

Conference Programme

ICON-S CEE 2026 Conference

CONSTITUTIONAL COURTS

X

CONSTITUTIONAL SCHOLARSHIP

*IN CENTRAL AND
EASTERN EUROPE*



Ljubljana 2026



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Pravna fakulteta



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THURSDAY

9:00–9:30	Opening: handover of the banner
9:30–11:00	‘What does it mean to be a constitutional court judge in CEE?’ Keynote discussion
11:00–11:30	<i>Coffee Break</i>
11:30–13:00	Parallel Sessions 1
13:00–14:00	<i>Lunch (provided by the Institute for Comparative Law IPP-PF)</i>
14:00–15:30	Parallel Sessions 2
15:30–16:00	<i>Coffee Break</i>
16:00–17:30	‘What does it mean to be a public law scholar in CEE?’ Distinguished speaker address
17:30–18:00	<i>Break</i>
18:00–19:30	Parallel Sessions 3

What does it mean to be a constitutional court judge in CEE?

Golden Lecture Hall

Keynote discussion among constitutional court judges or former judges from the region with different ties to the legal academia:

- **Jiří Příbáň** (Czech Constitutional Court/Cardiff),
- **Goran Selanec** (Croatian Constitutional Court/Zagreb),
- **Katja Šugman Stubbs** (Slovenian Constitutional Court/Ljubljana),

hosted by *Samo Bardutzky*.

Equality in Central and Eastern European Constitutionalism I – Exploring the Concept	Varieties of Politics in Constitutional Adjudication	Constitution x Economy	Procedure x Jurisdiction	Constitutional Courts x Democracy
Golden Lecture Hall	Blue Lecture Hall	Seminar 3 rd Floor	Viva Voce Room	Grey Lecture Hall
Chair: Barbara Havelková	Chair: Max Steuer	Chair: Silvia Suteu	Chair: Davor Petrić	Chair: Gloria Golmohammadi
<p>Anna Śledzińska-Simon: <i>Apples and Oranges: Equality and Difference Before the Polish Constitutional Tribunal</i></p> <p>Ladislav Vyhnaněk: <i>Equality and dignity in the Czech case-law: An underappreciated relationship</i></p> <p>Arta Vorpsi: <i>Equality and Human Dignity in Albanian Constitutional Jurisprudence: Mapping an Unstable Relationship</i></p> <p>Martin Dekleva: <i>Equal but Different? Constitutional Perspectives on Natural and Legal Persons: Insights from the Case Law of the Slovenian Constitutional Court</i></p>	<p>Olha Nykorak: <i>Limitations on the Institutional Capacity of the Constitutional Court of Ukraine Caused by Political Factors</i></p> <p>Anjali Sirohi & Sana Kamra: <i>The Appearance of Inevitability in Constitutional Adjudication</i></p> <p>Zoltán Szente: <i>Strategic Adjudication under Political Capture: Interpretive Practices of the Hungarian Constitutional Court</i></p> <p>Arnisa Tepelija: <i>The Politics of Restraint: Constitutional Adjudication in a Fragile Democracy</i></p> <p>Max Steuer: <i>Discussant</i></p>	<p>Ioana Maria Costea: <i>When Doctrine Speaks and Courts Don't Listen: The Deaf Constitution in Fiscal Matters</i></p> <p>Tim Horvat: <i>Human Rights in the Marketplace: The Role of the Slovenian Constitutional Court in Contemporary Economic Governance</i></p> <p>Katarzyna Metelska-Szaniawska & Jarosław Kantorowicz: <i>Economic consequences of non-compliance with constitutions – the post-socialist “illiberal democracy” perspective</i></p> <p>Mihaela Tofan, Larisa-Cătălina Ionescu & Alina-Adriana Arseni: <i>Constitutional Boundaries for Governing Taxation. Bottom-up Analysis on Deficit of Democratic Tools</i></p>	<p>Đorđe Gardašević: <i>The Constitutional Court of Croatia and the Concept of Inherent Powers</i></p> <p>Jakub Novák: <i>Case Closed? Ongoing Human Rights Violations in Case Reopening Proceeding before the Czech Constitutional Court</i></p> <p>Matevž Bedič: <i>Interim Measures in Administrative Disputes and the Right to Judicial Protection in Slovenian Constitutional Case Law</i></p> <p>Despina-Martha Ilučă: <i>Administrative Offences in Romanian Law: Evolution through Judicial Review and Doctrinal Nuances</i></p>	<p>Zoltán Pozsár-Szentmiklósy: <i>Pretending to be democratic. Direct decision-making in Hungary, 2008-2026</i></p> <p>Wojciech Firek: <i>The Concept of Citizen Participation in the Jurisprudence of the Polish Constitutional Tribunal</i></p> <p>Damir Banović: <i>The Judiciary's Role in Protecting Democratic Values, Principles, and Rights - The Context of the Western Balkans</i></p> <p>Rok Dacar: <i>Political Parties under Constitutional Constraint: Prohibition, Limitation, and Militant Democracy</i></p>

<p>The Romanian Constitutional Court after the 2024 national elections: key elements of rebuilding institutional credibility</p>	<p>The Effects of Judicial Decisions in Time: CEE Constitutional Courts</p>	<p>Situating scholars on the terrain of constitutional expertise</p>	<p>Constitutional Courts in the Crisis of Constitutional Democracy</p>	<p>Constitution x Equality</p>
<p>Viva Voce Room</p>	<p>Grey Lecture Hall</p>	<p>Seminar 3rd Floor</p>	<p>Golden Lecture Hall</p>	<p>Senate Room</p>
<p>Chair: Raluca Bercea</p>	<p>Chair: Donatas Murauskas</p>	<p>Chair: Matija Miloš</p>	<p>Chair: Nika Bačić Selanec</p>	<p>Chair: Damir Banović</p>

Diana Botău:
Erosion of Legitimacy and Strategic Politicization of the Romanian Constitutional Court

Andreea Verțeș-Olteanu:
Constructing and contesting independence: the status of the constitutional judge in Romania

Raluca Bercea:
The thorny issue of magistrates' special pensions before the Romanian Constitutional Court

Ramona-Delia Popescu & Bogdan Dima:
The Procedural Law of Constitutional Adjudication: A Case Study of the Constitutional Court of Romania

Sorina Doroga:
Preparing for the Next Elections: Judicial Power, Democratic Legitimacy, and the Lessons of Romania's 2024 Elections
Annulment

Monika Florczak-Wątor:
Temporal effects of Constitutional Court judgments in times of emergency: The Polish experience

Tímea Drinóczi & Endre Orbán:
The Effects of Judicial Decisions in Time: the case of Hungary

Tomáš Lalík:
Temporal Effects of the Slovak Constitutional Court Judgments: Between Prospectivity and Retroactivity

Marek Antoš:
Between Legal Stability and Effective Remedy: The Modulation of Temporal Effects in Czechia

Darko Vinketa:
From scholasticism to fidelity: charting the role of scholars in constitutional controversies

Sanja Barić:
Venice Commission: a three-stage (constitutional) expertise formation

Petar Bačić:
On the possibilities of the Influence of Legal Theory on Constitutional Court Decisions

Silvia Suteu:
Discussant

Matej Avbelj:
Constitutional Crisis as the Crisis of the Constitutional Court

Konrad Lachmayer:
Austrian Constitutional Court – Resilience and Vulnerabilities

Pietro Faraguna:
Constitutional Courts as Litmus Tests in the Crisis of Constitutional Democracies: The Italian Case

Anna Śledzińska-Simon:
Withering Constitutional Courts in Hybrid Constitutionalism. The case of Poland and the EU

Goran Selanec:
Discussant

Martin Gramc:
Constitutional Courts, Medical Authority and the Rights of Intersex and Transgender Youth in the Ex-Yugoslav Region

Antoni Konieczny:
How does the Polish Constitutional Tribunal conceptualise same-sex relationships in light of Article 18 of the Constitution, and what role does constitutional scholarship play in this process?

Šimon Svoboda:
A Vulnerability-Aware Framework of Algorithmic Discrimination Litigation

Balázs Kiss:
Parliamentary representation of national minorities in the case law of Central and Eastern European constitutional courts

What does it mean to be a public law scholar in CEE?

Golden Lecture Hall

Distinguished speaker address
by

Tanasije Marinković (University of Belgrade),

chaired by *Marjan Kos*.

Reinforcing EU Constitutionalism	Judiciary x Resilience	Resilience x Rule of Law	Judging x Scholarship	Constitutional Courts x Future
Golden Lecture Hall	Blue Lecture Hall	Seminar 3 rd Floor	Viva Voce Room	Senate Room
Chair: Nika Bačić Selanec	Chair: Đorđe Gardašević	Chair: Mohor Fajdiga	Chair: Jaka Kukavica	Chair: Bernadette Somody
<p>Matej Avbelj: <i>CJEU after the Breakdown of Political Liberalism</i></p> <p>Davor Petrić: <i>Reinforcing the European Mandate of National Courts</i></p> <p>Iris Goldner Lang: <i>Solidarity and Social Responsibility in the EU</i></p>	<p>Aire Keturakiene: <i>When judicial restraint undermines constitutional resilience: constitutional courts, interpretation and self-limitation</i></p> <p>Ignacy Klajbor: <i>Sententia Non Existens? Adjudication, Scholarship, and the Crisis of Legitimacy in the Shadow of the Polish Abortion Ruling</i></p> <p>Jaroslav Benák: <i>The Strategic Secular: Judicial Resilience and the Political Salience of Church-State Relations in the Czech Republic</i></p> <p>Urh Šelih: <i>Blind Spots of Judicial Protection under the EU Pact on Migration and Asylum</i></p>	<p>Fruzsina Gárdos-Orosz: <i>Constitutional courts in emergency: experiences from the Visegrad countries</i></p> <p>Nazarii Stetsyuk: <i>Constitutional Resilience under Fire: The Constitutional Court of Ukraine between European Integration Aspirations and Wartime Realities</i></p> <p>Kristina Trykhlíb: <i>Evolving the Rule of Law: Jurisprudential Developments in the Constitutional Court of Ukraine</i></p>	<p>Metka Vodušek: <i>Legal Scholarship in the Jurisprudence of the Slovenian Constitutional Court</i></p> <p>Andrea Procházková: <i>Amicus Curiae Between Public Interest and Lobbying. What Role Does the “Friend of the Court” Play in Judicial Decision-Making?</i></p> <p>Anna Niemiec: <i>Between Judgment and Commentary: The Role of Polish Constitutional Scholarship in Shaping the Authority of the Constitutional Tribunal</i></p> <p>Paulina Jabłońska: <i>The mirroring effect of abusive constitutional practices</i></p>	<p>Lana Ofak & Valentina Grubešić Črnelč: <i>The Evolving Role of Constitutional Courts in the Age of Climate Emergency: Perspectives from the Croatian Constitutional Court</i></p> <p>Monika Hanych: <i>Algorithmic Age Judicial Legitimacy: The Czech Constitutional Court’s Dual Approach to AI</i></p> <p>Maja Nastić: <i>The Role of the Constitutional Courts in Shaping Human Rights in the Digital Age</i></p> <p>Marina Kalashlinska: <i>Radical Clarity and Hybrid Lawfare: Constitutional Courts and the De-Hybridization of Territoriality in CEE</i></p>

FRIDAY

- 9:30–11:00** **‘What does it mean to be an intellectual in CEE?’**
Plenary discussion
- 11:00–11:30** *Coffee Break*
- 11:30–13:00** Parallel Sessions 4
- 13:00–14:00** *Freshfields Lunch*
- 14:00–15:30** **‘Constitutionalism and Its Discontents by Bojan Bugarič and Mark Tushnet’**
Plenary book launch
- 15:30–16:00** *Break*
- 16:00–17:30** Parallel Sessions 5
- 17:45–18:00** Closing ceremony
- ‘PhDs Anonymous: How to build and maintain a productive and healthy relationship with your supervisor’**
Special workshop for junior scholars

What does it mean to be an intellectual in CEE?

Golden Lecture Hall

Plenary discussion

with

- **Renata Salecl** (University of Ljubljana),
- **Luka Lisjak Gabrijelčič** (CEU),

hosted by *Kristina Krajnc*.

Behind the bench: Unveiling the influence of scholars on the development of the reasoning of constitutional courts	Saviors or Authoritarian Enclaves: The Role of Constitutional Courts Against Autocratization in Central and Eastern Europe	Equality in Central and Eastern European Constitutionalism II – Litigation a Courts’ Responsiveness	Project presentation: Access to Human Rights Justice - Slovenia & its Constitutional Court as a case study	History x Identity
Viva Voce Room	Golden Lecture Hall	Grey Lecture Hall	Senate Room	Seminar 5 (basement)
Chair: Elena Masnevaite	Chair: Gábor Halmai	Chair: Anna Śledzińska-Simon	Chair: Veronika Fikfak	Chair: Zoltán Pozsár-Szentmiklósy
<p>Marieta Safta: <i>Scholarly Influence in Romanian Constitutional Jurisprudence</i></p> <p>Boris Balog: <i>Constitutional Scholarship as a Support and Feedback for Constitutional Court in the Slovak Republic</i></p> <p>Remzije Istrefi: <i>To ‘cite or not to cite’: The position of scholarly opinions in Kosovo’s Constitutional Court Decisions</i></p> <p>Jolita Miliuviene: <i>Invisible Yet Influential: Academic Scholarship in Lithuanian Constitutional Adjudication</i></p> <p>Kristaps Tamužs: <i>The Constitutional Court of the Republic of Latvia and legal scholarship – not a source of law but coming close</i></p>	<p>Bojan Bugarič: <i>Militant Democracy in the Age of Populism: How Defending Democracy Can Undermine Itself</i></p> <p>Gábor Halmai: <i>The Current and Future Role of the Hungarian Constitutional Court: An Abuser of Constitutional Review and an Authoritarian Enclave</i></p> <p>Kasia Krzyzanowska: <i>Constitutional Transgression: The Constitutional Tribunal of Poland as a (Declining?) Illiberal Enclave</i></p> <p>Silvia Suteu: <i>Militant Democracy in the Electoral Context: The Romanian Constitutional Court and Institutional Failure</i></p> <p>Max Steuer: <i>Constitutional Courts and Regime Change in the 2020s: Beyond the ‘Reluctantly Militarized’ Constitutional Court in Slovakia</i></p>	<p>Barbara Havelková & Terezi Boková: <i>(Not) raising equality concerns? Lawyers’ litigation strategies in Czechia</i></p> <p>Donatas Marauskas: <i>The role of constitutional courts in developing equal protection of same-sex couples in the Baltic states</i></p> <p>Biljana Kotevska: <i>Of Missed and seized opportunities: multiple and intersectional discrimination and the constitutional courts in Croatia, Macedonia, and Slovenia</i></p> <p>Adam Ploszka & Jan Denka: <i>The Principle of Equality as a Vehicle for Social Rights Enforcement in Central and Eastern Europe</i></p>	<p>Presenters/participants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Veronika Fikfak - Umut Yüksel - Urban Slak Piskar - Gaja Podgornik - Ana Lilik 	<p>Hent Kalmo: <i>Revisiting the ‘sovereignty conundrum’ in East-Central Europe</i></p> <p>Mária Lakatos Tóthné: <i>Continuity, discontinuity, flexibility and identity (Discovering some achievements of the Hungarian Historical Constitution in constitutional-court-decisions)</i></p> <p>Dora Pavković: <i>Constitutional identity at the intersection of the Constitutional Court and academia: a doctrinal influence or merely a useful tool for expanding competences? – The Croatian case</i></p> <p>Aleksandra Kuštra-Rogatka: <i>Constitutional Courts in Europe and the Limits of Judicial Dialogue: Lessons from C-448/23</i></p>

Special plenary events

Golden Lecture Hall

Jurists' Club (3rd Floor)

Book launch

Constitutionalism and Its Discontents,
by *Mark Tushnet* and *Bojan Bugarič*

Hosted by *Gloria Golmohammadi*
and *Mojca Mauhler*.

Special workshop for junior scholars

**PhDs Anonymous:
How to build and maintain a productive and
healthy relationship with your supervisor**

led by *Mojca Mihelj Plesničar*.

Constitutional Courts x Judges	Constitutional Courts x Transnational	Teachers x Lawyers	Constitutional Courts x Governments	Constitutional Actors x Dynamics
Seminar 5 (basement)	Golden Lecture Hall	Senate Room	Viva Voce Room	Grey Lecture Hall
Chair: Matevž Bedič	Chair: Barbara Havelková	Chair: Metka Vodušek	Chair: Urh Šelih	Chair: Saša Zagorc

Snežana Armenko:

Challenges and temptations of being a judge of the Constitutional Court of the modern era

Rafat Stronk:

In Search of the Legitimacy of Judicial Review. The Recruitment of Judicial Elites in Poland: Debates and Possible Jurisprudential Effects (An Invitation to Discussion)

Mohor Fajdiga:

The Role of Chilling Effect in Constitutional Adjudication: The ECtHR's Approach to Freedom of Expression of Judges

Dominika Kuna:

The Constitutional Tribunal under Strain: Poland's Rule of Law Conflict

Anže Medičevc:

The diverging methodologies and impact of constitutional courts transposing international law into domestic legal systems

Sergeja Hrvatič:

The Role of Constitutional Courts in Safeguarding Socio-Economic Rights under International Law

Benjamin Nurkić:

The role of the Constitutional Court's jurisprudence in the implementation of the Strasbourg Courts' demands for Bosnia and Herzegovina

Ana Horvat Vuković:

Prohibited but Recognized: Surrogacy, Children's Rights, and Constitutional Adjudication in Croatia

Eszter Bodnár:

What Keeps Public Lawyers Staying the Course: Professional Skills for Sustainable Careers in Academia and Practice

Bernadette Somody:

Teaching Constitutional Law under Conditions of Uncertainty: From Knowledge to Skills, from Grades to Feedback

Emma Humeňanská:

Judicial Communication of Unconstitutionality in Slovakia

Agne Juskevičiute-Viliene:

Interdisciplinary Knowledge and Constitutional Jurisprudence: Economic Regulation, Environmental Protection, and the Role of Constitutional Courts

Niko Jarak:

Formalism and the Concept of Separation of Powers in Post-Socialist Constitutionalism: "Mystification" of the Role and Position of the Constitutional Court of Croatia

Kristijonas Povylius:

Constitutional Courts' Power to Impose Interim Relief Against the Government: A Comparative View

Larisa-Cătălina Ionescu:

The President, the Prime Minister, and the Constitutional Court: Government Formation in Romania

Piotr Mikuli & Natalie Fox:

The role of ordinary courts in reviewing the constitutionality of laws in Poland versus the functions of the Constitutional Tribunal: division of tasks, cooperation, and confrontation between state authorities

Jan Podkowik:

Should the judgment of a constitutional court be final? Search of a balance between the court and the legislature

Kálmán Pócza, Pep Vallbé & Gábor Dobos:

Judicial Assertiveness in Europe: A Comparative Analysis

Viktória Alžbeta Sutórisová:

Why some judicial councils cope better than others: A resilience toolkit for future designs

Alex Ricciardi:

The Venice Commission's Approach to Election Annulments by Constitutional Courts in the Central-Eastern EU Area

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