
Research Centre

News

Members of the Geopolitical Studies Research Center will attend a conference called "Future of War in Africa" that will be held online on 30th May. More details can be found [here](#).

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

Valerio Ferri prepared a [research note](#) on the Italian energy policy towards Africa.

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.

Contact: martinriegl@email.cz

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.

Contact: jan.kofron@fsv.cuni.cz

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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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.

Contact: nuno.morgado@fsv.cuni.cz

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 problematics.

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Pavel Vinkler

P. Vinkler is a Ph.D. candidate at the Department of Political Science, Institute of Political Studies, Faculty of Social Sciences, Charles University in Prague. He focuses on the topics of the geopolitics of the Horn of Africa and hybrid interference.

Contact: pavel.vinkler@fsv.cuni.cz

Matěj Prášil

M. Prášil in his PhD research focuses on the geopolitics of Arctic. Contact: matej.prasil@fsv.cuni.cz

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.

Tomáš Kopečný

Tomáš Kopečný is an expert on the defence industry and trade. In his work he combines the academic focus with a work in the field. His area of expertise lies mainly in sub-Saharan Africa.

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, Diplomatičká akademie (MZV), and VSE v Praze. He specializes in National security strategy and geopolitics of Asian and PIF (Pacific Islands Forum) countries, 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.

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

Eeben Barlow

Eeben Barlow is a chairman of the Executive Outcomes and a former chairman of STTEP International Ltd. Both of these companies specialized in training, advice and performance of tasks inside the conflicts on the African continent. Mr. Barlow is a specialist in solving the conflicts on the African continent with a history from places like Angola, Sierra Leone or Nigeria. Eeben Barlow also lectured at high profile academic departments like the University of Free State, Royal Danish Defence Academy or South African Military Academy. He is an author of books *Composite Warfare*, or *Executive Outcomes: Against All Odds*.

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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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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