News

Objective
Main aim of the Geopolitical Studies Research Centre is a study of territoriality in its many aspects. Territory as the main dimension of geopolitical thinking is probably the most important organizational principle of society. As geopolitics and political geography themselves incorporate many perspectives on the development of the world politics they are very important tool for understanding contemporary global developments.

Geopolitical Studies Research Centre (GSRC) connects leading experts in the field of geopolitics in the Czech Republic as well as abroad to present complex research on the issues connected to territoriality on the oldest University in the Central Europe. Not only is the aim of the research centre to present research of these experts, it also presents brief analyses of contemporary international development. More than that, team behind the GSRC stands behind Master’s Degree programme of Geopolitical Studies, organizes annual Strategic and Geopolitical Issues in the Contemporary World conference as well as summer school in geopolitics.

Main research topics are:

Territoriality
1. State and non-state territoriality
2. Territory and war
3. Transformation of territoriality in the 21st century
4. Territoriality and the final frontier

Power-shift in contemporary world
1. Power shift from the West to the East
2. Power shift from state to non-state actors
3. Great-power position
4. New Middle Ages

Disintegration of the political space
1. Transformation of sovereignty
2. Regional integration
3. State failure
4. Self-determination
5. Secession
6. International law

Reports
Bohumil Doboš and MArtin Riegl prepared a policy paper regarding the current security issues in Burkina Faso (Czech only)

A selection of student essays on astropolitics is now available.

Bohumil Doboš presents lessons the international community can learn from the struggle against Al-Shabaab in its fight against the Islamic State. See the report here.

Robert Czulda assesses the common military framework of the Gulf countries. See the full text here.
Fabio Indeo analyses the competition of the "Near Abroad" between the Eastern Partnership and the Eurasian Economic Union. See the full text here.

Fabio Indeo presents challenges to the future of the energy resources extraction and export in the Middle East. See his report here.

In his analysis, Fabrizio Bozzato examines the evolution and prospects of Cross-Strait dynamics in the Pacific Islands Region in the light of the binary combination of Cross-Strait détente and transforming regional order.

In his analysis, F. Indeo looks at the prospects of energy export diversification for Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan in a shadow of geopolitical game over the Central Asia. See the report here.

In her report, I. Valko deals with the claims and possible gains in Arctic. Pdf can be downloaded here.

People

Core members

Michael Romancov
M. Romancov is a leading Czech expert in geopolitics. Dr. Romancov regularly presents topics related to geopolitics in media (ihned.cz, Czech TV,...). His main focus is in classical geopolitics, Great-Power competition, geopolitics of Russia and the Indian Ocean. Mr. Romancov is a head of the Geopolitical Studies programme.

Contact: michael.romancov@gmail.com

Martin Riegl
M. Riegl is a specialist in political geography of unrecognized states, failed states, and in geography of civil wars. He regularly presents analysis current events in popular media (Czech TV, Czech Radiojournal,...). Main focus of dr. Riegl is in issues of secession, transformation of sovereignty, state failure, and unrecognized states. He is also coordinator of Geopolitical Studies and International Economic and Political Studies programmes.

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Jan Kofroň
J. Kofroň is a specialist in issues of war strategy and tactics and methodology as well as geopolitical thought. His main areas of interest are relation of war and territory, offensive realism, methodology in social sciences, and geopolitical thinking. Dr. Kofroň is one of the coordinators of the PhD. Research team.

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Jakub Landovský
J. Landovský’s main focus is in the field of the international law. Regarding field of geopolitics, his expertise lies in the field of conflict and cooperation over international river basins and (mis)use of international law in power politics. Mr. Landovský also serves in the civil sector and regularly comments actual topics in media.

Bohumil Doboš
B. Doboš in his research deals with the issues of neomedievalism, territoriality of non-state actors and astropolitics (geopolitics of the outer space).

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Jan Bečka
J. Bečka is an expert on the American studies, the Balkan region where he served as a member of the KFOR mission and the region of the South-East Asia.

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Nuno Morgado
N. Morgado’s current research and teaching focus on theory and methodology in geopolitical studies, state’s potential analysis, and neoclassical realism. Specifically, he is currently developing his neoclassical geopolitics model in theoretical and methodological terms for posterior empirical testing. He is an expert on Brazilian geopolitics, but he is also interested in geopolitical questions related to Central Europe and Russia.
PhD students

Branislav Mičko
B. Mičko specializes in a study of a border hardening process. He contemplates qualitative and quantitative approach to the study of the political map. He also focuses on the military-political problematic.

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Karel Höfer
K. Höfer is a Ph.D. candidate and lecturer at the Department of Political Science, Institute of Political Studies, Faculty of Social Sciences, Charles University in Prague. Main fields of his specialization are comparative politics, electoral systems, disintegration and decentralization of state entities, constitutional engineering, methodology of social sciences, and former Yugoslav countries. K. Höfer's doctoral thesis deals with electoral systems of disintegrating European state entities after 1945.

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Vlastimil Bernas
V. Bernas’ research combines issues of geopolitics and international law. His other specialization is comparative constitutionalism. His doctoral thesis deals with the issue of legal status of overseas territories of the European states.

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External fellow collaborators:

Velina Tchakarova
Velina Tchakarova is a Senior Research Fellow at the Austrian Institute for European and Security Policy in Vienna. Her research interest lies mainly in the field of Eastern European security, Russian politics, and EU/NATO-Russia/Eurasia geopolitical and security relations. Ms. Tchakarova’s past studies took place at Institute at Heidelberg and University of National and World Economy in Bulgaria.

Fabio Indeo
Fabio Indeo is Visiting Research Associate at the Center for Energy Governance and Security (EGS) at the Hanyang University, Seoul, South Korea. External Researcher at the University of Camerino (Italy). His main areas of expertise are Geopolitics of Central Asia: the external influences of Russia, European Union, United States and China; Afghanistan and regional security; geopolitics of pipelines and of energy transport routes.

Urban Jakša
Urban Jakša is currently pursuing a PhD in Politics at the University of York, looking at de facto states in the post-Soviet space. He focuses on comparing the associated ethno-political and territorial conflicts, as well as external relations of de facto states in order to examine their integration into the international system through the concept of geopolitical role. In the past year, Urban has presented his research at international conferences at UCLA, University of Virginia, Clark University, OSCE Academy in Bishkek, Charles University, and others. He has served as the Editor-in-Chief of IAPSS Journal Politikon and published articles and chapters in academic publications. Urban's academic interests include Critical Geopolitics, relations between statehood, sovereignty and territoriality, and the practices of writing space.

Takashi Hosoda
Takashi Hosoda is a visiting lecturer delivering lectures about Asian security issues at FSV UK, Diplomatika akademie (MZV), and VSE v Praze. He specializes in National security strategy and geopolitics of Asian and PIF (Pacific Islands Forum) counties, U.S. military presence and its impact to host-nations, nuclear deterrence theory, and civil-military relations. Mr. Hosoda is interested in Asia-European security cooperation and how to pursue national interests of relatively small country in military alliance. He is currently a director of the Japanese Chamber of Commerce and Industry in the Czech Republic and a visiting lecturer at the Faculty of Social Sciences of the Charles University in Prague.

Fabrizio Bozzato
Fabrizio Bozzato is a political analyst with a keen interest in Pacific Studies. He is based in Taiwan, where he is presently pursuing a PhD in International Affairs and Strategic Studies at Tamkang University (TKU). Mr. Bozzato is also an Associate Researcher at the TKU Center for Advanced Technology and the Taipei Ricci Institute, and a Research Fellow at the Asia-Japan Research Center at Kokushikan University, Tokyo (Japan). He holds an MA and a Graduate Diploma in International Relations (University of Tasmania, Australia), a Master in Political Science (University of Milan, Italy), and a Visiting Fellowship at the Australian National University, College of Asia and the Pacific (Australia). He has published
on an eclectic array of topics, taught master-level units and spoken at high-level international conferences. He is a correspondent for Globalo and World Security Network.

Robert Czulda
Dr. Robert Czulda. Interested in international security, defense and arms procurements, Middle East (mainly Iran). Assistant Professor (Adjunct) at the Department of Theory of Foreign and Security Policy (Katedra Teorii Polityki Zagranicznej i Bezpieczeństwa) at the University of Lodz (Uniwersytet Łódzki), graduate of the “National Security” alumni of the Young Leaders Dialogue of the US Department of State (2010 - 2011), fellow of the Lanckoroński Foundation in London (2014), visiting lecturer at universities in Lithuania, Ireland, Brazil, Turkey and Slovakia, as well as the National Cheng-chi University in Taipei, within the framework of the Taiwan Fellowship programme (2013). Freelance defense journalist and contributor to IHS Jane’s

Alessio Stilo
Alessio Stilo is Research Associate at the Rome-based Institute of High Studies in Geopolitics and Auxiliary Sciences (IsAG) and Ph.D. candidate at the University of Padua (Italy). During 2016 he spent a visiting (research) period at the University of Oxford (UK). He is a regular member of the European International Studies Association (EISA) and member of the Peer Review Board of the Khazar Journal of Humanities and Social Sciences, academic journal of the Khazar University (Baku, Azerbaijan). He has published articles and chapters in academic publications, geopolitical analysis and more than 150 journalistic articles on foreign affairs. His research interests include: Theory and history of geopolitics, Russian geopolitics and post-Soviet space, Turkish foreign policy, US foreign policy, US/China relations, Strategic studies, International relations theory. For a more detailed CV: http://alessiostilo.blogspot.it/.

Hrishabh Sandilya
H. Sandilya’s focus lies in research of the geopolitics of the South Asia and South Asian politics. He is a lecturer at AAU and FSV UK.

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Irena Valková
I. Valková focuses on the use of quantitative methods in geopolitics, French geopolitical school and the Arctic region as well as geopolitics of Russia. Her doctoral thesis deals with the Arctic region and use of quantitative methods to understand the relationship among relevant actors.

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Main Publications
2008

2010

2011

2012


2013
BERNAS, V. (2013). Ústavněprávní reflexe španělského modelu regionalismu v historické perspektivě [Constitutional reflection of the Spanish model of regionalism in a historical perspective]. Politologická revue. 19/2, pp. 21-47


2014


2015


2016


2017


2018


2019

RIEGL, M., DOBOŠ, B., BEČKA, J. (2019). Independent territories revisited? The concept of partially independent territories (PITs) and the role of such territories in the international system. Territory, Politics, Governance.