

THE MASTER OF ARTS IN CONFLICT ANALYSIS AND RECONCILIATION



Why study Conflict Analysis and Reconciliation at the Sarajevo School of Science and Technology?

The Master's Programme in Conflict Analysis and Reconciliation (CAR) will offer students a unique and highly interdisciplinary approach to understanding and analyzing intergroup conflicts. Students will learn from highly respected Bosnian and international scholars who will provide them with a comprehensive and experiential understanding of the processes and conditions leading to various types of intergroup conflicts (ethnic, religious, communal, political etc.),

Required Courses

The Master program, starting in October 2014, is run by the Political Science and International Relations department at SSST in collaboration with SSST's partner, the University of Buckingham in the United Kingdom. The duration of the programme is three semesters (one year). Students will be required to take eight courses in total with four courses per semester (total number of ECTS for all courses: 60) and produce a research-based thesis (total number of ECTS for thesis: 30). After successful completion of all coursework and thesis submission (including an oral defense), students will be awarded a Masters of Arts degree in Conflict Analysis and Reconciliation by both the SSST and the University of Buckingham (total number of ECTS: 90).

Courses:

- Conflict, Culture and Democracy
- Anthropology of Culture and Violence
- Introduction to Conflict Analysis and Resolution
- Conflict Management Techniques
- Psychology of Intergroup Conflict and Reconciliation
- Power sharing in post-conflict settings
- Genocide in theory and international law
- Transitional Justice
- Media, Conflict and Peace
- Empirical Research Methods

conflict resolution techniques, as well as post-conflict related processes such as power sharing, justice and reconciliation. The issues will be analyzed and discussed from a multi-disciplinary perspective ranging from political philosophy, political science, international law, anthropology to social psychology. Studying conflict in a post-conflict setting such as Sarajevo will provide students a first-hand perspective and direct understanding of the challenges and issues whilst discussing and integrating theory, research and practical approaches.

Teaching and Assessment

Each course will meet once a week for 2.5 hours over a 15-week period. During each week students will learn and critically engage with different types of materials such as academic papers, lectures, movies, case-studies, students' presentations etc. Students will be assessed on several components (written assignments-term papers; presentations; debates; case-study analysis; final exams; and a research-based thesis).

Research Topics

During the program students will have to choose one topic of their interest for which they will produce a research-based master dissertation. Possible research topics include but are not limited to the following areas:

Complexity of Identity in post-conflict societies

This research area will study collective identity shifts in post conflict societies. The vigor of the field makes such analysis challenging, bearing in mind often parallel moments of transition – from war to peace and from one political system to other. However, the present study with its focus on initial stages of post conflict reform of identities is imperative, given that at a time when overarching group narratives and accompanying group symbols are largely missing, there still is time, and room, for intervention.

Effects of Apology and Reparation offers on intergroup reconciliation

Research within the field will address the question of apology and reparation offers effects on intergroup reconciliation. First of all, systematic and interdisciplinary conceptualization of reconciliation will need to be addressed and specified. Second, empirical analyses will address direct and indirect effects of apology and various reparation policies on processes such as rehumanization, forgiveness and positive outgroup behaviour.

Transitional vs. Restorative Justice

After commission of crimes and human rights violations in contexts of successful conflict resolution, the societies themselves are left to deal with questions of justice. Research questions that will be addressed within this area are: What are the main concepts of justice for massive crimes?; Is criminal justice better than restorative justice and if so why? What is the conceptualization of justice and for whom?

The benefits and pitfalls of Intergroup Contact in post-conflict context

Intergroup Contact can be regarded as one of the most important socio-psychological processes for restoration of broken intergroup relations. Research has provided evidence for numerous beneficial contact effects. However, in contexts of war, violence and broken intergroup trust, intergroup contact effects are faced with many challenges. This research area will aim to identify conditions and processes under which intergroup contact will facilitate its positive effects on intergroup relations.

Genocide in International Law

Research questions that will be addressed within this area are as follows:
what do we mean and how do we understand genocide in international criminal law?; Is genocide the crime of crimes as it is often understood and portrayed?; What are the relations between genocide and other international crimes? And what are the political implications of genocide trials? These and similar questions require substantive theoretical as well as empirical analyses in the literature of genocide and international law.

Nationbranding of post-conflict societies

Marketing and branding of countries, as mentioned in the theoretical and professional literature, is not an easy challenge. This challenge is even more daunting when a certain country has been the subject of prolonged negative media coverage focusing on wars, terror and violence. Using the multistage model for altering place image, strategies used to restore country's positive image will be analysed. Nation branding, country image theories and their marketing efforts can help us better understand how marketers manage nation branding and marketing efforts during prolonged crises and constant conflict. This topic is based on a close analysis of advertisements, public relations (PR) campaigns and public diplomacy strategies in post-conflict states.

The relationship between social media and intergroup conflict

This research will examine the relationship between social media and intergroup conflict. It argues that with proliferation of new forms of media, the space has been opened for new forms of contention from an increasing number of voices that can be defined as “political.” The thesis builds on the existing work on the link between

media and new sites of political action, and enriches it by introducing the often lacking “identity” prism, whereby its stepping stone becomes the question of whether social media influences intergroup prejudice and conflict. In spite of the importance of this question, the work on the role of social media in shaping prejudiced beliefs, norms, and behavior is rather limited. This thesis hopes to fill the gap.

Knowledge and Skills

At the end of the programme students will be able to demonstrate critical knowledge and understanding of processes and conditions of various types of intergroup conflicts and related post-conflict processes such as transitional justice, power-sharing and reconciliation. Students will also learn and critically engage in concrete case-studies, conflict management and resolution practices and lessons

learned from different parts of the world but with a particular emphasis on the former Yugoslavia.

Internship options are available during the second and third semester as an opportunity to apply theory to practice. Students will be able to intern with government agencies, NGOs, and private organizations in Sarajevo working in this field.

Tuition and Fees

Tuition and fees are **9400 EUR**, including all required text books and reading material.

Requirements

Bachelor of Arts degree in the social sciences or humanities.

Demonstrated proficiency in English (minimum requirement level 5).

Admission

The application process is open until September 11 2015. We strongly encourage early application. Applications received after the deadline will be considered on a space-available basis.

Please contact Ms. Anela Lemes at admissions@ssst.edu.ba or anela.lemes@ssst.edu.ba regarding the application process.



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