

ICON-S International Society for Public Law
Central and Eastern European Chapter
Annual Conference

University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Law
14-15 May 2026

CONSTITUTIONAL COURTS x SCHOLARSHIP IN CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE

ORGANIZERS

- University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Law (www.pf.uni-lj.si)
- Institute for Comparative Law at the Faculty of Law in Ljubljana (www.ipp-pf.si)
- Slovenian Constitutional Law Association (www.dups.ustava.si)
- ICON-S CEE Chapter (www.icon-society.org/central-and-eastern-europe/)

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

Associate Professor Samo Bardutzky (University of Ljubljana), Professor Djordje Gardašević (University of Zagreb), Dr Gloria Golmohammadi (University of Stockholm/University of Ljubljana), Associate Professor Barbara Havelková (University of Oxford), Assistant Professor Marjan Kos (University of Ljubljana), Kristina Krajnc (University of Ljubljana), Mojca Mauhler (University of Ljubljana), Professor Anna Śledzińska-Simon (University of Wrocław), Professor Silvia Suteu (European University Institute), Associate Professor Tilen Štajnpihler Božič (University of Ljubljana)

ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

The theme of the CEE Chapter's 2026 conference brings together two elements. First, it touches upon **constitutional courts**, institutions that are frequently researched and studied as well as a phenomenon characteristic of the region and a part of its story of post-authoritarian, legal constitutionalism(s). The second element of the conference theme is public law or **constitutional scholarship** - a social institution that is present, influential, and impactful in this part of Europe, but rarely itself the object of academic attention.

Our ambition is to interconnect the two elements in several different ways. This is what the ‘x’ in the title of the conference stands for: in an American address, it can mean “at the intersection of”; in a French textbook, it would read “*multiplié par*”; and at the end of a text message, it can even be a kiss.

As for the convenors, we will try to connect the two elements through a string of three plenary events, linked together by the emphasis on Central and Eastern Europe and focus on constitutional adjudication and constitutional scholarship. The three plenary events will tell stories of three roles that often interconnect in their search for a meaning:

- **‘What does it mean to be a constitutional court judge in CEE?’** (keynote round table)
- **‘What does it mean to be a public law scholar in CEE?’** (distinguished speaker address)
- **‘What does it mean to be an intellectual in CEE?’** (plenary discussion)

In addition, the conference will feature a special workshop for junior scholars *PhDs Anonymous: How to build and maintain a productive and healthy relationship with your supervisor* and a book launch for *Constitutionalism and Its Discontents* by Bojan Bugarič and Mark Tushnet (University of Chicago Press).

HOW TO SUBMIT YOUR CONTRIBUTION?

We invite conference participants to help us explore the central theme of the conference and to present on topics broadly linked to the two elements or their intersection. Hence, we invite submissions on the topics outlined below.

- *Constitutional courts*: A look at the developments and current situation in constitutional judiciary in our region. We invite papers that ask what the role of the constitutional courts is – in the legal system, within the system of separation of powers, in relation to other judicial bodies, or in society. Accounts might also address procedural issues such as access of individuals or case law developments or critique constitutional court(s)' case law developing a certain field, value, or principle.
- *Constitutional scholarship*: A look at what public law scholars in our region do. This may relate, for example, to new methodological approaches or theoretical insights, to teaching public law, to building bridges to other disciplines within our outside of the law, and the issues of ethics and responsibility of public law scholars. We invite you to showcase your research projects or discuss broader questions.
- *Intersection – constitutional courts x scholarship*: Here, papers could explore, for example, the question of academic merit (v. other considerations) in selecting constitutional court judges, reliance by constitutional courts on judgments by other courts (cross-fertilisation) or scholarly authority, as well as accounts that study the different possible sources of information used by the courts (amicus curiae briefs, separate opinions, non-legal expertise, etc.).

Presentations in parallel sessions will be selected by the conference committee. We welcome submissions in three formats:

A. Individual presentations

B. Fully-formed panels

A fully-formed panel must include a *chair*, and at least three (3) and at most five (5) *participants* who have already agreed to take part. Participants may be *presenters* or *discussants*, but the panel must include at least three (3) presentations. One of the discussants or presenters may serve as chair.

C. Book & project showcase

These are shorter, 45-minute sessions presenting books, research projects and other collaborative efforts in public law scholarship. This format may be especially appealing to groups of researchers all based at the same institution and working on the same topic and may present a viable alternative to submitting a fully-formed panel. Such a session must include at least three (3) and at most five (5) *participants* who have already agreed to take part in a 30-minute (total) presentation of their collaborative effort, with 15 minutes allotted for audience questions. The exact role of the individual participant is up to the design of the showcase and we invite you to define and assign them as you consider it best to present your ideas and work.

Participation Limits

Each participant can present a maximum of two papers (as a sole or presenting co-author). For scheduling reasons, each participant may participate (as presenter, chair or discussant) in no more than three different panels. Notwithstanding, the conference committee may always invite participants to serve as chairs.

Submissions for *fully formed panels (B.)* and *book & project showcases (C.)* that do not align with Chapters' commitment to *gender balance* (see Chapters' founding document [here](#)) may be rejected.

Practical information

The conference will be held in person in Ljubljana. No participation fee will be charged. Participants are responsible for their own travel, accommodation, and other expenses.

Timeline

Abstract submissions are **due by 31 January 2026**. The abstracts will be reviewed without undue delay and the committee will aim to notify you of acceptance or rejection by 16 February 2026.

Submission form

To submit your contribution, please use one of the following links for each submission type:

- A.** [Individual presentations submission](#)
- B.** [Fully-formed panel submission](#)
- C.** [Book & project showcase submission](#)

CONTACT

For queries regarding the conference or potential technical issues in the submission process, please write to us at: icon-s-cee-2026-ljubljana@pf.uni-lj.si.

We hope to see you in Ljubljana and look forward to the discussions in May!

Samo Bardutzky, Marjan Kos, Tilen Štajnpihler Božič
(co-convenors)