



IPSA  **AISP**

P R O G R A M

of the

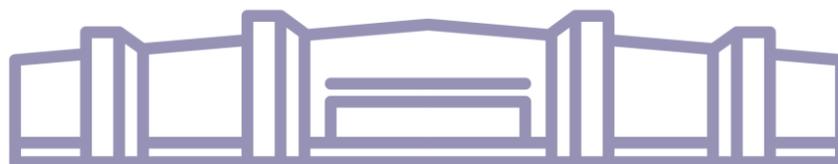
**FOURTH INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP ON
GEOPOLITICS OF SMALL STATES IN THE 21ST CENTURY**

Organized by

RUSSIAN-ARMENIAN UNIVERSITY

IPSA RESEARCH COMMITTEE ON GEOPOLITICS

November 1 – 2



Yerevan 2021

**FOURTH INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP ON
GEOPOLITICS OF SMALL STATES IN THE 21ST CENTURY**

Dates: November 1 – 2, 2021

***Venue: Russian-Armenian University
(123 Hovsep Emin St, Yerevan 0051)***

Time zone: GMT+4 (Yerevan time)

PROGRAM

November 1

- 9:00 – 9:30 Transfer to the Russian-Armenian University (from the Nova Hotel Yerevan)
- 9:30 – 10:30 Registration
- 10:30 – 11:00 ***Welcome speeches:***
Armen Darbinian, Rector of Russian-Armenian University, Doctor of Sciences, Professor
Igor Okunev, Co-Chair of IPSA RC41 – Geopolitics, Director at the Center for Spatial Analysis in International Relations, Institute for International Studies, MGIMO University
Ruben Elamiryan, Chairperson and Associate Professor at the Department of World Politics and International Relations of Russian-Armenian University, Executive Officer of IPSA RC41 – Geopolitics
- 11:00 – 12:20 ***General Panel with keynote speakers***
Igor Okunev, Director at the Center for Spatial Analysis in International Relations, Institute for International Studies, MGIMO University
Tomáš Weiss (virtually), Head of the European Studies Department anymore. My current position is of the Deputy Director for Research at the Institute of International Studies, Charles University
Ivan Danilin (virtually), Head of Department of science and innovation, Head of Sector of Innovation Policy, Institute of World Economy and International Relations of the Russian Academy of Sciences
Nimrod Rosler, Head and Lecturer at the International Program in Conflict Resolution and Mediation, Tel Aviv University
- Moderator:
Ruben Elamiryan
- 12:20 – 13:00 Coffee Break

13:00 – 14:00

Session 1: Small States in the developing new world order

Moderator:

Dr. Igor Okunev

Speakers:

Vassilis Kappis, From Bridge-BUILDER to Frontier State: Small state grand strategy adjustment during geopolitical tensions

Sarkis Karaguezian, Why small state matter in international politics?

Krista Wiegand (virtually), Small States and the Use of Lawfare in Territorial & Maritime Disputes

Michael Strauss, Maritime Zones as Sources of Geopolitical Strengths and Challenges for Small States

Ruzanna Hayrapetova, Niche diplomacy of Small States in Meta – geopolitics

14:00 – 15:00

Lunch

15:00 – 16:00

Session 2: Technology, Innovations, and Environment

Moderator:

Dr. Vassilis Kappis

Speakers:

Anahit Parzyan, Armenia in Cyberspace: Small state, Big Opportunities?

Sylvie Lembe (virtually), Which future for Small States of the Sahel in a digitalized world

Noel Foster (virtually), Polarization for Paralysis: How Foreign Information Campaigns Shift Foreign Political Behaviors in the Baltic States

Dmitry Nechiporuk (virtually), Environmental International Regimes and the Small States of the Baltic Sea Regions

16:00 – 16:30

Coffee Break

16:30 – 17:30

Session 3: Small States and the European Union

Moderator:

Dr. Nora Gevorgyan

Speakers:

Nuno Morgado (virtually), Western Europe in changing: the Portuguese geopolitical design beyond the EU membership “consensus”

George Tiugea (virtually), How Can Small States Survive Among Great Powers. The Case of Romania – An Eastern European Small State

Thananan Khantee (virtually), China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI): The Political Challenge for Central and Eastern Europe (CEE) Countries
Máté Szalai and Nikolett Garai, Visegrad Soft Power? Examining the virtual enlargement of the Visegrad Group
Harutyun Voskanyan (virtually), Small state versus big challenges: the peculiarities of national security policy of Latvia

17:30 – 18:30

Session 4: South Caucasus, Central Asia, and Middle East

Moderator:

Major Sarkis Karaguezian

Speakers:

Eduard Abrahamyan (virtually), Small Power Conduct: Understanding the External Strategies of Small State in Enduring Conflict: The case of Armenia and Azerbaijan 2018-2020

Archil Sikharulidze, Georgia In-Between: Turkish-Russian "Cooperative-Rivalry"

Jason Strakes (virtually), Engaging with Adversaries in the Armenia-Azerbaijan and Israel-Palestine Conflicts: Positive Externalities of Minor-Power Rivalry Linkages?

Mher Sahakyan, China's Belt and Road Initiative and Central Asia

Yeghia Tashjian, Lebanon: The Mirror of Middle Eastern Battleground; the Case of Lebanese-Armenian Community during the 1958 Crisis

19:15 – 21:00

Dinner for Participants (the name of the restaurant will be added later)

November 2

8:30 – 9:00

Transfer to the Russian-Armenian University (from the Nova Hotel Yerevan)

9:00 – 10:00

Registration

10:00 – 11:00

Session 5: Geopolitics of Small States: Case of Armenia

Moderator:

Archil Sikharulidze

Speakers:

Norayr Dunamalyan, Three levels of the small state's integration: the experience of Armenia

Nora Gevorgyan (virtually), Surviving as Small States between Global Powers: Armenia on the Crossroads of the EU and the EAEU

Narek Sukiasyan, A two-filter framework for the study of small states' foreign policy behaviour: Case of Armenia

Ruben Elamiryan, Small States and International Uncertainty: Armenia in the Changing Regional Security Architecture

11:00 – 12:30

Online Panel: Geopolitics of Small States in the 21st Century

Moderator:

Lily Ong, MGIMO, MFA Russia

Speakers:

Ambassador Vladimir Goncharenko,

Ambassador Of Russia to Brunei

Ambassador Bilahari Kausikan

Former Singapore's Permanent Secretary to the UN

Former Singapore's Ambassador to Russia

Ambassador Clive Agius

Former Malta's Ambassador to the United States

Current Malta's Ambassador to Russia

12:30 – 13:00

Coffee Break

13:00 – 14:00

Session 5: Small States in Asia Pacific region

Moderator:

Dr. Mher Sahakyan

Speakers:

Asantha Senavirathna (virtually), Geopolitics of China's relation with South Asia in the 21st Century: Foreign Policy Implications for the Small States in the Region

Selim Yilmaz (virtually), Malaysia in the Belt and Road Initiative: An Offensive Realist Analysis on Small State Behaviour

Karori Singh (virtually), Guarding against Vulnerabilities: Theory Defying Experience of Sri Lankan Foreign Policy

Mark Kinra (virtually), An Analysis of the Viability of Kashmir as an Independent Nation-State

14:00 – 15:00

Lunch

15:00 – 16:00

Session 6: Small States and Non-Traditional Actors in the developing geopolitical environment

Moderator:

Dr. Nimrod Rosler

Speakers:

Petros Petrikkos and Marinos Papaioakeim (virtually), Small States “Under Threat” in Non-Traditional Security Settings: Power Projection through International Organisations

Mare Ushkovska, Country Branding and Diasporas as Tools of Power for Small Countries in the International Arena

Flávio Lira and Diego Hernández Nilson, Explaining Uruguay’s geopolitics and international relations under the “Shelter Theory” approach

Hilary Brieffa (virtually), The Mediterranean Interlocutor: Malta’s Grand Strategy

17:00 – 18:00

Closing ceremony

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS WITH AFFILIATIONS

ANAHIT PARZNYAN, PhD (in International Relations from Nanjing University, China), Executive Director of “Nork Technology and Awareness Center for Social Services” Foundation of Armenia

ARCHIL SIKHARULIDZE, PhD candidate in Social Sciences, Tbilisi State University, Georgia

ASANTHA SENAVIRATHNA, Lecturer, Department of Strategic Studies, General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University, Ratmalana, Sri Lanka & PhD candidate at Department of International Relations, University of Colombo, Sri Lanka

DIEGO HERNÁNDEZ NILSON - Professor of International Relations with the Department of Social Sciences at the University of the Republic, Uruguay

DMITRY NECHIPORUK, University of Tyumen, HumaNET Research Centre, Faculty Member

EDUARD ABRAHAMYAN, Doctoral Research Fellow, University of Leicester, UK

FLÁVIO LIRA, Professor of International Relations at the Federal University of the Pampas (Brazil) and post-doc fellow at the Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies in Potsdam

GEORGE-VADIM TIUGEA, PhD Candidate in Political Science, Faculty of Political Science, University of Bucharest, Bucharest, Romania

HARUTYUN VOSKANYAN, PhD student at the School of Social Sciences (Political Science and Administration), University of Warsaw, Poland

HILLARY BRIEFFA, PhD: Lecturer in National Security Studies at King's College London

IGOR OKUNEV, Director at the Center for Spatial Analysis in International Relations, Institute for International Studies, MGIMO University

IVAN DANILIN, Head of Department of science and innovation, Head of Sector of Innovation Policy, Institute of World Economy and International Relations of the Russian Academy of Sciences

JASON STRAKES, Associate Research Fellow and Visiting Lecturer, Politics and Security Programme, OSCE Academy in Bishkek

KARORI SINGH, Emeritus Fellow/Professor of South Asian Studies and Former Director, South Asia Studies Centre, Univ of Rajasthan, Jaipur, India

KRISTA WIEGAND, PhD, specialist in international relations, holds a joint faculty appointment with the Department of Political Science and the Howard H. Baker, Jr. Center for Public Policy

MAJOR SARKIS KARAGUEZIAN, Centre d' Étude Diplomatique et Strategique (CEDS): (under the auspices of "l'École de Hautes Études Internationales et Politiques, (HEIP), INSEEC U)

MARE USHKOVSKA, PhD, Global Fellow at Council for European Studies, Assistant Professor at International Balkan University

MARINOS PAPAIOAKEIM, PhD candidate in Diplomacy and International Relations at the Department of Social and Political Sciences of the University of Cyprus

MARK KINRA, Geopolitical Analyst & Corporate Lawyer, Munich Re

MÁTÉ SZALAI, PhD, Senior Research Fellow, Institute for Foreign Affairs and Trade, Budapest, Hungary

MHER SAHAKYAN, Doctoral degree in IR, Director, China-Eurasia Council for Political and Strategic Research. AsiaGlobal Fellow, Asia Global Institute, University of Hong Kong. Lecturer, Russian-Armenian University

MICHAEL STRAUSS, Professor of International Law and International Relations Centre d'Études Diplomatiques et Stratégiques, Paris, France

NAREK SUKIASYAN, PhD candidate, Department of Political Science, Yerevan State University

NIKOLETT GARAI, Research Fellow, Institute for Foreign Affairs and Trade, Budapest, Hungary

Nimrod ROSLER, Head and Lecturer at the International Program in Conflict Resolution and Mediation, Tel Aviv University

NOEL FOSTER, Postdoctoral Fellow in Technology and International Security at the UC Institute on Global Conflict and Cooperation in Washington, DC, USA

NORA GEVORGYAN, Associate Professor at the Department of World Politics and International Relations of Russian-Armenian University

NORAIR DUNAMALYAN, PhD, Senior lecturer at the Department of Political Science, Russian-Armenian University

NUNO MORGADO, PhD, Assistant Professor, Institute of International, Political, and Regional Studies, Corvinus University, Budapest; Adjunct Professor, Institute of Political Studies, Charles University, Prague

PETROS PETRIKKOS, PhD Candidate in International Relations and European Studies at the University of Nicosia, Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) Doctoral Fellow at the European Security and Defence College, Research Associate at the Diplomatic Academy - University of Nicosia

RUBEN ELAMIRYAN, Chairperson and Associate Professor at the Department of World Politics and International Relations of Russian-Armenian University, Executive Officer of IPSA RC41 – Geopolitics

RUZANNA HAYRAPETOVA, PhD candidate at the Department of World Politics and International Relations, Russian-Armenian University

SELIM YILMAZ, doctoral researcher in the School of Politics and International Relations at the University of Nottingham

SYLVIE LEMBE, Teaching and research assistant in International Relations/ The University of Brazzaville/ Congo and the University of Lyon III, France

THANANAN KHANTEE, PhD Student, University of Wroclaw, Poland

TOMÁŠ WEISS, Head of Department of European Studies, Charles University in Prague

VASSILIS KAPPIS, Deputy Director and Lecturer, Buckingham University Centre for Security and Intelligence Studies (BUCSIS), UK

YEGHIA TASHJIAN, Associate Fellow at Issam Fares Institute for Public Policy and International Affairs at the American University of Beirut