

11/22/2024

# Conference Booklet

2nd Students' Letters  
Conference

# Conference Agenda

Notes

2<sup>nd</sup> Students' Letters Conference Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> of November 2024

## Morning Session: 8:00 am- 10:00 am in Room 2.139

- **Registration:** All day
- **Conference Start:** 8:30 am
  - Informal gathering over Coffee and Biscuits
- **Inaugural Address:** 8:45 am – 9:00 am
  - **Prof Zoltan Gabor Szűcs**, Vice-Dean of International Affairs, Faculty of Social Sciences, Eotvos Lorand University.
- **Keynote Address:** 9:00 am – 9:40 am
  - **Prof Zsuzsanna Kiss**, Director, Institute of Sociology, Faculty of Social Sciences, Eotvos Lorand University.  
Topic: **“The Many Forms of Social Distance: A case study of the Weberian concept of class position and status group based on a diary from 1938”**
    - Lecture: 9:00 am – 9:30 am
    - Q&A: 9:30 am – 9:45 am

## Coffee Break: 9:45 am – 10:00 am

## Session 1A [Children and Young People]: 10:00 am – 11:45 am in Room 1.71

**Chair: [Rusudan]**

- **Alina Mikheeva:** Propaganda in Russian schools: an attempt to create a new militarized generation
  - Presentation: 10:00 am – 10:10 am
  - Discussion: 10:10 am – 10:20 am
- **Sbastian Muthuka Katungati:** The Role of Digital Platforms in Child Trafficking: A Case of Online Recruitment and Exploitation in Kenya
  - Presentation: 10:20 am – 10:30 am
  - Discussion: 10:30 am – 10:40 am

## Notes

- **Csenge Kolozsvari:** Digital education efficiency at individual and social level – the youth perspective
  - Presentation: 10:40 am – 10:50 am
  - Discussion: 10:50 am – 11:00 am
- **Muskan Dharmendra Gaikwad:** The role of non-state armed groups in the recruitment of child soldiers
  - Presentation: 11:00 am – 11:10 am
  - Discussion: 11:10 am – 11:20 am
- **Kiss Luca Eszter:** Political Participation of the Younger Generation in Europe
  - Presentation: 11:20 am – 11:30 am
  - Discussion: 11:30 am – 11:40 am
- **Session Chair's Closing:** 11: 40 am – 11:45 am

Session 1B [Gender, Feminism and LGBTQ+]: 10:00 am – 11:45 am in Room 2.130B

Chair: [Elizabeth]

- **Laura Szaszak:** The Role of Media in Shaping Feminist Narratives and Public Perception
  - Presentation: 10:00 am – 10:10 am
  - Discussion: 10:10 am – 10:20 am
- **Alinchanev Ivan:** Media Representation of Queer Characters and its Effects on Queer People's Identity
  - Presentation: 10:20 am – 10:30 am
  - Discussion: 10:30 am – 10:40 am
- **Emma Toth:** Masculinity in the Redpill Community
  - Presentation: 10:40 am – 10:50 am
  - Discussion: 10:50 am – 11:00 am
- **Halasz Regina:** Hungarian fathers' involvement in child-rearing. An approach from the Norwegian family model.
  - Presentation: 11:00 am – 11:10 am
  - Discussion: 11:10 am – 11:20 am
- **James Johns Davies:** Andrew Tate's toxic masculinity
  - Presentation: 11:20 am – 11:30 am
  - Discussion: 11:30 am – 11:40 am

- **Session Chair's Closing:** 11: 40 am – 11:45 am

## Session 1C [Climate Change and Environment]: 10:00 am – 11:45 am in Room 060

Chair: [Karola]

- **Fabiola Stephanie:** Climate change undermines human rights
  - Presentation: 10:00 am – 10:10 am
  - Discussion: 10:10 am – 10:20 am
- **Ndungu Lewis Mjomba:** A bibliometric review of forest ecosystem services and sustainability research trends in Africa
  - Presentation: 10:20 am – 10:30 am
  - Discussion: 10:30 am – 10:40 am
- **Arailym Niyetbek:** Kazakhstan's proactive measures in addressing the Aral Sea crisis as a platform for enhanced international representation and collaboration
  - Presentation: 10:40 am – 10:50 am
  - Discussion: 10:50 am – 11:00 am
- **Ananded Vongnorkeo:** Environment and Sustainability
  - Presentation: 11:00 am – 11:10 am
  - Discussion: 11:10 am – 11:20 am
- **Laina Luna:** Yves Lacoste's Critical Geopolitics: A Tool for Addressing Climate Change
  - Presentation: 11:20 am – 11:30 am
  - Discussion: 11:30 am – 11:40 am
- **Session Chair's Closing:** 11: 40 am – 11:45 am

## Session 1D [Identities, Minorities and Colonial Struggles]: 10:00 am – 11:45 am in Room 2.139

Chair: [Sumit]

- **Latifa Khraief:** Unrecognized Identities: An Ethnographic Study of Moroccan, Tunisian, and Algerian Communities in Hungary
  - Presentation: 10:00 am – 10:10 am
  - Discussion: 10:10 am – 10:20 am

for international relations and world government. The outcomes show that artificial intelligence (AI) can greatly support diplomatic efforts by enhancing data analytics, facilitating real-time communication, and fostering more cooperation on global concerns including public health, security, and climate change. AI has the ability to strengthen international cooperation among states, as demonstrated by its applications in crisis management, which can also improve responses to global emergencies. However, the research also raises important questions about possible abuses of AI technologies where AI may be used by authoritarian regimes for social control and surveillance, which would enhance repression and exacerbate tensions in international relations. Furthermore, the proliferation of misleading data produced by AI systems may compromise the integrity of diplomatic relations and public discourse, and the rise of cybersecurity risks linked to AI may weaken international confidence. This study emphasizes how urgently strong international governance frameworks are needed to control the application of AI in diplomatic settings, maximizing its benefits and limiting any potential drawbacks.

### Jazmin Czigányik: How are US-Iran Contemporary Relations Influenced by Their History

My research paper examines the complex history and modern dynamics of US-Iran relations, which have been characterized by a lack of formal diplomatic ties for over forty years. Additionally, Cooperation between governments from 1945 to 1979 did not always reflect public sentiment. The paper outlines key historical events that have shaped the bilateral relationship, beginning with the US embassy takeover in Tehran and extending through various geopolitical conflicts, including Iran's nuclear ambitions, economic sanctions, and the psychological dimensions influencing public perception in both nations. The Iran-Iraq war further complicated US-Iran relations, with the US supporting Iraq against Iran. This conflict solidified anti-US sentiment in Iran, leading to worsening relations post-revolution. The analysis delves into the multifaceted factors driving tensions, including historical grievances stemming from Western exploitation of Iranian resources, the impact of the Islamic Revolution, and divergent political ideologies within Iran. It highlights how the interplay between governmental cooperation and public sentiment has led to fluctuating attitudes toward re-establishing diplomatic relations. The main sources used are reports by think tanks and public statements by both governments. Ultimately, the paper argues that understanding the historical context and underlying psychological factors is crucial for any future engagement between the United States and Iran, as their relationship continues to evolve amidst ongoing regional instability and changing global dynamics.

## Yaren Varol: Digital Public Diplomacy as a Tool of Hegemony: Insights and Case Studies

Technological advancements, particularly in communication, have profoundly influenced various domains, including politics, society, military affairs, and culture. These innovations have reshaped diplomacy, altering both the mechanisms of international relations and the tools at their disposal. The rise of digital communication has broadened the capacity of international public opinion to wield global influence. Consequently, the form, purpose, and tools of communication—especially the reciprocal nature of these interactions—have gained heightened significance within the framework of international power dynamics. The integration of public diplomacy with Web 2.0 technologies has given rise to the concept of digital public diplomacy, which now serves as a critical extension of soft power. Increasingly, international actors are leveraging this form of diplomacy to balance and complement their material power capacities, making digital adaptation a pivotal strategy in global power struggles. This study approaches the international power competition as a contest for hegemony and explores the influence and role of digital diplomacy and digital public diplomacy through hegemonic frameworks, with examples drawn from various countries. Additionally, the study interrogates whether digital public diplomacy is executed effectively and in line with its theoretical importance, distinguishing it from other forms of political communication. It further seeks to determine whether digital public diplomacy, as a power element, aligns with its conceptual definition, employing hegemonic approaches to investigate its application in a competitive global order. Through both qualitative analysis and numerical methods, this study explores the practice and implications of digital public diplomacy. By analysing public diplomacy, digital public diplomacy, and digital communication through the lens of the U.S.'s use of digital diplomacy as a hegemonic tool, this research highlights case studies from the Arab Spring, New Zealand, and Iran to illustrate the evolving impact of revolutionary movements on global political dynamics. This study offers an innovative contribution by framing international relations through digital public diplomacy, a relatively nascent and evolving area of research.

## Aryav Dayanand Sadhu: AI as a Tool for Diplomacy: Enhancing Global Cooperation or Deepening Division

Modern International relations is undergoing a rapid change, with artificial intelligence (AI) emerging as a major force behind this. The study examines AI's dual role in this context, emphasizing both its potential to boost international collaboration and the risks of growing interstate antagonism. The incorporation of AI technologies into diplomatic procedures provides new instruments for engagement, negotiation, and conflict resolution as geopolitical dynamics change. This research's main goal is to clarify the ways in which artificial intelligence (AI) can be used successfully in diplomatic settings while simultaneously pointing out the inherent risks and challenges that come with its use. A thorough literature analysis that synthesizes insights from scholarly papers, case studies, and policy assessments across a variety of domains, including international relations, cybersecurity, and data ethics, is part of the methodology used in this study. This multidisciplinary method offers a sophisticated comprehension of AI's consequences

- **Imen Khemakhem:** Far right politics, and the securitization of Muslim French
  - Presentation: 10:20 am – 10:30 am
  - Discussion: 10:30 am – 10:40 am
- **Amina Ghazouani:** The rise of demand for populism in Europe: The 2015 Refugees Crisis a catalyst?
  - Presentation: 10:40 am – 10:50 am
  - Discussion: 10:50 am – 11:00 am
- **Orxan Huseynov:** The role of belief in applying violence: a focus on Nazi antisemitism, Bosnian genocide and anti-immigrant discourse in the EU
  - Presentation: 11:00 am – 11:10 am
  - Discussion: 11:10 am – 11:20 am
- **Suzanne Kirabo:** Hybrid Identities: The intersection of nationality with race and culture in shaping the sense of belonging and identity among second-generation African Europeans of Sub-Saharan heritage in France
  - Presentation: 11:20 am – 11:30 am
  - Discussion: 11:30 am – 11:40 am
- **Session Chair's Closing:** 11: 40 am – 11:45 am

Lunch Break: 11:45 am – 12:30 pm

Afternoon Session: 12:30 pm- 13:15 pm in Room 2.139

- **Keynote Address:** 12:30 pm – 13:15 pm
  - **Prof. Domonkos Sik,** Professor at the Institute of Sociology  
Topic: **“Socialized to distrust – from negative integration to the networks of anxiety”**
    - Lecture: 12:30 pm – 13:00 pm
    - Q&A: 13:00 pm – 13:15 pm

Session 2A [History]: 13:15 pm – 14:40 pm in Room 2.139

Chair: [Regina]

- **Fenyvesi Balázs:** Heroes, Traitors, and Ambiguous Cult-building: Remembering Hungarian Volunteers in the Spanish Civil War in State-Socialist Hungary (1944-1962)
  - Presentation: 13:15 pm – 13:25 pm
  - Discussion: 13:25 pm – 13:35 pm
- **Bottyán Bendegúz Csaba:** A Tale of Two Reforms: Explaining the Different Outcomes of the Japanese and Chinese Modernisation Attempts in the 19th Century
  - Presentation: 13:35 pm – 13:45 pm
  - Discussion: 13:45 pm – 13:55 pm
- **Nina Natroshvili:** Collective Memory Research of Everyday Post socialism: Methodological Concerns
  - Presentation: 13:55 pm – 14:05 pm
  - Discussion: 14:05 pm – 14:15 pm
- **Zoe Kata:** Trialectics of spatiality and gentrification on Dohany street, Budapest
  - Presentation: 14:15 pm – 14:25 pm
  - Discussion: 14:25 pm – 14:35 pm
- **Session Chair's Closing:** 14:35 pm – 14:40 pm

## Session 2B [Social-Media]: 13:15 pm – 14:40 pm in Room 2.130B

### Chair: [Edit]

- **Seber Bori:** Social Media's influence on the way younger generations perceive gender identity
  - Presentation: 13:15 pm – 13:25 pm
  - Discussion: 13:25 pm – 13:35 pm
- **Manal Hamarsha:** Social Media-Induced Anxiety; Exploring the Psychological Mechanisms Behind Fear of Missing Out (FoMO) and Online Comparison
  - Presentation: 13:35 pm – 13:45 pm
  - Discussion: 13:45 pm – 13:55 pm
- **Mai Anh Nguyen:** How does constantly using short videos and images when using tiktok and instagram affect our ability to focus on a single task in real life?
  - Presentation: 13:55 pm – 14:05 pm

foster a sense of autonomy and entrepreneurial spirit, contributing positively to perceived self-worth. However, it may also lead to feelings of isolation and insecurity due to the lack of stable community support systems typically associated with traditional employment. I expect finding a dichotomy in professional identity, where gig workers often oscillate between viewing themselves as independent professionals and feeling marginalized compared to their traditionally employed counterparts. It will provide a nuanced understanding of how gig work reshapes social identity, outlining implications for both workers' mental well-being and broader social dynamics in the labor market. The analysis will employ a semi-structured format to capture the diverse experiences and perspectives of workers engaged in gig economy platforms such as Giggle and Qjob.

### **Aytaj Mammadova:** Realism Vs Idealism; Conflicting Theories and State Practice

This abstract explores the contrasting views of two main International Relations theories—Realism and Liberalism—and their importance in understanding global politics. Realism argues that human nature is inherently self-interested, which pushes states to focus on survival and power within an international system that lacks a central authority to resolve disputes. Prominent thinkers like Hans Morgenthau and Kenneth Waltz emphasize the role of state-centric behaviour, where military power and the balance of power are critical in shaping the actions of states. Liberalism, on the other hand, presents a more optimistic perspective, suggesting that cooperation between nations is possible through international institutions and economic interdependence. Scholars such as Robert Keohane and Immanuel Kant highlight the potential for peace through democratic governance and multilateral agreements. For example, the European Union is often cited as a success story, where collaboration has contributed to stability among its members and reduced the likelihood of conflict. This paper asserts that both Realism and Liberalism offer valuable insights, Realism more accurately captures the realities of today's geopolitical landscape. Recent conflicts, like the Russia-Ukraine war, highlight how power struggles remain central to international relations, reinforcing the importance of Realism in analysing current events. Realism has not only influenced theoretical approaches but also practical policymaking, shaping how states react to threats. At the same time, this paper explores how understanding the world of international relations is not only a fascinating intellectual challenge but also an enterprise of practical importance. 'I know that I know nothing' paradox, attributed to Socrates, is something many experienced scholars of international relations can subscribe to. The deeper one gets involved in the details of various approaches to international politics, the broader horizons of theoretical debates become. By analysing both historical and contemporary case studies, this study aims to offer a clearer understanding of the complexities in international relations. Ultimately, the research sheds light on how these two theories can inform policy choices to address global conflicts and work toward international stability. Through this exploration, the paper seeks to refine perspectives on the role of both theories in shaping future global interactions.

are influenced by personal and subcultural factors. Specifically, I examine individual drug-taking habits, motivations for using drugs at raves, and the significance of attending these events as a way of expressing belonging to the subculture. Additionally, I explore how personal life, and peer pressure from other subculture members contribute to these behaviours. I also provide a historical overview of the rave subculture and its long-standing association with drug use. To address these questions, I use a qualitative methodology, conducting semi-structured interviews with 8-10 participants from the rave scene. These individuals are people I have encountered at events over the years, but with whom I have no close personal relationship, allowing for a certain level of objectivity while also enabling deeper access to their experiences. The interviews aim to capture the participants' perspectives on their drug use, motivations for attending raves, and the broader social pressures they face within the subculture. This research adds to the broader sociological understanding of the relationship between subcultures and drug use. By focusing on the personal experiences of individuals within the rave scene in Budapest, I aim to shed light on the complex dynamics that influence their choices. Ultimately, this thesis offers a nuanced perspective on how subcultural and social factors intersect with individual identity, particularly in the context of rave culture and drug use. Through these insights, I aim to enhance my understanding of the motivations and pressures faced by those who identify with this subculture.

#### **Ozgun Akkaya:** *The attempted coup and its impact of Erdogan's foreign policy*

Turkey is a medium power and regional power candidate country in the region. With the result of 2002 elections Justice and Development Party became power than began to use their policies and understanding in the foreign policy of Turkey. The first part of their administration worked coherent with EU integration process policies and libertarian process. With the gained more power from Turkish Society JDP government became less libertarian and less western-oriented. Rising of JDP power create an opposition in the society and this opposition were suppressed by government via use of force. Turning Point was 15 July Coup Attempt for JDP government and Erdogan and "New Turkey Era" will begin and Turkish Foreign Policy also will change dramatically. One-man regime inevitable for Turkey and future of Turkey.

#### **Frick Zsófi:** *The influence of Gig economy on workers' social identity*

This research aims to explore the influence of the gig economy on workers' social identity, particularly in the context of rapidly evolving labor dynamics shaped by digital platforms. As gig work becomes increasingly prevalent, traditional employment paradigms are challenged, leading to new social identities and group formations among workers. The study will investigate how gig economy participants perceive their status, roles, and relationships in a work context that often prioritizes flexibility over stability. By analysing interviews and surveys from diverse gig economy workers—ranging from ride-share drivers to freelance creatives—this research will delve into the complexities of identity formation in a precarious labor landscape. Central to the inquiry will be the exploration of how factors such as income variability, job satisfaction, and interpersonal connections influence workers' self-concept and sense of belonging within their chosen occupational groups. The analysis is expected to reveal that participation in the gig economy can

- Discussion: 14:05 pm – 14:15 pm
- **Shifa Malik:** How does the use of social media affect our mental being?
  - Presentation: 14:15 pm – 14:25 pm
  - Discussion: 14:25 pm – 14:35 pm
- **Session Chair's Closing:** 14:35 pm – 14:40 pm

### Session 2C [Case Studies]: 13:15 pm – 14:40 pm in Room 2.106

**Chair: [Sara Szabo]**

- **Djakypbay kyzy Jyldyz:** Tourism benefits perception in rural Kyrgyzstan: A case study of tourism in Chunkurchak, Arashan and Kashka Suu areas.
  - Presentation: 13:15 pm – 13:25 pm
  - Discussion: 13:25 pm – 13:35 pm
- **Peter Igesha:** Rethinking the disarmament strategies in the banditry-stricken areas of Baringo County, Kenya
  - Presentation: 13:35 pm – 13:45 pm
  - Discussion: 13:45 pm – 13:55 pm
- **Nyandoro Omuria:** Role of Women in Conflicts and Climate Change Isiolo County Kenya
  - Presentation: 13:55 pm – 14:05 pm
  - Discussion: 14:05 pm – 14:15 pm
- **Sara Abutaleb:** The Emergence, Development, and Decline of Breastfeeding Throughout History in Egypt
  - Presentation: 14:15 pm – 14:25 pm
  - Discussion: 14:25 pm – 14:35 pm
- **Session Chair's Closing:** 14:35 pm – 14:40 pm

### Session 2D [The Geopolitics of Russia and China]: 13:15 pm – 14:40 pm in Room 202B

**Chair: [Zsolt]**

- **Varga Tamás:** The (un)changing language and sentiments of the moral panic button (MPB) in the wake of the Russian-Ukrainian war: the Hungarian case
  - Presentation: 13:15 pm – 13:25 pm
  - Discussion: 13:25 pm – 13:35 pm

- **Stepanov Arsenii:** Structure of official nationalism identity and national idea in Russia
  - Presentation: 13:35 pm – 13:45 pm
  - Discussion: 13:45 pm – 13:55 pm
- **Argyelan Adam:** Interdisciplinary Study on The Security Implications of Budapest–Belgrade Railway Line as Part of The Belt and Road Initiative
  - Presentation: 13:55 pm – 14:05 pm
  - Discussion: 14:05 pm – 14:15 pm
- **Kerziban Sicim:** The Geopolitics of Repression: Xinjiang, China’s Belt and Road, and International Silence
  - Presentation: 14:15 pm – 14:25 pm
  - Discussion: 14:25 pm – 14:35 pm
- **Session Chair’s Closing:** 14:35 pm – 14:40 pm

Coffee Break: 14:40 pm – 15:00 pm

Session 3A [Crime and Punishment]: 15:00 pm – 16:00 pm in Room 2.139

Chair: [Regina]

- **Olga Gets:** Human Rights in the Context of Transitional Justice through the Lens of Critical Legal Studies (CLS) Approach
  - Presentation: 15:00 pm – 15:10 pm
  - Discussion: 15:10 pm – 15:20 pm
- **Julia Fleck:** Reintegration policy after 2010 regime change in Hungary: Concepts and reality of prisoner reintegration
  - Presentation: 15:20 pm – 15:30 pm
  - Discussion: 15:30 pm – 15:40 pm
- **Klivenyi Emma:** The Impact of Media Representations of Crime on Public Perceptions and Criminal Justice Policy
  - Presentation: 15:40 pm – 15:50 pm
  - Discussion: 15:50 pm – 16:00 pm
- **Session Chair’s Closing:** 16:00 pm – 16:05 pm

encounters. Hook-up culture refers to the growing acceptance of short-term sexual interactions that occur without the expectation of romantic commitment. Using sociological frameworks such as sexual scripts, gender norms, and individualization theory, this study explores how shifting social and cultural dynamics shape individuals' experiences and perceptions of casual sex. The role of college environments and social expectations surrounding intimacy and personal freedom is also considered. My research is based on a qualitative study, drawing completely from in-depth interviews with 10-15 university students aged 18–25. The interviews aimed to uncover participants' personal experiences, emotional responses, and attitudes toward hook-up culture, with a focus on how they make sense of casual sexual relationships. Key topics explored include gendered double standards, emotional outcomes of casual encounters, the pursuit of sexual independence, and the tension between casual sex and the desire for long-term connections. The findings reveal that while many participants appreciate the freedom that hook-up culture offers, they also experience challenges such as emotional confusion, social stigma, and unspoken expectations. Particularly, gender norms continue to shape experiences, with women more likely to report feelings of shame or being judged negatively compared to men. However, both men and women expressed uncertainty, balancing a desire for sexual exploration with doubt about long-term relationships and emotional fulfillment. This thesis concludes that hook-up culture reflects broader social changes in how young people experience intimacy, but it also reinforces traditional gender dynamics in new ways. The insights gained from these interviews offer a nuanced understanding of the complexities involved in casual sexual encounters and contribute to ongoing discussions about the evolving nature of relationships, gender roles, and sexual autonomy.

**Jazmin Marko:** More Porn Less Sex: How modern digital pornography challenges traditional norms and gender dynamics?

This essay explores the contemporary challenges posed by digital pornography to societal norms, focusing on its impact on relationships in Western society and the individual. Beginning with a historical overview of pornography's emergence and transformation, the investigation delves into its influence on relationships, sexual education, and societal attitudes, including issues such as addiction, unrealistic expectations, and infidelity. The research mostly focuses on heterosexual monogamous relationships and younger demographics, acknowledging the scarcity of comprehensive studies on other relationship dynamics and their complexity. Utilizing cultivation theory and sexual script theory as frameworks, the study aims to explain the phenomena and ways in which modern digital pornography disrupts conventional sexual dynamics which fosters broader societal discussions.

**Marton Szalai:** Music, Drugs and Identity: The contribution of drug use in identity for the mainstream rave subculture in Budapest

In my thesis, I delve into the significance of drug usage in constructing and expressing subcultural identity in Budapest for those who are part of the mainstream rave subculture. My main goal is to understand why members of this subculture use drugs at rave events and how their choices



second level of my analysis takes a look at the current functioning of the probation system through interviews with people who are currently working as probation officers and their probationers. The outline of this second type of interview can be drawn from the experiences of the first stage of the research. The expert interviews will also guide the selection of the interview subjects. In the case of ex-convicted under supervision, persons released from prison, the basic question is the real experiences of the mechanisms of social reintegration. I consider as a successful reintegration process what the supervised person understands as such. The final analysis also includes the question of how institutional arrangements, legal policy intentions and the interpretations of those involved in the process differ. Nor do I exclude from the research questions the problem that the success criteria of professionals involved in patronage work differ from both of the aforementioned interpretations.

### [Klivenyi Emma: The Impact of Media Representations of Crime on Public Perceptions and Criminal Justice Policy](#)

Public opinions of crime, law enforcement, and the legal system are significantly influenced by how crime is depicted in the media. The way the media often exaggerates violent crime, alters or distorts data, and strengthens biases, greatly affects the public's perception, especially against marginalized groups based on race, gender, or class. This increases the perceived risk of crime by influencing who the public considers to be criminals and deserving of punishment. This thesis explores how selective reporting and framing of crime stories contribute to the fear of crime, stigmatization of marginalized communities, and increased support for punitive policies. Even when crime numbers are declining, research indicates a connection between public fear of crime and how crime is portrayed in the media. Because of the media's focus on uncommon incidents of violence, crime appears to be more frequent than it actually is. This leads to public support for harsher criminal justice policies. Much of the literature focuses on how racial and ethnic minorities are depicted as inherently dangerous, reinforcing biases and shaping perceptions of crime. Theories like moral panic, agenda-setting, and critical race theory provide frameworks for understanding how media coverage influences public views on crime and justice. These ideas describe how media narratives, which frequently target particular populations, reinforce prejudices, influence public priorities, and amplify fear. This study investigates how public perceptions are shaped by media depictions through content analysis, questionnaires, and interviews. Surveys and interviews will examine how these narratives impact public fear and support for criminal justice policy, while content analysis will highlight patterns in crime coverage. By emphasising the effects of inaccurate crime narratives on society and the demand for more balanced reporting, the findings will add to conversations on media ethics and criminal justice reform.

### [Romi Szabados: The Rise of Hook-up Culture and changing attitudes towards casual sexual relationships](#)

My thesis examines the rise of hook-up culture and changing attitudes toward casual sexual relationships, focusing on how young adults navigate the difficulties of intimacy in non-committal

## Session 3B [Social Deviances]: 15:00 pm – 16:00 pm in Room 2.130B

Chair: [Edit]

- **Romi Szabados:** The Rise of Hook-up Culture and changing attitudes towards casual sexual relationships.
  - Presentation: 15:00 pm – 15:10 pm
  - Discussion: 15:10 pm – 15:20 pm
- **Jazmin Marko:** More Porn Less Sex: How modern digital pornography challenges traditional norms and gender dynamics?
  - Presentation: 15:20 pm – 15:30 pm
  - Discussion: 15:30 pm – 15:40 pm
- **Marton Szalai:** Music, Drugs and Identity: The contribution of drug use in identity for the mainstream rave subculture in Budapest
  - Presentation: 15:40 pm – 15:50 pm
  - Discussion: 15:50 pm – 16:00 pm
- **Session Chair's Closing:** 16:00 pm – 16:05 pm

## Session 3C [Rights, Responsibilities and State Obligations]: 15:00 pm – 16:00 pm in Room 2.106

Chair: [Sara Szabo]

- **Ozgur Akkaya:** The attempted coup and its impact of Erdogan's foreign policy
  - Presentation: 15:00 pm – 15:10 pm
  - Discussion: 15:10 pm – 15:20 pm
- **Frick Zsófi:** The influence of Gig economy on workers' social identity
  - Presentation: 15:20 pm – 15:30 pm
  - Discussion: 15:30 pm – 15:40 pm
- **Aytaj Mammadova:** Realism Vs Idealism; Conflicting Theories and State Practice
  - Presentation: 15:40 pm – 15:50 pm
  - Discussion: 15:50 pm – 16:00 pm
- **Session Chair's Closing:** 16:00 pm – 16:05 pm

## Session 3D [Diplomacy and International Relations]: 15:00 pm – 16:00 pm in Room 202B

Chair: [Rusudan]

- **Yaren Varol:** Digital Public Diplomacy as a Tool of Hegemony: Insights and Case Studies
  - Presentation: 15:00 pm – 15:10 pm
  - Discussion: 15:10 pm – 15:20 pm
- **Aryav Dayanand Sadhu:** AI as a Tool for Diplomacy: Enhancing Global Cooperation or Deepening Division
  - Presentation: 15:20 pm – 15:30 pm
  - Discussion: 15:30 pm – 15:40 pm
- **Jazmin Czigányik:** How are US-Iran Contemporary Relations Influenced by Their History
  - Presentation: 15:40 pm – 15:50 pm
  - Discussion: 15:50 pm – 16:00 pm
- **Session Chair's Closing:** 16:00 pm – 16:05 pm

## Closing Session: 16:15 pm- 16:30 pm in Room 2.139

- **Vote of Thanks:** Nazan Eren (Founder of the Culture Club @ ELTE TaTK)

## After Conference Dinner: 18:00 pm- 21:00 pm (Paid)

the intricacy of China's economic ambitions alongside its repressive policies. It contributes to understanding how China's economic leverage within the BRI framework reshapes global human rights discourse and geopolitical alignment. Ultimately providing a perspective of how the current system struggles to accommodate the principles of liberalism – and consequentially human rights – with the economic incentives offered, in this case, by China.

## Olga Gets: Human Rights in the Context of Transitional Justice through the Lens of Critical Legal Studies (CLS) Approach

The article is devoted to the analysis of transitional justice through the prism of Critical Legal Studies (CLS), a critical legal theory that emerged in the United States in the second half of the 20th century. Transitional justice, first formalized at the Nuremberg trials, is a complex area where issues of legal accountability for war crimes remain controversial and politicized. In the article, I examined how CLS allows for a rethinking of traditional approaches to law and justice, especially in the context of transnational justice. The main tenets of the CLS criticize the concepts of neutrality and objectivity of legal systems, arguing that the law cannot be free from political or ideological bias. Thus, a critical approach opens up new ways to develop justice that can take into account the social, cultural and psychological aspects of human life. The article examines modern issues of international law in conditions of instability and crises, emphasizing the importance of a critical rethinking of established legal norms and the role of interdisciplinary analysis, integrating different approaches to law, which contributes to a deeper understanding of the problem. The work not only expounds the ideas of CLS, but also applies them to practical examples from the history of international justice, which highlights the relevance of this theory to real-life legal processes. Considering the critique of "victor's justice" and alternative approaches to establishing justice helps to broaden the view of international litigation.

## Julia Fleck: Reintegration policy after 2010 regime change in Hungary: Concepts and reality of prisoner reintegration

An important part of the transformation of the legal system towards the rule of law was the humanization of the penal system and the reduction of the psychological and social harms associated with the enforcement of imprisonment. The reintegration of ex-prisoners is a central element of this legal policy. Successful reintegration requires a complex system of social policy instruments, the conditions for which were still partly lacking after the regime change. In my thesis, after analysing the basic data on the subject (changes in the number of prisoners, changes in the regulation of the institution), I will use expert interviews to explore the original legislative intentions, the professional arguments and their fit into the overall transformation of the rule of law, as well as the legal policy changes in the following decades and their reasons. The tendency to tighten criminal policy after 2010 has been accompanied by a weakening of the values of restorative justice. I will also use expert interviews to explore the legal policy shifts behind the legislation. These interviews are with experts in the field who have been involved in the development and implementation of the concept. Preparation for the interviews will be done with the help of the sociological and criminological literature on the patronage system. The

be carried out. This comparison will highlight the shifts (or acceleration) in the official narrative and the role that the war with Ukraine and the “confrontation with the West” play in shaping identity.

### **Argyelan Adam:** Interdisciplinary Study on The Security Implications of Budapest–Belgrade Railway Line as Part of The Belt and Road Initiative

The Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), launched by China in 2013 is undoubtedly the largest economic project of our time. It connects Asia, Africa and Europe and it involves more than 140 countries. A key part of this megaproject is the railway line connecting Budapest and Belgrade. While the BRI raises many new questions in the field of security studies, it is also important to examine its smaller components, as these provide valuable insights into the larger project and, in some cases, serve as the most relevant focus points. This paper investigates the security implications of the Budapest–Belgrade railway project, considering both civilian and military dimensions through a multidisciplinary case study approach. What does this project mean economically for the countries involved? Is there a reasonable fear of debt-dependency? What is the strategic importance of this railway line? How does it affect the political stability of the region? Are the effects limited to Hungary and Serbia, or do they extend to greater European powers? I will begin by addressing these specific questions, using more general inquiries to contextualize my findings. Economic theory, social sciences, and historical analysis will be employed to better understand the intricate power dynamics and economic situation in the region.

### **Kerziban Sicim:** The Geopolitics of Repression: Xinjiang, China’s Belt and Road, and International Silence

Since 2018, China’s Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region (XUAR) has become a focal point of international concern due to extensive reports of human rights abuses against the Uyghur population. Statements include mass detentions in so-called “re-education camps” or “vocational training centres”, forced labor, and the systematic erasure of the Uyghur culture. This paper examines the intersection of China’s geopolitical ambitions with its repressive policies in Xinjiang - particularly through the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). Using a geopolitical analysis framework, it draws on human rights and government reports, previous literature, and economic data to reveal how the Chinese government has utilized post-9/11 discourse to justify its oppressive measures, framing its actions as necessary to counteract the “three evils”: terrorism, separatism, and radicalism. The Uyghur population, characterized mainly by its Muslim identity and its historical ties to neighbouring countries, has been depicted as a security threat. This narrative is backed by the 2009 Urumqi events and the rise of Islamist-fundamentalist terrorism worldwide. This paper delves into the increasing Han migration, the repression of Uyghur cultural expression, and the resulting inter-ethnic tensions, which further the dominance of Chinese authorities. While international organizations like Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch have documented these violations, the global response has been largely quiet, due to economic and political interests, particularly among countries in the BRI framework. By examining the geopolitical significance of Xinjiang within the BRI, this paper seeks to highlight

# Book of Abstracts

2<sup>nd</sup> Students’ Letters Conference Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> of November 2024

### **Alina Mikheeva:** Propaganda in Russian schools: an attempt to create a new militarized generation

After the Russian invasion of Ukraine, the Russian authorities carried out a number of reforms for increasing the role of patriotic education in the country. The research is dedicated to the study of military propaganda narratives in Russian schools and its further influence on the normalization of the war image in Russian society. It aims to assess the mechanisms, tactics and distribution channels of military propaganda in Russian schools. Due to recent changes in Russian society, this topic has not been studied yet which makes it relevant and timely. The results of the study may be useful for Western academics to understand socio-political processes within modern Russia. The theoretical basis of the research is focused on existing research on youth organizations in militaristic regimes (Fascist Italy, Nazi Germany, the USSR). The practical part is built upon the media discourse and semiotic analysis of recent documents for teachers issued by the Russian Educational Ministry, unified history textbook, new social science textbooks, Russian literature textbooks; and 153 press releases from websites of 11 schools. The methodological foundation is supported by two interviews with Russian teachers. The interview gives a more detailed picture of the modern Russian school: with mandatory meetings with active soldiers, the participation of schoolchildren in military trainings and a propaganda campaign motivating them to sign a military contract immediately after leaving school. Discourse analysis of new textbooks on basic humanities subjects, especially history, leads to disappointing conclusions the Russian state not only whitewashes the role of the Soviet Union in global conflicts, provides justification for a military invasion into the territory of Ukraine, but also deprives young generations from the right to know a terrible period of their history: Stalin’s repressions and the Red Terror have been almost removed from the curriculum.

### **Sabastian Muthuka Katungati:** The Role of Digital Platforms in Child Trafficking: A Case of Online Recruitment and Exploitation in Kenya

Human trafficking, as defined by the United Nations, involves the recruitment, transportation, and exploitation of individuals through coercion or deception. It remains a significant global issue, affecting millions, particularly women and children (UNODC, 2022). The rise of digital technology, especially the internet, has exacerbated trafficking activities, with traffickers increasingly exploiting online platforms for recruitment and control, particularly for sexual exploitation. This study focuses on the role of digital platforms in facilitating child trafficking in Kenya. Through an analysis of case studies, reports and legal frameworks, this paper reveals that

social media and messaging apps are commonly used by traffickers to target and groom vulnerable children, often luring them with false promises of jobs or opportunities. The findings indicate that current legal frameworks in Kenya are inadequate to address the rapidly evolving digital methods used by traffickers. Law enforcement agencies face significant challenges in tracking traffickers online due to limited technological resources, lack of training, and insufficient cross-border cooperation. Furthermore, traffickers exploit gaps in digital regulation, allowing them to operate with relative impunity across international borders. The study highlights the urgent need for enhanced legal reforms and the development of technology-driven solutions, such as advanced monitoring systems and stronger cybercrime units, to effectively combat online trafficking. It also emphasizes the importance of cross-border collaboration, as traffickers often operate across multiple jurisdictions. The paper concludes that raising public awareness, improving law enforcement capabilities, and strengthening international legal cooperation are critical steps in addressing this growing problem. The findings underscore the necessity of a coordinated, technology focused approach to protect children from exploitation in the digital age.

### Csenge Kolozsvari: Digital education efficiency at individual and social level – the youth perspective

Although Digital Education Strategy (DES) of Hungary was created in 2016 as part of the Digital Success Programme. Although the DES emphasized the importance of methodological adaptation instead of just embedding digital tools and technologies into traditional education, only a little digital progress has been made in public education by March 2020, when the first wave of the COVID-19 pandemic appeared and forced education to go online. However sudden this change may have been, there was nothing new about the phenomenon of the accelerated digitalisation and the need for this to be properly applied in education (Malatyinszki, 2020). This period and its experiences not only raised methodological and equipment issues, but also shed new light on social inequalities in line with concepts such as mental health or learner agency. In our research, 10 semi-structured interviews have been conducted between June and September 2021 to discover the youth perspective of the online education during the COVID-19 lockdowns. We asked young people between age 15-18 to get an insight of digital education in Hungary and how students coped with it, including platforms and methods used, camera use, dropout and mental health issues. 3 years later, the research was continued on the effects of digital education in a longer term focusing on the direct impact on youngsters' lives and achieving their goals. More interviews have been conducted to follow-up the young people's lives and development 3 years after the pandemic, reaching the same interviewees when it was possible, complemented with educators' perspective. Our research discover what level education was able to adapt to the special circumstances, how youth coped with the lack of personal connections and how effectively the digitisation of education has worked on a longer term, including how the digitalisation of learning and teaching has evolved during and after COVID-19.

suitable for fearmongering. Content-wise we raised two questions: Is it true that after the outbreak of the war, the pro-government media had to change its language much more than the non-government media which was less dominated by the MPB earlier? Is it true that this shift could only be rather limited because on the one hand various forms of migration, not linked to the Russian-Ukrainian war, were still present in Hungary, on the other hand, due to the inertia of MPB which has been using anti-migration propaganda irrespective of whether there is migration or not? Sentiment-wise we did not have any hypotheses; rather, we aimed to explore attitudes and emotional responses related to the concepts of various W-Day related terms such as "refugee" and "migrant", "Ukraine/Zelensky" and "Russia/Putin", and "war". In the first part of the paper, we examined the occurrence of the terms migrant and refugee, separately for online media sites and Facebook posts, and for non-government and pro-government sites. We found that the ratio of the migrant/refugee label has decreased as a result of the war and that this decline was much sharper in the pro-government media where due to MPB influence it was much higher before the war. Analysing a longer period (one year) after the outbreak of the war, we found that the use of the term migrant in the pro-government media has gradually returned to its original level. In the second part of the paper, we found trivialities: the number of sentences dealing with refugees increased after the outbreak of the war, and sentences containing Russian content exhibited a more negative emotional charge in the post-W-Day period compared to those with Ukrainian content. Regarding the operation of the MPB, we observed that negative attitudes towards refugees disappeared, still, pro-government media outlets published more positive content about war refugees compared to non-government media.

### Stepanov Arsenii: Structure of official nationalism identity and national idea in Russia

This article presents a discourse analysis on the issue of "national identity" and "national idea" in contemporary Russian society. Focusing exclusively on the topic of "official nationalism", we will analyse the discourse reproduced only by actors associated with the political administration of the country and state-affiliated media. With the help of several sociological theories devoted to the themes of nation and identity, such as Ernesto Laclau's theory of floating signifier, Renhard Kosselek's theory of counter concepts and Lev Gudkov's theory of negative identity, we will analyse the structure of the "official national identity" and the "national idea". In our analysis, we expect to trace the absence of one consistent ideology discourse and work of such mechanisms as the creation of equivalential chains in language, identity construction from negation, and construction of internal frontiers that are used as a unification mechanism in the condition of absent "positive" idea of proclaimed "Russian alternative way". Thus, we expect the emptying of unificatory symbols/ideas as a functional aspect in an ideologically heterogeneous realm that can indirectly show the reason for the eclectic nature of the official nationalism project (combination of USSR identity with Russian Empire and Christian orthodoxy and traditionalism). Since this study is conducted in the context of serious changes in Russian society provoked by the war in Ukraine, the analysis also assumes a comparative plane. As a result, a comparison of the structure of discourse before and after the outbreak of the war in Ukraine will

traditional gender roles within Isiolo County, Kenya, leading to heightened gender conflicts. Women are facing increased burdens due to the depletion of natural resources, while men struggle with the erosion of their traditional roles as providers. These shifts in responsibilities have led to tensions within households, especially as women gain more decision-making power. Additionally, the scarcity of resources has exacerbated inter-community conflicts, often resulting in gender-based violence. The findings underscore the urgent need for gender-sensitive interventions that address both the environmental and social impacts of climate change.

### **Sara Abutaleb:** [The Emergence, Development, and Decline of Breastfeeding Throughout History in Egypt](#)

Breastfeeding has long been integral to human survival and child development. This research explores the history of breastfeeding in Egypt, examining its social, cultural, and biological implications from ancient times to the present. By tracing the evolution of breastfeeding practices, the study highlights how societal values, healthcare advancements, and shifting family dynamics have influenced breastfeeding. The research aims to deepen understanding of breastfeeding's role in maternal-infant health and its broader societal impact. His research is based on historical and sociocultural views, and it investigates breastfeeding as a biological, psychological, and social activity. This study integrates historic traditions with contemporary trends by examining nursing through the perspectives of social behaviour, maternal health, and infant development, emphasizing the effects of cultural, economic, and gender-based issues. It also explores how feminist theories and modern medical viewpoints have influenced attitudes regarding breastfeeding, particularly in Egyptian society. The study examines historical texts, medical literature, and cultural artifacts to track the evolution of breastfeeding practices, society attitudes, and the function of wet nurses. Interviews with health professionals, as well as a study of current academic studies on mother health and cultural customs, provide a thorough understanding of the elements that influence the emergence, decline, and comeback of breastfeeding in Egypt. According to the findings, cultural, religious, and economic variables all have a significant impact on breastfeeding in Egypt. Historically cherished, breastfeeding patterns began to decline in the twentieth century, owing primarily to shifts in gender roles, medical improvements, and increased availability of formula. However, recent health campaigns have resulted in a comeback, with advocates encouraging breastfeeding for its health benefits. Furthermore, research shows that maternal education, social standing, and workplace policies all have a major impact on breastfeeding rates and practices across populations.

### **Varga Tamás:** [The \(un\)changing language and sentiments of the moral panic button \(MPB\) in the wake of the Russian-Ukrainian war: the Hungarian case](#)

Using two special datasets focusing on articles and sentences published before and after 24 February 2022 (i.e., W-Day - when Russia attacked Ukraine) we identified the pro- and non-government media reactions to the war with a special focus on labelling and sentiments. We assumed that the Fidesz-operated MPB had to change its language regarding those coming from Ukraine compared to those coming from elsewhere since the Ukrainian refugee crisis is not

### **Muskan Dharmendra Gaikwad:** [The role of non-state armed groups in the recruitment of child soldiers](#)

This research paper investigates the motivations and methods of non-state armed groups, such as Boko Haram and Al-Shabaab, in the recruitment of child soldiers. The study seeks to answer the question: What drives these groups to recruit children, and how do their recruitment tactics differ across West and East Africa? By focusing on Boko Haram in Nigeria and Al-Shabaab in Somalia, the paper aims to explore the ideological, strategic, and socio-economic reasons behind child recruitment. Moreover, it compares the tactics employed by these groups, such as abduction, indoctrination, and coercion, highlighting regional differences in their approaches. The methodology combines a qualitative analysis of secondary sources, including academic literature, reports from international organizations and news articles. A comparative framework is used to contrast the recruitment strategies in West and East Africa, emphasizing how local factors such as ethnic tensions, economic conditions, and the presence of state authority influence these methods. Key findings reveal that both groups utilize child soldiers not only for their tactical advantages but also as part of a broader ideological strategy. In the case of Boko Haram, child recruitment is driven by a mix of religious extremism and socio-economic desperation, with a strong focus on abductions and indoctrination. Al-Shabaab, on the other hand, employs more coercive methods tied to clan-based recruitment and a rigid interpretation of Sharia law. Despite these differences, both groups exploit vulnerable populations, particularly in regions where state control is weak. The paper concludes that understanding the diverse motivations and methods behind child recruitment by non-state armed groups is essential for developing effective counter-recruitment strategies and rehabilitation programs.

### **Kiss Luca Eszter:** [Political Participation of the Younger Generation in Europe](#)

This research paper analyses the voting behaviour of Europe's younger generation, specifically why young adults exhibit lower involvement in politics and voter turnout compared to older generations. Younger generations are crucial for shaping the future direction of democracy, yet they have shown a lack of political engagement, raising concerns about their participation in the democratic process. The primary objectives of this research are to investigate the causes of this disengagement and provide answers to two important questions; 1) Why do younger people seem uninterested in politics? and 2) Why do younger people often fail to vote? To address these questions, the study utilizes data from the European Social Survey (ESS), focusing on respondents aged 18 to 30 across multiple European countries. I will analyse the data using SPSS software to identify key factors influencing the political attitudes and voting behaviour of young adults. Additionally, the research will review multiple studies and literature on generational political interest and young people's disengagement from voting. The theoretical framework for this study is based on generational political theory, which suggests that differences in political socialization and a lack of trust in the political system contribute to youth disengagement. Expected findings indicate that factors such as lower levels of education, economic insecurity, and diminished political efficacy will significantly predict voting abstention. By integrating theoretical insights with empirical data analysis, this study aims to provide a comprehensive understanding of young

people's political behaviour in Europe. The purpose of this study's conclusions is to provide information for political campaigns and policymaking efforts targeted at strengthening young people's political engagement and improving their participation in democratic processes.

### [Laura Szaszak: The Role of Media in Shaping Feminist Narratives and Public Perception](#)

This thesis examines the role of media in shaping feminist narratives and influencing public perceptions of gender equality. Drawing from feminist theory and media sociology, the research investigates how feminist movements are represented across various media forms, including traditional news outlets and digital platforms like social media. The study addresses key questions, such as how media portrayals of feminism differ across platforms, the impact of social media activism, and how issues of race, class, and sexuality intersect with media representations. Using a mixed-methods approach, this research employs content analysis of media portrayals, social media analysis of hashtags like #MeToo and #Feminism and interviews to gain qualitative insights into media consumption habits and views on feminist issues. The theoretical framework draws on concepts of media representation, social construction of reality and intersectionality, highlighting how media functions as a powerful agent of socialization that can either reinforce or challenge gender norms. Preliminary findings suggest that while digital media, particularly through social media activism, has amplified feminist voices and raised awareness about gender issues, traditional media often provides more polarized and politicized portrayals of feminism. Furthermore, generational differences and media consumption habits significantly influence how feminist narratives are received by the public. Negative portrayals in conservative outlets contribute to anti-feminist rhetoric, hindering public support for gender equality. This research contributes to the field of feminist media studies by offering a sociological analysis of how media representation affects public perceptions of feminist movements, shedding light on the broader role of media in shaping societal attitudes toward gender equality.

### [Alinchanev Ivan: Media Representation of Queer Characters and its Effects on Queer People's Identity](#)

This bachelor's thesis focuses on researching the relationship between queer people and the media, how it influences them and what is the relationship like between queer people and the media they consume both within Macedonia and the Balkan region. The study utilizes a quantitative analysis of participant's responses to an online questionnaire distributed through convenience and snowball sampling. Key findings from the study include several themes within the relationship of queer people and media, such as identity exploration through media consumption, negative effects on mental health due to dangerous media portrayals, online community building as well as the male gaze and fetishization of lesbian women. This research could be a groundwork and basis for future studies of the intricate relationship between the queer community and media both within Macedonia and the Balkans as a whole.

total number of those responding to the survey was 180. This study was carried out in the Arashan and Kashka Suu villages and in the Chunkurchak Valley. The Chunkurchak Valley is a tourist destination, while Arashan and Kashka Suu are villages around the valley. The main focus group for this study was residents of these three locales. Mixed research methods were used in this study to examine the effects of tourism on local lives in the community, with a survey conducted in all three of these locations. The results of the study show that cultural aspects, such as feelings of pride and ethnic identity, play a major role in local perceptions. On the other hand, the factors driving negative tourism perception include concerns over rising costs of living and over-crowdedness of public spaces. Based on the study, a set of policy measures were developed to improve the perceptions among the local population.

### [Peter Igesha: Rethinking the disarmament strategies in the banditry-stricken areas of Baringo County, Kenya](#)

The persistent banditry and the proliferation of illegal small arms and light weapons violence has posed a significant security, economic, and social challenges for decades. Kenya has various disarmament strategies and policies in place to fight illicit firearms in the hands of an authorised individuals however, its implementation has not been forthcoming. This research sought to critically evaluate existing disarmament strategies and propose a reimagined approach that addresses both the root causes of violence and the socio-economic dynamics of the affected. The primary objective assessed the efficacy of past and present disarmament efforts, identified gaps, and provided actionable recommendations that could foster sustainable peace and security. The study employed a mixed-methods approach, combining both qualitative and quantitative research methodologies. Data was collected through structured interviews from community members, security officials, and local leaders in affected Baringo county. Additionally, secondary data from academic literature, government reports, and NGO publications were analysed to contextualize the historical and policy frameworks surrounding disarmament. This study concluded that long-term socio-economic development, improved governance, and the establishment of community-led security frameworks must accompany successful disarmament. The findings underscore the need for collaboration between the government, local leaders, and civil society in designing inclusive and sustainable disarmament programs that address the underlying causes of violence and build lasting peace in the region.

### [Nyandoro Omuria: Role of Women in Conflicts and Climate Change Isiolo County Kenya](#)

This study explored the role of women in conflicts and climate change in Isiolo County Kenya. Cross-sectional survey research design was used. The target population was all the residents in Isiolo County Kenya (18 years and above) and had information regarding the topic under discourse. A total of 92 respondents participated. The respondents were drawn through purposive sampling. A structured interview guide was used to gather information from the respondents. Thematic analysis was used to analyse the qualitative data obtained through the interview. The results obtained from the study reveal that climate change is significantly altering

create the most comprehensive picture. I hope to learn more about how exposure to short videos and images on Tik-Tok and Instagram can affect individuals' ability to focus on daily a single daily task in their life. The result I expect is that people who use them more often will have more difficulty maintaining high levels of concentration when doing something in their daily lives. It may even cause a decrease in memory and ability to think clearly. The group of people who tend to be addicted to social networks and like to receive fast information such as images and short videos are usually school-age people because they have more free time to use it. Key findings: Reduced attention span; Interruption in daily tasks; Cognitive overload; Addiction-like behaviours; Instant gratification; Fast-paced, visually engaging content; Social validation.

#### **Shifa Malik:** [How does the use of social media affect our mental being?](#)

The purpose of this study is to investigate how social media use, self-presentation, and social comparison influence the emergence of mental health issues. These might also be beneficial in promoting better social media habits and more positive mental health for educators, legislators, and mental health practitioners. As social media platforms have become integral to daily life, they offer users unique avenues for self-expression and social interaction. However, the tendency to curate idealised self-images and engage in social comparisons can significantly impact psychological well-being. This study will use a mixed-methods approach to investigate the relationship between these behaviours, self-presentation and social comparison and mental health. It includes both quantitative surveys and qualitative interviews. It specifically looks at the relationship between users' self-esteem and self-presentation techniques like publishing altered images or status updates. The study will also examine the relationship between anxiety and depressive symptoms and upward social comparisons, or comparing oneself to people who are thought to be in a better situation. According to the investigation, users who engage in idealised self-presentations frequently see a brief increase in self-esteem; however, this benefit may be short-lived as a result of later comparisons to the content of other users, which may make them feel even less competent. Adolescents and young adults will be the target for this research since they are especially affected negatively psychologically because they may be more susceptible to peer pressure and behaviours that seek validation. These results will highlight the double-edged character of social media use, implying that although it may occasionally raise chances for negative mental health outcomes, it can also boost self-esteem in certain situations. For the purpose of creating treatments to lessen the negative effects of social media on mental health, it will be essential to comprehend these interactions.

#### **Djakypbay kyzy Jyldyz:** [Tourism benefits perception in rural Kyrgyzstan: A case study of tourism in Chunkurchak, Arashan and Kashka Suu areas.](#)

This study aims to contribute to the development of the Kyrgyz tourism sector using a survey to investigate the economic and social-cultural impacts of tourism on the quality of life of residents in the Chunkurchak Valley and Arashan and Kashka Suu areas of Kyrgyzstan, to examine people's perception of economic and social-cultural impacts of tourism on specific aspects of their lives, and develop the set of policy recommendations to improve local attitudes towards tourism. The

#### **Emma Toth:** [Masculinity in the Red pill Community](#)

The red pill community, also known as the manosphere, is in my description a group of online influencers and their following, who engage in far right, misogynistic ideology, with a strong focus on men's wellbeing, which has gained popularity in recent years. But how exactly is this movement trying to accomplish men's wellbeing? In their descriptions men's wellbeing starts with proper masculinity, hence finding out what their description of masculinity is, is a key element that my research will focus on. Since humans are social beings who come into life as a blank canvas, with society shaping them into different forms through socialization, accessing the ideas that shape them can help analyse, and through a set framework evaluate where these could lead. Sex and gender are highly influential concepts by which humans are separated into two primary groups. The concepts we assign to each of the genders has a huge influence on social integration, which can be linked back to cooperation and social being. Thus, understanding the framework of different gender ideologies like the red pill community's is crucial for understanding current trends concerning structures within societies on both micro and macro levels. Since most of the red pill content is present on online platforms like YouTube in forms of podcasts and videos, a content analysis of the these starting from 2023 concerning the great influencers of the manosphere (, specifically Andrew Tate, Ben Shapiro, Jordan Peterson and Joe Rogan) that deal with the topic of masculinity is most fitting for this research. By the end I expect to have a clear picture of how red pill masculinity works and how it stands in relation to other concepts like femininity as well as finding its links to hegemonic masculinity and to discover some background variables that could lead people to the consumption of this type of content.

#### **Halasz Regina:** [Hungarian fathers' involvement in child-rearing. An approach from the Norwegian family model.](#)

Nowadays traditional gender roles and norms have shifted rapidly. Many women have joined the labour force, while men have taken their caregiving role more seriously. In modern families, fathers are becoming more and more involved in child-rearing. The concept of being the breadwinner is no longer the trend in many countries. A great example is Norway, one of the most gender-equal countries. Here the father's quota made it available for lots of men to be active members in their children's lives. This has impacted both children and mothers in a very positive way. The bond between fathers and children became much stronger. Furthermore, it took a big burden off the mothers. This study aims to find out, whether in Hungary fathers also took up the nurturing and caring parent role or not. Gender equality brings harmony and peace to families, creating happier and more stable environments. Moreover, family is one of the most important concepts in sociology. How we relate to each other and get along with family members is crucial. Family brings people together and has a huge function in society. In the literature review the rapid shift from traditional to modern gender roles can be found, then the Norwegian family model is being discussed, how it became so successful. In Norway many fathers are becoming involved in child-rearing, they even think that this strengthens their masculinity. Based on the literature review, a semi-structured interview was carried out. The participants consisted of Hungarian fathers, aged between 40-60. The participants were asked to answer different kind

of questions, that could measure how active they were in their children's lives. This study also investigates, whether the traditional gender norms are still relevant in Hungary or not. Analysis of the answers demonstrated that Hungarian fathers are not that involved in child-rearing, most of them had views that reinforce traditional gender norms and roles.

### **James Johns Davies:** Andrew Tate's toxic masculinity

The main focus of my research will be the impact of Andrew Tate on the youth, in several aspects such as stoic masculinity, misogyny and aggressivity. The social media personality known as Andrew Tate (born 1 December 1986) gained his notoriety for promoting various positions in the manosphere community (9.9 million followers on X as of August 2024). He has been dubbed the "king of toxic masculinity" for his misogynistic views. The Guardian wrote in February 2023 reported that "virtually every parent in Britain" had heard of him, and those parents and schoolteacher expressed concern that he was influencing boys to exhibit misogynistic and aggressive behaviour. In 2017 Tate received attention for his tweets of what qualifies as sexual harassment and for tweeting several times that sexual assault victims share responsibility for their assaults. He stated that women "belong in the home", "can't drive", and are "given to the man and belong to the man" as "a man's property". Tate's view is quite similar to the one of Connel's concept of hegemonic masculinity which promotes the idea that men should hold power and authority over others (particularly over women and marginalized groups); men are expected to be emotionally reserved, hiding vulnerabilities and avoiding expressions of fear or sadness; and heterosexuality is the norm and marginalizes those who deviate from it. I will conduct surveys and interviews (semi-structured), finding how much Andrew Tate message influenced thoughts and ideologies of young people by asking questions that would target the beliefs that Andrew Tate pushes. I expect to find quite a high number of people who follows him only to have a laugh, an average number of people who follows him and shares some ideas and a really small number of people who actually believe and promote Andrew Tate's ideas.

### **Fabiola Stephanie:** Climate change undermines human rights

Drought causes an unprecedented humanitarian crisis in regions already affected by disparities in economic, social, and infrastructural state. Prolonged droughts in the South have led to chronic food shortages pushing the population into extreme poverty and malnutrition, forcing many to migrate in search of more stable living conditions. People have been displaced because of water and food shortage. The primary objective of this study, assessed the impact of climate-induced environmental changes on the right to food, water, health, and livelihoods, particularly for the marginalized communities in rural and coastal areas. The study employed a mixed-methods approach, combining both qualitative and quantitative data in examining the relationship between climate change and human rights in Madagascar. The findings study established that 20% of people were displaced due to famine, 41% for lack of employment and 31% alluded difficulties in living conditions in Madagascar. Field research included surveys and interviews with affected communities in Southern Madagascar, a region frequently hit by prolonged droughts. Secondary sources included; Government reports, NGO publications, and international human rights reports. It was recommended that, the right to a healthy environment establishes the

identity. Despite the increase in visibility, many people still have a negative view in regard to non – binary and intersex individuals. The expected findings would hopefully show the necessity of utilizing social media as a way for advocacy and education toward gender identity, while also illuminating the positive impact it can have on younger people. In conclusion, this study calls for continued engagement with social media as a developing tool for enhancing awareness and acceptance of varied gender identities.

### **Manal Hamarsha:** Social Media Induced Anxiety; Exploring the Psychological Mechanisms Behind Fear of Missing Out (FoMO) and Online Comparison

The pervasive use of social media has given rise to new psychological phenomena, notably the Fear of Missing Out (FoMO) and increased social comparison, both of which have been linked to significant mental health challenges. This study explores the psychological mechanisms underlying FoMO and social comparison in the context of social media, examining how these experiences contribute to anxiety, depressive symptoms, and diminished self-esteem among users. Drawing on social comparison theory and FoMO as theoretical frameworks, this research investigates how social media platforms, through their continuous streams of curated content, foster compulsive checking behaviours, induce feelings of inadequacy, and amplify stress. Additionally, the study considers the role of platform algorithms in intensifying these effects by prioritizing content that reinforces comparison and FoMO cycles. By analysing these patterns, the research highlights the impact of social media on psychological well-being and offers potential interventions, including digital detox practices and resilience training, to mitigate adverse effects. The findings are expected to inform both mental health practitioners and policymakers about effective strategies for supporting digital well-being in an increasingly online society. This study contributes to the emerging field of cyberpsychology by providing insights into the digital anxieties' characteristic of the social media era.

### **Mai Anh Nguyen:** How does constantly using short videos and images when using TikTok and Instagram affect our ability to focus on a single task in real life?

As a social media user and a frequent user of images and short videos on platforms such as TikTok, Instagram, I want to study how frequent exposure to these platforms affects users' concentration when doing a single daily task in real life. I have seen many articles talking about this issue but have never really verified the information of the articles with real individuals. In addition, I also realize that society today is facing a big problem called "concentration". So I want to study this issue. The aim of this study was to see how exposure to short images and videos affects users' ability to concentrate while working on a single daily task in real life. I wanted to find out how this is actually affecting social media users and what people are experiencing and thinking about this as well. Then if there are any underlying reasons why people are so drawn to images and short videos and what groups of people are deeply affected and vice versa. I will use the mixed methods for this research. This topic is not difficult to find online resources. So the mixed methods will be suitable for my research, when I can combine data from available studies, researches and combine it with the data I can get from interviewing a group of real individual to



### [Zoe Kata: Trialectics of spatiality and gentrification on Dohány street, Budapest](#)

Dohány Street, a bustling street in the heart of Budapest, Hungary, has long served as a microcosm of the city's dynamic evolution. Its central location, and its historical significance, has made it a focus point for a diverse range of activities and experiences. As a resident and frequent passer-by, I have witnessed first-hand how the street is used differently by the people who can be seen there. In this essay, I will explore how trialectics of spatiality unfolds along Dohány Street. Specifically, I will examine how gentrification, has influenced the perception and conception of this space among its individuals. Dohány Street's history is rich, it has witnessed periods of prosperity and decline, similarly to the whole of Budapest. In recent decades, however, the street has undergone a significant transformation, characterized by a commercial activity, housing development (Airbnbs taking over), and a changing demographic profile. This gentrification process has had a big impact in the street's spatial character and the experiences of those who inhabit it. As the area has become more affluent and desirable, there has been a corresponding growth in new residents, many of whom come from different socioeconomic backgrounds. This demographic shift has led to a diversification of perspectives and experiences, but it has also created tensions and challenges related to integration and social cohesion. By examining these factors through the lens of spatial trialectics of Soja and Lefebvre, we can gain a deeper understanding of the complex ways in which Dohány Street is perceived. Gentrification has undoubtedly had a profound impact on the street's character, but it is essential to consider the diverse perspectives and experiences of its inhabitants. With the tool of semi structured interviews and comparison of past and present pictures of the street, we can uncover the different ways in which people perceive and interact with this urban space, and how their understanding of it has been shaped by the forces of gentrification.

### [Seber Bori: Social Media's influence on the way younger generations perceive gender identity](#)

This thesis explores the influence social media has on gender identity and the expression of gender, addressing the question: How do social media platforms contribute to individual's expression of their gender identity? With the use of a survey, participants include individuals aged between 18 – 25, the study reveals that social media has a significant influence over the understanding of gender. Findings indicate that the younger generation shows a bigger acceptance towards diverse gender identities, such as non - binary and gender - neutral identities, which is the result of their time spent on the internet. Since the participants are a part of Generation Z, their thinking is hugely determined by social media platforms, like TikTok and Instagram, and this causes them to receive media that is connected to gender and they are able to understand these individuals on a different level. However, even between these participants there are going to be people who are more accepting, which could be due to upbringing or just personal knowledge. While some are going to be less accepting, or even border-line repulsed by the idea of something other than the norm. The constant exchange of ideas also helps individuals to challenge gender norms and adopt a more inclusive thinking where different identities can exist. This research is significant because it has been an ongoing societal debate about gender

responsibility of states to undertake reforms and make commitments institutional measures to eliminate the structural causes leading to violations of the right to a healthy environment. Additionally, droughts exacerbated by climate change led to harmful consequences on the exercise of fundamental rights contained in international conventions. Societal changes in the living conditions of the people and internal migration are all reasonable causes for government actions and policies. Madagascar Government needs resources for solving these problems, to promote human rights and good governance of the people.

### [Ndungu Lewis Mjomba: A bibliometric review of forest ecosystem services and sustainability research trends in Africa](#)

Forests play an important role in maintaining ecological equilibrium by offering a variety of ecosystem services. These services include supporting biodiversity, regulating the climate, sequestering carbon, filtering water, and protecting soil. Beyond these environmental functions, forests also provide valuable social and economic resources, such as fuelwood, timber and opportunities for cultural activities, tourism and generally recreation. Furthermore, forests are significant to many communities for their cultural and spiritual value, serving as venues for gatherings, rituals, and educational activities that strengthen social ties and reinforce cultural identity. By maintaining atmospheric stability, regulating hydrological cycles, and offering habitats to numerous species, forests are indispensable to both ecological sustainability and human well-being. However, the sustainability of these services is increasingly threatened by human activities such as: deforestation, land degradation, and climate change, posing serious risks to both the environment and local communities. This study utilizes bibliometric analysis to systematically examine the research landscape on forest ecosystem services (FES) and sustainability in Africa. The study objectives include (1) finding out the most influential journals, authors, organisations, and countries in the field of FES and Sustainability in Africa (2) determining the current and evolution of FES and sustainability main themes (3) the focus and future direction of FES and sustainability field. By analysing publications from the Web of Science database, key research themes, influential authors, institutions, and countries are identified, along with gaps in current knowledge using R-Biblioshiny and VOSviewer statistical software. The findings provide a comprehensive overview of how research on the conservation and sustainable management of Africa's Forest ecosystems services has evolved over the past two decades. Actionable insights are offered to guide future research and policy development aimed at ensuring the long-term sustainability of Africa's Forest ecosystems.

### [Arailym Niyetbek: Kazakhstan's proactive measures in addressing the Aral Sea crisis as a platform for enhanced international representation and collaboration](#)

After the collapse of the USSR, Kazakhstan faced new challenges, especially in ensuring international recognition for attracting foreign direct investments. The countries of Central Asia have faced environmental disasters rooted in the Soviet era, such as the gradual disappearance of the Aral Sea. This near disappearance serves as a symbol of the region's victimization, as the Soviets diverted the waters of what was once the fourth largest lake in the world to irrigate cotton

fields and boost agricultural output. Once spanning 26,000 square miles, the sea has shrunk by 90%. Being a key player in Central Asia made Kazakhstan take the lead in regional efforts to find solutions to this critical environmental, social, and economic disaster. As a young state striving for recognition, Kazakhstan has come under close attention, showing it can cope with such disasters. As a result of its actions, international organizations, in particular the United Nations, began to actively support Kazakhstan's proposals and ideas. This paper aims to explain how Kazakhstan's attempts to solve the crisis in the Aral Sea have enhanced its diplomatic recognition within the United Nations. The mixed-method approach has allowed research to look at policy documents, resolutions of the UN, and international environmental agreements while using works of previous scholars. The findings give evidence that cooperation between Kazakhstan and the UN became successful on endeavours such as the UN's "Innovative Solutions for the Aral Sea". Moreover, by aligning its environmental efforts with UN SDGs, Kazakhstan automatically advanced its reputation as a responsible international community player that initiated legislation for tackling the socio-economic consequences of the Aral Sea disaster.

### [Ananded Vongnorkeo: Environment and Sustainability](#)

The interrelationship between the environment and sustainability is becoming an increasingly important topic of discussion in the field of sociology in the modern era. This connection is becoming increasingly important. Both the sociological implications of sustainable practices and the multifaceted aspects of environmental problems are going to be discussed within the scope of this paper. It is becoming increasingly difficult for societies to comprehend the social constructs that influence the environmental behaviour of individuals when they are confronted with the challenges of climate change, the loss of biodiversity, and the depletion of resources. The study starts by looking at sociological theories that underpin the study of environmental issues: how cultural, political and economic factors influence the perception and actions of the public in relation to the sustainability. It contends that environmental degradation is a science and economy problem, but a sociocultural issue that requires a holistic understanding of human behaviour and social systems. Additionally, the paper shows how the get together of a community and grassroots movements helps create a wider uptake of sustainable developments. It shows how social networks, collective action, and local knowledge can lead to successful environmental initiatives by analysing case studies across many communities. It also discusses the role of education and communication in developing a culture of sustainability, and makes the point that interdisciplinary approaches must include sociology, environmental science and communication studies. Finally, this research highlights that getting to sustainability isn't the result of technological progress alone, but rather a fundamental shift in social attitudes and behaviours. It requires the concerted effort of scholars, policymakers, and community to develop inclusive strategies for environmental justice and sustainable long-term development. As part of the growing literature bridging the gap between sociological theory and environmental practice, this paper provides insights useful for future research and policy development in this critical area.

insufficient and the country eventually fell into a semi-colonial status, Japan slowly rose to become a regional great power. Our research objective is to explain the different outcome of the countries' respective modernisation strategies by looking at how did the policies differ, analysing the role of external (i.e.: Western) influence, as well as examining whether or not social factors played a significant role. We will be largely employing the methodology of comparative historical analysis, considering reforms in various domains, as well as identifying factors which hindered or facilitated modernisation. The approach employed will be largely interdisciplinary, utilising the methods of comparative history, economics and even sociology (by looking at the respective ideological approaches to the reforms). We find that several facts played a key role in the dissimilar outcomes. While in Japan conservative factions were removed (often by employing violence), in China, these groups continued to hinder the reform attempts. We will also showcase those reforms in Japan were much more comprehensive and far-reaching while in Qing China, they were largely of an ad hoc nature, limited and lacking consistency. It is also hypothesised that different perceptions of the level of external threat, as well as centralisation for Japan and fragmentation in the case of China affected the success (or lack thereof) of modernisation attempts.

### [Nina Natroshvili: Collective Memory Research of Everyday Post socialism: Methodological Concerns](#)

Central question in my research project relates to the meaning of the lived experience under late socialism for the generation which came of age during this last period and went through the turbulent changes. How do they reimagine this soviet past from the current perspective? Based on my fieldwork conducted during the summer of 2023 in republic of Georgia using group and individual interviews, I could identify several themes. Biggest contention with the Soviet Union is not economic objections, some ideological arguments, or its totalitarian nature and repressions. In fact, participants had a rather positive attitude towards theory and ideas which were communicated to them, however they could discern the mismatch with their everyday experience. Even those concerns expressed in the form of negative notions regarding corruption, restrictions, and degree of status differentiation, seemed insignificant compared to matters of religion and nationality. Although certain aspects expressed in the form of social security, access to culture or better education were reminisced with regret provided the current conditions, it did not seem to outweigh the importance of liberating from declaratively atheistic structure and attainment of an independent nation state. Being aware of tragic socio-economic consequences of regime change, recent and ongoing mass migration, and widespread poverty, I was expecting to hear mainly grievances based on these circumstances, but what I encountered, in retrospect, is not that much of a surprise. Taken for granted new forms, being it new nationalism or supremacy of church, instead of the old soviet socialism, which is now easier, and rightfully so, to criticise, to see its faults and maybe sometimes its merits but all filtered from contemporary condition. As within any other community, also here we can find praises and complaints, reflecting the varied lives, the personal experiences, and future expectations of the inhabitants.

research employs a qualitative methodology using in-depth semi-structured interviews with second-generation African Europeans from diverse socioeconomic backgrounds and regions. Thematic analysis will be used to uncover patterns and shared experiences regarding their hybrid identities. Expected findings will likely reveal that African-Europeans experience a fluid, evolving sense of belonging, influenced by the tension between their African heritage and French nationality. Media portrayals and societal expectations will likely both challenge and reinforce their identity, leading to varied experiences based on their heritage from anglophone or francophone African countries.

### [Fenyvesi Balázs: Heroes, Traitors, and Ambiguous Cult-building: Remembering Hungarian Volunteers in the Spanish Civil War in State-Socialist Hungary \(1944-1962\)](#)

The presentation examines the remembrance of those 1200 Hungarians who fought on the Republican side of the Spanish Civil War through qualitative content analysis of the political press. Several high-ranking Communist figures such as Ferenc Münnich or László Rajk served in Spain and occupied important positions of power in the early post-war period. The remembrance of the volunteers although with different intensity and framing was part of the memory politics of all post-war Hungarian regimes to the regime change of 1989. The starting point is the aftermath of Hungary's liberation in 1944. This transition opened up a window of opportunity for relative democratisation of the public sphere so the remembrance of the volunteers could be expressed more openly. During this era, the remembrance of the volunteers was narrated as a part of the idea of the „other Hungary”, which was an attempt to de-stigmatise Hungarian identity by highlighting the local Anti-Fascist heritage. The first examined period ended with the trial of Rajk in 1949, which marked the starting point of a selective purge against the volunteers. Between 1949 and 1956 the discourses surrounding the group were dormant or the topic was regarded as „just” one of the many struggles in the history of the Hungarian Communist movement. The last era the presentation sheds some light on is the period between 1956 and 1962 when the burial of Rajk started the rehabilitation of the former volunteers. The presentation ends with 1962 when a general amnesty was enacted to pave the road to consolidation. It was also when the new Kádár regime made the first attempts to create their interpretation regarding the volunteers, navigating the Anti-Fascist framing and De-Stalinization. The presentation examines the road to this process.

### [Bottyán Bendegúz Csaba: A Tale of Two Reforms: Explaining the Different Outcomes of the Japanese and Chinese Modernisation Attempts in the 19th Century](#)

In the 19th century, China and Japan both had to face an increasingly powerful Europe and adapt in a way to maintain their sovereignty. While both countries enacted reforms aimed at modernising their countries (the Self-Strengthening Movement (1861-1895), the Hundred Days' Reforms (1898) for China and the Meiji Restoration (1868) for Japan), the outcome of these attempts could not be any more different from one another. While Chinese reforms were

### [Laina Luna: Yves Lacoste's Critical Geopolitics: A Tool for Addressing Climate Change](#)

Why is the French geographer Yves Lacoste's contributions to the field of Critical Geopolitics relevant to understanding contemporary global issues? How can we use concepts he explained in his books and articles such as “The geography is primarily for making war”, and “The decline of the idea of border” in decision-making? Lacoste's works reshaped the study of geopolitics by showing how geography is a strategic tool for power. This paper thus elaborates on the contemporary issue of climate change and how Lacoste's critical geopolitics framework can help us to understand how to better address it. As climate change accentuates resource scarcity and intensifies geopolitical tensions, Lacoste's ideas on the strategic importance of geography can specifically show how powerful nations shape climate policies to maintain dominance, often at the expense of the global south. Finally, this paper argues for the crucial position of geopolitical experts in addressing global challenges, focusing on climate change and resource distribution. It does so by bringing attention to territorial global dynamics and using the critical geopolitics lens to understand how geography is manipulated to serve the interests of powerful states in the 21st century.

### [Latifa Khraief: Unrecognized Identities: An Ethnographic Study of Moroccan, Tunisian, and Algerian Communities in Hungary](#)

This ethnographic study investigates the various identities of North African communities in Hungary, notably the Moroccan, Tunisian, and Algerian populations. The study will look into how these communities negotiate their identities in the context of migration and cultural interchange in Hungary. Using the Intersectionality Theory, the study investigates the intricacies of identity identification and its impact on integration, well-being, and social relationships in Hungarian society. The methodology employed a mixed-methods approach, with 57 respondents taking an online survey and semi-structured interviews with recognized minority groups. The survey examined integrating experiences, discrimination, and the role of support systems for North African people. The interviews gave comparative viewpoints from recognized minority communities, which enhanced the study's findings. Key findings show that, while North African communities have strong cultural links, many struggles with integration, linguistic obstacles, and limited recognition. Despite this, the presence of informal community support promotes identity preservation. The study finds that acknowledging these 'unseen' identities can lead to a broader inclusion and social cohesiveness in Hungary. This study not only emphasizes the need for more inclusive policies, but it also helps to a better understanding of migration and identity in the European context.

### [Imen Khemakhem: Far right politics, and the securitization of Muslim French](#)

This paper conducts a literature review and critical discourse analysis to explore the complex dynamics surrounding the Muslim population in France, which constitutes approximately 7% of the total population, predominantly comprising North Africans. The French republican model, emphasizing egalitarianism, dismisses ethnic and religious identities as divisive; however,

historical colonial policies continue to hinder the integration of these communities in various aspects of society, including education and employment. The narrative surrounding Islam in France has been profoundly shaped by internal and external events, such as terrorism and rising far-right sentiments, contributing to the securitization of Islam and the perception of Muslims as a threat to national identity. Through critical analysis of political discourse, including President Macron's assertion of a global "crisis" in Islam, this study examines how such narratives have influenced public perceptions and policies toward Muslims. Additionally, the paper addresses the ongoing racialization and cultural xenophobia experienced by Muslims, highlighting how they are often conflated with the broader immigrant narrative. The findings reveal how nativism and anti-Islam biases have been exploited by political elites, leading to a precarious environment for Muslims in France. Ultimately, this paper argues that the intersection of race, culture, and security concerns perpetuates a hostile environment, necessitating a critical re-evaluation of France's approach to diversity and multiculturalism.

### [Amina Ghazouani: The rise of demand for populism in Europe: The 2015 Refugees Crisis a catalyst?](#)

Following the 2015 refugee crisis, there has been a surge in populism in Europe, which was fuelled by concerns about the economy, culture, and identity. A sense of economic instability and anxiety was spurred on by an influx of more than a million refugee and asylum seekers in Germany, which populist politicians seized upon by portraying them as a burden on resources and an economic threat. Rising far-right groups in Germany such as PEGIDA and the AfD exploited cultural anxieties by portraying refugees as a threat to the nation's culture and national identity to gain further support. Likewise, Viktor Orbán's government in Hungary exploited the refugee crisis to promote a populist agenda that preyed on the Hungarians society's concerns. By portraying refugees as a threat to Hungary's Christian history and traditional values, Orbán's government ultimately profited from cultural and identity concerns. The political discourse around refugees has played an integral role in moulding public sentiments with populist leaders capitalizing on citizens' pre-established anxieties. One of the most important factors has been the constant attempts to obscure the underlying differences between the terms "refugee," "migrant," and "immigrant." Politicians have been able to depict refugees as economic migrants who constitute a hazard to jobs by combining these concepts. This allowed them therefore to incite cultural anxieties. This thesis explores the rise of populism in the selected case studies, Germany and Hungary following the 2015 refugee crisis which has been felt across Europe and created cleavages within the European Union through the element of Euroscepticism in discourse. The theoretical framework of the thesis relies strongly on Critical Discourse Analysis coupled with economic theories to study the underlying reasons for negative attitudes to migrant groups.

### [Orxan Huseynov: The role of belief in applying violence: a focus on Nazi antisemitism, Bosnian genocide and anti-immigrant discourse in the EU](#)

Violence has taken diverse forms throughout history. This phenomenon has been investigated in relation to different concepts so far by researchers. This research aims to demonstrate the role of belief in committing violence against other individuals and groups. The method employed in this research is the qualitative case study of three different cases in various periods of history. These cases include Nazi antisemitism, the religious differentiation behind the Bosnian genocide and anti-immigrant discourse that is now prevalent in the face of rising far-right tendencies in the European Union. Smith's concept of dehumanization, Opatow's moral exclusion theory and Foucault's power theory will guide this research by building a theoretical framework to analyse all three cases, comparing them and finding the similarities among them. At first sight, an identical socio-economic background can be observed in all these cases, in which the societies go through social and economic turmoil. In detail, Nazis came to power in Germany in the aftermath of the First World War, and Antisemitism peaked under their authority; the Bosnian genocide followed the collapse of Yugoslavia, and anti-immigrant discourse has gained popularity in the European Union in the precarious socio-economic environment. It is observable that this turmoil inevitably unleashes the historical memory and myths, which are the significant basis for constructing a common belief, of moral superiority over the other. Belief is pursued by differentiation of the other who becomes a dehumanized object of this belief and by legitimation from the authority. The final phase is applying violence to the other. All in all, this research is meant to emphasize the ultimate application of violence in response to the rooted belief ignited by the socio-economic turmoil.

### [Suzanne Kirabo: Hybrid Identities: The intersection of nationality with race and culture in shaping the sense of belonging and identity among second-generation African Europeans of Sub-Saharan heritage in France](#)

This thesis investigates how nationality, race, and culture intersect to shape the identity and sense of belonging among second-generation African Europeans of Sub-Saharan heritage in France. It explores the complexities of hybrid identities, focusing on how these individuals negotiate their African cultural heritage alongside their French nationality. External factors such as racial dynamics, social networks, media influences, and societal attitudes are also analysed to understand their impact on identity formation and belonging. Guided by Critical Race Theory, the study examines how race and systemic power relations affect both personal and collective identities. Critical Race Theory serves as a crucial lens for examining how structural racism and discrimination shape experiences of inclusion and exclusion within French society. The research will also explore how race intersects with nationality and culture to contribute to multifaceted experiences of identity. Key research objectives include examining how African-Europeans perceive national identity, how race impacts their experiences of inclusion or exclusion, and how they balance their African heritage with French cultural norms and national identity. The study also investigates the role of social, cultural, and media factors in shaping these identities. The