

International Conference: Theories of international relations: how to interpret modern world

8 November 2018, 9:00 – 16:30, Faculty of Political Science of Zagreb University

An International Conference held on 8 November 2018 by the Croatian Political Science Association in cooperation with the Institute for Development and International Relations (IRMO) gathered academics and experts in the field of security and politics. Divided into three panels, the Conference thus enabled discussions on international relations theories with a view to seeking possible interpretations of the modern world of today. The first panel focused on the main theoretical problems of the existing international relations theories. The second one talked about international politics in Yugoslavia and following its dissolution, whereas the third panel highlighted the contemporary regional, European and global context of the international relations theories. In these new circumstances, so the prevailing opinion among the Conference experts, Croatia should assume a stronger and a more efficient role. When it comes to international relations, Croatia, as a Member State of the European Union, could take the leading role in the Western Balkans and promote common European values.

Božo Kovačević from the Dag Hammarskjöld University College of International Relations and Diplomacy in Zagreb, Petar Popović from the Faculty of Political Science of Zagreb University, Ivo Visković from the Faculty of Political Sciences in Belgrade and Marko Lovec from the Faculty of Social Sciences in Ljubljana were the speakers in the first panel. Their focus was placed on the changes of international political theories and the challenges in the modern world. The experts highlighted the problem of acting on an international scene without a valid theory of international relations. When leaders do not act within the framework of international relations, they endanger their own countries and situations on a global scale. The experts furthermore raised the awareness of the importance of international relations and their achievements, as well as the importance of the awareness of others and their values. The best approach towards a safer world is to involve more global leaders and the European Union as such. Dejan Jović from the Faculty of Political Science of Zagreb University moderated the said panel.

The second panel discussed the role of theories of international relations in Yugoslavia and following the dissolution of Yugoslavia. The panel was moderated by Senada Šelo Šabić from the Institute for Development and International Relations (IRMO). Marko Kovačević from the Faculty of Political Sciences in Belgrade, Dejan Jović from Zagreb Faculty of Political Science, and Ana Bojinović Fenko from Faculty of Social Sciences in Ljubljana introduced the audience with the problems surrounding the recognition of the



new states in the post-Yugoslavian territory and the mirroring effect of international relations theories in foreign policies of post-Yugoslav states. According to the understanding of the European Union, the Western Balkans needed its help in achieving economic and social stability in the ages of transition.

Among the speakers in the third panel there were Jasmin Hasić from the International Burch University in Sarajevo, Mladen Lišanin from the Institute for Political Studies in Belgrade, and Miloš Šolaja from the Faculty of Political Sciences in Banja Luka. The main topics of the last panel included the security policy of the European Union and the post-Dayton international policy of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Likewise, by discussing a theory of international relations regarding the international global order in 21st century, the experts showed the impact of the European Union on the region of the Western Balkans, as well as the European interests in the Western Balkans for maintaining stability and cooperation. This last panel was moderated by the Siniša Tatalović from Zagreb Faculty of Political Science.

This very Conference gathered the most prominent experts from the Western Balkans in the field of international relations theory. The Institute of Economics and the Institute for Development and International Relations brought a significant contribution to the Conference. By depicting the international theory through the change of times and in the new circumstances, participating experts pointed out the significance of the European Union and Croatia in the Western Balkans. This Conference aimed to show the European issues in Croatia and tried to build up relations between experts and Political Science Faculties in the Western Balkans. Thus, every student attending the Conference was given the opportunity to gain more knowledge about the European Union and its values within the scope of international relations.