

International Conference

Violence in History: Experiences, Memories and Representations in Southeast Europe

Panteion University Athens

24-26 September 2026

AGENDA • PARTICIPANT BIOGRAPHIES



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International conference

Violence in history: experiences, memories and representations in Southeast Europe

Panteion University Athens

24–26 September 2026

AGENDA

THURSDAY, 24 SEPTEMBER

Panteion University Athens, Ceremony Hall “Aristotle”

17:00 Welcome remarks

Ditmir Bushati

Chair of the Joint History Project Board

Christina Koulouri

Chair of the Joint History Project Scientific Committee

Andreas Kindl

Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany to Greece

Regine Schubert

Head of the FES Athens Office

Host: Zvezdana Kovač, JHP Director

17:15 Keynote speech

Nikos Marantzidis

Remembering a civil war: social memory, public history and the politics of the Greek 1940s

18:00 Panel discussion

Memories of violence in Southeast Europe and the role of the JHP

Christina Koulouri, Dubravka Stojanović, Ditmir Bushati, Hubert Faustmann

Chair: Dušan Reljić

19:00 Reception

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FRIDAY, 25 SEPTEMBER

Panteion University Athens, Amphitheater 2, New Building

09:30 – 11:00

SESSION 1

History teaching and violence (I)

Panelists:

- **Tony Gallagher** – *The past is never dead. It's not even past. Teaching history in Northern Ireland*
- **Vassiliki Sakka** – *Personal history as a tool for educational approach to violence and conflict. Civil War in Greece: a family's tale*
- **Violeta Petroska-Beška** – *Between the lines and messages: students' sensitivity to violence in the Hidden Curriculum*

Chair: Mirela-Luminița Murgescu

11:00 – 11:30 Break

11:30 – 13:00

SESSION 2

History teaching and violence (II)

Panelists:

- **Angelos Palikidis** – *Investigating historical trauma through graphic novels in the classroom: The case of the Greco-Turkish War and the Population Exchange (1919–1923)*
- **Maria Mavrommati** – *Whose histories belong? Refugee memory and the limits of national narratives in Southeastern Europe*
- **Bogdan Murgescu** – *Ambiguities in dealing with violence in Romanian historiography after 1989*

Chair: Alexei Kalionski

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13:00 – 14:30 Lunch

14:30 – 16:30

SESSION 3

Memory and violence

Panelists:

- **Amir Duranović** – *From archive to narrative: reinterpreting WWII violence in BiH*
- **Velibor Bobo Kovač** – *Violence in history: experiences, memories and representations in Southeast Europe*
- **Srđa Pavlović** – *Memory and memorialization of war-time violence as identity markers in Montenegro and Croatia: A case study of the Morinj Camp*
- **Elena Bouleti** – *Violence in Cyprus before and during the 1974 invasion: trauma(s) traced on Cypriot migrants and refugees and its impact on the formation of the Cypriot diaspora(s)*

Chair: Neven Budak

16:30 – 17:00 Break

17:00 – 18:30

SESSION 4

Thoughts for the JHP in its fourth decade

Panelists:

- **Božo Repe** – *JHP conference proceedings in the academic journal RetroSpektive (Ljubljana)*
- **Zvezdana Kovač** – *Reimagining JHP for future generations*
- **Sanja Radović** – *Teaching an artificial intelligence application to understand JHP books*

Chair: Aleksandra Tomanić

20:00 Dinner

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SATURDAY, 26 SEPTEMBER

Panteion University Athens, Amphitheater 2, New Building

09:30 – 11:00

SESSION 5

Gendered violence

Panelists:

- **Maja Bojadžievska** – *Cultural representations of gender-based violence in the Republic of North Macedonia (a few anthropological reflections)*
- **Dimitra Vassiliadou** – *Silent territory: judicial cases of incest in Greece, 1900–1970*
- **Magda Fytili** – *The criminalization of kinship and gendered forms of resistance in postwar Southern Europe*

Chair: Irena Stefoska

11:00 – 11:15 Break

11:15 – 13:00

SESSION 6

Crimes, massacres and genocides

Panelists:

- **Tom Gallant** – *The Monster of Galata: murders, memories and representations of a serial killer*
- **Erkjad Kajo** – *Willingly or unwillingly: a global microhistory of violence and testimony in post-Ottoman Albania*
- **Jasna Dragović-Soso** – *From apology to memory war (2003–2018): Republika Srpska's 2004 Srebrenica Commission as an object of contestation*

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- **Andromache Gazi** – *How to exhibit what cannot be shown: trauma at the Holocaust Museum of Greece*

Chair: Iannis Carras

13:00 – 13:30 *Closing remarks*

Chair: Nenad Šebek

Christina Koulouri, Veton Zekolli

13:30 Lunch

This conference is part of the Joint History Project and is held thanks to the support of the German Federal Foreign Office and the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES)

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PARTICIPANT BIOGRAPHIES



Ayşe Alan

Ayşe Alan studied history at Middle East Technical University and earned a master's degree in educational sciences at Bilkent University. She has worked as a history teacher, department head, and assistant principal. Her projects and training address critical thinking, discrimination, inclusive education, gender, and racism. She also writes about education and education policy for newspapers and online platforms and prepares and hosts the radio programme Okul Zili (School Bell) on Açık Radyo.



Maja Bojadžievska

Maja Bojadžievska is Professor of Comparative Literature at Ss. Cyril and Methodius University in Skopje and a member of the Macedonian PEN Centre. Her academic and translation work focuses on literary criticism, theory, and comparative literature. She has translated into Macedonian works by influential scholars and writers including Gilbert Durand, Jacques Derrida, Gilles Deleuze, Julia Kristeva, Miglena Nikolchina, A. R. Radcliffe-Brown, Jean-Pierre Vernant, and Dubravka Ugrešić.



Elena Bouleti

Elena Bouleti is a historian and post-doctoral researcher at the Department of Political Science and History, Panteion University. Her doctoral thesis examined British policy toward the Turkish Cypriot community of Cyprus, 1878–1950, and the nationalization of the Muslim-Cypriot community. She teaches in the department's postgraduate program and has presented at numerous conferences on communalism, British colonial policy, and Islam in Cyprus. Her postdoctoral research examines the refugee and migratory patterns of Greek and Turkish Cypriots in the 1960s and 1970s and after the 1974 invasion, across Greece, Turkey, and Britain.



Neven Budak

Neven Budak, a member of the JHP 2.0 Scientific Committee, is a retired professor of medieval history from the Universities of Zagreb and Rijeka. He was a recurrent visiting professor at Central European University and lectured at universities across Europe, Japan, and Canada. His teaching and research cover Croatian medieval history, European urban history, and medieval identities. He is an honorary member of the International Commission for the History of Towns and has authored or edited fourteen books and more than 200 scholarly works.

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**Ditmir Bushati**

Ditmir Bushati chairs the JHP Board and serves on its Scientific Committee. He was Albania's Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs from 2013 to 2019 and a Member of Parliament from 2009 to 2021. He also chaired the Parliamentary Committee for European Integration, led Albania's OSCE delegation, and served as an OSCE special representative and envoy. Bushati has headed OSCE/ODIHR missions and contributed to international initiatives on political reform and European integration.

**Iannis Carras**

Iannis Carras, a member of the JHP Board, is Associate Professor of Balkan and European History at the University of Macedonia in Thessaloniki. He previously taught at the IES EU Center, Albert Ludwigs University Freiburg, and the International Hellenic University. He earned his doctorate at the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens with a dissertation on Balkan merchants in Russia between 1700 and 1774. His research examines Balkan communities in Ukraine and the Black Sea region, trade networks, religion, and the Enlightenment.

**Kenan Çayır**

Kenan Çayır is Professor of Sociology at Istanbul Bilgi University and Director of its Centre for Sociology and Education Studies. He conducted research at the Centre for Citizenship and Human Rights Education at Leeds University and at the Georg Eckert Institute for International Textbook Research. His work focuses on human rights and citizenship education, inclusive education, discrimination, and intergroup relations.

**Jasna Dragović-Soso**

Jasna Dragović-Soso is Director of the School of Slavonic and East European Studies at University College London and Professor of International Politics and History. Her research examines memory politics, transitional justice, nationalism, and international intervention in the Western Balkans. She is the author of *Saviours of the Nation* and co-editor of several books. She serves on academic journal boards and co-edits the Palgrave series on Memory Politics and Transitional Justice.

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Amir Duranović

Amir Duranović is Associate Professor of Modern and Contemporary History at the University of Sarajevo. His research covers Bosnian-Herzegovinian and Yugoslav history, historiography, diplomacy, and environmental history. He has authored three books, edited four volumes, and published numerous scholarly contributions. He has taught and conducted research at several international universities and currently serves as Deputy Dean for Finance while also teaching Global Political History at the Faculty of Political Sciences.



Hubert Faustmann

Hubert Faustmann is Professor of History and Political Science at the University of Nicosia, where he has worked since 1999. Since 2011, he has also directed the Cyprus office of the Friedrich Ebert Foundation. He was editor-in-chief of The Cyprus Review from 2006 to 2016. His expertise includes British colonial Cyprus, post-independence Cypriot history and politics, contemporary Cyprus, and Eastern Mediterranean politics, with particular attention to hydrocarbons.



Magda Fytili

Magda Fytili is a Ramón y Cajal postdoctoral researcher at the Universidad Complutense de Madrid and adjunct faculty at the Hellenic Open University. She holds a PhD in Political Science and Sociology from the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens and the Autonomous University of Madrid. Her research focuses on political violence, memory politics, transitional justice, civil conflict, women's resistance, and postwar transitions in Southern Europe, particularly Greece and Spain. She participates in projects including ERC MUTE, CERV WIRE, and Horizon 2020 SO-CLOSE, and has led the TRANSMEAS and PORE projects, publishing on the memory of the Greek Civil War.



Tony Gallagher

Tony Gallagher is an Honorary Professor of Education at Queen's University Belfast. He is a Fellow of the Academy of Social Science and a member of the Steering Group of the International Consortium for Higher Education, Civic Responsibility and Democracy. He has carried out and published research on the role of education in divided societies, and the civic and democratic role of higher education. He has worked with the Council of Europe on issues related to Higher Education for over two decades.

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Tom Gallant

Thomas W. Gallant is Emeritus Distinguished Professor of Modern Greek History at the University of California, San Diego, where he held the Nicholas Family Endowed Chair, and is now Senior Research Scholar at the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens. He earned his PhD at Cambridge in 1982. His research spans modern Greek history, Mediterranean and European social history, historical archaeology, and the history of crime and violence. He directs the Kefallenia and Andros Social History and Archaeology Project and has served as president of the Modern Greek Studies Association and the Canadian Hellenic Historical Society.



Andromache Gazi

Andromache Gazi is Professor of Museology in the Department of Communication, Media and Culture at Panteion University in Athens. She has also taught at the Hellenic Open University and worked as a museum consultant and exhibition curator. Her research interests include museum history, exhibition theory and practice, museum texts, memory studies, oral and public history, and public archaeology. She holds degrees in archaeology from the Universities of Thessaloniki and Cambridge and a PhD in Museum Studies from the University of Leicester.



Erkjad Kajo

Erkjad Kajo is an A*Midex Postdoctoral Fellow in Global History at Aix-Marseille University. His research examines Ottoman-Albanian intellectuals, mobility, and the end of empire. He holds a PhD in Global History from the University of Pavia and a research master's degree from Panteion University. Working across Albanian- and Greek-speaking contexts, he studies global intellectual history and Ottoman and post-Ottoman Balkan transnational history. He is also co-editing a volume on federalism, autonomy, and post-imperial imaginaries.



Alexei Kalionski

Alexei Kalionski is Associate Professor at Sofia University's Faculty of History. He earned his PhD in 2002 and teaches Ottoman history, Russian and Eastern European history, minorities, migration, and nomadic societies. He received the Gipson Award in 2013 for research on the Ottoman Balkans. Kalionski has published around forty works, including books on Yürüks in the Ottoman Balkans, Turks and Muslims in Bulgaria under communism, and identities and migrations in Southeast Europe.

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Loizos Kapsalis

Loizos Kapsalis is History Education Officer at the Association for Historical Dialogue and Research. He develops outdoor history activities for students and educators, including walks and study visits across Cyprus's divide. He completed his PhD at the Centre for Hellenic Studies, King's College London, and has held research and teaching positions at King's College London, European University Cyprus, and the University of Cyprus. Since 2021, he has been a founding member of the public history project Bahçes Histories of Cyprus.



Ivan Kaščelan

Ivan Kaščelan, a JHP 2.0 Alumni, is a Project Assistant at the Centre for Civic Education, working on democratic governance, human rights, and Montenegro's European integration. He holds an Erasmus Mundus Joint Master's degree in European Politics and Society, completed at Charles University, Jagiellonian University, and Leiden University. He previously gained experience through internships at the Parliament of Montenegro and the National Democratic Institute. His international academic and policy work focuses on democracy, human rights, and European affairs.



Andreas Kindl

Andreas Kindl is Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany to Greece, a position he has held since 2023. He previously served as Ambassador in Beirut from 2020, and earlier held posts including Deputy Ambassador to the EU's Political and Security Committee in Brussels, Head of the European Correspondent Division, Ambassador for Yemen based in Amman, and Commissioner for Strategic Communication in Berlin. He studied Greek, German, and Islamic Studies, and Philosophy in Heidelberg, Bonn, Oxford, and Alexandria before joining Germany's Foreign Office in 1992, with early postings in Tunis, Tel Aviv, and Mazar-e-Sharif, Afghanistan.



Snježana Koren

Snježana Koren heads the Chair for History Didactics at the University of Zagreb's Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences. She holds a PhD in modern and contemporary history and has worked as a history teacher, teacher trainer, and state-exam examiner. She teaches history didactics and twentieth-century history. Her research examines the politics of history and history education in socialist Yugoslavia and its successor states, historiography, and comparative approaches to history textbooks and curricula.

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**Christina Koulouri**

Christina Koulouri chairs the JHP 2.0 Scientific Committee, is a member of the JHP Board, and is Professor of Modern and Contemporary History and Rector of Panteion University in Athens. She coordinated the Joint History Project from 1999 to 2016 and chaired the CDRSEE History Education Committee. She studied in Athens and Paris and has held research positions at Paris I Panthéon-Sorbonne, Princeton University, and the University of Regensburg. Her publications address history education, national identity, historical memory, public history, and the history of sport.

**Velibor Bobo Kovač**

Velibor Bobo Kovač is Professor of Educational Psychology at the Department of Education at the University of Agder (UiA), Kristiansand, Norway. He is the author of more than 50 peer-reviewed articles and has conducted research across a broad range of topics, including addiction, motivation, self-regulation, bullying, educational organisation, democracy in education, and inclusive education. His research interests are centred on understanding psychological and educational processes that shape individuals, organisations, and society. He is also the author of two books addressing human motivation and scientific methods.

**Zvezdana Kovač**

Zvezdana Kovač is Director of JHP and a member of the JHP Board. She has more than twenty years of leadership experience in nonprofit organizations and media across the Western Balkans. She is Director of Strategy and Outreach at the Centre for Civic Education. Previously, she served as Secretary General of the European Movement in Serbia, Executive Director of the Centre for Democracy and Reconciliation in Southeast Europe, and a senior figure in regional television journalism.

**Lovro Kralj**

Lovro Kralj is the Research and Content Officer at EHRI-ERIC (European Holocaust Research Infrastructure). He is a historian specializing in fascism, antisemitism, genocide, and the Holocaust, with a regional focus on Central and Southeast Europe. His research on the Holocaust in Croatia has been supported by numerous competitive fellowships and grants, including the Claims Conference Saul Kagan Fellowship in Advanced Shoah Studies. Until 2025, he was affiliated with the Department of History at the University of Rijeka, where he coordinated international projects on Holocaust history and founded the Center for Holocaust and Genocide Research in Southeast Europe.

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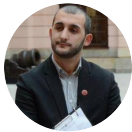
Kriton Kuçi

Kriton Kuçi holds a PhD in Balkan Studies from the University of Macedonia, with research on banal nationalism in Albanian news portals. He also earned degrees in international and European studies and political science. Since 2009, he has taught Political Science at the Mediterranean University of Albania. A RECAS fellow and former visiting researcher at the Institute for Philosophy and Social Theory in Belgrade, he studies nationalism, political theory, and discourse analysis and has presented his work at conferences across Europe.



Filip Kuzman

Filip Kuzman is a historian and curator at the National Museum of Montenegro. He graduated in History from the University of Montenegro in 2017 and attended a postgraduate programme at Friedrich Schiller University Jena on presenting contemporary history in museums. He is pursuing a master's degree at the Faculty of Philosophy in Nikšić. Since 2017, he has participated in numerous seminars devoted to contemporary history, museology, and history teaching.



Ardian Limani

Ardian Limani is a historian from North Macedonia specializing in the modern Balkans, particularly Albanian political, cultural, and national movements. He holds a PhD in History and is affiliated with the Institute of Spiritual and Cultural Heritage of Albanians in Skopje. His research covers the late Ottoman period, the Balkan Wars, and the history of Albanians in North Macedonia. He has published widely and regularly contributes to international discussions on history, identity, and cultural heritage in Southeast Europe.



Nikos Marantzidis

Nikos Marantzidis is Professor of Political Science in the Department of Balkan, Slavic and Oriental Studies at the University of Macedonia in Thessaloniki. He studied Sociology in Paris, earning his PhD in Political Sociology from Paris 10 in 1994 with a thesis on the Communist Party of Greece's implantation and electoral evolution in rural areas through the Cold War. He has been a visiting professor in Chicago, Prague, and Warsaw, and has published on Greek and European communist parties, electoral behavior, and the Greek civil war. His latest book, *Under Stalin's Shadow* (2023), was published by Cornell University Press.

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**Maria Mavrommati**

Maria Mavrommati is Assistant Professor of History Education at Aristotle University of Thessaloniki. She holds a PhD in Education from the University of Macedonia, an MA in History from the University of St Andrews, and a BA in History and Archaeology from Aristotle University. Her research covers history education, historical media literacy, digital history, memory studies, intercultural education, and film and popular culture in history teaching. Her current work explores ethical and decolonial approaches to historical representation, memory, and social inclusion.

**Sofija Mihaljević**

Sofija Mihaljević, a JHP 2.0 Alumni, is a fifth-year student pursuing a master's degree in history and sociology in Osijek, Croatia. She is an active member of the International Students of History Association (ISHA), including its Osijek branch. She has spoken at and attended ISHA international conferences in Vienna, Pula, and Malta, as well as ISHA regional conferences in Pula and Zadar, and was one of the organizers of this year's ISHA conference in Osijek. She also took part in this year's Joint History Lab Winter School in Podgorica.

**Bogdan Murgescu**

Bogdan Murgescu is Professor of Economic History and Vice-Rector of the University of Bucharest. He has been a Roman Herzog Fellow of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation and visiting professor at the University of Pittsburgh and Central European University. He is honorary president of the Romanian Society for Historical Sciences and a member of Academia Europaea. His research and civic work connect economic history, historical memory, democratic civic education, and regional initiatives including the Joint History Project.

**Mirela-Luminița Murgescu**

Mirela-Luminița Murgescu is Professor at the Faculty of History, University of Bucharest. She earned her PhD at the Romanian Academy's Institute for South-East European Studies and has participated in numerous international projects and fellowships. Her research interests include nationalism, memory studies, textbook analysis, social and cultural history, film and visual culture, and contemporary cultural developments. Her work combines historical research with sustained engagement in regional and international academic cooperation.

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Kyriakos Pachoulides

Kyriakos Pachoulides is a Cypriot educator, researcher, and civil society activist with a PhD in Social Psychology and a background in pedagogy and psychology. He is a founding member and long-time board leader of the Association for Historical Dialogue and Research. Through his work with the association and the Home for Cooperation, he promotes intercommunal trust, human rights, dialogue, and sustainable peace across divided Cyprus.



Angelos Palikidis

Angelos Palikidis is Professor of History Didactics at Democritus University of Thrace. He serves on the board of the International Society for History Didactics, is managing editor of the International Journal of History Education & Culture, and convenes the Lausanne Project. He is also an expert at the Observatory on History Teaching in Europe. His current work includes a Council of Europe report on regional history teaching and research on shared perspectives in modern Greek and Ottoman history.



Srđa Pavlović

Srđa Pavlović is a historian at the University of Alberta's Department of History and Classics, where he has taught since 2004, and a Research Associate at its Wirth Institute for Austrian and Central European Studies. Born and educated in Montenegro, he also studied in Serbia, Mongolia, Britain, and Canada, earning his PhD at Alberta. His research covers the history, politics, and culture of Montenegro, the Balkans, and Southeastern Europe, and he is the author of *Balkan Anschluss: The Annexation of Montenegro and the Creation of the Common South Slavic State*. He also works as an editor and literary translator.



Violeta Petroska-Beška

Violeta Petroska-Beška is a retired professor of psychology at Ss. Cyril and Methodius University in Skopje, North Macedonia, and president of the Center for Human Rights and Conflict Resolution. She is a leading player in the reforms of the education system in the country, with extensive experience in developing curricular and extra-curricular programs for all levels of education, developing training modules and manuals, and conducting trainings and workshops with students and teachers. She served as a senior fellow at the US Institute of Peace, Washington, DC (2000–2001), and is a recipient of the Teachers College, Columbia University, Distinguished Alumni Award.

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**Sanja Radović**

Sanja Radović is JHP 2.0 Content Creator and Project Assistant. A historian with a PhD from the University of Belgrade, she researches the Cold War, diplomatic history, Yugoslav history, and global social developments in the twentieth century. She has extensive teaching experience at all educational levels and participated in an earlier phase of the Joint History Project. Her current work explores history teaching in the digital era, particularly the use of technology and innovative educational practices.

**Igor Radulović**

Igor Radulović is a history teacher with more than ten years of experience. Since 2016, he has worked on transitional justice and post-war legacy projects. He co-authored Learning History that is Not Yet History, which received the 2019 Global Pluralism Award, and contributed to teaching manuals on the conflicts of the 1990s, anti-war movements, war crimes, and social-emotional learning. His work promotes innovative and reconciliation-focused approaches to history education.

**Dušan Reljić**

Dušan Reljić is a European affairs consultant in Brussels and Berlin and a member of the JHP Board and the JHP 2.0 Scientific Committee. From 2013 to 2023, he headed the Brussels office of the German Institute for International and Security Affairs, where he previously researched EU external relations. Earlier roles included leading the Media and Democracy Programme at the European Institute for the Media, working as a senior editor at Radio Free Europe, serving as foreign editor of Vreme, and co-founding Beta Press Agency.

**Božo Repe**

Božo Repe, a member of the JHP Board and the JHP 2.0 Scientific Committee, is Professor of Contemporary History at the University of Ljubljana. His research addresses Slovenian, South Slavic, and Central European history, as well as history education. He has chaired the university's Department of History and led a major research programme on Slovenian history and the humanities. He currently directs a project examining the Rapallo border and its historical, cultural, and memorial legacy.

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**Vassiliki Sakka**

Vassiliki Sakka studied History and Archaeology and earned an MA in History Didactics at the University of Athens and a PhD in History and Adult Education at the University of Peloponnese. She has worked as a secondary-school teacher, school consultant, teacher trainer, and lecturer in Public History at the Hellenic Open University. Her interests include history didactics, public and oral history, civic and Holocaust education, curricula, textbooks, and teachers' attitudes. She is a former EUROCLIO president and co-founder and president of the Association for History Education in Greece.

**Steffen Sammler**

Steffen Sammler is Project Head of the European Forum for Reconciliation and Cooperation in History and Social Sciences Education (EFREC) at the Leibniz Institute for Educational Media / Georg Eckert Institute, working in International Textbook Cooperation. He studied history and French studies in Leipzig, Rouen, and Florence, earning his PhD in modern history in 1995. He later worked as a DAAD lecturer at Lyon 2 and gained his habilitation in 2010 on European knowledge transfer and regional modernisation. Since 2020 he has also been adjunct professor of modern and contemporary history at the Technische Universität Braunschweig.

**Regine Schubert**

Regine Schubert is Director of the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung in Athens. Previously, she was responsible for internal processes and innovation at the FES headquarters in Berlin, and earlier headed the FES offices in Bulgaria, Mali, and Senegal. She was also responsible for FES activities in countries in Eastern Europe and Asia. She studied Islamic and political sciences and international law in Bonn. In her home state of Brandenburg, she is active in local government, advocating for an open, free society and better accessibility in rural areas. Her professional engagement also reflects a strong interest in contemporary historical questions.

**Günter Seufert**

Günter Seufert, a member of the JHP Board, is a sociologist and specialist in Turkey and the Western Balkans. He has worked at the University of Lausanne, the German Oriental Society's Institute in Istanbul, and the University of Cyprus. He was a senior fellow and founding director of the Center for Applied Turkey Studies at the German Institute for International and Security Affairs in Berlin. He currently works as a freelance author and advises Germany's Federal Agency for Civic Education.

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**Petar Simonoski**

Petar Simonoski is an MA student in History at Ss. Cyril and Methodius University in Skopje. His academic interests include medieval history, Byzantine history, and the medieval history of Ohrid. He completed his BA in History in 2025, with a thesis on the subjugation of Samuel's State. He has participated in academic conferences and summer schools in Macedonia, Slovenia, Croatia, Serbia, the Czech Republic, and Poland, as well as international cultural heritage projects. Simonoski is President of the History Students' Club "Ilinden" (ISHA Skopje), Vice President of ISHA International, and has worked as a history teacher in Ohrid since 2025.

**Nexhmedin Spahiu**

Nexhmedin Spahiu is a mathematician and political scientist from Mitrovica, Kosovo. He has taught at the University of Tirana, the University of Tetova, the University of Pristina, and the University of Hamburg, and has published nine books developing his theory of the Kosovar nation. He was a student leader at the University of Pristina in the late 1980s and chaired the Coordination Council of student organizations of the former Yugoslavia. In 1999, he founded the Radio and Television of Mitrovica and has since led the Assembly of NGOs of Kosovo, the umbrella body for Kosovar civil society.

**Florenca Stafa**

Florenca Stafa is Associate Professor and Head of the Department for Albanological and Balkan Studies at the University of Elbasan. She holds a doctorate in History from the University of Tirana and has extensive experience in secondary and university education. She is a member of the Association of Albanian History Teachers, a national trainer for school leaders, and an external higher-education quality expert. Her projects and publications focus on migration, history education, pedagogy, human rights, and innovative teaching practice.

**Irena Stefoska**

Irena Stefoska is a Macedonian historian and professor at the Institute of National History in Skopje. She served as a Member of Parliament from 2016 to 2020 and Minister of Culture from 2020 to 2022. She studied at universities in Skopje, Budapest, and Belgrade and has held Fulbright, Robert Bosch, and visiting fellowships. Her publications address historiography, memory, and identity in North Macedonia and the Balkans, while her public work has emphasized cultural heritage, youth, and European integration.

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**Dubravka Stojanović**

Dubravka Stojanović, a member of the JHP 2.0 Scientific Committee, is a historian and professor at the University of Belgrade. Her work examines democracy in Serbia and the Balkans, modernization, social and women's history, and interpretations of the past in Serbian textbooks. She has authored several major studies, including *Serbia and Democracy 1903–1914* and *Cobblestone and Asphalt*. She has received the French National Order of Merit and the Belgrade Award for Social Sciences and has edited JHP publications.

**Nenad Šebek**

Nenad Šebek, a member of the JHP Board, is an international consultant on media and civil society. He previously directed the Belgrade office of the Heinrich Böll Foundation, served as spokesperson for the Regional Cooperation Council, and led the Centre for Democracy and Reconciliation in Southeast Europe from 2002 to 2014. Earlier, he spent twenty-six years in journalism, including sixteen with the BBC World Service as Balkans and Moscow correspondent. He has also taught journalism, media, and human rights.

**Aleksandra Tomanić**

Aleksandra Tomanić, a member of the JHP Board, led the European Fund for the Balkans from 2019 to 2025 and joined the board of the German Southeast Europe Association in 2024. She previously worked with GIZ on the German-Serbian Initiative for Sustainable Growth and Employment and coordinated EU policies and regional initiatives within Serbia's Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction Unit. She began her professional career at the European Commission's Directorate-General for Enlargement and moved to Belgrade in 2013 to support Serbia's European integration.

**Başak Tuğ**

Başak Tuğ has taught in the Department of History at Istanbul Bilgi University since 2009. Her research focuses on gender, law, and changing concepts of honor in Ottoman and Republican history. She held research fellowships in Berlin through the EUME programme and at the Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin with support from the Gerda Henkel Foundation. Since 2024, she has served on the board of the History Foundation. She is the author of *Politics of Honor*, published by Brill in 2017.

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**Dimitra Vassiliadou**

Dimitra Vassiliadou is Associate Professor of Social History of Southeastern Europe at the University of the Aegean and Principal Investigator of “Brutal Intimacies: A History of Rape in Modern Greece, 1900s–1960s,” funded by the Hellenic Foundation for Research and Innovation. She is the author of *The Tropic of Writing: Family Ties and Emotions in Modern Greece, 1850–1930*, and co-editor of five volumes on gender, masculinity, sexuality, emotions, and sexual violence. She has worked as an individual researcher and within multidisciplinary teams. Her research interests include the history of sexuality and sexual violence, emotions, gender, family, and crime.

**Veton Zekolli**

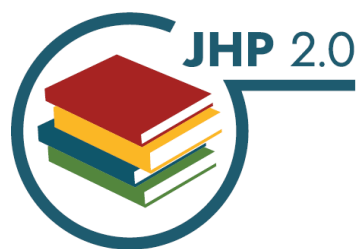
Veton Zekolli, a member of the JHP Board, assumed the position of Executive Director of the European Fund for the Balkans in September 2025. He has over 15 years of experience in governance, institutional reform, and international development, with a passion for dialogue and collaboration. He has led cross-sectoral programs for international organizations and government institutions, with skills in stakeholder engagement, donor relations, and strategic planning. Before joining the Fund, he served as Executive Director of the Nansen Dialogue Centre Skopje (2019–2023) and Program Manager at the Westminster Foundation for Democracy (2023–2025).

**Vukašin Zorić**

Vukašin Zorić is a teaching assistant and PhD candidate in History at the University of Belgrade's Faculty of Philosophy. His master's thesis examined images of Europe and the interwar world in Dimitrije Ljotić's work. His doctoral research explores representations of the Middle Ages in Bulgarian and Yugoslav historiographies between 1918 and 1941. His broader interests include historiography, the history of representations, and memory studies.

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