PoSIG Teacher Academy 2025 – Gorizia 1-5 September /Via Alviano 18 Gorizia www.posig.info

Call for Papers:
Exploring Historical Taboos in Multilateral Integration Processes

PoSIG Teacher Academy is an annual conference of teacher and researcher connected to the academic consortium network of this Joint MA Political Science – Integration & Governance (PoSIG www.posig.info) program. The purpose of this annual meeting is to collect teaching and research approaches on Political Science topics connecting to the multilateral integration of political systems. The special topic is changing from year to year and is resulting from the needs and interests of the partner institutions connected to the program.

The PoSiG Teacher Academy 2025 provides a platform for academic and practical discourse addressing the **intersection of historical taboos and regional and international integration**. Scholars, educators, and policymakers are invited to contribute their insights and research on the capacity to engage politically with historical legacies—such as war crimes, crimes against humanity, expulsions and displacement, ethnic cleansing, and border disputes—as a key variable in fostering multilateral integration, particularly in regions aspiring to EU membership.
Part of the EU's conditionality seeks to foster "good neighbourly" relations, requiring candidate countries to address their legacies of war and conflict. However, while this approach can pave new pathways towards co-operation, it may also contribute to the resurgence of tensions and divisions between European states.
As political interpretations of historical events remain highly contested and emotionally-laden within and among different countries, the process of European integration challenges aspiring members to revisit their historical memories in order to build a co-operative and prosperous European future based on shared values. A comparative perspective on historical cases shall lead to an increasing relevance of singular and historic diverse situations for scientific theory development and allow **guidance for the development of reconciliation capacities in post conflict areas**.

With this highly relevant theme, the workshop forms the academic contribution to the **European Capital of Culture 2025 www.go2025.eu in Gorizia** and will be held at Location Department of Political and Social Sciences, Gorizia campus and embedded in the local and regional opportunities for excursions and historic places of a region. Isonzo, Carst and the mass graves, Gorizia's State Border Museum. Will be part of the program to bring academic findings into direct confrontation to historic locations and ways of memory management.

Coordination:
Organizing Board: Franz Kok (University of Salzburg Franz.Kok@plus.ac.at), Giuliana Parotto (University of Trieste Giuliana.Parotto@dispes.units.it) representing the consortium of the Joint MA Political Science – Integration & Governance (PoSIG www.posig.info) University of Salzburg (PLUS), Ss. Cyril and Methodius University in Skopje (UKIM), European University of Tirana (UET), University of Tirana (UTIR), University of Business and Technology (UBT) – Pristina, University of Sarajevo (UNSA), Sarajevo School of Science Technology (SSST), University of Trieste (UNITS), University of Prishtina (UP), Tbilisi State University (TSU), Georgian Institute for Public Affairs (GIPA), Yerevan State University (YSU), Eurasia International University (EIU) and

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University of Montenegro (UMO), University of Belgrade (UBG), Notre Dame University in Beirut (NDU) and OSCE Academy Bishkek as associated and Partner in cooperation.

Topics of Interest:

We welcome contributions that address, but are not limited to, the following themes:

1. **Case Studies on Historical Taboos**
   - The historical legacies of totalitarianism/fascism, communism and colonialism in EU integration processes.
   - The political use of historical legacies as in the current war in Ukraine War in historical perspective: From Austro-Hungarian rule to Bucha. The legacy of Balkan war and territorial controversies in Southern Caucasus and Middle East.

2. **Contemporary Relevance**
   - Political strategies for addressing historical grievances in current integration efforts. Comparative studies between historical and modern post-conflict reconciliation processes, Memory, History and the liberal international order.
   - The potential role of education in fostering historical accountability and multilateralism (Examples for civic education approaches and memorialisation work (f.e. Ausschwitz, APC, grief tourism memorial sites, thanatourism…)

3. **Historical Legacies and European Integration**
   - Post-WWII reconciliation (Germany-France-Poland).
   - Denazification and the fight against Anti-Semitism.
   - Historical legacies and European values, contested histories among “old” and “new” EU member states.
   - Historical Memory and EU enlargement policies.

4. **Contaminated Landscapes**
   - Exploring the concept of “contaminated landscapes” (e.g., mass graves and their suppression as local/national taboos).
   - The role of victimhood, denial, silence and public acknowledgment and apologies in reconciliation and reparation processes.

5. **Policy Implications for EU Accession Regions**
   - Building institutional capacity to address historically charged disputes in the Western Balkans, Ukraine, Southern Caucasus, EuroMed region and beyond.
   - EU conditionality and post-conflict situations: challenges and results.
   - Cross-regional comparisons of policies designed to integrate contested histories into a cohesive multilateral framework.

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Submission Guidelines:

- **Abstracts**: 300–500 words, clearly outlining the research focus, methodology, and contribution to the theme.
- **Full Papers**: Accepted abstracts will be invited for full paper submission (5,000–8,000 words).
- **Language**: English.
- **Submission Deadline**: [Insert Deadline].
- **Notification of Acceptance**: [Insert Date].

Presentation:
Accepted papers will be presented at the PoSiG Teacher Academy in Trieste (2025). Selected papers may be included in a published volume or special journal issue and be part of a public seminar.

How to Submit:
Please send your abstract and contact information to … with the subject line: *CFP Submission – Teacher Academy Trieste 2025*.
Deadline: Abstracts 30 March 2025
Deadline for feedback: 30 April 2025

Travel grants:
Participants from academic institutions with KA 171 or KA 131 Erasmus+ partnership contracts with University of Trieste can apply for grants to cover costs for travel and stay. Contact point: Giuliana.Parotto@dispes.units.it

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