
AFTER THE *SUMMER OF MIGRATION*: RIGHT-WING POPULISM, MEDIA AND AFFECT

International Conference organized by
the Peace Institute (Slovenia) and University of Vienna (Austria),
16–17 September 2021, Ljubljana,
(online or hybrid).

CALL FOR PAPERS

The conference focuses on the nexus between political parties, media, and right-wing populism since the so-called 2015 *summer of migration* in Europe with an affect perspective. The historical background is the erosion of *party democracy* and the rise of *populist democracy*. Classical political leadership is declining, giving centrality to personalisation and mediatization of politics, and above all, populist leaders who exploit social media as new opportunity structures that are becoming a substitute for political debate. On the upswing are right-wing populist actors who aim at mobilising against *the elite* and internal and external *others*. The growing number of refugees fleeing to European countries along the *Balkan route* from war-torn and economically devastated zones fuelled the populist upsurge across Europe, as refugees were increasingly regarded as dangerous, culturally deviant, and a threat to the national security and the welfare system. The COVID-19 period has appeared as yet another crisis that deepened social inequalities and accelerated the invisibility of minorities.

The conference intends to debate the populist production of *politics of fear and securitisation*, which addresses the emotions and affects of people and converts fear of economic and social decline into anger against migrants. The dynamic interplay between political strategies and media practices—the *media-political parallelism*—is of central concern, i.e. how the policy frames of the political field and the media are distributed and become common sense. The focus is also to understand how affective populist appeals shape public opinion on migration and how they mobilise people's political and voting preferences.

This conference is the final event of the Slovenian-Austrian research project POP-MED (<https://www.mirovni-institut.si/en/pop-med/>).

We welcome papers addressing one or several of the issues mentioned above. We wish to attract a diverse range of participants from a variety of countries and backgrounds. There is no fee for attending and participating at the conference. The conference language is English.

Proposals for papers should include the author's/authors' name(s), institutional affiliation, email address, together with a paper title, abstract of 300–500 words, and a short biographical information.

Proposals should be sent by **7 June 2021** to Mojca Frelih: mojca.frelih@mirovni-institut.si.

Notification of acceptance by **25 June 2021**.

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Prof. Zizi Papacharissi, University of Illinois Chicago, Department of Communication

Prof. Lance Bennett, University of Washington, Center for Communication & Civic Engagement

ORGANISING COMMITTEE

Mojca Pajnik, Associate Professor of Media and Communications at the University of Ljubljana and Researcher at The Peace Institute, Ljubljana; Birgit Sauer, Professor of

Political Science at University of Vienna; Iztok Šori, PhD in Sociology, Researcher and Director of the Peace Institute; Otto Penz, Sociologist at the University of Vienna; Mojca Frelih, MA in Sociology, researcher at the Peace Institute.