

Call for Papers

International Conference

CULTURAL DIVERSITY AND VALUE PLURALISM IN EUROPEAN AND GLOBAL POLITICS

Charles University in Prague and Anglo-American University in Prague

November 20th – 21st, 2015

Keynote Speakers

GÖRAN COLLSTE (Linköping University Sweden)

PETER JONKERS (Tilburg University Netherlands)

GRAHAM PARKES (University of Cork Ireland)

The modernisation thesis which not that long ago was the orthodoxy in social sciences implied that inevitable social progress will result in cultural, religious and value pluralism becoming largely irrelevant as a factor in domestic and international politics. The plausibility of such prediction was further strengthened by what seemed a reasonable expectation that the process of globalization and the information revolution is bound to lead to growing cultural homogenization which in turn will facilitate the global spread of liberal democracy as the default political model. However, the developments of the last 15 years made it clear that these predictions were unfounded and that the end of the Cold War, which at that time seemed like the end of the age of ideologies, in fact created an ideological vacuum in which such cultural "primordial ties" as ethnicity, language, land of birth or religion continue to constitute the essential aspect of the narrative identities of peoples and as such inform their political preferences.

The new international context in which the eclipse of the hegemonic power of the United States and the growing tendency towards multi-polarization is accompanied by a rising tide of populist and nationalistic tendencies, as well as growing popularity of claims to cultural exceptionalism – and not just in China – makes the problem of cultural and value pluralism politically more relevant than ever before.

Moreover, while some of the questions posed by at best limited success of the European policies regarding cultural integration – policies based either on the assumptions of the "politics of recognition" committed to multicultural accommodation or on the liberal "value pluralism" – remain largely the same as ten or twenty years ago, new challenges keep arising. The processes of globalization and the information revolution lead – among other things – to growing transnationalisation of the problem of pluralism and highlight the limitations of the theories of multicultural accommodation which do not appreciate the impact of non-domestic factors. Hence the need for a more comprehensive and interdisciplinary analysis of the political implications of cultural diversity and value pluralism.

While the recent developments in the domestic European arena and in global politics can be perceived as symptoms of a crisis, the undeniable progress of the European integration and the apparent global political awakening resulting in greater political participation in the societies which for centuries have been passive objects of ruling elites may justify positive readings of the future evolution of the global order in which coming to terms with the irreducible global cultural and value pluralism may at the end enhance rather than reduce the area of the exercise of human autonomy all over the globe.

The conference, which is jointly organised by the Institute of Political Studies and the Institute of International Studies of the Faculty of Social Sciences, Charles University in Prague, and the Anglo-American University in Prague, is open to researchers from the fields of political theory, political science, international relations and European studies, as well as other social and human sciences.

We invite papers on the following topics:

- Value pluralism and cultural diversity as a challenge to liberal democracy.
- Multiculturalism in policies of the EU countries: success or failure?
- The role values in international relations and in the EU foreign policy.

- The current surge of nationalism and populism and the future of the nation state in the context of European integration and globalisation.
- Human rights, anti-cosmopolitanism, and search for foundation of global ethics.
- Global (in)justice, global inequalities and their impact on the current political events.

Abstracts should be submitted by September 10th, 2015 via email at valuesinpolitics@fsv.cuni.cz. The abstracts should be no longer than 500 words. You will receive a notification about the acceptance of your paper by September 24th, 2015. Selected papers will be published in a special issue of *Acta Politologica* journal.

Conference venue: Anglo-American University, Letenská 5, 118 00 Prague 1, Czech Republic.

Conference language: English.

Conference fee: CZK 1000 (approx. EUR 40).

Publication plan: Selected papers will be published in a special issue of *Acta Politologica* journal.

Conference email address: valuesinpolitics@fsv.cuni.cz.

Organizers: Jakub Franěk (jakub.franek@fsv.cuni.cz), Janusz Salamon (janusz.salamon@fsv.cuni.cz).