essay*

4th & 5th May 2023: *conference takes place at FSS UL. All student authors that will have submitted their Research Essay will participate at the conference and orally present their Research Essay as part of the conference programme.*

30th May 2023: *deadline for student conference participants to provide a final Research Essay Abstract*

end of June 2023: *authors receive Academic Board's feedback on abstracts*

end of August 2023: *publication of abstracts online and in a Collection of Abstracts of the 3rd Student Conference on International Relations.*

We are looking forward to receiving you in Ljubljana!

Cordially,

Organizing Committee

The conference offers transfer and accommodation financing for a number of students who apply. If you want us to finance your trip to the conference, please do not hesitate to email us at the address below.

Conference Organizing Committee: Patrik Marčetič, Izak Miklavčič, Eva Omahen.

Contact for submissions and questions: [**skmo.info@gmail.com**](mailto:skmo.info@gmail.com)

Conference Academic Board (alphabetical order):

- Prof dr. Ana Bojinović Fenko (UL FSS, Slovenia),
- Assoc. Prof. dr. Julija Brsakoska Bazerkoska (Univerzitet Ss. Kiril i Metodij vo Skopje, Praven fakultet, North Macedonia),
- Prof dr. Danijel Crnčec (UL FSS, Slovenia),
- Assist. Prof dr. Faris Kočan (UL FSS, Slovenia),
- Teaching Assist. dr. Marko Kovačević (Univerza u Beogradu, Fakultet političih nauka, Serbia)
- Assist. Prof dr. Josip Lučev, Sveučilište u Zagrebu, Fakultet političkih znanosti, Croatia
- Prof dr. Zlatko Šabič (UL FSS, Slovenia).
- Prof. dr. Rok Zupančič (UL FSS, Slovenia).

Thematic issues descriptions

Explanatory power of IR theory

The theoretical tradition in International Relations is, despite the discipline's relative short history, rich and manyfold. From the universalist all-applicable theories of early realists, to the nuanced analyses of power and identity of the constructivists, system theories of Waltz and Marxist approaches, every theory has something to offer to an interested student of international relations. Recently, with the rise of eclectic theoretical approaches and the mixing of theoretical schools, the question arises: what can, and should IR theory explain? In this topics the academic board is looking for research works focused on theoretical concepts and theories in general, whatever they may be. Because every good research must have a strong theoretical basis, whether we like it or not, IR theory is here to stay.

International trade and development models in light of global crises

Global pandemics; trade disruptions; poverty; hunger; underdevelopment; war; water, electricity and other shortages; economic exploitation and trade restrictions are only some of the global crises the world is facing at the moment. Local, regional and global responses to crises are, at the moment, few and far between. In this age of rapid globalization and glocalization, international trade has been the facilitator of development. Or was it? Are there other solutions for more systemic solutions for global problems? Perhaps a rethinking of international trade models, or a dramatic shift in development models offered by, among others, China? One thing is for certain: an identification of concrete systemic problems and their solutions is overdue. Research into international trade models and development approaches seems to be the salient research issue of our time.

Strength of international law

International law has been the bastion of human rights, peace and security and sovereignty throughout the twentieth century. Notions of impunity and infringement of sovereignty seemed to be down for the count. But as we enter the twenty-first century, international law and its potency seems to be waning. Blatant disregard for international law seems to be the name of the game in various global situations. This poses the questions of what does international law have to offer; how strong international law really is; and what seem to be main deficiencies of international law that should be corrected, in order to ensure the respect of all its aspects? International law seems to be ineffective in global crises pertaining to war, poverty, hunger, democracy, human rights etc. Students can here focus on specific crises or aspects of international law, its political implications, international conventions and protocols of just international law in general.

Multi-verse threats to international peace and security

The international community is in a state of flux. This instability is perhaps nowhere more visible than in the conflict in Ukraine and its international political ramifications. But international peace and security are facing more and more threats from state and non-state entities alike. These threats are more often than not of the non-military type. Cyber-attacks, blockage of essential food transport routes, inflammatory rhetoric, and other means of influencing the people are just some among the plethora of possible properties of threats. These properties are more often than not conglomerated in many different constellations. In order to preserve (and strengthen) international peace and security, we must be able to define and analyze these threats, to get a better understanding, and to provide possible stabilizing countermeasures.

Current challenges of diplomacy and of foreign policy making

Foreign policy is a state's most important tool to ensure its prosperity and stability by influencing its external environment. And for that it needs diplomacy and diplomatic tools, which carry the brunt of foreign policy execution. Both foreign policy and diplomacy are facing new challenges that promise to shape them in the decades to come. Challenges regarding decision-making with regard to a transparent democratic process are arising, as well as issues regarding the digital aspect of diplomacy and foreign policy implementation. Whatever the case, challenges are always present in diplomacy and foreign policy, be they substantial, theoretical or something in between.

Post-conflict reconstruction and reconciliation

When wars end, the affected areas are often left devastated. There are large numbers of refugees, wounded, and trauma victims. From Mozambique to the Balkan region, the international community has shown that post-conflict reconciliation is possible. Nevertheless, how should we approach post-conflict reconstruction remains an ever-present issue in international relations. Are the current international organizations equipped to face post-conflict reconstruction and reconciliation? What can we learn from past successes and failures? Who should play the leading role in international missions? How should the international community approach peacekeeping? The panel will discuss what happens after war ends and how to approach nations and regions ravaged by conflict.

Climate change challenges

In light of the many crises our world faces, we tend to forget the most prescient and possibly deadly issue of our times. The fact remains issues of environmental protection and climate change must remain a priority for the international community. This section addresses the importance and role of international cooperation in fighting climate change. Why do countries find it challenging to adhere to international environmental norms and standards? What are these standards or norms in the first place? What are the current and future challenges to accomplishing measures to improve international protection of the environment and fight climate change? The panel aims to answer questions about climate change and international relations. How should the international community tackle climate change? Who should play the leading role? Is the present composition of international cooperation fit to solve the challenge, or are we in need of reform?

Western Balkans states' European Union accession process

"The Western Balkans belong to the European Union," stated Ursula Von der Leyen, president of the European Commission, in 2021. Similar statements have been heard time and time again, and yet, most Balkan states are still far away from Union membership. Instead, enlargement fatigue resulted in the EU losing credibility and influence compared to big other powers, namely China, Russia, and Turkey. In 2022, Bosnia and Herzegovina was again left off the list of countries given candidate status. Has the EU lost its influence in the region? How is the strengthened role of China, Russia, and Turkey affecting the accession process? What lies behind enlargement fatigue in the Balkans? Is the EU to blame, or are local elites at fault? This section addresses the issues and prospects of EU enlargement in the Western Balkans.

European integration – state of the art?

European integration is under great challenge. Always a delicate affair, integration has been praised by many for bringing peace, stability, and economic growth to Europe. Nevertheless, different crises have cast doubt on ideas of "an ever closer" and an "ever-expanding" Union. Instead, various "opt-outs" of certain aspects of integration, as well as Euroscepticism combined with an increased role of Russia and China in regions affected by enlargement fatigue, are enormous challenges to the European Union. How to tackle the problem of Euroscepticism? Has European integration reached its climax? Is there a need for a new treaty? New institutions? Is enlargement fatigue a part of the solution for the future of European integration or a part of the problem? This section addresses the delicate process of European integration and its issues.

Russian aggression on Ukraine

On the morning of the 24 of February, Russian forces entered Ukraine. The Russian invasion of Ukraine shocked the world and caused global outrage. The West has stood firmly behind Ukraine, sanctioning Russia and sending billions in humanitarian and military aid to Kyiv. On the other side, Russia has not remained without allies, with both China and India refraining from cutting ties with Moscow. So far, the international community has proved inept at bringing the war to an end. What lies behind this conflict? Are realist conceptions of spheres of interest indeed relics of the past? How should the international community approach the issue? Are sanctions and military aid the right way? Is there enough effort to solve the crisis at the negotiating table? What do Russian threats to use nuclear weapons mean for the future of our planet? This section addresses the meaning, cause, and consequences of the war in Ukraine.

Sustainability and sustainable development

Sustainability has become a major challenge in today's world, with the whole international community consuming resources faster than they can be replenished. With France reaching its Overshoot day, a day when a country has exceeded the planet's capacity to renew the natural resources used in a year, on May 5th, 2022. And when taking action to meet the sustainable development goals or SDGs presented as part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable development, some say we are well behind schedule. What could be the cause of that? Is sustainability achievable? How can the international community balance the economic, environmental, and social factors? What issues should be tackled first? How has the pandemic and the rising crisis affected the implantation of the 17 SDG? Does there need to be a change in the system? And the most important question, Is it too late?