

### **New Divisions, Struggles and Solidarities in South East Europe**

The socio-political landscape of South East Europe is characterised by a complex interplay of historical legacies, contemporary divisions, and new forms of solidarity. Historically, South East Europe has been a tapestry of diverse ethnic, religious, and cultural identities, yet the post-socialist transformation, accompanied by conflicts, nationalism, and authoritarianism, has revealed persistent fractures that influence contemporary dynamics.

Against the backdrop of post-socialist transformation and contemporary global processes, Southeast Europe experiences specific challenges and adaptations related to reproducing old conflicts and struggles. At the same time, the same global, regional and local contexts set the foundation from which new forms of conflicts and social divisions emerge, as well as new forms of social solidarity.

The changing mechanisms of how capitalism operates, escalating exploitation, geopolitical challenges, and the widespread impacts of climate change all add layers of complexity to the region's socio-political landscape. Additionally, the growing prevalence of illiberalism and authoritarian governance—both regionally and globally—underscores the urgent need to deepen our understanding of contemporary societies. As we confront the ramifications of these historical developments, it is vital to examine how they shape new social and political divisions, struggles, and solidarities in South East Europe. The conference will critically explore these dynamics, fostering dialogue on how the past intersects with the present to shape the future of struggles and solidarities in South East Europe.

This international scientific conference invites scholars and colleagues to engage in a multidisciplinary dialogue that explores these themes across various contexts of SEE societies. We welcome contributions that address, **but are not limited to**, the following topics:

- **Class and work-related struggles and solidarities:** Examining labour-related struggles, workers' rights, and the rise of new forms of class divisions/struggles/solidarity.
- **Ethnic and religious struggles:** Exploring new divisions and forms of solidarities among different ethnic and religious communities within the ever-evolving socio-political landscape of South East Europe.
- **Gender and gender regimes:** investigating struggles and solidarities centred around gender, sexuality, and intersecting identities.
- **Regional and urban-rural divide:** Analyzing the complexities of regional identities and the different struggles arising in urban versus rural contexts.
- **Environmental struggles:** Collective actions addressing climate change, environmental exploitation, and the quest for sustainable futures in the region.
- **Political contestation:** Focusing on new divisions and struggles within the political field in terms of the rising tide of authoritarianism and illiberal governance, as well as processes like political discontent, disaffection, disengagement, and distrust in political

institutions within the overall post-political societal landscape, both within the region and across Europe/the globe.

- **Political alliances and divisions in the context of energy geopolitics:** Exploring how evolving energy dynamics influence social divisions and political alliances within societies, revealing new cultural and societal dynamics that emerge in reaction to energy resource issues and local adaptation strategies while moving beyond traditional frameworks of international relations.
- **Culture:** exploring cultural practices and products, ideas, and symbolic meanings as these relate to social solidarities, boundaries and conflicts
- **Education and academia:** exploring the role of educational processes and institutions in either reinforcing or challenging divisions and fostering solidarities
- **Conflicts and solidarities over family relations:** Investigating conflicts and solidarities arising in the context of family structures.
- **Conflicts and solidarity related to migrations, minority and marginalised groups:** migration experiences, and the unique challenges faced by migrant communities, the struggles for recognition, rights, and dignity of marginalised groups across the region.
- **New social movements and digital activism:** analysing the emergence and impact of new social movements in the digital age, focusing on how digital platforms facilitate activism, mobilisation, and the formation of new solidarities in South East Europe.
- **Conflicts related to the media sphere:** The impact of dis/misinformation, distrust in (legacy/conventional) media, echo chambers, fragmentation of the public sphere and the collapse of the traditional media environment on the creation of new divisions and solidarity networks.

**We welcome submissions of abstracts for presentations that align with the conference themes via email address [socioloscoudruzenje@gmail.com](mailto:socioloscoudruzenje@gmail.com).**

The conference will be held on-site on **June 13 and 14, 2025**. We look forward to welcoming all participants **in Belgrade at the premises of the Institute for Philosophy and Social Theory, University of Belgrade, Kraljice Natalije 45**.

### **Important dates**

- Abstracts Submission Opens: 15 November, 2024
- Abstracts Submission Closes: 20 December, 2024
- Notification of Acceptance: 20 January, 2025

### **Rules for all presenters**

- All abstracts must be submitted in English (not exceed 300 words, and must clearly outline the research question, methodology, findings, and relevance to the conference topics)
- The working language of the conference is English
- There is a limit of 3 authors per abstract
- There is no conference fee

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- Conference participants will be responsible for travel and accommodation arrangements, while the organisers will provide refreshments during the conference
- We encourage sociologists/academics from the region/dealing with the region to propose their own panels.
- All abstracts will be published in the Book of Abstracts. Additionally, selected full papers will be published after the Conference.

Please feel free to circulate this call to anyone you think might be interested.

For inquiries, please contact [sociolokoudruzenje@gmail.com](mailto:sociolokoudruzenje@gmail.com)

Organizing Committee

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